



Founded 1925



President - Barry OSBORNE

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

# Devon Calls

March / April 2018

## UGBOROUGH CHURCH BELL RESTORATION PROJECT

### OFFICERS

#### President:

Barry OSBORNE

#### President-Elect:

John BARNES

#### Chairman:

James STEER

#### Vice-Chairman:

Ian AVERY

#### Hon. Secretary:

Rachel AVERY

#### Hon. Treasurer:

Clive WARD

#### Web Master:

Dr James KERSLAKE

#### Training Officer:

Graham SHARLAND

#### Publicity Officer

Victoria TUCKER

#### Assistant Secretaries

Stuart BENNIE (North)

William CAREW (South)

#### Devon Calls:

Editor: Colin ADAMS

Technical Eds.: James GRANT

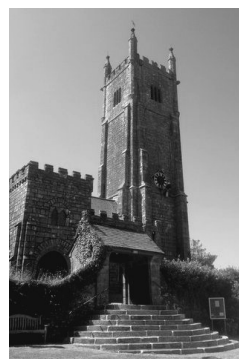
Elinor D'ALBIAC

### Inside this issue

Association Treasurer	2
Editorial	3
Technical Editor: a reflection	3
Revelstock rehung	4
Whimble Ladies	4
St. Petrock's rededicated	5
Hon. Secretary's report	6
DCBRF	6
Morwenstow's day out	7
Retiring President's address	8
60 year's of service to ringing	8
Year Card & Competitions	9
Obituaries: Bob Pengelly	11
Wally Crump	11

The magnificent tower at St Peter's, Ugborough, was built in the early 16th century to house the church's first set of four bells. Over the years the bells have been increased, at various times, to the present set of eight. The last major works being the installation of the cast iron bell frame made by Harry Stokes (Woodbury, Devon) in 1911. For 500 years the bells have been rung by a dedicated team of ringers for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other local and national events and occasions. We have twelve regular ringers (including two new recruits) and a number of visitors. The tenor bell weighs one ton and is also used by the church clock to strike the hour.

During our regular Thursday ringing practice in February 2015 No. 6 bell suffered a crack to its sound bow. Shortly after the crack, we set up a Bell Restoration Committee, consisting of the Bell Captain (Anthony Lugg), the Treasurer (Juliet Collis) and a new position of Bell Restoration Secretary (Francis Douglas). We have held meetings approximately every two months with the ringers to map our way forward. We engaged with the PCC early and generally started to find out about how to go about the project of repairing the bells. On the advice of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers we produced an appeal leaflet, which was a very important piece of work as it got us all thinking about the project, how to go about fund raising, where to apply for grants etc. We also had very good advice and encouragement from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.



A member of the PCC also kindly agreed to do the necessary paperwork and liaison to obtain a Faculty.

Early on in the project, we arranged for three independent inspections, Nicholson, Whitechapel and Taylors and they all said roughly the same, namely that number 6

bell needed to be weld repaired, bells re-tuned and the complete bell suite needed to be refurbished as very little work had been done on them since the installation of a cast iron frame. After an evaluation of the three quotes, we selected Taylors, which was endorsed by the Diocesan Bell Adviser. By April 2017, we had raised sufficient money and were in a position to reserve a place in the Taylor work schedule by payment of a small deposit.

In parallel with the inspection activities, we started fund raising and applying for grants. Due to the fantastic support of the community the restoration fund stands at approximately £62k in January 2018. £45k of this has been achieved by running a variety of events (by the bell ringers, parishioners and the wider community) and by valued donations from individuals. Our fund raising activities have included a flower festival, two Big Breakfasts, a wine tasting, an auction of promises, tours up our 100ft tower, a quiz night, stalls at summer and Christmas village fairs, etc.

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

Deadline for next edition - 16th June 2018

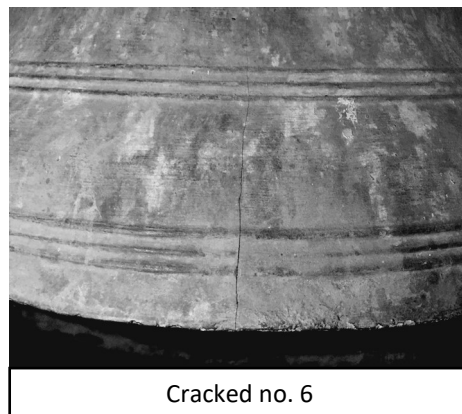
We would be very interested in including "Letters to the Editor".

Articles and letters should be sent to the Editor: Colin ADAMS - [kentonian@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:kentonian@eclipse.co.uk)

At one of our routine Bell Restoration meetings in August 2017, we discussed the detailed scope of the work, as part of our preparation for the contract with Taylors. The decision was made to go with the weld repair (our original plan), although there was not total agreement, because it was clear a full re-cast was a much better option, although we did not have the money nor approval for this work. Anyhow after the meeting, there were a number of sub meetings (as it was felt we might have not made the right decision), where it was agreed by all the ringers that it would be good to go for a full re-cast providing we could raise another £30k on top of the approximate £60k required for the weld repair. We put together a short brief on the pros and cons and briefed the PCC at the end of August 2017. They were in agreement in principle, but it needed the Faculty to be amended (which in turn was reliant upon endorsement from Natural England) and the financial shortfall to be underwritten. Both these objectives were achieved in a timely manner.



As a result of our fund raising, Ugborough PCC is about to place an order with Taylors for a complete re-cast of all eight bells into a new harmonious set of eight bells, with work to



start in March 2018. It is believed that this is the first full re-cast of church bells in Devon, since Crediton in 2004, so the project now has an increasing profile. The bells will be set in new headstocks and

running gear will be refurbished, to the benefit of not only the ringers but also and more importantly to everyone who listens to the bells; the church is right in the middle of our village.

