



Founded 1925



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Devon Calls

Nov. 2015

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DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED WITH A RETURN TO NORTH TAWTON 19th SEPTEMBER 2015

In bright warm autumn sunshine teams of ringers travelled to mid Devon to participate in a programme of ringing specifically to mark the 90th anniversary of the Devon Association of Ringers. The event got off to a good start at 10.00 a.m. with a carefully prepared programme which had been organised by Mrs. Victoria Tucker the Association's PR Officer. This included, for the first time since 1925, an "Open Five Bell Competition" at Jacobstowe. In addition eight towers within the vicinity including Exbourne and Broadwoodkelly were made available for teams keen enough to fill the day and make the event a memorable one.



St. Peter's, North Tawton

For anyone unsure about the origins of the Devon Association of Ringers, with its emphasis on quality striking and competitiveness, it all started with a 6 and 8-bell competition being held at North Tawton in June 1925. The 6-bell was won by Atherington and the 8-bell by Barnstaple Parish Church. Such was the success of the occasion that a further competition was planned and this took place in October of the

same year at Zeal Monachorum. This event consisted of both a 5 and 6-bell competition.

(continued on next page)

Do we have your correct address and contact details?

Please send to Margaret WHITE (Secretary) bittadon@googlemail.com; Colin ADAMS (Acting Editor) kentonian@eclipse.co.uk or John BARNES (Treasurer) jcbarnes482@btinternet.com

(continued from page 1)

The bells were open for practice from 10.00 a.m. with each team being allowed 10 minutes to get to grips with the bells. The competition started at 2.00 p.m. The first prize was an ink-well made in the shape of Zeal Monachorum's treble bell and was probably made at the workshop of Gillett and Johnston of Croydon. The prize was presented to the winners by Mr. Cyril Johnston who was a director of the company. Earlier in the same year the company had cast and installed the treble bell at Zeal Monachorum. Along with Mr. W. Fewings of North Tawton, Mr. Johnston also acted as a ringing judge for the day. Throwleigh won the 5-bell contest and North Tawton won the 6-bell. Burrington would have won had they not lowered the bells 2 minutes before time. The final result with North Tawton being declared the winners produced a certain amount of ill feeling which resulted in a boycott by some of the teams the following year.

Given this background it was fitting that the Devon Association chose to return 90 years later to North Tawton for its 8-bell competition in 2015. Fortunately there was no repeat dispute and the event ran smoothly

Eight teams from across the county gathered to compete on the 8 bells at St. Peter's Church. At 2.00 p.m. the new and youthful looking Acting Competition Secretary for the north of the county, Mr. Stuart Bennie, together with the Chairman Mr. Graham Sharland ushered ringers and visitors alike into St. Peter's Church for the start of the service. Prior to the start Stuart gave out a few "house keeping" details which included guidance, most importantly, on where the conveniences were situated. one being located somewhere in a nearby side alley!! However, it was good to see a young ringer taking such an active part and everyone agreed that by the end of the day Stuart had acquitted himself extremely well. Oh that there were more young ringers like Stuart.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Nick Weldon team Vicar of the Whiddon Parishes Mission Community and based at North Tawton who warmly welcomed everyone. The opening hymn, 'Praise My Soul the King of Heaven' was well chosen and got the service off to a good start. The lesson was taken from Mark 3 verses 1-6 and was read by the Chairman Mr. Graham Sharland. In his address the Reverend Weldon took as his theme "Jesus the healer and helper of the poor and distressed"; rather than as someone with a particularly religious message to convey. He spoke about the meaning of the Sabbath and how ringers come together each week to signify that this day is distinct from others in the week. During the service the names of those ringers who had departed over the past year were read out and prayers were offered up. The second hymn was 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' and the final one the well known 'Ringer's Hymn.' All were enthusiastically sung. The service closed with the National Anthem. The organist was Mrs. Christine Cleverdon.

(With thanks to Geoff Hill for his assistance in advising on the historical facts)

(Results on page 3)

Colin Adams

Message from Joan Clarke who was unable to be present:

Congratulations to The Devon Association of Ringers on reaching your 90th Anniversary' I so wanted to be here today to help with the celebrations for the 8 Bell Ringing Festival which makes it extra special as it was being held here at North Tawton.

As Competition Secretary North I had already written my speech. Instead I have asked our Chairman to read it out to you on my behalf.

The Devon Association of Ringers is unique and an Association to be proud of. And I really mean that, proud. We, as call change ringers, have the gift of raising and falling our bells in harmony which is the envy of many both method ringers and beginners alike. Because we have this gift we ably and expertly understand our bells quickly and, from the beginning, strike with accuracy and with ease. Very few other experienced ringers can do this, and are nervous even to try.

Those of us Devonshire Call change ringers who have been on ringing tours outside the county tell the locals we are coming and on numerous occasions the local ringing fraternity come along to listen. Many of them cannot believe that their own bells can sound so good. We even get applause and are asked for repeat performances so they can rush home for their tape recorders. Isn't that something to be proud of? The Devon Association of Ringers is unique.

There is nothing more satisfying than to ring a good peal whether it is for Sunday Service or on Practice Night. David Trist was right. our future is with the Novices and our Annual Novice competition is proving very popular. Dare I suggest we concentrate on raise & fall 'workshops' and not try to encourage novices to that huge leap forward to competition ringing? I would think that once they can raise and fall properly Competition Festivals will not be so daunting.

Remember, The Devon Association of Ringers is unique and to be proud of. So wear your Badge with pride and promote our style of ringing as often as you can. Then there will be no reason why we cannot reach our 100th Anniversary.

So please stand & raise your tea cups To The Devon Association of Ringers on our 90th Anniversary.

Joan Clarke



From left: (Judges) Martin SHARLAND, John DIETZ, Barry OSBORNE and Maurice SHARLAND (Scrutineer) Mervyn WAY

(continued from page 2)

RESULTS OF 8 - BELL COMPETITION

North Tawton - 19th September 2015

Overall Results

	<u>Faults</u>
1. Kingsteignton	27
2. Exeter Cathedral	46
3. High Bickington	48½
4. Chagford	59¼
5. Exminster	65¾
6. Tavistock	72
7. Georgeham	73
8. Widecombe-in-the-Moor	103¾

Top Ringing

	<u>Faults</u>
1. Kingsteignton	10¾
2. High Bickington	24¾
3. Exeter Cathedral	26
4. Exminster	32¼
5. Chagford	34¼
6. Tavistock	38¾
7. Georgeham	40¾
8. Widecombe-in-the-Moor	53¼

Judges: John Dietz, Barry Osborne, Martin Sharland & Mervyn Way Scrutineer: Maurice Sharland



From left:

Victoria TUCKER - Devon Association Publicity Officer
Brian DRAKE - President, Devon Association
Geoff HILL - Master, Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Joe STONEMAN - Tower Captain, Sampford Courtenay



