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Devon Calls

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The casting of Ugborough's 8 bells

It was a great honour and privilege to have been able to witness the casting of Ugborough's new ring of eight bells, first with a visit to Taylor's Bellfoundry at Loughborough on Thursday 5th April and a return visit on Wednesday 9th May 2018.

On the first visit I was accompanied by fellow local ringer Keith Laslett. Keith kindly offered to drive and we left Kenton at 7.15 a.m. The first stop was Gloucester Services where we met Francis Douglas and his party from Ugborough, all travelling by minibus. Suitably refreshed we travelled on to Loughborough and made for the Three Nuns Public House which is situated in the centre of town next to

people from Ugborough a little more.

Rested and refreshed we made our way to the Foundry where we were due to meet at 1.15 p.m. Waiting for us were four members of the Exminster team with their families who had made the journey separately. We assembled just outside the Bellfoundry Museum and Visitor's Centre where Mrs. Mary Barrass checked everyone in and introduced us to Mr. George Dawson who was to be our guide for the afternoon. Casting, we were informed, was scheduled for 3.15 p.m. The tour took us through the main part of the works where several peals



Girdar with the tenor bell after tuning. Photo used with kind permission of John Taylor & Co.

All Saints Church. We had only just arrived when we were joined by the folk from Ugborough. At the Three Nuns we found the staff welcoming and the food and service very good. Because we had made good time we were able to enjoy a relaxed meal and at the same time get to know the

of bells had been delivered. Many of the bells had their cannons still in place and were fixed to large heavy old elm headstocks. There was a mixture of large and small bells all silently waiting to receive attention.

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

Deadline for next edition - 16th September 2018

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

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

The casting of Ugborough's 8 bells—continued from page 1

During my second visit I noticed the bells from St. Andrew's Church Moretonhampstead resting on the workshop floor. These are the work of Gillett & Johnstone of Croydon and were installed in the tower in 1922. They have been removed from the tower because of extensive corrosion in the foundation beams. Also in this area of the workshop were newly cast headstocks for various other peals ready to receive final attention. We were informed that bells are finally balanced here before being attached to a bell-frame.

Our next stop was the Carpenter's Department. Here we saw wheels, stays, pulley boxes and sliders in various stages of assembly. It was interesting to see how the wheels are made and the how large clamps keep everything together until the final fixings are in place. Working with wood must be particularly satisfying and judging by the quality of the finished product the staff here take great pride in their work.

From the Carpentry Department we entered the Tuning Shop where we were introduced to Girdar who is the Chief Tuner. Apart from being told about the composition of bell metal; an alloy consisting of 77% copper and 23% tin, we were shown how bells are tuned by being placed on a vertical lathe and by selectively removing metal from parts of the inside of the bell. We learnt that when a bell is struck it vibrates in different ways and the sound it produces contains five partial frequencies. These are the Nominal or naming note, the Quint (5th partial), Tierce (Minor 3rd), Prime and the Hum. The finished bell not only has to be in tune with itself but also with the other bells in the peal. We were told that to tune a large bell, such as the Tenor bell at Ugborough, can take up to three days in order to obtain the correct pitch.

The time soon came for us to leave the Tuning Shop and make our way across to see the casting process. On my first visit arrangements were in place for casting the 6th, 7th and Tenor bells. I was able to see the remaining five bells being cast when I returned to the Foundry in May. On this occasion I was joined by Greg Phoenix and Rodney Battey. Greg rings at Kenton and Exminster. I invited Rodney along because, although not a ringer, in his professional life he worked as a metallurgist and he is in the midst of producing a booklet on the bells and the clock at Exminster.

The old Ugborough ring had been previously broken down, placed into a furnace and heated to 1,100 degrees Celsius. From the viewing platform we were able to see the molten metal being poured into a large crucible. The crucible was attached to an overhead gantry which then brought the apparatus into position over to where the bell moulds were buried. With great skill the molten metal was poured, first into the mould for bell number six followed by the seventh and finally the Tenor. A similar approach was used a month later when we saw the five remaining bells being cast. Watching the whole procedure taking place and feeling the heat being given off from the molten metal was truly

impressive and something many of us had never seen before but I'm sure will always remember. We were informed that the metal usually takes between 5 to 7 days to cool, after which the moulds are broken away to reveal the newly cast bells. The bells are then transported across to the Tuning Shop.

