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# Devon Calls

Oct / Nov 2017

BELGIUM, YPRES, ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH

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Sited close to the famous Menin Gate, St George's was built as a memorial to the British & Commonwealth soldiers who gave their lives in World War I. To mark the centenary of the end of that conflict, a new ring of eight bells will be cast (tenor 6 cwts). New bell fittings and a new bell frame will be manufactured, and the installation will be completed later this year. This will be the first English Change Ringing ring of bells to hang in a church on the continent of Europe. (Update:- The new ring has been tuned, and sounds beautiful. Manufacture of fittings and bell frame has been completed. Installation began on 4th September.)

(Reproduced by kind permission of Taylor's of Loughborough)



Alan Regin masterminded the scheme and is one of the trustees of the Ypres project, here with the ring of bells

Distributed FREE to towers affiliated to the Devon Association of Ringers

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

**Deadline for next edition - 1st February 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)

## LETTER FROM

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR ANDREW RIDGWAY KBE CB** (Late Royal Tank Regiment)

## CENTENARY BELLRINGING

**T**he last few years have been full of Centenary occasions from World War I. I am sure that you are aware that all Bell Ringing was stopped right across the Country from the start of the War.

I recently gave a talk in my Village of Bishopsteignton in Devon on *The Birth of The Tank*. I finished the talk with an account of the Battle of Cambrai - the first major Tank Battle in history. On the first day of the Battle the Tanks advanced 10 miles, something absolutely unprecedented at this time. Such was the tactical success of the Battle that the decision was made in London to ring the bells in St Paul's Cathedral on 23rd November. In no time this was extended to every church in the Country.

So the 23rd November became a major Bell Ringing Centenary! Our Bell Ringers here in Bishopsteignton have decided to have a **Centenary bell ringing on 23rd November this year**. In discussion we wondered if all the other Bell Ringing teams in the County are aware of the significance of the date and whether they might join us in marking this special occasion.

## EDITORIAL

### Welcome to this edition of Devon Calls

**I** must first of all apologise to the people who, in receiving the previous edition by post, incurred a £1-50 postal charge. Not only this but they had to collect their copy from the local Post Office. The error occurred because I was undercharged at my local Post Office at the time of sending out the magazines. Due to a misunderstanding the lady at my local Post Office who dealt with the transaction charged for sending a small envelope and not a large one. A few days' later people quickly alerted me to the error. I can only once again say I am very sorry.

The committee have decided to make the magazine available on-line. However, thought needs to be given to the process by which this can be achieved and whether or not any hard copies will continue to be needed. Making the magazine available on-line will save money, both from the point of view of printing costs as well as on postal charges; although in the case of the latter this could be reduced by improving the network of voluntary distributors. There is also the possibility of the magazine reaching a wider audience if it is available on-line. Against this not everyone has access to a computer and there are advantages in having a hard copy available in towers for people to read. Please give the matter some thought and contact me if you would like to continue to receive a hard copy. If you are able to help with distributing the magazine I shall also be pleased to hear from you.

This is to be the final edition for Colin Barnes our Technical Editor. Colin was approached by me four years ago about becoming our Technical Editor and he immediately accepted. Having helped to put together twelve copies of the magazine during this period he has now decided it is time to retire. Over the four years that I have known Colin he has worked conscientiously

and efficiently towards improving the layout and appearance of the magazine. Not only this, but the magazines are delivered to his house from the printers. He then brings them to the distribution meeting and always reliably books the Gabriel Room at Chagford Church for this purpose. Looking back I often reflect on what the fate of the magazine might have been had Colin not spontaneously offered his services. Four years on and we all owe Colin a huge THANK YOU.

Given Colin's retirement we now need to find a replacement. If you know anyone, or indeed if you have the required skills yourself, we would love to hear from you. Colin has kindly offered to provide support for anyone who decides to come forward.