SHAUGH PRIOR



Left to right

Reg BOWDEN Mark KINSMAN Wally RYDER
Frank HORNE Charlie LEE Charlie YABLEY Reg SKELLEY
(Captain) circa 1948

Anyone who has heard the bells at Shaugh Prior cannot fail to be impressed by their tone. Five of the bells are by Pennington. The original Pennington tenor was, it seems, recast by John Warner & Sons of London in 1886 and later machine tuned by Taylors in 1937. The tenor weighs 15cwt. 1 quarter and 3 lbs and is in the key of Eb. According to Scott *et al* 2007. The tower has. “A ring of six bells, hung for ringing in a cast iron-low side 8-bell frame by Taylor, 1937, with cast-iron headstocks and SAB (Self Aligning Ball-bearings). All the bells have cannons removed. 2, 4 and tenor machined tuned, treble slightly skirted. 4 bells are listed in the Inventory of 1553. A good six from the Penningtons of Lezant, the tenor recast. The “S” after Ino PEARSE on the 5th probably stands for sidesman; until the 19th century sidesmen were important officers in many country parishes. The diameters and weights of the front five are almost identical to Drewsteignton’s, and the weight of the original tenor (without cannons) was probably just under 14 cwt. The bells were

rehung by Aggett, who left his hoisting beams overhead; in 1992 they crashed down, damaging or destroying most of the wheels". Thankfully no one was injured and the wheels have since been replaced. Ed.

Scott. J. Mack. F. and Clarke J. (2007) Shaugh Prior, St. Edward. "Towers & Bells of Devon", Vol. Two. pp 344-345. The Mint Press, Exeter.

Longborough, Gloucestershire - 16th May 2015

Many people would have considered that May 2015 was going to be quite busy enough for the ringers of the Devon Association. However, other people felt that there was a gap in the calendar between the 6 bell Qualifiers and the 6 bell Minor Final. Naturally the way to fill this gap is to travel to Gloucestershire to take part in another competition!

Our man in Gloucestershire, Denzil Spear, had already invited several of his old team-mates to join him at Longborough on 16 May 2015 to compete for the **Ruth How Plate**. Steven Herniman, our Devon Association National Competition Co-ordinator, thought this would also be an excellent occasion to hold the National competition and the two were combined, with the Devon Association prize to be presented to the best call change peal on the day.

Call change teams rang alongside method teams in an unusual but very successful event! Denzil had been quite clear; whether method or call change, all teams had to rise and lower the bells and ring a call change peal or touch of method, all in not less than 15 minutes. Of course that suited the Devon ringers very well, but none of us were complacent on the day. Unfamiliar bells and some very well-rehearsed method teams – it was all to ring for!

Conditions on the day could not have been more perfect. Some of us started the day with a Devon Ringing workshop at nearby Saintbury that was well attended by locals, visitors and Devon ringers alike. When we got to Longborough for the service and draw, we discovered that in addition to the ringing competition there was a scarecrow trail, teas in the school, Morris dancers, falconry and owl display and a live band and hog roast (with bar) in the evening. What an event! The whole village had come out and visiting ringers were welcomed with open arms by everyone we met.



Freddie Crowley receiving the Ruth How Plate

Then to the competition! There were eight teams in total, six ringing call changes and two ringing method. Prizes were given to best rise, best lower and best overall peal or touch. The judges were our own Mervyn Way, and Alan Hartley from Bristol. They were happily camped in a gazebo in the churchyard and were kept well supplied with tea and cake.

Teams went in, did their thing and came back out, all looking rather warm and flushed! Longborough bells are not the easiest and took a fair bit of work to ring them well. They were also accessed by a steep ladder. There was a particu-

larly steady touch of method ringing that had many of the call change ringers looking concerned – they really had thrown down the gauntlet! We were delighted to see some of our new friends from the morning's ringing workshop sitting in the churchyard, just enjoying the ringing.

The results were read out in the village hall and the prizes presented by the churchwarden. Unfortunately Ruth How herself was not able to join us, but as a renowned ringer of long standing in Gloucestershire we understand she was delighted to have the plate awarded in her name. Prior to the competition results, Denzil told everyone about his project with the young people at the village school and presented special certificates to two lads that have progressed really well in the last few weeks. They got the biggest round of applause of the day!

After that, Mervyn was invited to read out the results that he and Alan had agreed upon. The team representing Chagford were delighted to hear that they had won the **Ruth How Plate, the Devon Association Trophy and the certificates for best rise and for best lower**. Hot on their heels were Burrington A and close behind them were the excellent method ringers from the Four Shires Guild that had really set the standard.

After the results many of us headed outside to grab a cold beverage from the bar and a tasty bite from the hog roast. A truly fantastic day!

Results – Longborough – Saturday 16 May 2015

	<u>Faults</u>
1. Chagford	15
2. Burrington A	15½
3. Four Shires Guild	17½
4. Burrington B	20
5. South Brent	20¼
6. Warwick	27
7. West Down	29
8. Longborough	62

Rise		Lower	
1.	Chagford	1.	Chagford
2.	South Brent	2.	Burrington A
3.	Burrington A	3.	Burrington B



Stuart Bennie Freddie Crowley Suzanne Driscoll Graham Sharland
Nicola Stoneman Victoria Tucker

Victoria Tucker

GOOD STRIKING

as taken from <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/education/dips/thetowerhandbook/goodstriking/>

On the Central Council website there is plenty of helpful information also a list of publications and here is one example of what is available.

The Tower Handbook has eight sections including: Safety, Being prepared, Pride & Standards, Hospitality, Housekeeping and Good Striking. The section on Good Striking gives 10 questions. Here are some samples.

What is good striking?

When the ringing is rhythmic and flows evenly with no clips or gaps and with perfect leading. When each ringers in the team rings to the same speed and with the same rhythm as all his or her team mates. Good striking is a joy to the ear and a pleasure to take part in.

How do we know whether our striking is good enough?

Perfection is very hard to achieve but you should still try. You should each develop a feeling about the quality of the ringing you produce. If it is "quite good for a band like ours", you can feel satisfied (but not complacent). If you feel "we really could do better", then think about how. And you need to agree this within the band. You will not have a harmonious band if half of you are ashamed of the quality of the ringing they take part in while the other half think it is good enough and don't bother to try to improve it. Your more experienced members should be prepared to take a lead and share their insights with the rest of you, but all of you should listen and form your own views. Does it sound like the description in (a) above or have you heard better? Listen critically.

How can I improve my striking?

It depends on what your current strengths and weaknesses are.

- How well can you control your bell? Can you make it do what you want, accurately and when you want it to? If not, then try to improve your handling, since without this basic skill you will find it hard to improve your striking. See section 13.1 for advice.
- If you are confident in your handling, how is your listening? Can you reliably pick out your own bell? Do you know when you strike wide or close? If not, then work on your listening. See section 13.4.
- Do you find yourself making consistent errors, for example ringing too close to heavy bells, or

having difficulty striking over odd struck bells? If so, you may be letting ropesight dominate your sense of timing. Try to look at all the ropes, rather than just the one you are following, and make a conscious effort not to be deflected from an even rhythm. See section 13.5.