At the end of the casting procedure everything fell silent. Staff and visitors alike conveying respect whilst the following prayer, crafted following a request from the Foundry staff, was read.

"Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. So today: We thank God for the skill and craftsmanship of the workmen and women of John Taylor & Company, The Loughborough Bell Foundry. We thank God for the purity of the metal, mined from the earth, worked by human hands to sound Heaven's glory: We thank God for the Ringers, whose artistry will enable these Bells to proclaim God's word throughout the Parish of Ugborough for many years to come. Amen."

Prayer composed by The Reverend Dr. Peter Povey and modified by Juliet Collis of Ugborough.

I'm sure it must have been particularly meaningful for the people of Ugborough to have witnessed the casting of the bells; a fitting reward for their hard work and endeavour.

Our visit concluded with a return to the Bellfoundry Museum and Gift Shop and a surprise opportunity to ring the bells in the Foundry's bell tower.

I was last at the Loughborough Foundry in February 1965 with my brother Michael. We travelled there in my very first car, a red Austin A40 Farina. There were no motorways of course back then. We were shown around by John P. Fidler who was one of the directors. I remember him well, he was an incredible person with a wealth of experience and knowledge and he had so many stories which he was always willing to share. I well remember when we were in the Tuning Shop being introduced to the Chief Tuner. The bells from Banwell, Somerset had just been tuned and were resting on the workshop floor. To me they looked absolutely pristine and I commented on the fact. I was struck by the response I received. "Ah well" he said "we have done our job, now it is up to the ringers to get the music out of them." I thought what a wonderful statement to make - and how true.

No matter how pure and true the new ring at Ugborough will become, and we all have high expectations, it will ultimately come down to the ringers "To get the music out of them". We can all look forward to their sound pealing out across the wonderful South Devon countryside; God's country.

Our thanks go to Simon Adams, Director, and all the staff at John Taylor & Co for welcoming us so warmly and making our visit such an interesting and memorable one.

Colin Adams

Editorial

Welcome to this issue and a special welcome to James who replaces Colin as the new Technical Editor. The Devon Association owes a great debt to Colin for so willingly embracing the task of Technical Editor following the AGM in November 2013. Colin's efficient and professional attitude went a long way towards taking the magazine forward by enhancing its appearance and layout. He also carefully proof read each draft.

It was always a pleasure working with Colin. When he decided to retire I thought the magazine might fold as finding a replacement with the kind of expertise required would be

really hard. Well, cometh the hour, cometh the man. Much to my relief James came forward and the magazine is able to continue. James immediately liaised with Colin and he has since worked hard towards ensuring a seamless transfer. The result being the publication of this, his first edition.

Thank you to all those who have taken the trouble to provide material for this edition.

If you haven't yet done so please return the slip on page 11.

Colin Adams

Introduction from the New Technical Editor

Hello, I'm James Grant and following a chance conversation in a pub I find myself the new Technical Editor of Devon Calls. Colin Barnes, who has performed the role for the last four years, will be a tough act to follow but I will do my best to maintain the very high standards he has set.

Colin Adams has asked me to introduce myself and write a little about my ringing career. It is really a career of two halves, the first twenty years or so were all method ringing and the most recent twenty have been mostly call changes. I am a member of the band at Kingsteignton, Tower Captain at Combeinteignhead and Deputy Ringing Master at Bishopsteignton. My wife Elaine and son Tom are also Kingsteignton ringers, so it is a family affair. I've been fortunate to ring all over the country and at a few overseas rings in France, Ireland, South Africa and Canada.

I started ringing because my best friend at school was the son of the Dawlish tower captain and we decided to swap hobbies – me learning to ring and he taking up what ever hobby I had at the time, long since forgotten. So, I learnt to ring at Dawlish in 1978 and spent the next twenty years or so as a very keen method ringer, ringing mostly quarter peals but also well over five hundred full peals. Highlights of this period include ringing a record breaking 22 quarter peals in one day, ringing the bells at St James Teignmouth for our own wedding, ringing the three heaviest tenors (Liverpool, Exeter and St Pauls Cathedral) for quarter peals, plus Exeter tenor for a four hour peal on my own which required some serious training in the gym beforehand! I enjoy ringing all bells from very big to very small and we own a mini-ring of six bells with a tenor of 10lbs in weight. We bought these in 2001 for Tom to learn on and they are still rung regularly for peals and quarter peals to this day. Elaine and I were members of the Cathedral band for many years and rang in all the early National 12 Bell Competitions that Exeter entered including the first time they ever qualified for the final, at St Martin-in-the-Fields, back in 1997.