This edition carries news of two more bell restoration projects; one completed and another underway. With major work on Chagford's bells completed earlier in the year and Combe Raleigh now augmented from 3 to 6 we have a strong indication of just how willing and enthusiastic ringers are about maintaining ringing in this county of ours. However, let's not lose sight of the fact for bells to be rung, and rung on a regular basis there is also a need for people competent enough to ring them. Recruitment and retention of learner ringers has never been more important.

The quality of the magazine is judged by its content. My grateful thanks therefore to all those who have taken the trouble to submit articles for this edition. If you haven't submitted anything yet please consider doing so soon. I'm sure there must be something newsworthy taking place at your home tower. Articles from the East and West of the county would be particularly welcome.

Meanwhile **k e e e p** ringing and equally important **k e e e e p** recruiting.  
**Colin Adams**

# ST. PETER'S, CORNWORTHY



The church of St Peter in Cornworthy stands at the head of the descending street commanding the village below. When, before the middle of the 13th century, the Priory rose high above the west end of this street, the view must have been a powerful one for the people whose dwellings lay below.

St Peter's now dates largely from the fourteenth century but there has certainly been a church here since the twelfth century. It is built of local stone.

Our tower is of a south Devon type and has a ring of six bells, two of which possibly originated from Cornworthy Priory. The tenor has the names of John Seale Esq., Charles Barter, Vicar and the inscription I.P.C.: 1781 with two impressions of a golden guinea of George 111. The ringing chamber is in the first floor gallery which can be seen above the wooden screen, covering the interior of the tower base, where an ancient door leads to the stairs and to the roof.



In March 2012 the Devon Bell Restoration Fund undertook a comprehensive survey of the state of the bells and produced a very thorough and brilliantly executed report. This was the beginning of our journey! Parts of the metal bell frame would have to be removed and replaced with two new foundation beams and three stub end beams. The remains of the

old cast in crown staples within the bells would be removed, the fittings overhauled and the bells rehung. The bells were not taken from the tower but were safely held on the frame during operations. Extra work involved fitting a new west beam, remake of a

wheel and two sliders. – John Taylor & Co., Bell Founders and Bell Hangers, partnered with our builder William Lewis, who has been continually involved in the maintenance of St Peter's over the years, proved an excellent team. The Bell Captain, Paul Hunt, was also involved on a daily basis and his understanding and knowledge of the bells much increased!



While the bells could not be rung the Deanery Ringers accompanied our team to various local churches and provided encouragement and support. Graham Sharland and the team from South Brent really kept us going and our ringers have gained valuable experience from the sabbatical!

Our aim was to raise £65,000 and this was achieved with the enthusiastic support of our village and the many fund-raising events during 2015/16 plus the following individuals and organisations:

- The Archdeacon of Totnes,
- The Barron Bell Trust, Churchcare,
- The Cooper Legacy c/o Exeter Diocese,
- Cornworthy Parish Council,
- The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund,
- Devon Historic Churches Trust,
- Devon County Council,
- The Sharpe Trust,
- Garfield Weston and
- The Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work was commenced in February this year and completed in July. Needless to say we are absolutely delighted with the results. Not surprisingly the bells are easier to ring and the tone so much more beautiful and rounded.

Thank you to all those involved in our project.

***Caroline & Paul Hunt***

## AUNTIE'S ARMY - Chagford Ringers' 26th Annual Weekend

Apologies to the parishioners of Chagford for the bells being silent again but it was the third weekend in August, when the ringers, led by Auntie (Tower Captain Julia Endacott), traditionally have a ringing weekend away. This year we were mostly in Buckinghamshire, dipping into the adjacent counties of Oxon, Beds and Northants. Following a customary 6.0 a.m. Friday start from Chagford picking-up from Whiddon Down (and Exeter), the coach headed for a Leigh Delamere service station breakfast.