- Do you have difficulty settling down in a touch?
- Does your striking get worse when other people make mistakes? If so, you are not relying enough on your sense of rhythm, or you have failed to develop it fully. See section 13.3.

Are you not aware of your striking? Do others tell you it leaves something to be desired? Perhaps they don't tell you but avoid touches with you in. If so, you can't hear what is happening aloft, you have probably not developed your listening skills fully.

Perhaps you can't identify a single cause, but you just want to try a bit harder with your striking. Whenever you are ringing (and also when you are not) listen intently to the sound of the bells. Try to hear your own bell (or a bell you are watching) within that sound. At each blow decide whether the bell is wide or close, but don't do anything hasty for small errors. In particular beware of correcting handstroke errors at the following backstroke. Such rapid correction enhances any tendency to be odd struck (in you or the bell) and in any case reduces stability. In other words "listen to it" at all times, but make sure any corrections do not disrupt your feel for the rhythm.

Other questions answered:

- How can we improve our striking?
- Should I ring wider when following bigger bells?
- Is it worth trying to strike well if other people don't?
- Should I compensate if someone else is too slow or quick?
- What does Strike the roll-ups mean?
- Why does calling round take so long to get decent rounds?
- Should the first row after pulling off be slower than the rest?

For more information go to www.cccbr.org.uk/education

Michael Webster

BISHOPSTEIGNTON - St John's Church Bells are Back!!

All 6 Bells were cast in 1840 by Thomas Mear II of Whitechapel and re-hung in 1900.



The original weights were:-

<u>Bell</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Note</u>
Tenor	39"	10-1-24	G#
Fifth	35"	7-3-0	A#
Fourth	32 7/8"	6-2-9	B#
Third	32"	6-1-13	C#
Second	29 5/8"	5-1-9	D#
Treble	28 1/2"	5-0-9	E#

The bells were all made with cast-in crown staples which with their remains are by far the most common cause of old bells becoming cracked. The staple is of wrought iron while the bell is of bronze and cracks are caused by a combination of differential expansion between the two metals and corrosion and consequent expansion of the wrought iron staple. None of the bells have ever been turned to present fresh faces to the blows of its clapper. Wear at the strike points were as follows, all expressed as a percentage of total thickness; tenor 12% , fifth 11%, fourth 20%, third 8% , second 11% , treble 12%.

Generally, 10% wear is accepted as the wise maximum at which point remedial action should be taken. It follows that all but the third were already passed that point, dramatically so in the case of the fourth.

The bellframe dates from 1900 and was built by Harry Stokes of Woodbury to his usual very high standard. The frame is supported by five oak foundation joists which span north-south with a further two joists underneath spanning east-west. The ends of the foundation joists are built into pockets in the tower walls. All the timbers have remained in remarkably good condition.

So, fundraising continued in earnest and in Sept 2014 trap doors were made in the 1st and 2nd floors and the bells lowered down, over the clock and out of the tower and transported away. Having already assisted in the removal of the bells the volunteer ringers then set about cleaning the bell chamber and doing remedial and preparatory works.

The bells were sent back to the original Whitechapel Foundry for tuning and where the cast-in crown staples were removed and the bells drilled for new clappers bearings to be fitted. New galvanised steel headstocks have

been made and fitted to the bells and the bells turned to present unworn surfaces to the blows of their clappers. New heavy duty double row self-aligning ball bearings are fitted to the new headstocks.

Finally in March 2015 the retuned bells with new red shiny headstocks arrived back in Bishop.

The volunteer ringers then set to work hoisting the bells back up through the floors, past the clock, to the clean bell chamber. Engineers then finalised the fittings and made adjustments.

And now St John's bells ring out anew, in tune and with much more ease - hopefully for many years to come.



New Stats:

<u>Bell</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Note</u>
Tenor	37"	9-0-25	G
Fifth	33 1/4"	6-3-9	A
Fourth	31"	6-0-7	B
Third	29 5/8"	5-1-25	C
Second	27 3/4"	4-2-8	D
Treble	25 13/16"	4-0-21	E

During all of the above, work was also undertaken to repair badly rotten beam ends which supported the tower 1st floor and maintenance work has been carried out on the clock.

We are now ringing for services on 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month and holding regular practices on Thursday evenings. These practices are well attended with 4 beginners recruited since the return of the bells.

Phil Turner (Tower Captain)

Bells Celebration

On completion of the restoration of the bells at Bishopsteignton a special service was held at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 2nd August to celebrate the bells which were rung for over an hour before the service by local ringers joined by a few visitors. The ringers were complimentary about the improvement in sound and the "go" of the bells. The service was led by the Reverend Stephen West who had designed it as a service celebrating bells and ringing. Hymns included Unchanging God and Ring out glad Bells (to the tune of Jerusalem). He talked about the heritage of bells and ringing in England and said how pleased the villagers were to have their bells back in action. Tea and cake followed the service.

Michael Webster

LAMMAS

Exeter Lammas fair was rung in this year on the morning of Friday 17th July 2015 at St Petrock's, where a group of local Exeter ringers aim to ring for all major civic events in the city.

Peals of six were rung in the hour leading up to the Proclamation by the mayor, by Stephanie Brown, Ryan Brodie, Steven Came, and Lewis Withecombe of Exminster, Mark Bertram of Stoke Cannon and Jenny Codling from Tedburn St. Mary. A peal of five was also rung, with the sound of the tenor being turned in rolling up the high street as the crowds began to gather.

The ringing at St Petrock's usually gains an audience, as it is unusual for people to be able to watch the ringing at such close hand in a city centre. Lammas day was no exception, and several families and passers by stopped their shopping and took time to enjoy the bells. One German family stayed for about half an hour, with the

children sat silently on the floor, captivated by proceedings. The church the family attend in the south of Germany has no bells, so this was particularly special for them. At the end of a peal Steven Came took time to encourage the children and, with his help, two German children aged six and four became the youngest known St Petrock's ringers.

Stephanie Brown

The word Lammas derives from the Anglo-Saxon 'Hlafmaesse' or 'loaf mass'. Lammas Day is the festival of St. Peter ad Vincula and was when the first fruits of the harvest were offered to the church in the form of a loaf. The ceremony dates back more than 900 years, before the Norman Conquest.

For more information see Exeter City Council's web site. www.exeter.gov.uk

Editor

from THE EXMINSTER ARCHIVES

The following is a report, from 'The Western Times', Exeter dated Friday 31st July 1863, of a Bell Ringing Match held at St. Martin's Church, Exminster:

This quiet little village was the scene of a spirited ringing contest on Tuesday. There were no less than eleven sets to compete for the prizes, which amounted to ten guineas (£10.50) subscribed by the gentry and yeomanry of the district. The excellent peal of bells of the old church sent forth their joyful notes at a very early hour of the morning, but the real business of the day commenced at one o'clock and continued without intermission until about seven, when the ringers and others to about 100, sat down to a very good spread, provided by Host Whitton, of the Stowey Arms (Mr. Richard Lee in the chair), after which the winners of the prizes were declared. The first of £4 4s (£4.20) was carried off by the Exeter ringers (97 faults); second £3 3s (£3.15), West Worlington (139 faults); third £2 2s (£2.10) Tedburn St.