If you'd told me back then that I'd end up as a call change ringer I genuinely wouldn't have believed you. I've enjoyed



ringing with Ian Avery, now the Kingsteignton captain, from the mid eighties when he first learned method ringing, and I used to ring lots of peals with Mike Mears another Kingsteignton ringer. Mike often used to tell me how the best ringing in the country was method ringing by the Birmingham band and Devon call change ringing, and so I started to get interested. The band at Dawlish was dwindling and eventually petered out around the turn of the century, so I thought I'd start going along to Kingsteignton on Sunday mornings and that's when I first got hooked on call change ringing. The fact that Kingsteignton had long been my favourite ring of bells was an added attraction!

I've been very lucky and there have been some wonderful highlights in my call change career; the first time we beat Egg Buckland on six bells, winning the eight bell with Bill Avery when he was well into his eighties, winning it again with Tom when he was just thirteen, seeing Kingsteignton develop into a good competition band on six bells as well as eight, ringing call changes at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey with Scott Adam's group, Chris Ley's brilliant tours to Scotland and the Channel Islands to mention but a few. For me, though, the top highlight of all my ringing over the years is being in the team (along with Ian Avery, Lee Avery and Graham Sharland) in each of Kingsteignton's fourteen year straight run as eight bell champions.

It isn't all competitions and posh ringing though, and I really enjoy helping to teach the many learners we have at Kingsteignton and helping with the development of the Bishopsteignton band. It has been an unexpected joy to be able to revive Sunday ringing after quite a long silence at Combeinteignhead and, with Ian Avery's help, to work on and improve this rather unloved set of bells.

Thinking back over my ringing life I consider myself extremely lucky to have enjoyed some wonderful ringing and to have enjoyed the company of some good friends in both the method and the call change worlds.

James Grant

The Ashburton Bell at Exeter St Petrock's

The Ashburton bell which stands in St Petrock's is a familiar site to all who have visited this Church. Since the rededication of the Church in December 2017, the bell has been moved to a spot opposite the door and arranged with an old clapper from the Cathedral.

The Ashburton bell is the old 4th bell of the 1740 peal of six bells. It is highly decorated with an inscription and coats of arms. The inscription on the bell reads *'The gift of the Right Honourable Sir William Yonge Baronet and Knight of the Bath and of John Harris of Hayne Esquire 1740'*. The weight is given as 8-2-26.

Unusually there are two coats of arms, one for each of the donors. The Latin inscription on the coat of arms of William Yonge can be translated as "Invite God's Praise".

William Yonge and John Harris were both sitting MPs in Ashburton in 1740 when they donated this bell. It is very unusual for a town as small as Ashburton to have two MPs, but it is due to its importance as a Stannery town, therefore providing relatively large sums of money for the exchequer, and having a certain amount of control over its own civic functions.



The Coat of Arms of William Yonge

William Yonge was the 4th Baronet, and born at the family estate of Escot near Ottery St Mary. He was first elected to Parliament for Honiton in 1722, inheriting the seat from his father. He attached himself to the Whig party in Parliament, making himself very useful to Sir Robert Walpole, who so enjoyed his eloquence that he would give his notes to Yonge, who would speak in the House at great

length, making no point whatsoever, until Walpole himself appeared. This caused him to be greatly reviled by many people, including King George II, who always referred to him as "Stinking Yonge." This did not halt his rise within Parliament where he held many important offices including Vice Treasurer of Ireland, Commissioner of the Admiralty and Secretary of War. Many people believed he would have been Prime Minister but for his appalling reputation.

In 1716 he married Mary Heathcoat, and divorced her in 1724 in order to marry Anne Howard, coheiress of the great Howard family, which provided him with great wealth, and two sons and six daughters.

He was a poet of some renown whose work was often mistaken for that of Pope, much to Pope's disgust. He wrote the lyrics for a comic opera which was performed in the Drury Lane Theatre in 1730 with great success.

He was a founding Governor of the Foundling Hospital and worked hard to alleviate the suffering of poor and abandoned children.

He sat as an MP for Honiton, Tiverton and Ashburton, and died on 10th August 1755 at Escot.