An uninterrupted drive then took us to the Parish Church of St. Helen, **Abingdon**, a very pleasant old Thames-side town where we met other friends arriving by car and train - 21 ringers in all. We'd

visited this church 15 years ago to the very day. However, since then the 250 year-old decayed wooden frame had been replaced (lasted longer than Chagford's, but in a drier tower!) with a cast iron one and the ring of 10 bells recast into a lighter set by Whitechapel (2006). We arrived on the last day of an intensive 5-day ringing course, mainly for youngsters, and they and their tutors stayed on to see some Devon ringing - the comment was made that "us'll probably do everything that you've been told not to do...think of it as a cultural exchange." The more experienced ringers made a pretty good fist of the raising the ten (and likewise lowering them), the less-experienced found them rather more challenging. Downstairs, it was interesting to see the nave altar and pews (yes, pews not chairs) in the round.

After lunch in Abingdon we proceeded to St Mary the Virgin, **Long Crendon**, sometimes the scene for filming "*Midsomer Murders*". Here the tower is above the chancel crossing and houses a ring of 10, augmented from 8 in 1991. Although they ran reasonably well the bells were rather unmusical and would've been better left as an octave. Unfortunately the full appearance of the nave of this attractive church is curtailed by restoration work to the east window and a bulging gable end.

**Buckingham** was formally the county town of Buckinghamshire - as one might expect - tho' Aylesbury subsequently assumed that mantle. A disastrous fire in 1725 destroyed much of the town centre, which was then rebuilt, hence the Georgian architecture. Likewise the eight bells at the parish church of SS Peter & Paul date back to 1782. The stairway was wide and was equipped with a Stannah-type stair lift - but the key could not be found! The bells proved to be very hard work to ring and (not just) the less able ringers had a problem. May be the stairlift was for the locals *after* they'd rung!

Come five o'clock we were more than ready to reach the Crown Hotel in Brackley, have some refreshment, and meet together for an evening meal. The hotel was an interesting old coaching inn with many different stairs, floor levels (no lift!) and wings, and rooms that were not sequentially numbered - several having some difficulty in finding theirs.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny and we left at 9.0 am to the ancient church of All Saints, **Wing**, with its polygonal Anglo-Saxon apse above an open crypt.

Fortunately the bells were already up at this very heavy six, but they still needed a reasonable amount of muscle. This is one of a small number of towers where the bells are hung in an anticlockwise circle. However, with their wonderful tone all regarded them as one of the best sets of the weekend. Coffee and cakes are available in the church on every Saturday - rather similar to Chagford's Coffee Mornings. The church participates in a "twinned loo" charity providing toilets in African villages and has installed solar panels on its south roof, sufficient to be fully self supporting for electricity and exporting some to the National Grid. A couple of lessons to be copied?

Then on to **Wingrave** and a lighter ring of 8. Here we were welcomed by Mr. Geoff Aldridge, Tower Captain, whose letter about the need to recruit new ringers was published in the Daily Telegraph last year. A friendly touch was a hand written welcome to the Chagford ringers on a notice board in the ringing chamber. These bells became more appealing over the course of our stay.



Lunch had been organised in the Rose and Crown, Wingrave, after which it was on to **Leighton Buzzard**, where c.50 steps to the ringing chamber awaited us. This heavy 12 was everything one might hope for, and were held in high regard by the experienced ringers and, with the additional semitone bell, also provided an excellent light ring on the front 8. They went very well and sounded equally fine. The bells were relatively recently (re)cast by Taylor's following the loss of the original ring in terrible fire that occurred just at the end of a long church renovation. The monolithic stone WW I memorial is one of the minority inscribed 1914-1919, as in Chagford's war memorial chapel.

To end the afternoon's ringing we stopped to ring an average-sort-of-a-weight 6 at **Maids Moreton**. In the final short peal and lower here, six of the more seasoned ringers in our party produced the sort of music that we suspected these bells could produce.



Back row l to r: Nicola Bennie, Ben Squire, Paul & Catherine Miller, Mervyn Langdon, Chris Smallwood, Rachel Hurdle, Elinor D'Albiac, Colin Barnes Janice Gist Karen Squire, Mike Webster, Richard Hurdle, Tony Jefferys, Evan Endacott  
Front row l to r: Stuart Bennie, Jan Lamacraft, Andrew Gist, Clare Griffiths, Julia Endacott, Margaret Pierce, Jon Bint

Here we also took advantage of the weather conditions for the tour party photo.