Mary (141 faults); fourth £1 1s (£1.05), Pilton, Barnstaple (153 faults). The other competitors were Cheriton Bishop (160 faults); Broadclist [sic] No 2, cast out; and Alphington Ditto. The entrance was free.

The committee were Messrs. Wm Burrington, Richd. Lee, and Jas, and Wm. Baker, &c; Messrs Robert and Charles Manley and Frederick Gale triers; and Mr. Blake, marker. The Rev. J. Deans, took a lively interest in the affair, and subscribed liberally towards the prizes, Hosts Whitton and Parker hung out several flags, and altogether the place was very gay.

Reproduced by kind permission of David George, Editor of 'Scene', Exminster's Parish Magazine.

DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND - ANNUAL DRAW 2015

1. Patrick McCulloch	South Brent	£250
2. Ray Tutton	Exminster	£ 75
3. Gunary	Warkleigh	£ 50

The following won £25 each

4. Luke Green	Bishops Tawton	10. Brewer	EX20
5. Mandy Deegan	01752 34	11. J Dunn	01822 81****
6. D Devenport	Plymouth	12. D Barnes	Georgeham
7. L Blackburn	Braunton	13. C Lewis	Bishops Tawton
8. M Franklin	Rockbeare	14. S Rice	01237 47****
9. J Dennis	Meeth		

CHAGFORD BELLRINGERS ON TOUR – St Albans 2015

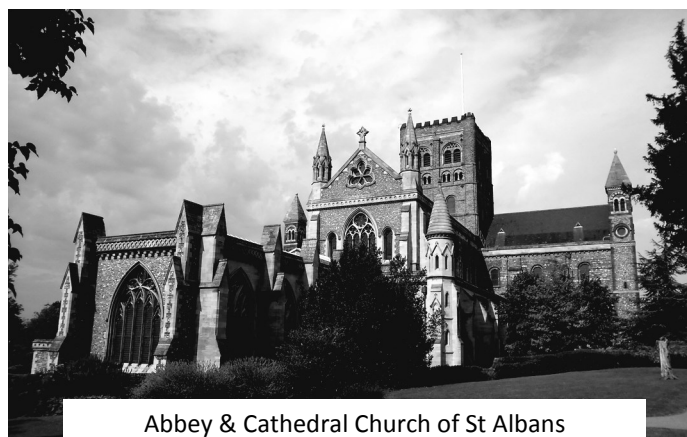
St Albans beckoned the Chagford bellringers and friends this year as Auntie's Army sallied forth once again for their annual weekend tour. The morning of Friday 21 August dawned grey and damp as we set off at our traditionally early start and headed east. One breakfast stop later and we reached our first tower, St Paul's Chippenham. This ring of eight warmed us all up nicely for the tour ahead, but the quality of the bells was soon eclipsed by those at Royal Wootton Bassett, our next tower. The town was granted royal patronage in 2011 in recognition of its role in military funeral repatriations, and the beautiful church was matched by a superb and rewarding 19cwt eight. Lunch followed, with ringers gathering in the nearby Five Bells pub, which proved to be the favourite of the weekend with all!

As we left Royal Wootton Bassett the clouds parted, temperatures soared, and lunch took its toll upon the band with an unscheduled stop at the first service station...but we made it to Great Marlow, only slightly late, where blue skies met us, where the churchyard of All Saints drops down to a sparkling River Thames. Ringing suddenly became less desirable, but we all enjoyed some good peals on this slightly challenging 15cwt eight. By this time, we were all glad to reach our hotel in St Albans, for some much needed refreshment, although the heat indoors was almost equal to that outdoors! But a good meal was enjoyed by all, even if the heat meant it was not necessarily followed by much sleep.

Saturday morning greeted us with stunning blue skies, and a long day of ringing lay ahead. We all made our way into St Albans city centre, some on foot, some by bus, and met at our first tower of the day, St Peter's. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed ringing this 24cwt ten, and they were rated as a highlight of the day, with some fine peals sounding out across this historic Roman town. We then walked through the thronging market to St Albans Cathedral and Abbey Church, and tackled the 160 narrow and twisting steps up the great Norman tower, built of Roman bricks, to reach the ringing chamber. This was an experience in itself, offering stunning views across the city the bells being tucked in one corner with beams crossing the chamber at all angles. The bells were re-cast in 2010, and everyone was particularly pleased to take the opportunity to ring this 23cwt twelve.

A lunch break followed and we all took the chance to explore the city before boarding our coach and heading out into the wooded countryside, dotted with exquisitely pretty villages. Knebworth was the first tower of the afternoon, and this ground floor 13cwt eight were easy to ring, even if they were less easy to find as we circumnavigated a game of cricket and the grounds of Knebworth House. Next were Codicote. Our recommendation would be to avoid this 10cwt ring of eight, as the tuneless noise was matched only by the impossibly silent treble. Last but not least, we visited Kimpton where refreshments and a pleasant, easy going 10cwt eight ended the day well. It was here that we took our group photograph having seen the weather forecast for rain the next day.

In the evening, we all enjoyed a delicious and entertaining meal at an Italian restaurant in the city, concluding with high finance as we tried to settle the bill. Stamina varied – some stayed on to sample the city pubs, whilst others took advantage of the coach and headed back to the hotel for a quiet drink. Only relatively quiet, as a wedding party were dancing the night away, but sleep seemed to come fairly easily as we were all shattered!



Abbey & Cathedral Church of St Albans

Early on Sunday morning saw us loading our bags onto the coach before heading out to ring for services simultaneously at not one but two churches in St Albans; some went to St Michaels's, a 12cwt eight, whilst others went to St Stephens, an 8cwt six. Both were found to be very favourable indeed. There was time for some leisurely coffee and sightseeing before we sadly said goodbye to St Albans and headed to the charming little town of Old Amersham. The bells here were declared the favourite of the whole weekend, a relatively new 19cwt ring of twelve, which were both delightful to ring and to listen to. We rang the twelve without pause, and enjoyed every minute. Whilst ringing, the clouds had lowered, and we had to dash through heavy rain to reach the nearby pub, where we all shared an excellent meal. Our last tower of the day followed on, St Mary's Wargrave, near to the banks of the River Thames once again, and this fine 17cwt eight ended the tour on a real



high.

It was then time to head west, homeward bound. Rain greeted us as we crossed the border into Somerset, and it was growing dark as the coach finally dropped down through the quiet hills into Chagford, and another successful tour came to an end.