The Coat of Arms of John Harris

John Harris was born to a Tory family at Hayne near Crediton. He was called "The Hanover Rat" by his neighbour Samuel Rolle, whose widow he married, as unlike Yonge, he was a great favourite of the King. He was MP for Helston and voted entirely as directed by the Government throughout his life. He had the reputation

that he would always vote to secure his own place within the Government, and wasn't particularly bothered with policy.

His wife inherited the estates of her brother in law Roger Tuckfield in 1735, which included an interest in the manor of Ashburton. He then arranged for himself to be returned there as MP, where he sat as MP until his death on 5th October 1757.

He was a favourite of George II, and was Paymaster of the Board of Works from 1738-1740 and Master of the Royal Household from 1741 until his death.

It is an interesting tale as to why these two eighteenth century political characters should have paid for a new peal of bells in Ashburton. An extract from an inventory of church goods in the public records office, London, dated the 7th year of the reign of Edward VI (1553) states "Hundred of Aysheberton V bells in tower there"

It is this peal of five medieval bells that were removed from the tower and sent by ship to Ireland to be recast. Unfortunately the ship was lost at sea and the bells never recovered. The appeal for replacements was made to the two sitting MPs of Ashburton, Harris and Yonge, and a new peal of six bells was cast by Thomas Lester of Whitechapel, inscribed with the above inscriptions and coats of arms and hung.

It is the fourth bell of this peal that was donated to the St Petrock's ringing centre by the PCC of Ashburton in July 1990, as it had for some years sat at the back of the Church taking up room, and it was considered that St Petrock's would be able to display this beautiful bell in such a way that we all could enjoy.

Stephanie Brown

Photos from the book 'Towers and Bells of Devon' and used with kind permission of James Clarke

Looking Good, the More Senior Members of Our Fraternity

Congratulations to the ringers in these two photographs for their long and distinguished service to bellringing.



Photograph 1. From left to right are: Hilary Connibeaere , wife of John. Although not a ringer Hilary enjoys travelling around with John and meeting fellow ringers and their families. Next to Hilary stands husband John. John started ringing in the winter of 1949/50. He went to his local church at Shirwell in North Devon and asked if he could “try his hand” and he has been ringing ever since. John says he has always had full support from his wife Hilary.

Next to John stands Horace Clements from Stoke Gabriel. Horace celebrated 80 years of ringing in June this year (see also separate article about Horace).

Next to Horace stands Harry Bardens from Bigbury, South Devon and just below him his wife Ellen. Harry learnt to ring at Bigbury. He was taught by his father and had his first lesson on 23rd May 1944. At the time he was thirteen years old and he has been ringing ever since. Wife Ellen, who is standing in front of Harry also learnt to ring. She was taught by husband Harry but gave up in the 1990’s. Like Hilary, Ellen enjoys accompanying Harry to various ringing events across Devon - and sometimes beyond.

Next to Harry stands Claude Nicholls from Littleham, North Devon. Claude started to learn to ring in 1947 at Monkleigh; not Littleham. This was because the vicar at the time would

not allow any ringing to take place at Littleham. When the vicar left in 1962 ringing at Littleham started once more with Claude becoming a member of the band. In 1987/88 £10,000 was raised to have the bells re-hung. A new team was formed and the ringers have rung together ever since. This team still rings together; all of the ringers are over 80 years old.

Claude’s wife Joyce stands just in front of him. Joyce learnt to ring at Welcome in 1946 when she was just 14 years old, and she continued up until the time she married Claude in 1950. She then had a break from ringing as Littleham’s bells were not being rung. She took up ringing again at Littleham in 1962 and has been ringing ever since. She still enjoys ringing but only on lighter bells. She also enjoys meeting other ringers and travelling around with Claude. Claude and Joyce have been ringing together as a married couple for **56 years**. Is this a record?

Taking into account Joyce’s 60 years of ringing this brings the group’s total number of ringing years to an amazing **354!** If Harry’s wife Ellen’s ringing career were to be taken into account the figure would be much higher. All are members of the monthly Ringkly Ringers.

Photograph 2, (with years of service shown in brackets). From left to right are: John Connibeaere from Shirwell, North Devon – 69yrs. Horace Clements , Stoke Gabriel – 80yrs. Harry Bardens – Bigbury 74 yrs. and Claude Nicholls – Littleham, North Devon, 71 yrs. *Combined total = 294 years!*



Are there any other members of our fraternity around with similar records which they would like to share with us? If so we would love to hear from you.