## BELLRINGING AT WIDECOMBE - IN - THE - MOOR

In the 1950s the revival of bell ringing for Sunday services saw the formation of a Bell Ringing team in Widecombe and it became a serious pursuit. This led to teams being formed, captained by the late Bill Miners, and taking part in competitions all over Devon. There were two teams:

1. Bill Miners, Ern Pascoe, Frank Dowrick, Reg Norrish, Geoff Hannaford, Les Edworthy
2. Bill Miners, Ern Pascoe, Herbert (Pickles) Pascoe, Henry Pascoe, Gerald Lamb, Ned Northmore



**1951**

*Top / to r:* Geoff Hannaford, Reg Norrish, Les Edworthy, Ern Pascoe, Frank Dowrick

*Seated / to r:* Mrs Newbery, Bill Miners, Mrs S Sayer, Rev. E A Newbery

Bill's teams would travel the county taking part in ringing competitions and they were very successful. He would take them to practice in the evenings, travelling in the back of his cattle lorry to towers in North Devon and elsewhere.

All this success meant that only a very few people were taken on as learners. Ladies were not encouraged to take up the skill, although in later years he did allow a few to learn.

The legacy of that period is the Widecombe / Bill Miners' Rose-bowl competition which was first rung in 1969 when around 18 teams took part.

After Bill's death in 1971 Ern Pascoe took over as Captain. A lot more local people started to learn although this meant that competition ringing took a backward step. They did always enter the Annual Moreton Deanery competition.

During all this time and up to the present day bells are rung every Sunday, sometimes twice a day and early on Christmas morning. The bells are also rung on New Year's Eve and during every major festival.

Since the revival of ringing in the early 1950s there has always been an annual outing shared with Buckland-in-the-Moor ringers and other guest ringers. In the early days the group would end up in Plymouth to see a show. Michael Pascoe's Mum, Phyllis, recalls at last

being invited to go on the outing with the other wives. Just for fun while the men were ringing they hid the beer crate that was stowed on the coach. This was the one and only time they were allowed to go on the outing! These days everyone is included!!

Michael Pascoe took over as Secretary from Les Edworthy in mid 80s and later the Captaincy from his father when he dies in 1994. At the present time we have a large group of about 15 loyal local ringers who come to regular practices on Wednesday evenings and who ring for service every Sunday and for other occasions. We regularly teach new recruits of any age. We have built up a good standard of ringing and have been entering many competitions in the county with increasing success. In 2009 we won the Moreton Deanery competition for the first time in 40 years and have won it many times since. Last year (2016) we won our first invitation competition since the 1960s when we competed at Chawleigh.

In 2000 a complete restoration of Widecombe Church Tower took place. The six bells at that time were removed along with the old wooden frame which was rotting. Nicholson's Engineering took the bells away to their workshop in Bridport where they were retuned and put back in a new galvanised steel frame. Room was made in the frame at that time for a further two bells should they ever be added in the future. In 2002 the family of one of the Churchwardens at the time donated a bell and the Pascoe family were delighted to have the opportunity to donate a second bell in memory of their family many of whom were, and still are, involved in bell ringing.



*Back row / to r:* Frank Martin, Colin Wills, Simon Tame, Ian Bowman, Sam Hext, Richard Mann, Paul Hext.

*Front row / to r:* Jenny Pascoe, Mike Pascoe (Tower Captain), Jackie Hext.

### The Bells of Widecombe

- i. The tenor bell weighs 12 cwt. tuned to the key of F.
- ii. Bells 5, 7 and 8 were cast by Thomas Pennington of Exeter in 1632
- iii. Number 6 was cast in 1774 by Thomas Bilbie
- iv. Numbers 3 and 4 were cast from an old cracked tenor bell by Mears of London in 1848

(continued on page 6)

## Auntie's Army

(continued from page 4)

Later, having supped at the Greyhound, Brackley, the hardcore continued to party while others turned in early in preparation for a long day planned for Sunday.