There were friends to be thanked; Margaret Peirce for her wonderful organisation; Colin Barnes for his invaluable secretarial skills; our good humoured coach driver, Nick; and Julia Endacott for being 'Auntie' to us all. We sent good wishes to those who had been unable to join us – Paul & Catherine Miller, and Laurence Bennie – and we congratulated our two friends Nicola Stoneman and Stuart Bennie on their engagement. This was the 24th Chagford outing and we all look forward to meeting again next year; a time to celebrate the 25th anniversary of all that is good in ringing and friendship.

Clare Griffiths (always a Chagford ringer!)

CONGRATULATIONS

CLAUDE and JOYCE NICHOLLS

of Littleham, Bideford celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on Friday 29th May 2015. Claude and Joyce were married at Welcome Church on the 29th May 1950. It was the church where Joyce had learnt to ring and she progressed to become one of the regular band. Claude, who is a past President and past Chairman of the Devon Association of Ringers, learnt to ring at Littleham. It was through Young Farmers meetings and by attending local dances that they first met. The couple have a daughter, Margaret. Two grand children, Clare and Edward and four great grand children, Joseph, Zac, Emily May and William.



They marked their anniversary by hosting an 'Open' house. By all accounts it was a hugely successful day with just over 100 people attending, some coming from as far afield as Derbyshire. Fittingly the day began with the receipt of a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen. In fact it was the second time in which they had received such a distinctive "Royal" telegram. The first came five years ago when they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

At 11.00 a.m. on Friday 29th May, and no doubt buoyed up as a result of all the congratulatory messages they had earlier received, the devoted couple made their way to Littleham Church. Here they were joined by four other ringers for a celebratory peal on Littleham's bells. It is a peal familiar to them both. They have been ringing there together since 1962 and still ring there, together with their fellow ringers, each Sunday. Following the opening peal the bells were made available to the large number of ringers that had come along to share in the day's celebrations.

Claude and Joyce had previously decided that the day should also become one for fund raising and this selfless gesture resulted in a total of £1,000 being raised! This was split equally between the Chemotherapy Unit at the North Devon District Hospital and Cancer Research. A remarkable achievement which emboldened a truly remarkable day.

Colin E. Adams.

DON ROBERTS



Don Roberts, born at Ellacombe, Torquay on 5th August 1930 and now 85, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to young people and to bell-ringing. Don has been recognised for his "extraordinary commitment to swimming" although ringers across Devon, and even those further afield will know that Don is equally committed to bellringing.

We understand that Don learnt to ring at All Saints, Babbacombe in 1953. It was there under the tutelage of Mrs. Wendy Turnbull and married to a Pharmacist at Torquay that his illustrious career began. Don's steady progress was temporarily halted when he did his National Service with the Royal Signals from 1953 – 1955. For a while he was posted to Yorkshire and there took the opportunity to

ring from time-to-time at Richmond and Darlington. He returned to South Devon and it was at All Saints, Babbacombe with encouragement from of the likes of the late Bill Simmonds that he resumed his love of ringing. The late Maurice Atkins, who rang at St. Michael's Teignmouth, gave his support and, with the help of Bill and Maurice, Don soon became established as a regular ringer rapidly rising to be Tower Captain in 1957. It seems there was an earlier attempt to recommence ringing at Babbacombe just after the war. Sadly this attempt was brought to an abrupt halt when two of the ringers collapsed and died in the tower!!

The bells at All Saints were restored in 1963 and first rang again on Saturday 13th November. Don was in charge at Babbacombe until 1974 and then, having been involved with restoring the 8 bells at St. Marychurch, was Captain there from 1975 -1983. Currently he is the Tower Captain at Upton, Torquay where he has been since 1990. His ringing career encompasses both method and call change promoting both. To date he has rung 33 full peals and 691 quarter peals. Of the 33 full peals Don is particularly proud of the two peals of Grandsire Doubles rung to commemorate the first 6-score of Grandsire Doubles rung in the county of Devon at Kelly on 21st January 1865. The first was on 21st January 1965 when he conducted a successful 5040 (changes) of Grandsire Doubles at Kingskerswell in 2hrs. 42 minutes, with John Kelly BEM on the tenor, marking the 100th anniversary. The second, fifty years later to the day i.e. 21st January 2015, he rang the 2nd bell in a peal of 5040 Grandsire Doubles at Kelly in West Devon, where the original 6-score was rung 150 years earlier. This peal took 2hrs and 36 minutes and was superbly conducted by Fergus Stracey. Several days after his award of the British Empire Medal was announced he rang a quarter peal at Sowton (8) near Exeter.

Don's ringing career spans 62 years. He has rung in all 369 ringable towers in Devon culminating with ringing the 5 bells at Widworthy on 29th September 2014. When he first began his ringing career Werrington (8) and North Petherwyn (6) were in Devon. He rang at the former on 25th June 1966 and the latter 20th August 2014! Over the years he has witnessed 33 augmentations to Devon towers and 3 new rings!

(Photo from the Herald & Express)

STUART BENNIE and NICOLA STONEMAN



who announced their engagement during the Wednesday Evening Ringers meeting held at North Molton on Wednesday 12th August. Stuart rings for Chagford and Drewsteignton and

Nicola for Sampford Courtenay, Drewsteignton and Chagford and both are members of Okehampton Deanery Young Ring-

FREDDIE CROWLEY

Chagford & Okehampton Young Ringers – A* Music at A-level – going to Merton College (8 ♪ 25-1-10 in D; rung from open galleries round the walls), Oxford University to read Music.

See pages 3 & 13—Ed.

STOKE FLEMING - Renovation Project

Progressive corrosion in the steel foundation girders of the bellframe at St. Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming, has made it necessary to rehang the bells. The scheme now in preparation will involve complete removal of the bellframe and bells, rebuilding the frame, retuning the existing bells and augmenting the ring to eight. This work will be carried out by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

A considerable amount of enabling work and structural maintenance inside the tower is also required. This will involve the replacement of steel girders supporting the tower roof, the temporary removal of the clock mecha-



St. Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming

nism and major work to the tower floors, including the formation of trapdoors to allow the removal of the bells.

The clock mechanism will be converted to electric auto-winding and reinstated in a different position to leave the centre of the tower clear for access in the future. Finally the external dial will be refurbished and re-gilded.

Currently the Faculty Petition is being prepared and, dependent

upon approval, it is hoped that work may start next year. A more detailed report will be forthcoming in due course.

John Dietz

STOKE FLEMING TOWER - Open Day

At Stoke Fleming we are preparing for a major project to rehang the bells, augment the peal to eight and carry out structural work in the tower. Currently we expect the total cost to be in the region of £145,000. Following a very successful open day last year, we decided to hold another one this year on the 15th August. The main purpose was to inform members of the public about ringing in general and the problems with our bellframe and other tower structures in particular. Any money raised would be a bonus and put towards the project.

An exhibition was arranged in the church with a continuously running Power Point presentation about the project and a number of stands with information and pictures about bells, bell maintenance, rope splicing and other interesting articles. Also on display was a collection of disused hardware, such as an old clapper loaned by Ian Campbell, a pulley box, and a disused wheel borrowed from Dartmouth. We also had the Frank Mack mini-ring and the demonstration bell on

loan from the Guild.