We have reduced the total cost of the work by about £6,000 by providing self-help, in the form of two able bodied people to support Taylors' workforce in taking the bells down/up, free accommodation for Taylors' bell hanger and having the transport to/from Loughborough donated to us. At the time of writing this article (end January 2018), we need another £28,000. We are doing this by 'selling inscriptions' on the new bells and headstocks, further local fund raising and further grant applications.

So far the project has gone well and a lot of hard work has been put in by many people and it has undoubtedly strengthened us as a team. We have all learnt a lot: from bell details to Faculties, to the vagaries of applying for grants, to the enormous effort it takes to cook and serve over 200 people a full English breakfast! The project is scheduled to be completed in September 2018, which will be celebrated by a flower festival and a re-dedication service for the bells.

*Francis Douglas*

## WHO IS THIS NEW ASSOCIATION TREASURER CHAP - CLIVE WARD ?

I've been married to Heather for almost 35 years, we have a thirty year old daughter, Laura who is married to Jamie with four children plus a twenty year old son, James who has been bell ringing for ten years.

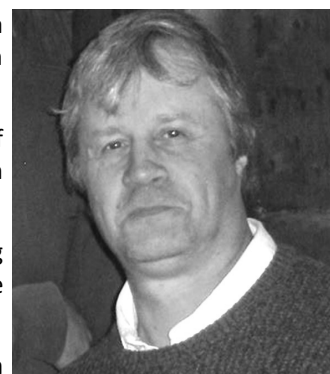
I became curious about bell ringing after hearing my father speaking about it on a number of occasions and in 1974 I decided to give it a go. I went along to a practice night at Littleham with my father and here I was taught by Claude Nicholls and Raymond (Curly) Clements.

As I remember, Claude was the one who instilled the ringing techniques and once able to ring with others Curly and Claude made sure you knew when you were out of place within the striking !

So thank you to Claude and Curly for teaching me and thus giving me a long lasting hobby. In 1984, I was taught to ring the Treble bell by David Snowdon at Weare Giffard, Dave was a great teacher as well as being a lovely person.

The part of bell ringing I enjoy the most is teaching new recruits the basic techniques and bringing them on to be good competition ringers. Luckily for me in recent years we have a core of reliable ringers and we keep finding enough willing recruits to keep our teams active.

I've been tower captain at Monkleigh since the early 1980's and tower captain at Great Torrington since 1989. At various times I've been secretary, treasurer and chairman of the Hartland Deanery Guild, currently the chairman. I am Secretary of the Torridge Valley Guild and currently on my second spell as Chairman of the Tamar Valley Guild Winter Knockout. I've served two spells as a committee member within the Association and was the first Assistant Secretary for a few years.



## 'COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE MAN'. John 4:23

This was certainly the case when Dr. Colin Barnes spontaneously agreed to become Technical Editor of Devon Calls four years ago. Last November Colin decided to retire but as no one immediately came forward to replace him he volunteered to continue until a replacement could be found. Not only this, he offered to share his expertise with anyone who might come forward to do so.

Although this was a kind gesture it could only be seen as a short term measure. If a replacement could not be found the magazine would fold and all the hard work previously put in by its founder, Mrs. Janice Gist, and her successor, Michael Webster, would have been lost. It becomes much easier to build from foundations already in place than it does to labour and start afresh. From my point of view the future of the magazine began to look as though it hung in the balance.

As with life in general good fortune plays a part and so it was when, quite 'out of the blue' James Grant came forward offering to relieve Colin and become the new Technical Editor. As Colin had started to assemble the pages for this edition it made sense for him to continue, but this is his final edition. I say final but this is only partly true because he has offered to act as a background consultant to James. James is a ringer (both method and call-change, as is his wife Elaine) and therefore quite well known amongst ringers but I will leave it with him to introduce himself fully in the next edition.

James is prepared to learn how to use MS Office Publisher and work towards arranging the pages and producing the first draft. However, it has to be acknowledged that without the help of Adrian Walthoe offering to provide the necessary programme for James to become familiar with

the transition towards him becoming the new Technical Editor, would have been impeded. Once again luck has played a part.

There is a need to review the way in which Devon Calls is being circulated. At a meeting of the committee held in February 2017 it was agreed that, *"The current issue of Devon Calls should be published on-line and distributed by email in tandem with hard copies in the medium term, with a view to a phased reduction in the number of printed magazines"*.

(Note: Please see "Paper Copy Request for Devon Calls" on page 11.)

With a new enthusiastic team of officers now in place at the association and a new person assisting with Devon Calls the future looks promising. Taken together with major schemes of work that have taken place on the bells at, Chagford, Combe Raleigh, Noss Mayo (Revelstoke) and now Ugborough and shortly Mortonhamsted, as ringers we are very lucky indeed.

My grateful thanks to all those who have taken the trouble to contribute to this edition. My thanks also to our faithful team of helpers; they give their time freely to help package and distribute the magazine. This time we welcomed Mr. Alan Watts from Bishops Tawton who has joined us. Thank you Alan for taking the initiative, we look forward to working with you.

Let's look forward to another summer season of enjoyable ringing.

**Colin Adams**

## TECHNICAL EDITOR *DEVON CALLS* - A REFLECTION

Having been one of the Technical Editors for the past four years, which I have greatly enjoyed, I have felt that it is time to retire. I am delighted that James Grant is preparing to take over, and unlikely though it will be, I will be prepared to assist if needed. It has been rewarding to work with Colin Adams as Editor whose energy in gathering together manuscripts has been, and still is, essential. Our printer, Graham Slater of Polpentre Design and Print, has always been extremely helpful and we have relied on him.

For some amateur desk-top publishing is an interesting pastime if one is content to play with a computer, use one of the designed publishing type programmes and be "nit picking" over minor points of detail.