That morning we rang the 8 bells at St. Peter's **Brackley** for their morning service. We only had a short peal each due to some, apparently prearranged, occasion for the local ringers. This proved to be a blessing in disguise, as we found these rather poor and discordant, the 1st and 2nd dominating the others. Still, we should be charitable and realise that we are now spoiled by our excellent, refurbished 8 at home?



**Kirtlington, Oxon**, our next stop, was delightful, and more than compensated. This is a beautiful quintessentially English village with a 13th century church. The tower had to be demolished in 1770 as it was unsafe and replaced in 1853 to house an excellent ring of 8, with five of the bells antedating 1770, two added in the 1850s,

and a further two in 1938.

Despite this mixed provenance, many said they were

"the best so far" - certainly the "would-I-get-out-of-bed -every-Sunday-morning-to-ring-these?" yardstick put them right up with the LB12, albeit in a different way - and just a little more sound deadening on the floor above would've made them even better. Although they hadn't been regularly rung until a couple of years back, these were bells you could really *ring*. The long and sedate lower at the end of our session was something to savour.

We rang a challenging 6 at **Church Hanborough**, where the tenor rope seemed to be prone to slipping the wheel.

Our final stop was at the beautiful and archetypal olde English wool town of **Burford**. There we enjoyed an excellent Sunday roast and then were faced by 73 very narrow spiral stairs to a fine set of 8, the tenor dating back to c.1330.

So it was farewell to our friends from the Isle of Wight and home to Devon after another enjoyable, memorable and tiring weekend expertly organised by Clare Griffiths, with assistance from Auntie, and Karen & Merv. We realise how fortunate we are with our bells at St. Michael's, one comment being, "Why do they have to have 10 or 12 bells when a good 8 are plenty?" (quote— Auntie!).

**Jon Bint & Colin Barnes**

## The Bells of Widecombe

(continued from page 5)

- v. The current treble and 2nd are recent introductions, cast at Whitechapel, London in 2002
- vi. The treble celebrates the Ruby Wedding of John and Mary Mousely of Norleigh, Widecombe
- vii. Number 2 is dedicated to Ern Pascoe and brothers, Bellringers, by the Pascoe family.
- viii. **Inscriptions:**
  - No. 3: "Hear Me When I Call"
  - No. 4: "Attend O Ye People"

- No. 5: "Robert Hamlyn, sonne of John Hamlyn, Chittleford T.P. 1632 Gathered of the Young Men and Maids Fyften pounds"
- No. 6: "Mr. John Hext and Mr. George Leaman Ch. Wardens. Thomas Bilbie Fecit 1774"
- No. 7: "Soli Deo Dexter T.P. 1663"
- No. 8: "Draw Near Unto God and God Will Draw Near Unto You. T.P. 1632"

**Michael Pascoe (Tower Captain)  
and his wife Jenny**

## SHEILA AND REGINALD YEO'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Thursday 31st August 2017



Reg was born in 1930 and brought up in a small hamlet called Loxhore Cott.

He started pulling the bell rope at the age of five at Loxhore and continued until the Second World War. At this time he joined the Royal Signals Regiment for his National service and mainly served in Egypt and Cyprus as a dispatch rider.

After the War he rang for a short time for Barnstaple

Parish Church.

He met Sheila in 1955 and married in 1957 at Bishops Tawton Church.

They both moved to Kingsteignton for Reg's work and he rang with Bill Avery and his team. Coincidentally after Reg left the team Kingsteignton started to win competitions!

After five years he moved back to Barnstaple and didn't ring for some time due to work and kids.

In 1971 they moved to Bishops Tawton and later joined their team.

After retiring and moving into Barnstaple centre he now rings for the Pilton team.

**Kevin Denny**

# 2017 DEVON ASSOCIATION 8-BELL COMPETITION



The 2017 Devon Eight Bell held at the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, South Molton on the 16<sup>th</sup> September may well have been the wettest competition known. The rain started at 1pm and there was no let off for the duration. This however did not put a dampener on proceedings.