Colin Adams

A group of ringers at Morteheo in 1994, how many do you recognise?

Answers on page 9



Norman Betts invited to the Royal Maundy Service 2018



Norman Betts, vergers of Stoke Gabriel received Maundy Money from Her Majesty The Queen at a Royal ceremony at St George's Chapel Windsor on 29 March 2018

Every Maundy Thursday, The Queen visited a different cathedral across the UK to distribute special Maundy money to local pensioners. By 2017, The Queen had successfully visited every single cathedral in the UK for Maundy Thursday. This year the service was held at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Maundy money has traditionally been made of sterling silver, apart from the brief interruptions of Henry VIII's debasement of the coinage and the general change to 50% silver coins in 1920. The use of sterling silver resumed following the Coinage Act of 1971 and, after decimalisation in 1971, the face values of the coins were increased from old to new pence.

Today's recipients of Royal Maundy are men and women of pensionable age, chosen by clergy and ministers of all denominations because of the outstanding service they have given to the Church and the community. There are as many recipients as there are years in the sovereign's age. This year it was 92 men and 92 women, marking the Queen's 92nd birthday in April.

At the ceremony, the monarch handed two leather string purses to each person. A red purse contains ordinary coins, while a white one contains silver Maundy coins, amounting to the same number of pence as the years of the sovereign's age.

This year the red purse contained a £5 coin, commemorating four generations of royalty, and a 50p coin commemorating the Representation of the People Act 1918, giving some women the right to vote. Both coins had been minted in 2018.

The White Purse contains uniquely minted Maundy money of one, two, three and four silver penny pieces to the value of 92p, in keeping with the monarch's age.

Historically, this sum of £5.50 in the red purse is made up of £3 for clothing, £1.50 in lieu of provisions and £1 for the redemption of the Sovereign's gown which, before Tudor times, used to be divided between the recipients.

Norman Betts, Vergers (meaning a person who carries the virge before the procession) of Stoke Gabriel, took over his duties when his cousin George Narracott died in 1987. George Narracott had been the church vergers for 51 years and, prior to that, the Narracotts have been Sextons of Stoke Gabriel in an unbroken line possibly since 1540, passing the post from father to son.

Norman, a PCC and Deanery Synod representative of Stoke Gabriel church, joined the choir when he was 10 years old, became a bell ringer at 15 and is also a keen organist and pianist. He had been assistant Vergers prior to George's death.

Congratulations to Norman and it is pleasing that he receives this honour as an acknowledgement of his extraordinary life long service to the Church and the Community.

Michael Webster

Results from the 2018 Major Final held at Ashreigney on 9th June

1. Ideford 17 ½ - Ross Shield
2. Shaugh Prior 18 1/2 – Shelley Cup
3. South Brent A 22
4. West Down 25 1/2
5. Down St Mary 26
6. Combeinteignhead 27 3/4

Judges: James Clarke, John Dietz, Mark Lovell & Mervyn Way
Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott

A full set of results for all the 2018 Devon Association competitions will be published in the next issue of Devon Calls.

7. Sampford Courtenay A 33
 8. Burrington 34
 9. Stoke Gabriel 36
 10. Holbeton 52
 11. South Brent B 52 1/4
- Clawton rang under time 36 3/4

Congratulations to all the teams who have competed in this year's Devon Association competitions. Especially the newly formed Ideford team on winning the Ross Shield for the very first time. Well done to Shaugh Prior for so narrowly coming second and winning the Shelley Cup.

Colin Adams

Association Grand Draw

A huge thank you to all who supported this year's draw.

Almost £3500 has been raised!

Winners as follows:

1st prize of £250 – Colin Heath (Stoke Gabriel)

2nd prize of £75 – Mr. Scott (Chittlehampton)

3rd prize of £50 – Kevin Jarvis (Landscope)

Prizes of £25 go to – Mr. T Branible, B. Mackintosh (Plymtree), J. Sing (Mariansleigh), P.F. Penny (Winkleigh), M. Dance (Stoke Fleming), M. Buckley (South Brent), Julie Field (Exminster), Mrs Pearl Arscott, S.Ayr (St Giles), Bill and Ruth (Lamerton)

Julia Jarvis

Interview with John Bass, Tower Captain at Branscombe



Background.

Were you born and brought up in Branscombe? I was born at 1 Chapel Row Branscombe in 1949, this is close to the Fountain Head pub and opposite Pitt Farm as it was then.