I started my interest in printing by organising the "Print Club" at school some 65 years ago using old fashioned fonts of individual letters, setting up as a mirror image on a stick, wedging rows of type in a frame (and trying not to drop all the letters when one has nearly finished!!) and printing with wet ink on a platen hand printer. Nevertheless, we produced programmes, booklets, posters, headed notepaper, etc.

Professionally I was involved in editing medical journals in both the UK and Europe, and also writing and proof reading specialist articles, monographs and chapters in text books.

This also required teaching and assisting junior colleagues in similar tasks. I have frequently been accused of always proof reading whatever I am reading and indeed it is difficult to stop doing so.

It has been a rewarding hobby to continue such activities in retirement not only with *Devon Calls* but also with Parish Magazines, the Chagford Show Horticultural schedule and colleagues' autobiographies.

I wish *Devon Calls* every success and I hope that its circulation will increase as its print run is at present regrettably low. Would that most active Devon call ringers subscribed to it regularly and while it is rather too expensive at present the cost of individual copies should progressively come down as the number printed increases. Also how about a subscription for a regular set of copies in each tower, say one between two or three ringers, so that all can have the interest of reading it and being up to date with Association activities? Hopefully that would not only reduce the cost per copy but also lead to more copy being submitted (and would it not be good for the Editor to have to select which should be accepted or rejected), the standard improving and even the frequency of publication increasing to (say) four times per year.

**Colin Barnes**

# REVELSTOKE REHUNG!

**R**evelstoke's peal of Eight are now back in the tower and were rung for the first time on Saturday 6th January when many ringers from around the area came and joined the local ringers of Newton and Noss (Revelstock). The bells were removed in the middle of September by Taylors and were taken back to the foundry where a major overhaul was carried out. A very quick turnaround saw them rehung in the tower the week before Christmas and we now feel we have one of the best peals of Eight in Devon.

On behalf of our local ringers I would like to say a big thank you to our priest Anne Legge, the Churchwardens and the PCC, and a special thank you goes to those who helped with the removal, cleaning and rehanging, and of course to the parishioners who gave so generously to the refurbishment of the Revelstoke Bells. Now we need to keep them ringing so please come and have a go.



## REVELSTOKE'S CHURCH BELLS

BELL	INSCRIPTION	NOTE
TREBLE	J. WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1882 THE LIFE OF CHARLES BARRING ESQ. OF MEMBLAND	F
2 <sup>ND</sup> :	CHARLES FARWELL ROG. RECTOR CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1882	E
3 <sup>RD</sup> :	WE MAGNIFY THEE. CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881	D
4 <sup>TH</sup> :	WE GIVE THANKS TO THEE. CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881	C
5 <sup>TH</sup> :	WE BLESS THEE. CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881	B
6 <sup>TH</sup> :	WE GLORIFY THEE CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881	A
7 <sup>TH</sup> :	WE WORSHIP THEE CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881	G
TENOR:	GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN. WE PRAISE THEE. CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS. LONDON 1881. F 16 CWT.	
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST. ON EARTH PEACE.		

ALL THE LETTERING ON THE BELLS IS A DECORATIVE LOMBARDIC, PI3 2 B.

Reference:

Scott J. Mack C. & Clarke J. 2007. *Towers & Bells of Devon, Volume Two. The Mint Press, Exeter, Devon. EX4 6AP*

**Barrie Furzeland**  
**Tower Captain**

## WHIMPLE LADIES MARK CENTENARY

*from Whimble News - Ringing to mark centenary of Women's Suffrage*

**I**t was a hundred years ago that women first got the vote. Some women and a greater number of men were enabled to vote when 'The Representation of the People' act passed into law 6th Feb 1918.

To mark the occasion the lady ringers of Whimble came together to ring our bells on Tues. 6 February 2018. They had decided to ring on the same day at 7:30pm.

Life is very different now, but of the dozen people in Whimble able to ring the bells, eight are women.; and of the regular core they represent half our number. (They are even allowed to vote at our AGM too!). The two previous Tower Captains were women and both were in the band on this occasion. Whimble has a fine tradition of very good lady ringers going back to 1923 and their picture still hangs in the Tower.

The doors to the ground floor chamber were left open so supporters that came along could watch and listen. The camera in the belfry, with a video link to a large television in the church, gave a picture of the bells themselves as they swung high in the tower. That proved a focus of conversation as folk sipped fruit juice or a glass of wine and nibbles thoughtfully provided by our lady churchwarden.

I welcome the forthcoming joint venture to recruit more ringers because we could certainly do with more to secure the future of our band in Whimble.

**Roger Algate, Tower Captain.**



From left to right Dy Beedell; Lis Roberts; Jill Horsman; Penny Wells; Liz Silk; Judith Canniford; Janthia Algate.

Also wishing to be associated with the event, but who could not ring on the day were Nan Sturdy, Penny Daniels and Marianne Randall.

# THE REDEDICATION OF ST PETROCK'S CHURCH. EXETER

On Monday 4th December 2017, after a long and extensive refurbishment project, St Petrock's Church in Exeter was rededicated in a service led by Bishop Sarah of Crediton.

The existing pews have been stripped down and made into new cupboards, maintaining the details of the pew ends as decorative features. A new wooden floor has been laid over the top of the many floor gravestones, which will serve to protect them for the future and also allow for the use of under floor heating. The marble monuments have been cleaned, allowing us to see their true colours. The crumbling plaster has been revamped and painted, which along with extensive new LED lighting, has created an open and welcoming feel. The large and dark Victorian wooden porch has been replaced with a glass porch, complete with Church bells etched into the side that looks into the bell tower.