Seven teams entered this year's competition: Chagford, Exeter Cathedral, Georgeham, High Bickington, Kingsteignton, Paignton & Tavistock, with a good standard of ringing achieved by all on a heavy peal. It was the first competition with a tenor exceeding a tonne in weight since Ashburton in 2000. I am very glad that the number of entries increased despite the weight, with the return of Paignton and Tavistock.

A fine tea was laid on by Margaret White and her team in the

church hall, despite having to brave the weather.

Ultimately it was Kingsteignton who again came out on top, the judges giving them an average of 32½ faults. It is now that tower's 27<sup>th</sup> win in the past 50 years, the first being at Newton St Cyres in 1967.

I would like to thank Revd Grandey for his invitation to hold the competition. In his absence on the day his team were most hospitable. My thanks also go to Monty Bertram for the use of the fine set of bells.

My final thanks go to the judging party of Neil Holloway, Barry Osborne, Martin Sharland & Mervyn Way, who again set aside their afternoon to judge our competition.

**Stuart Bennie**

1.	Kingsteignton	32½ faults
2.	Exeter Cathedral	39
3.	High Bickington	41½
4.	Chagford	78¾
5.	Tavistock	83
6.	Georgeham	92½
7.	Paignton	disqualified (under time)



## KINGSTEIGNTON team

*Back Row l to r:* Will Carew (Tenor Strapper), Ian Avery (Tenor), Kate Avery (7<sup>th</sup> Strapper), James Grant (7<sup>th</sup>), Colin Avery (6<sup>th</sup>)

*Front Row l to r:* Elaine Grant (5<sup>th</sup>), Mike Mears (4<sup>th</sup>), Rachel Avery (3<sup>rd</sup>), Lee Avery (2<sup>nd</sup>), Graham Sharland (Treble)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO KINGSTEIGNTON** for not only winning the Devon Eight-Bell competition at South Molton but also for having two married couples within the team. They were, James and Elaine Grant and Lee and Rachel Avery. Congratulations to both couples also.

**Ian Avery** (Tower Captain - Kingsteignton) with the 8-bell Trophy and Ross Shield

## CONGRATULATIONS IAN

Ian has now rung in his 50<sup>th</sup> Devon eight-bell competition with Kingsteignton. He has been a member of the winning side on twenty seven occasions. His first was in 1967 when Kingsteignton were the winners for the first time.

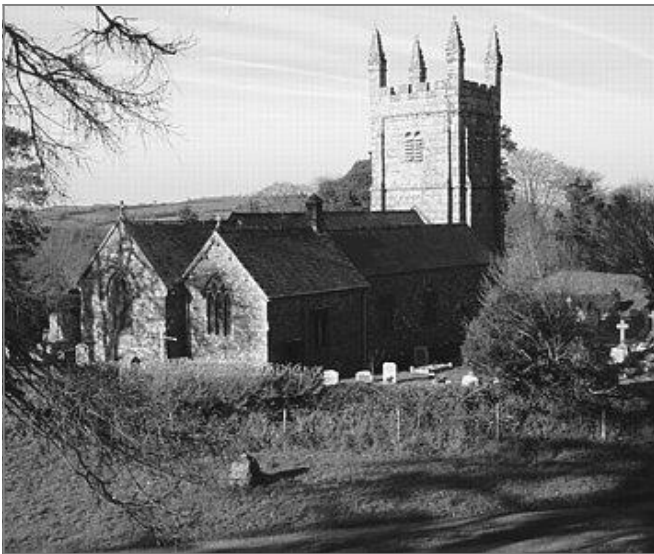


# MY BELLRINGING CAREER

Bob Pengelly (Lydford)



I started ringing at Lydford in 1952. I came into ringing by becoming a member of a choir which was formed by the late Norman Fry. Norman was both choir master and organist at Lydford. Norman arranged for choir practice to take place before ringing practice and on the same evening.



St. Petrock's, Lydford

Before choir practice had finished a group of men would gather at the back of the church. Norman told us that the men were ringers and they had come for ringing practice. He suggested we might like to stay and watch them ring. Three other boys and I stayed and to our surprise we were invited to have a go.