What do you consider to be the most significant changes that have taken place in the village over the years? When I grew up I did a paper round and

every house through the village had someone living in it, now we have approaching 40% holiday homes or second homes so accordingly the local population has dwindled .

For most people living at Branscombe provides an opportunity to enjoy the sea. Is this the same for you? Yes, I spent a lot of my formative years crabbing with the local fisherman and my earlier years were spent helping my grandfather who was the last person to grow potatoes on the cliffs overlooking Littlecombe Shoot.

Ringling career.

Do you come from a ringling family? No.

Where did you learn to ring and how old were you at the time? I learnt to ring at Branscombe.

What made you decide to take up bellringing? I think it was something I and a couple of mates decided to do, also my father was a church warden and he may have asked if I would have a go.

Who taught you and on which bell did you learn to ring? The captain at the time was a chap called Jim Burnell who taught me and others, I learnt to ring on the treble.

Who was the Captain of the ringers at the time and who were the regular members of the team? A couple of names that spring to mind are Bill Cox, Jean Crossly, Sid Sweetland (my uncle), Dave Lloyd who took over as Captain after Jim Burnell and who I succeeded as captain.

When were you appointed Tower Captain? About 25years ago

Have you been able to maintain regular Sunday Service ringling at Branscombe? No due to falling numbers.

Has there been any significant change to the pattern of ringling at Branscombe over the years? Not really, we have always been a call change tower.

Do you have to rely on ringers from outside the village in order to be able to make up a team? Yes, certainly for weddings, this is also the case for a number of towers in East Devon.

Are you currently teaching anyone to ring? Yes, one 12-year old boy. The last one before that was a lady 2 years ago who is now part of the team.

Does maintenance of the bells solely depend upon you? Yes, although I have recently been asked to take over as chairman of the church fabric committee.

Living by the sea.

In your opinion is the church at Branscombe well supported by the community? As well as can be expected but congregations do dwindle.

Branscombe was in the news when the Napoli disaster took place. Did the grounding of the Napoli involve you in any way? Yes, I was chairman of the parish council at the time and was heavily involved in dealing with TV and radio interviews over a period of the 3 years it took to remove the wreck. I was also in charge of public meetings, liaising with the police and the chief constable at the time, the receiver of wrecks, East Devon District Council and the public inquiry at Devon County Hall. I was also interviewed a number of times in 2017 on the 10 year anniversary of the wreck.

Thank you John for providing such an interesting account of your ringling career and a little about life in Branscombe.

Colin Adams

Kenn Deanery Ringers A.G.M.

Attendance was good for the Annual General Meeting which took place at St. Andrew's Church, Kenn on the evening of Tuesday 29th May 2018. Representatives from the following towers were present: Alphington, Bishopsteignton, Dunsford, Exminster, Kenn, Kenton, Powderham, Teignmouth St. James, Teignmouth St. Michael's and Whitestone.

It was reported that 16 out of a total of 17 towers had paid their affiliation fees (if the towers at Ashcombe and Bridford are taken into account there are 19 potentially ringable towers within the Deanery). The treasurer reported a very healthy Balance Sheet placing the organisation in a strong position for the year ahead.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were:

President – Mr. Maurice Sharland.

Chairman – Mr. Martin Dodd.

Secretary – Mr. John Staddon.

Treasurer – Mr. Herbert Piper.

Tower Officer – Mr. Michael Adams.

In his report the secretary referred to the monthly Deanery evenings which are designed to encourage more involvement between the towers, as well as to help the less experienced ringers progress. He referred to the current

programme which runs until November 2018. A special mention was made of the sponsored walk recently undertaken by the Treasurer Mr. Herbert Piper who had successfully walked 100km over three days visiting World War 1 graves in Belgium and France. Herbert had decided this year to donate the money raised to the Kenn Deanery Bell Fund; a really magnificent gesture.

It was agreed to hold the 77th annual competition at Dunsford on Saturday 29th September 2018.

A lively discussion took place examining ways and means for attracting more people, particularly young people, into bell-ringing. A collective Deanery approach was proposed whereupon a tower e.g. Powderham might be used for a whole day with input being provided by experienced ringers. People assisting would not necessarily be tied up for the whole day but be invited to select a time or times to suit them. It was agreed to explore the suggestions further, first by setting up a working group consisting of as many young people as possible.

Ringling took place on the bells of St. Andrew's both before and after the meeting.