The service was very well attended, with many parishioners from the central Exeter parish joining with those connected with St Petrock's bell ringing centre, past and present, including Professor Bob Snowdon who spearheaded the original campaign to save St Petrock's as a ringing centre, to celebrate the completion of this huge undertaking. There was ringing for an hour before the service, the band including Stephanie Brown, Ryan Brodie, Colin Adams, Lewis Withecombe, John Staddon, David Hird and Mike Tripp. The congregation and clergy were all very complimentary, and the ringing enjoyed by all.

The service involved the Rector of St Petrock's, Sheila Swarbrick, and Bishop Sarah moving around all the distinct areas of the church and blessing them. A prayer was said in each area by a member of the Church. Stephanie Brown read the prayer as the bells were blessed:



*'Joyous God  
As the ropes tell of hidden bells  
Needing the skill of ringers to release  
their music  
Every atom of the world tells of you  
And of your love, needing only our  
response:  
Ring out those peals of joyful  
tongues, then,  
Loudly we pray, everywhere.*

After the service, there was wine and a light finger buffet. Many members of the congregation were keen to talk, and the pictures provided by Colin Adams of the bells being removed from the church in

1984 were lovely to see. Revd Swarbrick is keen for St Petrock's to be seen as a Church for changing times, and with all the work done to the maintenance of the bells and the new bell ropes, we look forward to the bell ringing centre at St Petrock's moving onwards into the future with both the Association and the Guild.

**Stephanie Brown**



L. to R. Ryan Brodie, Reverend Sheila Swarbrick, Lewis Withecombe, Stephanie Brown (Tower Captain), John Staddon, Bishop Sarah, Colin Adams.

## REPORT FROM HONORARY SECRETARY

As I write this report, the snow is falling and my girls are not at school, but I can tell that Spring is on the way – the daffodil heads are peeping out of the white mounds!

What's more, I am sure that many of us are looking forward to another year of competitions and socialising in different areas of Devon, and perhaps beyond!

At the 2016 AGM, James Steer was welcomed as the new Chair, and I took over the role of Secretary from Sam Massey prior to the June 2017 meeting.

For anyone who doesn't know me, my name is Rachel Avery. My husband Lee and I both ring at Kingsteignton, and we

have two girls. Autumn is now learning to ring - something that gives Lee and I so much joy. We hope she can gain as much enjoyment from ringing as we do.

What is obvious to see is how members of the committee want the Association to continue to thrive, something which I am sure will happen with the willingness and commitment that they have, along with the support from individuals in towers across Devon.

I am getting to grips with how the committee works, and have listened and learnt intently at the committee meetings that I have attended.

*(continued on next page)*

*(continued from previous page)*

Meetings have centred around the continuation of recruitment and workshops around the county, along with the Association's interest in the purchase of a new ringing simulator, a decision that was ratified at the AGM which will be purchased soon, and its possible goal to gain charitable status.

We welcome Clive Ward and William Carew, newly appointed Treasurer and South Competition Secretary respectively and wish them well with their new roles. New Committee Members are also welcomed, including Adrian Walthoe, John Barnes and Christine Ley.

We are looking forward to joining with the Guild of Devonshire Ringers to commemorate 100 years since Armistice Day and by the time you read this, the event will have taken place. I do hope some of you managed to support a tower local to you and we managed to obtain some new recruits!

If there is something you think that the committee should be considering or discussing, please do contact me via email or phone. Please feel free to contact me with queries and questions too; I can say with certainty that there will be somebody who can help.

The Association website and Facebook and Twitter pages are great ways of keeping up to date with events and Victoria Tucker, the Association's Publicity Officer, sends out a wealth of information through our distribution list. If you would like to receive these emails, let us know!

The whole committee would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of Association throughout 2017, and we look forward to a successful 2018.

**Rachel Avery**

**Honorary Secretary**

Hon-secretary@devonbells.co.uk

## DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

The DCBRF trustees have two meetings a year; the most recent was held at North Tawton on 11th November 2017 attended by all trustees. Ian Smith announced that he would be standing down as secretary in a few years' time and we are looking for a younger person to take over. The publicity leaflet has been redesigned and there is a proposal to provide a suitable notice in all towers that have received a significant grant.

Since its inception in 1972 the fund has paid out over £250,000 to help restore bells in Devon churches.

### Payments in 2017 have been to:

- Woolfardisworthy (East) - £1,700 (March 2017)
- Chagford - £7,400 (March 2017)
- Chevithorne - £900 (April 2017)
- Payhembury - £2,500 (April 2017)
- Cornworthy - £8,400 (July 2017)
- Harpford - £1,800 (August 2017)
- Combe Raleigh - £10,000 (September 2017)
- Petton - £350 (September 2017)
- Grants have been agreed (subject to confirmation) when work has been completed at:
  - Ugborough - £11,000 – expected completion Summer 2018.
  - Woodbury - £5,500
  - Beaford - £7,500/£9,000
  - Axminster - £700
  - Alphington - £3,500

At the meeting three new grants were agreed (subject to confirmation) for Exeter Cathedral (£8,500), Moretonhampstead (£9,000) and Highweek (£450).

Another aspect of the work of the trustees is to inspect and report on bell installations anywhere in the county. This is partly done as a function of the Guild

(for Guild attached towers) but also offered to churches as a part of their regular quinquennial checks. The hope is that any serious work, such as rotting or rusty foundations beams, can be identified before it becomes a very expensive problem. For example with some steel frames, a coat of paint now can protect the frame from having to be completely replaced in 10-20 years time. Over the year we have also been to examine a number of rings (often of only three bells) whose state is unknown, to see if they could be resurrected, at least for swing chiming. Also, on behalf of the Guild, we have checked out problems at several towers, and helped with maintenance. The following are some of the towers visited this year:

George Nympton, East Anstey, Satterleigh, Huntshaw, Newton Tracey, Upton Pyne (maintenance), Broadclyst, Torquay Assumption, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Alverdiscott, Newton St Petrock, Milton Damerel, Sowton, Harpford, Coryton, Abbotskerswell, Dunchideock, Cockington, Huntsham (advice given), Milton Abbot, Frithelstock, Butterleigh, Kings Nympton, Dunkerswell, Newton St Cyres, Sutcombe, Harberton, Chittlehamholt.