Being the eldest boy I was invited to try the tenor.

I did not stay in the choir long after being introduced to bellringing. From this informal introduction I have remained a ringer ever since. At the time Albert Hambly was the captain. After Albert gave up Bill Bariball took over. Following Bill's death in 1963 Stewart Hanaford became captain but only for about twelve months. In 1964 I was invited to become captain and I have been ever since.



St. Bridget's, Bridestowe

Over the years I have also been captain at Bridestowe, Brentor and Sourton and I have run the annual Hambly Rose Bowl competition since 1978.

The sad thing is that over the years I have taught forty or fifty learners but all have left. Ringing numbers at Lydford sadly are now down to four. Unfortunately my ill health prevents me from ringing now but I am still keen to remain as active as possible.

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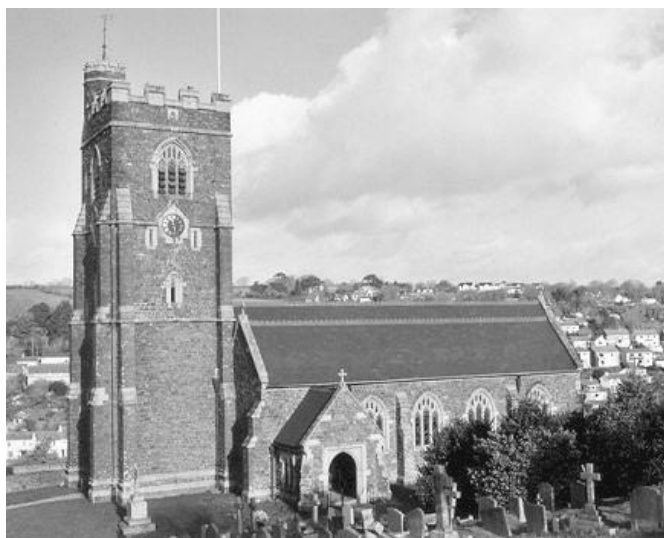
*Thank you Bob for providing us with a précised account of your ringing career. I well remember when I first met you. It was at Bridestowe way back in the 1960's when the late Ernie Chapman used to run the annual competition there. I clearly recall standing outside the Royal Oak (long since closed) with the sun setting in the west talking to you and Ernie with the glorious sound of Bridestowe bells ringing in the background.*

*You have shown tremendous enthusiasm for ringing and bell maintenance spanning a period of sixty-five years. The fact that the bells are still being rung at Lydford, Bridestowe and in places such as St. Michael's Brentor, is testament to your outstanding commitment.*

*Although you currently do not enjoy good health it is good to know your enthusiasm for ringing remains undiminished. We hope you will remain active for many more years to come.*

**Colin Adams.**

## REVELSTOKE, DEVON, ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH



After 130 years and a thorough inspection by Simon Adams of Taylor's it was decided that Revelstoke peal of 8 (16 cwt.) were in need of major refurbishment. The bells were cast by Warners in 1882 and installed in the new St Peters Church by the first Lord Revelstoke, Edward Baring, then of Barings Bank. In 1955 they were quarter turned and new bearings were fitted which made them go a little easier, but since then very little had been done, except replacing the clappers on the Sixth and the Tenor. Now the work has begun. On the 14th September we held a Ring Out session to say goodbye to the old ring, after which a glass of wine and a couple of beers were needed and enjoyed. The week beginning the 26th September the bell hanger from Taylor's arrived, and with local help and labour, the bells will be lowered for the journey back to Loughborough for the works.

All new ringing fittings will be manufactured, and the bells will be cleaned and tuned. The bells will then be rehung in the Warner oak bell frame.

*Barrie V. Furzeland*

## SOUTH BRENT – AN UPDATE ON RECENT TOWER WORK.



Twelve months ago at the end of September 2016 the Bells of St Petrock's Church, South Brent, fell silent as work began on a major project to address the long standing problem of water ingress. The tower was shrouded in scaffolding and sheeting for ten months while the voids within the tower walls were filled with grout and the external faces re-pointed. At the same time the church and the tower were rewired, new lighting installed and the floor under the bells renewed and repositioned five inches lower, giving us a little more crawl space beneath the bells and frame!