Colin Adams

Alphington Bell Restoration June 2018

Taylor's of Loughborough commenced work on the main bell restoration at Alphington church on Monday 12th February 2018. After just over 6 weeks of intensive effort by their Bellhangers and assistance from the Alphington ringers the work was completed in time to ring for Easter Sunday.



When the last major work took place on the bells in 1939 they sat in a wooden frame. This was then replaced by the current metal frame which during the restoration had three coats of paint to keep it preserved for many, many more years, and finished with a coat of non slip paint on all the top surfaces. Today a bell carved from a piece of the old frame is used to hang the bell ropes on after ringing has finished.



The bell ringers were involved in removing and replacing the bell clappers in August 2017, together with replacing the rope guides and their sliders. In March 2018 they painted all the bell wheels with wood preservative.

The total cost for all the work; clapper renovation, wheels

preserving, bearings cleaned and regreased, headstock removal for a new Gudgeon pin in the tenor, and extensive cleaning of the frame and the three coats of proofing paint was £19378 + VAT.

Money raising started in March 2017 with a mail drop by the bell ringers to all the houses in the parish of Alphington. This raised over £4000, of which over £3000 was gift aided. The bell ringers themselves gift aided over £3500. Together this will bring over £1600 extra from claiming back the gift aid tax.

The bell ringers provided much appreciated labour to Taylor's bell hangers during the course of the work which reduced the total bill by £3250.50.

Grants were applied for, resulting in £3500 from the Devon Bell Restoration Fund, £2000 from the Devon Historic Church Fund, £2000 from the Ross Legacy and £1000 from the Barron Trust.



We all must thank Juliet Meadowcroft, a PCC member, for her efforts in applying for, and successfully getting the grants.

John Staddon, Tower Captain

Horace Clements celebrates 80 years of ringing



was honoured to be elected as President of the Devon Association of Ringers.

Throughout this long career of ringing Horace has been loyally supported by Eileen.

NATIONAL EVENTS FOR WHICH HORACE HAS RUNG

1938/39 Old Year Out / New Year In (the bells were then silenced through most of WW2)

1945 (Aug) VJ Day 1945 (Nov) The end of the war

1952 (Feb) The Queen's Accession

1953 The Coronation

1977 Silver Jubilee

2002 Golden Jubilee

2012 Diamond Jubilee

plus innumerable local family weddings and funerals and an estimated 7000 weekly Church Services.

Horace was interviewed by Radio Devon and BBC TV and these were broadcast on 10 June 2018 on the day a sung eucharist was held to celebrate Horace's 80 years of ringing. A presentation was made to Horace, by the church, following the service.

Michael Webster

Horace started ringing at Diptford in 1938, aged 9 years, and in those early days needed a mound of hassocks, four deep, to be able to reach the rope. Ringing came quite naturally to him and what he lacked in height he made up for in determination and enthusiasm, becoming a regular member of the Diptford tower for more than ten years.

Marriage to Eileen took him to Stoke Gabriel in 1949, where he has rung ever since, progressing to Vice Captain of Tower and then to Captain in 1976 – a role he held until 1994. He continues to ring for all services and special events.

He participated in numerous competitions with the Stoke Gabriel ringers with increasing success, was involved in setting up the Totnes Deanery Winter League. In 2001 he

What drew us to Bellringing – and what keeps us there?

People often ask us "What on earth drew two late middle-aged people who grew up in Africa to spend two evenings a week and frequent Sunday mornings in a belltower?" Well, in the first instance it was just hearing the bells in the village, something that we had not grown up with. But we were more intrigued when we saw ringing in practice – and we saw what challenge (and reward) there is in working together with a group of others to produce a shared piece of music. There are two things that keep us coming back to the tower. First, it is much harder than it looks, and so very rewarding when you get it right. When you ring well, you can't wait to get back to ring again, even better. When you ring badly, you can't wait to get back and improve. It's an addiction! But the second thing is the people. Bellringers are really friendly, social (and tolerant) people who always encourage learners -- and enjoy a pint in the pub after practice. Being part of a ringing group puts you in touch with so many other really nice people, and some fascinating churches and towers. We are hooked.



Peter and Jewel Buckland – Kenton and Exminster

Photo of Ringers at Mortehoe on page 5

Back row L-R Mervyn Langdon, Frank Bye, Bernard Miners, Alan Brown, Alan Beer

Middle row L-R Bill Ware, Lewis Withecombe, Jerome Darke

Front row L-R Scott Adams, Margaret White

Engagement

Sam Massey to Jade Gall

Congratulations to Sam and his fiancée Jade on the announcement of their engagement. Sam, as most people know, is a Stoke Gabriel ringer of 15 years whilst Jade only began ringing in November 2016 and now rings at Lamerton and Eggbuckland. Apart from their hobby of bellringing the couple are both committed musicians. Sam teaches music privately and in schools, whilst Jade plays the saxophone professionally and both are members of the Simmertones along with other bands and ensembles.

Colin Adams

Forthcoming Marriage

William Carew to Kate Avery

Congratulations to William and Kate who are to marry at St. Michael's, Kingsteignton on Saturday 18th August 2018. Will learnt to ring at Liskeard and rang there for many years eventually becoming Tower Captain. He now rings at Kingsteignton and at Ideford. Kate learnt to ring at Kingsteignton where she was taught by her uncle, Ian Avery. We wish them many years of happy married life together.

Colin Adams

Obituary - Philip Edmund (Dick) Sharland

Somehow, very early in his life, Philip was given the nickname of Dick which we all used at home although he was known as Philip at work.



Dick was born in Dunsford on 9th January 1935. He enjoyed a happy and carefree childhood together with his siblings, eldest brother Ray, younger brother Maurice and even younger sister Christine, all living on a small farm with hard working and loving parents.

In the almost 'car free' days of the post war 1940's we would play cricket on the road outside of our home. Two five gallon oil drums which served as stumps were easily removed if a passing car interrupted play. One summer evening, when bad light would have stopped play at Lords, Dick bowled a ball which he caught but found to everyone's great surprise that, instead of the ball, he had caught a swift. Now, we had always been told that swifts never land on the ground because their legs are too short to allow them to take off. So we were presented with a unique opportunity to prove (or disprove) this. The result was that after being placed on the road it travelled some 20 or 30 yards, flapping frantically, until it eventually took off. Another lesson learnt.

Dick left school at 15; he was not an academic so he worked

locally as a farm labourer before he volunteered to join the Royal Air Force where he trained as an aircraft mechanic, stationed for most of his time at RAF St Mawgan.

Dick learnt to ring when he left school. He became part of the Dunsford 'B' team and we had some great times competing firstly with our own more senior team then on to local competitions. In the early days, Percy Pester (later of Colaton Raleigh), who had learnt at the same time as Dick, was our tenor man. We had numerous excursions to other towers for practice, travelling in an 'Austin 16' taxi owned and driven by a local man, also a bell ringer. Coming home with rousing harmonious renderings of 'Lead kindly light' etc. emanating from the back of the taxi was great fun.

He had a variety of jobs before joining the GPO (later British Telecom) where for many years he worked on the external network of the telephone system until his retirement.

His hobbies and interests were numerous – Exeter City Football supporter being high on the list. He loved to 'tread the boards' in the village pantomimes. In fact, someone said that they thought he was the best 'Dame' that Dunsford ever had! His difficulty in learning lines was always a joke, but he had a wonderful rapport with his audience! Gardening gave him a lot of pleasure especially in retirement. He loved to grow a variety of tomatoes in his greenhouse which was odd as he didn't like them himself!

Dick was deeply involved with the fund raising and re-hanging of the Dunsford bells in 1978. He was an enthusiastic and dependable Dunsford bell ringer for over 60 years, having to give up due to ill health in 2012. He was always good company with a fund of witty stories which he loved to tell. He will be greatly missed both by family and friends.

Maurice Sharland



Kenn Deanery Bell Fund Sponsored Walk

On 9th, 10th & 11th May 2018 Herb Piper, who rings regularly at Whitestone, Alphington, Kenn, Ide and St Thomas, walked 100km over three days (30km on day one, 40km on day two and 30km on day three) around the WW1 battle fields centred on Ypres (leper) in Belgium.

Details of the walk can be found at www.100km.be

Herb decided that this year he would sponsor the Kenn Deanery Bell Funds. Herb completed the walk and received his Medal before returning home on 14th. NB. Herb financed all his travel, accommodation and food.



Since returning home, and at the time of going to print, Herb has collected £913.05 in sponsorship money.

The Kenn Deanery wishes to thank Herb for his kind donation and as this year sees the 100th Anniversary of Armistice in November we should all thank those of our forefathers who gave their lives during that Great War.



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