The fund is in a healthy state, with contributions from the Guild, the Association, branches, towers and individuals. It is helped by income generated by a large bequest (the Smale bequest) and a number of specially arranged functions (such as the quarter peal festival). As you can see from the above there is a steady demand for money so please keep it coming in as much as you can. And as the fund is a registered charity please gift aid any donations where possible so that tax paid on the donation can be reclaimed.

**Ian Campbell**

84 Whipton Village Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 8AL, UK  
Phone +44 1392 469695 Mobile 07964 773525



# MORWENSTOW'S DAY OUT

I am Arthur Bryant the Tower Captain for in excess of 35 years of St. Morwenna & St. John the Baptist Church, Morwenstow, North Cornwall.

We are active members of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers, Tamar Valley Guild of Ringers, and the Torridge Valley Guild of Ringers. We often take part in local competitions around the North Cornwall & North Devon area. I feel therefore that I am at least 50% eligible to place an article in the magnificent *DEVON CALLS*, which is often forwarded to me by Colin Adams.

My topic is our annual ringers outing which we arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 around the North & East perimeter of Dartmoor.

Leaving Morwenstow at 8-30am with a full 29-seater coach and two private cars, consisting of some fifteen active and former ringers our first destination was **Chagford** to ring on their magnificent recently refurbished peal of eight bells, what a pleasure it was, I could have stayed there all day. But it was off to the



At St. Michael the Archangel, Chagford

next venue the lovely village of **Lustleigh** with its nice ring of six and a quick drink before heading off to Widecombe in the Moor for a light lunch and liquid refreshment before trying the eight bells there. Everyone enjoyed the scenic view of Dartmoor going to and from **Widecombe**, where most if not all the local hostleries & cafes were visited by at least some of our party, on a beautiful sunny day.

At 3pm the ringers that were able, climbed up the many steps to the ringing chamber, where again we enjoyed our rings on the eight bells that were slightly heavier than the previous towers.

From here we headed toward Ashburton but first dropping in to the Hamlet of **Bickington** to ring on the delightful light peal of six where everyone had a pull especially those who were unable to climb up the steps at Widecombe.

After this we travelled to **Ashburton** with great

apprehension by myself as to my less experienced ringers being able to master the somewhat heavier bells than they are used to, the tenor being almost three times the weight of our eight hundred weight bell at Morwenstow.

However, with a number of very experienced ringers in our group my fears were soon alleviated. The seventh and tenor were risen first without the aid of a strapper, we then rose the other six in peal, the seventh and tenor joining in at the top of the rise.

After which we had two or three nice peals followed by a very acceptable steady lower, my junior ringers excelling in their achievement.

It was nice to have Marcus Tape, who regularly rang with me at Morwenstow for many years when he lived in Bude, also Lewis Withecombe another long-time friend, both from the Exeter area, also Joyce and Claude Nicholls from Littleham came along, many thanks for your ringing and companionship.

But we didn't end just there we still had one more venue to visit. This was at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel where we tucked into scrumptious meals with of course ample liquid refreshment before leaving for



## Ashburton

L to R: **backrow**, Kingsley Bryant, Marcus Tape, Jo Barnes, Lester Quance, Alan Rowland, Keith Shepherd, Lewis Withecombe.

**frontrow**, Linda Tilbey, Arthur Bryant Tower Captain. Sharon Roberts,

**extreme right** Chris. Humphrey.

**Ringers not in photo but on the tour**, Claude & Joyce Nicholls, John Wickett

home at eight pm.

A great day, one of the best and thank you to the host towers with their well-maintained bells.

**Arthur Bryant**

# ADDRESS GIVEN BY MRS. CHRISTINE LEY, (RETIRING PRESIDENT) AT THE AGM ON SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

First of all I would like to recommend becoming President of the Devon Association of Ringers. It is a great honour and a privilege. Meeting so many enthusiastic fellow ringers during the year has been so rewarding and it has also been great fun.

I thought I would just let you know what has happened at the various towers that I have been in contact with and the views that I have gleaned from individual ringers. The impression I have is that a positive feeling generally exists about ringing and people hold a strong sense of loyalty to their local tower. There are quite a lot of people learning how to ring right across Devon from age seven upwards. I would like to thank all those people who devote so much of their time towards keeping ringing alive.

We must support the younger generation, as if we don't ringing in Devon will gradually come to an end. I don't want to be part of the generation responsible for its decline. I appeal to everyone, to provide as much support as possible so that the work already underway can continue.

There are many towers seeking help and guidance around such areas as; teaching and mentoring, rising and lowering, rope splicing, peal judging, as well as how to recruit and retain people. This year we have accommodated many of these requests and plans are underway to do more in 2018. Every person that I have approached so far to help has responded enthusiastically.

The "Tower Captain's Guide" which became available earlier in the year was very well received. It even prompted some ringers into taking on the captaincy of a tower where previously there wasn't one. This is

great news as it potentially means teams obtain the benefits of leadership. Furthermore it means the bells are being rung and the church regularly used.

Early last June a gentleman called Tom from the North of England came to visit. In his home tower he rings methods but he wanted to familiarise himself with "Devon" style rising and lowering and call-changes and, within reason, introduce some of what he had learnt back in his home tower. At the end of his visit, apart from suffering from some very sore hands, he said how much he had enjoyed his stay and that he would like to return at some stage. He commented on how vastly different the two styles of ringing are.