There was no actual bell work involved in this project although we have taken the opportunity to renew a couple of worn pulleys and order a new set of ropes. However, as a spin off from the project we are installing a training dumb bell obtained from the Bell hanger Matthew Higby. We were already using David Bagley's simulator interface for training purposes and the provision of a dumb bell will allow us to introduce new and younger recruits to the art of ringing without fear of harm to the pupil the bells or the tutor!

Most of the tower work was finished by March 2017 but the scaffold wasn't removed until the end of July. However, we still have to wait for the architect to give us the go ahead before we can start ringing again, possibly at Christmas but it might not be until February or March.

In the meantime we have been ringing on Sundays alternately at Dean Prior and Staverton and holding our Monday practise night at either Dean Prior or Diptford. We are very fortunate at South Brent to have around 15 loyal ringers under the watchful eye of Suzanne Driscoll, our Lord Chief (the official title of our captain that dates back to 1789) who have been very supportive throughout the last twelve months whilst we have been in exile from our own tower.

Hopefully in 2018 we will once again be able to hold our annual invitation competition at the beginning of July and we can look forward to recruiting and training the next generation of South Brent ringers who will hopefully have a dry (or at least drier) tower to ring in!

*Graham Sharland*

# DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 11th November 2017; 2.30pm  
North Tawton Town Hall

## THE ANNUAL DEVON RINGER'S CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017; 4.00pm  
at Exeter Cathedral

## 2018 COMPETITIONS

Dates for the 2018 competitions are:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2018       | – North & South 6-bell towers for the <b>Qualifiers</b> . |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2018       | – South Devon 6-bell tower for the <b>Minor Final</b> .   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2018       | – North Devon 6-bell tower for the <b>Major Final</b> .   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 | – South Devon 8-bell tower for the <b>Devon 8-bell</b> .  |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The re-dedication of Combe Raleigh's bells** will take place in the presence of  
The Right Reverend Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017; 3.00pm

**6 – bell Ringing Festivals** at Bishops Tawton and Tawstock  
Saturday 4th November 2017. Tea and results in Tawstock Church  
**Contact** Mr. Gerald Arscott, 01769 540229 to book your ringing times

### Technical Editor required for Devon Calls.

If you have these skills, or you know of someone who does and might prepared to help,  
**please contact the Editor**

**Amnesty:** at the AGM there will be an opportunity for any individual, or tower representative,  
to bring along any ringing trophy which they do not own or should not have on display in their tower.  
These will then be listed and returned to their rightful place. **Rachel Avery (Honorary Secretary)**

**Congratulations** to our Technical Editor, Colin, and his wife Marian, on the occasion of their  
55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary which took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. **Editor**

### **APOLOGIES:** in the last edition:

- on page 10 under "Devon Association Awards" it was stated that Josie Barnes is from Beaworthy which is incorrect. Josie is from Kings Nympton. Thanks to our President Mrs.Christine Ley for pointing this out.
- on page 11 the heading should have read "Thrills at Dunsford" and not Thrills at Dunford. **Editor**

## DEATH

We are sorry to hear of the death of Plymstock ringer **FRANK THOMAS CROW**. Frank died peacefully in his sleep at Derriford Hospital on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 following the funeral of his beloved wife Bridget Crowe the day before. He couldn't live without her.

Frank was a faithful member of the Plymstock team with whom he rang for many years. His funeral service was held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at St. Mary's and All Saints Church Plymstock. We extend a belated message of sympathy to Frank's family and his many friends. (Obituary to follow)



**"The Magnificent seven Clapper removers for hire" - photo by John Staddon.**

L. To R. John Staddon (Alphington Tower Captain), Sandra Ragalsky, David Wills, Herbert Piper, Marcus Tape (Kenn Tower Captain), Barbara Philipson and Lewis Withecombe.



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