The event was opened by Adam Hart-Davis, the scientist, historian and TV presenter. He gave a brief talk which featured George Parker Bidder, "The Calculating Boy." A native of Moretonhampstead, he worked with railway engineer Robert Stephenson and is buried in our Churchyard.

Around 180 people visited the exhibition during the day. We also carried out conducted tours of the tower which again proved very popular but, because of the need to limit numbers to six per tour, only 65 people were able to see the bells, the clock and the fine view across Start Bay from the top. As happened last year, we had to take bookings for further tours in the following weeks.

A great deal of effort was put into the day by all the ringers and others such as the Friends of the Church and the ladies who kept up a steady supply of tea and cakes. Altogether nearly £800 was raised for the renovation project, so an excellent effort by all concerned.

John Dietz.

CHARDSTOCK

Chardstock St. Andrew's ringers had an enjoyable and very busy day on Saturday 5th September. The village held a Street Fair and the church was opened up to visitors who were encouraged, for a small fee, to chime the bells and find out more about bell-ringing. A short film was

made showing the bells ringing in the belfry. Commemorative certificates were given to all the participants who chimed the bells. The money collected went towards the cost of repairs to the leaking church roof.

Susan Bray



(left to right) Michael LORD, Susan BRAY, Stephen GOFF, Fern WAKLEY, Sharon WAKLEY, Derek GOFF (Tower Captain), Gillian LORD, Eleanor LORD, Ellie GOFF, Darren LORD Photo from Pulman's Weekly

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM HENRY TREWIN

Eulogy given at the funeral held at St. James the Great Church, Kilkhampton on 10th July 2015 by his nephew Carl Hamley

Henry - Uncle Henry

Born 12th September 1932 to Samuel and Lilian-May Trewin at South Close, Kings Hill, Bude.

Poor Lilian-May had already lost her first husband, who died aged only 39 – Cecil Thomas Hamley; the father of Henry's recently departed brother 'Ted'.

Lilian then lost her second husband - Samuel - in 1937 aged 54. Henry was only 5 years old at the time.

They continued to live at South Close until Lilian's death in 1955. By this time Henry was a student at Seale Hayne agricultural college.

After working briefly in the Plymouth area as a farm labourer, herdsman and dairyman he returned to Bude where he spent the rest of his working life – to beyond retirement age - at Thorne Farm.

Always a slight and slender man we must marvel at his 'durability' and stamina for such arduous farm work. This spanned a time when farming placed very much more emphasis on the 'manual' part of manual-labour before the more modern mechanised aspects of agriculture became mainstream. Some of you may have noted this 'durability' when following Henry up the steps of the many bell-towers that he visited in his life-time!

A life-long bachelor, Henry's life chiefly revolved around farm-work, his garden, looking after the gardens of other local people, walking the entire south-west peninsula coast-paths, from Somerset to the Dorset border and, of course, the church and bell-ringing.

Some of you may have been 'customers' for the vast quantities of vegetables he grew both at his home and on land 'donated' by his employers at Thorne Farm and by his good friends Mike and Vera Vickery of Killock Farm. He tended the gardens of various local people, some of whom he regarded as 'old-folk' who couldn't manage it themselves any more but in fact many were *younger* than himself.!

Most of you will of course have known Henry from his life-long involvement both with local churches at Poughill, Stratton, and here at Kilkhampton and also at the many churches across Cornwall, Devon and The South West.

Henry first handled a bell at Landulph in South East Cornwall in 1955 and was persuaded to continue when he returned to Bude in the autumn of that year. He went to Stratton where Charlie Sangwin and Harry Stacey were bringing on other recruits; Dave Garvie, Olly Gittens and Celia de Jong among them.



At that time Stratton bells were only rung for Sunday evening services, but they were soon being rung mornings as well.

Charlie Sangwin was keen to start a method ringing band and Henry rang his first quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles at Week St Mary on February 25th 1957. Henry and Dave Garvie

returned on the same day 50 years later to repeat that feat!

A full peal of Plain Bob Minor was the next step up in Henry's ringing career, at St Juliot, Boscastle in August 1958. He went on to ring a further nine peals at Stratton and two at Kilkhampton.

Henry joined Kilkhampton Ringers in January 1991, then under John Cornish, later Peter Slater. He became Captain in 1998.

Henry rang a peal of Grandsire Triples here at Kilkhampton for his 70th birthday and to celebrate his next decade completed a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples.

Ringing at almost every church tower in the west of England would be enough for many enthusiastic campanologists. Henry's experience wasn't limited to just this however.

A few of you may have accompanied him when, already in his 70's and never having set foot out of the country or held a passport, (his most adventurous trip thus far was a helicopter ride to Lundy Island and a trip to the Scilly isles...) Henry embarked on his most ambitious 'bell-ringing tours' over the next few years, to Australia, New-Zealand, Canada and the Southern States of America.!!!!!!!

When opportunity arose Henry would join ringers of The Devon Ringkies, Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers and The Kernow Codgers.

In all, Henry had rung in excess of 2,250 towers.

As well as Tower Captain at Kilkhampton, he was also:-

Life-long member of The Tamar Valley Guild of Ringers.

Vice president of The Devonshire Guild of Ringers.

Ringling Master, of the Northern Branch of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

President, then latterly 'Life Vice President' of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

It is, of course, only human nature to feel distressed and tortured at the sight of our friend and Uncle deteriorating in these last months and grieve at his passing.

But we must remember; indeed the very reason we are here today *is* to remember *all* of the 82 years Henry had and shared with us and all the good times we shared with him.

The discomfort he endured in these last weeks will have been eased by the visits from the members of his church and the company of *all* his loyal friends who visited, but in particular, mention must go to Derek and Gwen who were never far from his bed-side throughout his ordeal accompanying him right to his last moments.

Henry's relatives draw great comfort knowing that the greater family of the church, his lifelong friends and 'brotherhood' of bell-ringers gave him so much companionship and support throughout his life.

A bachelor he may have been, but a family could not have been more enriched.

The lifestyle Henry chose gave him the capacity to devote his time to many causes including organising, supporting and contributing to church and bell-ringing events both locally and further afield.

There is always a 'Henry' to fill the breach....there *was*.... always a Henry to fill the breach. Now we are without him.

Many will be surprised at what it is they miss about him.

A quiet (apart from his singing...!) and unassuming man; always courteous – appropriate to the era and way in

which he was raised. He was an un-common character in this modern day and age.

There will not be a man like Henry in our lives again any time soon. It will be up to us to fill the gap in both our lives and the lives of others and live up to his example.

He asked little of life. A polite, private and humble man, we would all do well to consider his qualities as we go forward in life...in a world that has us all striving for attainment, possessions, wealth and status.