Once I was invited by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers to provide a talk on rising and lowering and the approach we use for teaching learners. Unfortunately, I had to decline as the date coincided with a hip replacement operation that I needed. I hope to be able to attend next time, should I get invited. I think the invitation is a good example of the two organisations being prepared to learn from each other.

I have to apologise to some people for not being able to fulfil my aim of visiting all the towers across Devon. I did try but I ran out of time. I will try to make up for the shortfall over the next year - if I can.

Thank you all for your support during my year as President and for the trust you placed in me. Please make every effort to find a new ringing recruit and even if you come across a lapsed ringer encourage them to return.

Barry, I wish you every success in your year ahead. I hope you will enjoy your term of office as much as I did.

*Christine Ley.*

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BELL RINGING

East Budleigh and Otterton Bell Ringers recently met to celebrate their outgoing Captain's service of over 60 years, as both a ringer and a Captain. David Pratt was presented with an honorary life membership to East Budleigh and Otterton by Captain Alan Murdoch, in recognition of his achievement. Outgoing President of the Devon Association of ringers, Mrs Chris Ley also made a presentation to David in recognition of his service to ringing in Devon.

While David was in the role of Captain he headed up a successful major effort to raise £40,000 to renew three bells and refurbish the bell chamber at East Budleigh.





# YEAR CARD 2018

**President:** Barry Osborne, 3 Woodpecker Way, Whitchurch, Tavistock, PL19 9FQ. Tel: 01822 614348  
**President Elect:** John Barnes, Cunnicott, North Buckland, Branton, EX33 1HY Tel: 01271 890517 email: jcbarnes482@gmail.com  
**Chairman:** James Steer, Homefield, Station Road, Bow, EX17 6HT. Tel: 01363 82414 email: chair@devonbells.co.uk  
**Vice-Chairmen:** Ian Avery, 11 Vicarage Hill, Kingsteignton, TQ12 3BA. Tel: 01626 354415  
email: vice-chair@devonbells.co.uk **Hon. Secretary:**  
Rachel Avery, 7 Trafalgar Close, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2SJ. Tel: 01626 335813  
email: hon-secretary@devonbells.co.uk  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Clive Ward, Bramblings, Monkleigh, Bideford, EX39 5JT Tel: 07712078885 email: hon-treasurer@devonbells.co.uk  
**Publicity Officer:** Victoria Tucker Tel: 07769 571263 email: publicity-officer@devonbells.co.uk  
**Devon Calls:** Colin Adams, 16 Bramley Close, Kenton, Exeter, EX6 8JZ Tel: 01626 890152 email: devoncalls@devonbells.co.uk  
**Asst. Secretaries:** Stuart Bennie (North) 9 Strawberry Fields, North Tawton, EX20 2GX Tel: 07796106708  
(competitions) email: northcompetitionsecretary@devonbells.co.uk  
William Carew (South) Tel: 07950 112333 email: southcompetitionsecretary@devonbells.co.uk  
**Web Master:** James Kerslake Tel: 01392 829602 email: webmaster@devonbells.co.uk  
**Training Officer:** Graham Sharland Tel: 01752 893719 email: training-officer@devonbells.co.uk  
**Fundraising Officer:** Julia Jarvis Tel: 07854 474469 email: fundraising@devonbells.co.uk  
**Guild Liaison Officer:** Ian Avery (see Vice-Chairman)  
**Central Council Reps:** Mervyn Way Tel: 01769 580440 & Robert Brown Tel: 01626 834461  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Robert Brown Tel: 01626 834461 email: safeguarding-officer@devonbells.co.uk  
**Committee Members:**

## North

Gerald Arscott Tel: 01769 540229  
John Barnes Tel: 01271 890517  
Keith Bavin Tel: 01398 341257  
Stephen Herniman Tel: 01769 560013  
Christine Ley Tel: 01271 314544  
John Lock Tel: 01805 804254  
Andrew Vincent Tel: 07712740538  
Adrian Walthoe Tel: 07909797656  
Mervyn Way Tel: 01769 580440  
Margaret White Tel: 01271 816393

## South

Michael Adams Tel: 01626 890578  
Scott Adams Tel: 07808869499  
Ian Avery Tel: 01626 354415  
Lee Avery Tel: 07809486555  
John Dietz Tel: 01803 770515  
Paul Hext Tel: 07759121848  
Sam Hext Tel: 07590027151  
Barry Osborne Tel: 01822 614348  
David Trout Tel: 01822 853040

## Competitions

### Association Open Day – 28th April

Devon Ringers Council **10-Bell call-change competition** for the John Scott Trophy at Withycombe at 10am. 8-bell call-change competition at Littleham at 2pm 6-bell call-change competition at Lympstone at 4pm Meal and results at 7pm – venue tbd For more details and to enter please contact Ian Avery - Tel: 01626 354415 email: vice-chair@devonbells.co.uk

### North Devon Six Bell Qualifier – 12th May, St Giles in the Wood

The 2018 North Devon Qualifier will be held at St Giles in the Wood on the 12th May. Teams are required to ring the peal known as Sixty on Thirds in no less than 15 minutes with a rise and lower. Teams are permitted to borrow up to two ringers, though no ringer may ring for more than one team in any competition. The Six Bell Qualifier and Finals are deemed as one competition. A borrowed ringer must not ring Treble or Tenor. Teams are allowed one practise up to two weeks before the competition date. Teams must be present at 2pm for the Roll Call prior to a draw.

### South Devon Six Bell Qualifier – 12th May, Manaton

The 2018 North Devon Qualifier will be held Manaton on the 12th May. Rules and Format as per North Devon Qualifier. Minor Final – 26th May, Bishopsteignton Teams placed 6th - 10th from North and South Qualifier and top two from the

Novice Call Change section are eligible to ring. Rules and format as per Qualifiers though no practice allowed.

### Major Final – 9th June, Ashreigney

Teams placed 1st - 5th from North and South Qualifier and top two from Minor Final are eligible to ring. Rules and format as per Qualifiers though no practice allowed.

### Eight Bell – 15th September, Stoke Fleming

The 2018 Eight Bell will be held at Stoke Fleming on the 15th September. Teams are required to ring the peal known as Queens in no less than 20 minutes with a rise and lower. Teams are permitted to borrow up to three ringers, though no ringer may ring for more than one team. A borrowed ringer must not ring Treble or Tenor. Teams are allowed one practise up to two weeks before the competition date. Teams must be present at 2pm for the Roll Call prior to a draw.

### National Competition – 19th May Bampton

Devon Six Bell competition open to all towers/societies/associations or guilds nationally. Teams are required to ring the peal known as Sixty on Thirds in no less than 15 minutes with a rise and lower. No practise allowed

**FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO ENTER A COMPETITION, PLEASE CONTACT EITHER ASST. SECRETARY**

# OBITUARIES

## BOB PENGELLY (27 February 1936 - 30 October 2017) - A TRIBUTE

It seems ironic that the last edition of Devon Calls carried a brief account of Bob's bellringing career and the next one should record the account of his death. Others, no doubt, will give a more detailed account than me of his life but Bob's modest summary of his bellringing deserved much more.

I first met Bob at Lydford in 1964. He had only recently become tower Captain at Lydford and keen to honour the memory of Bill Barriball instigated the first Deanery only team ringing competition for The Tavistock Deanery. Bob organised everything and this contest continued annually for many decades. Bob was keen to encourage new teams and The Barriball Shield was held at a different venue each year with great success. The late 1960s saw a strong team emerge at Lydford through Bob's encouragement and as well as regular Sunday Service Ringing they enjoyed many successes in Tower Bell Competitions.

Their first Association Contest was at Bickington in the early 1970s, but it was the local and South Devon ones that they supported the most.

On the death of the great Ernie Chapman of Bridestowe, Bob agreed to take on the job of Tower Captain there and maintained regular service ringing at St Bridget's and Sourton as well. Bridestowe was a mecca for competition ringing and teams would attend their contest from all over Devon and Cornwall with foundations firmly laid by Ernie in 1960. Bob, of course, took on the mantle of organising this which seemed to go with the job. In 1978, the family of The Late Hilda and Albert Hambly donated a Rose Bowl for a Memorial Ringing Competition at Lydford and Bob took on organising this as well!!! However, I must mention Roy Vargoe here as Roy did help a lot in those early years of the Competition. Albert Hambly had been Tower Captain at Lydford in the 1950s and Roy was Lydford's Vice Captain and tenor man. St Michael's Brentor lost their Tower Captain soon after and on the death of Norman Pearse, Bob took on the job of Tower Captain there. Not an easy ring of bells to work on but Bob continued to maintain the ropes which in those days were removed in September (Harvest Festival) and put back for Easter Sunday ringing. Bob even made a set of bell ropes on his father's rope walk out of polythene agricultural baler cord to see if that would work against the damp on Brentor – one of Bob's less successful ventures!!!

In 2003 Bob was instrumental in getting Lydford bells rehung and through his encouragement this job was carried by Robert



Parker (Bellhanger) of Taunton. It was a privilege to be asked to the official "try out" on the superb conclusion of this project.

Socially, Lydford Ringers Outing was always well organised with Bob driving the route in his car to make sure the timetable was right beforehand, again organised by him. He also enjoyed many outings with "The Wrinklies" and up to only 12 months ago still enjoyed the occasional second Wednesday.

It's hard to draw a line under something when one's memory goes back more than 50 years, but I know Bob would be proud that Lydford Tower is still in good hands with Sue Pound as Captain. Bridestowe are ringing regularly under the Captaincy of Bill Thirtle and St Michael's Brentor continue to ring with Carol Sargent at the helm.'

Bob never sought fame, but I consider the legacy that he has left is more than fame itself. Our sympathy goes to Muriel, Bob's wife, and daughters Linda and Pam and their families. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Geoff Hill*

## WALLY CRUMP

### Eulogy given at the Memorial Service St. Martin's Church, Exminster. Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017

I speak on behalf of the ringers at St. Martin's Exminster and those across Devon who knew Wally so well.

Wally was born here in Exminster in 1926 -91 years ago. He went to school, played in the village football team and learnt to ring here. He was taught to ring by the late Jack Way the tower captain at the time, a challenge learning in those days as the bells were rung from the ground floor making the rope length excessively long. All this changed in 1980 when the tower screen and new ringing chamber was installed.

Wally married Cherry here in October 1951. The start of the

wedding service was delayed for about an hour as the car bringing Cherry to the church was delayed - the swing bridge at Countess Were being open - an anxious time for Wally. Following their marriage, the couple lived in Exminster and Wally worked with the National Cash Register Company. Wally joined the Rhythm Rustlers dance band which was led by the late Ron Pepperrell, where he acquired such a good sense of rhythm and timing thus standing him in good stance as a ringer

The couple eventually moved to Plympton when the NCR relocated to Plymouth. It was not long before Wally joined

*. (continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

Plympton St. Mary's ringers led by the late Bill Lavers who had a great influence on Wally and the two got on extremely well. Wally frequently spoke affectionately about Bill and the way in which he led his team. Bill it seems always strove for the best striking. He could ring both method and call-changes and he was able to ring two bells at once and call the changes! According to Wally, before any ringing began Bill would say "eyes and ears then for 20 minutes" and to anyone sitting out "sit quietly, look and listen, you can always learn something". Wally had many years of enjoyable ringing at Plympton St. Mary and the team achieved a high standard of striking.