Possessions were not important to him...not clothes, the furniture in his house or the trappings of the modern consumer driven world. He 'treated' himself to a new car once in a while, but as any of you who had occasion to be a passenger with him will know it may as well have been a pick-up truck for carrying his lawnmowers and his sacks of 'spuds' & veg for delivery. Status was not his thing.

Henry was also quietly generous to all sorts of charitable causes, especially those that supported ailments that family members had suffered from: The National Asthma Campaign, British Heart Foundation, various Cancer charities, but also Christian Aid, Barnardos, RNLI and the RNIB, Red Cross and many *many* others.

No *single* one of us can be a replacement for all the good that he did.

The very quiet man has left a resounding void.

Carl Hamley (Nephew)

The funeral service included the Ringer's Hymn (Ring Out Ye Bells Below) and the collection was for the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers Bell Restoration Fund - Editor

WALTER CARBY GREENSLADE

At Kenton we have been asked by the local historic society to mark the anniversary of the deaths of soldiers who were killed in the First World War. The request is that a bell is tolled once for each year of the individuals' age on the date that they died.

On 12th August we marked the death of at the age of 27yrs. of Walter Carby Greenslade who was killed at Gallipoli. Walter was born in Kings Nympton in 1886 and settled with his family in Kenton. He was unmarried and was a stonemason presumably with a local firm of builders. He joined the army as a sapper in 85th Field Company of Royal Engineers and was attached to the Hampshire Regiment, he was also a bellringer at All Saints Church, Kenton. When news of his death reached the

village a half muffled peal was rung to his memory. (Ringing was stopped in WW2 under the Defence of the Realm Act but ringing was allowed in WW1).

As a mark of respect to Walter a bell was tolled 27 times and during the following Monday night practice we also rang half muffled.

It was quite a moving event and gave a real feeling of continuity with the past and to remember someone who must have played an important part in the local community.

Michael Adams (Kenton.)

(With acknowledgements for the research by Kenton Past and Present).

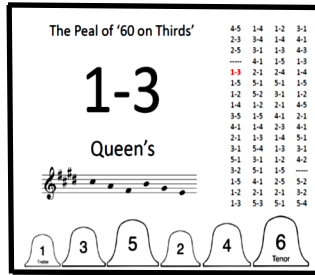
THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, CHAGFORD

....were ringing in the afternoon of 12th September. They were for once pleading their own case by inviting all to a choral concert in support of the Bell Refurbishment Fund. Young musician and highly valued campanologist, Freddie Crowley, had devised an astonishingly varied programme of bell-themed music ranging over four centuries from Purcell's masterly *Bell Anthem* to the present day. The seventeen pieces included folk music, readings, humorous and very local ditties besides artful pieces by composers like Donizetti and Vaughan Williams, Wesley and Butterworth. In the interval, the audience enjoyed tea and cakes, prepared by the ringing teams, met acquaintances and exchanged their delighted appreciation of the programme and the high quality of the performance.

The diatonic scale in the bass part of Purcell's *Bell Anthem*, beautifully sung by a solo male ensemble, set out the theme of a concert in which the simple scale of bells would return in rich developments of form and expression. Three compositions of Ariel's song *Full Fathom Five* from Shakespeare's 'Tempest' invited the audience to remember and compare the versions, as they appeared again in the programme. What was a jolly, cheerful bell-tune in Wood's, returned as an expression of loss, dissolution and unresolved grief in Vaughan Williams' complex work. Yet another haunting call from the depth of the sea returned as a traditional folk tale in *The Bells of Aberdovey*, telling the story of a sunken kingdom whose bells can still be heard when the tides are high – a Welsh lost Atlantis. The ballad was beautifully performed by Meiling Daniell-Greenhalgh accompanied by Peter Adcock on the piano.

Most folk-songs and local ballads about bell-ringing, however, were joyful reports of communal sharing and fierce competitions. As the ringers become bound into a team through practice and through their very local set of bells, each one known by its idiosyncrasies yet united as the peal in the service to their church and parish, the tradition of competition is deeply rooted. The concert programme contained a charming selection of local folk-songs, as well as compositions and arrangements by known composers, like Grill's *Tavistock* becoming the *Devon Bellringers' Hymn*. The audience was amused by the success of the North Lew ringers and their prize bounty in a tour through Devon parishes. From masterpieces for ensemble or solo voices, the choir of nineteen dealt wonderfully with these complexities, masterly directed by their young conductor Freddie Crowley.

The second part opened with a joyful composition by Freddie himself, *Ring Out Ye Bells*, developing the bell motive in a num-



ber of most intriguing modulations. They formed the introduction to the voice of the bells themselves. Laying aside his baton, Freddie treated the audience to an illustrated lecture on the mysteries of Devon Call Change ringing. The fine graphics of the PowerPoint projection illustrated the sequen-

es, the function and order of the six bells. After this lucid introduction, the audience listened with deeper understanding to the *Rise, Full Peal and Lower of the Peal of '60 on Thirds*, recognizing the 'basso continuo' of the tenor bell, the wandering treble and the 'Queens' striking pattern through their sixty changes. The ringers were Nicola Stoneman, Julia Endacott, Ben Squire, Mervyn Langdon, Jonathan Bint, Ray Squire - Jonathan Bint called the changes

The choir followed the song of the bells with a simple anthem *Sol Justitia* that developed through its verses into a rich texture of harmonisation, challenging choir and soloists alike. The following organ voluntary *Carillon Sortie* echoed in its toccata style the song of the bells. Organist Roger Cleverdon played the intricate piece masterly, as he had done earlier in the programme in Wesley's *Holsworthy Church Bells*. Peter Adcock accompanied on the organ and the piano, particularly the fine tenor soloists John Wood and Richard Douglas, with great sensitivity. He even produced a tubular bell register from the resources of his electronic keyboard.

The concert was one of these perhaps rare moments when the audience becomes part of the event, when a skilfully created programme, its concentrated and devoted execution by the conductor and his musicians around an over-arching theme captivates the listeners. An elegantly produced programme contained a wealth of information. After the concert a festive *rise peel and lower on the eight* rang out. It was a memorable occasion – providing a very good basis for the CHAGFORD CHURCH BELL REFURBISHMENT FUND.

Swana L. Hardy

Postscript—the event raised over £1,200

Ringers before and after the concert included: Brett Baldwin, Freddie Crowley, Suzanne Driscoll, Clare Griffiths, Colin Heath, John Kelly, Chris Smallwood, Ben Squire, Ray Squire, Graham Sharland, Nicola Stoneman, and Mike Webber.

Bells have been rung at St. Michael's Chagford since 1480 without a break (except during WW II). The last major refurbishment, when the bells were completely recast by Taylor's of Loughborough and rehung by Aggett's of Chagford on an oak frame, was a century ago in 1914-5. The time has now come when the ring of 8 bells, said to be the finest produced by Taylors at the height of their expertise, needs a full overhaul. The bells themselves only need turning, but need hanging on new cast iron headstocks the old ones being of elm, new bearings will be fitted, all of which is overdue. This will all make the bells easier to handle (although they are not bad at present) and should last for the next century. This is not only a church responsibility but one for the whole community to preserve our historic bells.

The PCC has agreed for this to go ahead which will be at a cost of approximately £40,000. This is a lot of money but it must

be put in the context of other major renovation work properly undertaken already this century in our historic church – the tower structural repairs, the south porch roof repair, the reordering of the west end of the church, new central heating and lighting, and the rebuilding of the organ. Now it is the turn of the bells to be overhauled. A Diocesan faculty for this work was sought immediately by the PCC and a contract will be placed with Taylor's of Loughborough who recast the bells a century ago.

The details of an appeal, led by the ringers and supported by the PCC was publicised at a formal launch on 25th October and are enclosed as a flier in this edition of *Devon Calls*. Undoubtedly individual donations will be welcome; there will be the opportunity to sponsor an item of work (eg the work on a whole bell, a headstock or smaller item) or donations can be recorded on the new bell hangings, and there will be many fund raising events. which we hope will be widely supported.

Julia Endacott (Tower Captain)

DEVON ASSOCIATION OPEN FIVE BELL COMPETITION: JACOBSTOWE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2015



It all started with a conversation at Ide. Two ringers (one of whom will remain nameless) had the same thought; "There was a five bell competition in 1925. That was 90 years ago. Wouldn't it be fun if....." And so the Open Five Bell competition of 2015 was born.

Deciding on a date and venue was surprisingly easy. Given that lots of ringers tend to gather for the annual Association festivals, I decided that the best way to entice teams was to run the five bell on the same day as a much bigger event – a sideshow to the main attraction. And while I was at it, why not throw the doors of nearby towers open as well and get the whole area ringing? This celebration of bells deserved a name, and the Devon Association Ringing Festival came into being.

The day started with the Open Five Bell competition at Jacobstowe, which was very convenient for North Tawton and all the other open towers. I was very pleased to see some willing volunteers to help erect the Mobile Judging Unit (a gazebo) in the churchyard at 9.30am. Our excellent Judges, Nick and Ruth Tuckett, had been warned of these arrangements beforehand and bravely attended to judge proceedings anyway. After a short judges' peal before the service, everyone entered Jacobstowe church which is still undergoing a considerable refurbishment. Despite areas of the church being cordoned off, and lots of dust and building materials everywhere, we all piled in and were treated to a lovely, happy service by Reverend Ruth Hansford. Reverend Ruth had been concerned about not knowing the Ringers' Hymn, especially with no organ or piano in place, but as anticipated our ringers very nearly caused a new roof to be added to the list of necessary building work. What a lovely sound! Many thanks here to Freddie Crowley and Jon Bint who had the means at their disposal to choose a suitable key and lead the singing.

I was very concerned that ringing the full competition peal with no covering tenor would put teams off, but this proved no deterrent at all and we ended up with ten teams com-

peting. Six teams wanted to ring early – some to travel to other places to ring for weddings and others (understandably) to make themselves ready for the Eight Bell in the afternoon. Once the draw had been finalised everyone trooped out into the sunshine and we were off!

We rang ten competition peals between 10.35am and 13.15pm, most of them lasting somewhere around 12 minutes. Owing to having fewer bells, it was decided on the day to reduce the minimum time limit to 10 minutes rather than 12. We had a slight pause after peal 5 to change the configuration of the Mobile Judging Unit (Nick was being baked) but everything proceeded very smoothly and everyone seemed to enjoy the bells and the occasion. The proceeds of the day (entry fee only) was split between Jacobstowe Church and the Devon Association. Many ringers took the opportunity to ring at some of the other towers that were open in the area and then gathered later at North Tawton for the results of the competitions.

My heartfelt thank yous: Reverend Ruth Hansford, Rod Lane, Nick and Ruth Tuckett, the Gazebo Handling Team, the wonderful kind tower Captains that opened their doors for the open ringing, and everyone that supported the competition and created such a happy atmosphere on the day.

Results:

		<u>Faults</u>
1.	Kingsteignton	11½
2.	South Brent	13½
3.	Sampford Courtenay	37½
4.	Chagford	38
5.	Stoke Gabriel	39
6.	Bow	41½
7.	Dean Prior	50½
8.	Exeter St David	61½
9.	Down St Mary	66½
10.	Moretonhampstead Deanery	69½



James Grant with 5-bell atrophy and the First Certificate

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

TOWER AFFILIATIONS

Is your affiliation fee overdue?

If so please contact, asap, the Treasurer, Mr. John Barnes,
Cunnicott, North Buckland, Nr. Braunton, Devon EX33 1HY
Tel: 01271 890517 e-mail: jcbarnes482@btinternet.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Town Hall, North Tawton
Saturday 14th November, 2.00 p.m.

DEVON RINGERS' CAROL SERVICE

(Make a note of the date)

Exeter Cathedral: Saturday 19th December 2015, 4.00 p.m.
(please note the change of time from previous years)

NOVICE COMPETITION

Plympton St Mary
13th February 2016

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rely on you to submit articles, please.

**Deadline for next edition
1st February 2016**

**We would be very interested
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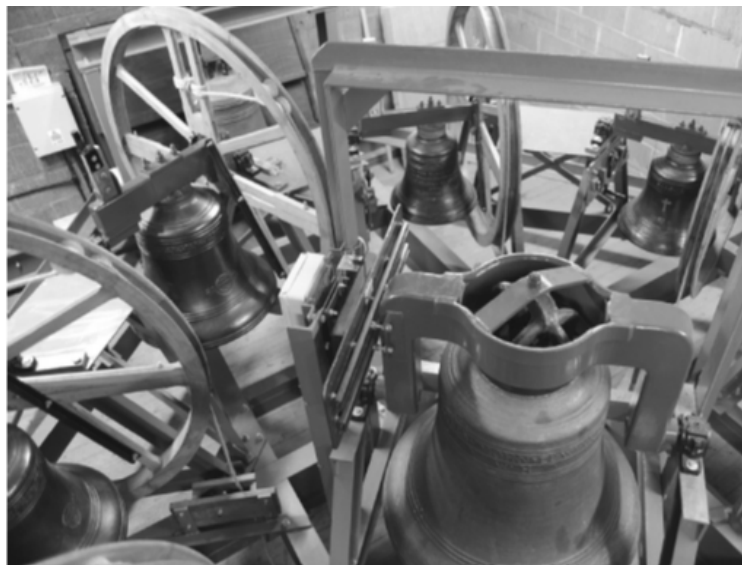
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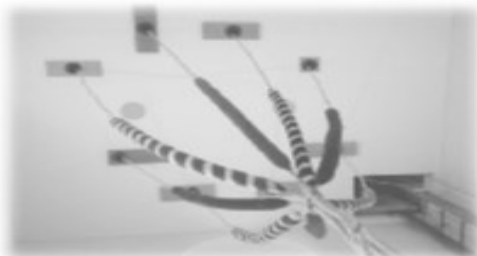


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