Following retirement Wally and Cherry moved to Dawlish. In 1979 I was invited by the Reverend John Good to become captain at Exminster. I was informed by local ringer Alan Frampton that Wally was living in Dawlish. I contacted him and invited him to join us at Exminster where I was trying to build a team, he immediately said he would. I received total support from Wally, he came regularly to practice nights and fully supported Sunday ringing. His preference was to ring either the tenor or the seventh and he was able to ring either bell with absolute ease. Through his sense of rhythm and perfect timing Wally set an excellent example on how to keep a bell under control. Such was his degree of skill that it wasn't long before he was approached by Kenn ringers to help them and he divided his time equally between the two parishes. With Wally in their side Kenn formed a formidable team and developed into a successful competitive side winning many competitions. Wally's name appears on ringing certificates at Kenn as well as at Exminster. During the time that he rang he also gave consistent encouragement to learners. His quiet and calm approach went a long way towards enabling them to gain

the confidence needed to progress.

Sadly approximately 14 years ago his ringing career came to an abrupt halt when he suffered a stroke whilst visiting his son Jeremy and family in Tasmania. There was always hope that he may regain some movement in his affected side, but it wasn't to be. Most importantly, apart from the occasional hospital admission he was able to remain in his own home. This would not have been possible without the unfailing care and support by his wife Cherry. She has been such a strong person, not only looking after Wally but keeping house and home together under very difficult circumstances. Over the last couple of years her own health began to decline, yet despite this she persevered and kept everything together. There can be nothing worse than witnessing the gradual decline of a loved one yet being impotent to change their circumstances. Due to Cherry's conscientious sense of duty, right up until the very end, Wally passed peacefully away in his own home.

I want to close with the words of the 20<sup>th</sup> century American sportswriter, the late Henry Grantlan - Rice.

*"For when the One Great Scorer comes  
To mark against your name  
He writes – not that you won or lost  
But how you played the game."*

Wally played the game extremely well and always with a straight bat. He was modest, never boastful and always supportive and courteous. We all miss him, he has provided us with some lasting memories and undoubtedly left his mark at this tower.

May he rest in peace.

**Colin E. Adams. (Tower Captain).**



## JOHN TAYLOR & CO., BELLFOUNDERS

The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire, LE11 1AR, England  
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305  
Email: [office@taylorbells.co.uk](mailto:office@taylorbells.co.uk)

**'THE FINEST SOUNDING BELLS IN THE WORLD'**



See our website: [www.taylorbells.co.uk](http://www.taylorbells.co.uk) for comprehensive details of all the services we are able to offer to customers

**FREE INSPECTIONS & REPORTS ON UK MAINLAND  
TAYLOR BELLS & TAYLOR ENGINEERING  
'THE DISCERNING RINGER'S CHOICE'**

## PAPER COPY REQUEST FOR 'DEVON CALLS'

### Paper Copy Request for 'Devon Calls'

**The Association has reviewed the way in which 'Devon Calls' is to be distributed to individuals.**

**The publication will continue to be available as a downloadable file on the website ([www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk)).**

**The Association will continue to send a printed copy to affiliated towers, but personal copies will only be provided at the request of individuals willing to pay a £10 annual subscription, which will be reviewed annually.**

**Should you wish to continue to receive a paper copy, please fill out the slip below and return to Mr Clive Ward, Bramblings, Monkleigh, Bideford, EX39 5JT OR contact him by email at [hon-treasurer@devonbells.co.uk](mailto:hon-treasurer@devonbells.co.uk) by Friday 21 September 2018.**

**Name:.....**

**Address:.....**

**Post Code.....Tel:.....**

**I will pay for a subscription to 'Devon Calls' at £10.00 per annum by: BACS/CHEQUE (please indicate which)**

**Cheques payable to 'Devon Association of Ringers'**

**Bank account details: Devon Association of Ringers**

**Sort code: 53-50-28 Account No: 09202153**





NEW PEAL OF EIGHT IN RADIAL FRAME TOGETHER WITH ELECTRICALLY SWUNG BOURDON AND STATIONARY SERVICE BELL, SOUTH OCKENDON.

## CHURCH BELLHANGERS of DISTINCTION

We offer quality without compromise, using only the finest materials, age-old craftsmanship and impeccable standards of service. If *your* church is seeking the very best, we are ready to help.

bells@nicholsonbellhangers.com  
www.nicholsonbellhangers.com

### WORKS

Church Bell Works  
St.Swithin's Road  
Bridport  
DT6 5DW  
Tel.01308 422264  
Fax. 01308 427172

### CORRESPONDENCE

Walton  
Woodmead Road  
Lyme Regis  
DT7 3AB  
Tel. 01297 445865  
Fax.01297 444798

## Mendip Ropemakers Ltd

Manufacturers of Traditional Church Bell Ropes



Handmade from flax and hemp.

Pre stretched polyester and Dyneema top ends.

Rope repairs and refurbishments.

One month lead time.

Rope making demonstrations and tours available.

Winners of the 2015 New Business of the Year Award.

\* Visit our online shop for bell ropes available for immediate dispatch \*

[www.mendipropemakers.com](http://www.mendipropemakers.com)

Email: mendipropes@gmail.com. Tel: 01460 281022



25  
YEARS

**25 YEARS OLD**  
and looking better than ever



## MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Free written quotations

Specialised repairs by:

**Geoffrey C. Hill**

New Court Farm, Lamerton



## MALCOLM BROWN BELLROPES



**Bellropes made and repaired**

Wheels stays and other wooden fittings made and repaired

Well Cottage,  
Ballingers Row,  
Chedworth,  
Glos GL54 4AQ

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

01285 720757

[Sales@MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk](mailto:Sales@MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk)