

# Devon Calls

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 1999

President: Mr Cecil Crocker

## Devon Association of Ringers gets its own Newsletter!

**T**his is the first ever newsletter for the Devon Association of Ringers.

What it contains depends on you. The idea is that a newsletter would be sent out to all affiliated towers on an as and when there's news basis. We aim to publish results of recent competitions, advertise new competitions, let people know of ringing events, or perhaps even have a personalities column for committee members, or perhaps as memorials to those now ringing in a higher plane. This first issue will be short as we don't have too many contributors yet (thanks to all those who have helped). Please send any information or ideas for future newsletters to the either of the addresses on page 3.

## COMPETITIONS

As most of you will know the annual 8 and 6-bell ringing competitions are now upon us. The 8-bell final this year was held in Barnstaple on 24 April 1999. The North Devon qualifier was held at Bradford with the South Devon at Marlton, both on Saturday 8 May 1999. The Major final will be at Morebath on 22 May 1999, with the Minor final at South



**Don't forget- the money from the Grand Draw tickets goes to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Support it well - You never know!**

Milton on 12 June 1999. Even if you've never entered before why not give it a try next year. You should have all received a copy of the rules for the ringing festivals recently. None of them are too terrible and believe it or not the competition is fun (even with all the nerves!).

## Calling all Novices!

At the last AGM in November, the point was raised that the number of teams entering the Annual Competitions was getting lower. With this in mind, and to encourage new and

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novice ringers to join us, Colin Adams and Jeremy Darke have kindly offered to run a Devon Association Novice competition in the Autumn of this year, probably on October 9th at Throwleigh. It will be run on similar lines to the Chamber Pot competition (ie. no rise or lower) with about 30 changes. It is probable that ringing will begin in the morning about 10.30am. There will be break for lunch, ringing to finish about 2.30pm. Please spread the word!

## NEW MEMBERS

Good news! Since the November AGM five new towers have affiliated to the association and three "old" members have returned to the fold. New members are Silverton, Exeter Cathedral, North Bovey, Berry Pomeroy, and Weare Giffard; returning members, Dolton, Moretonhampstead and Bow. Welcome to you all. If any of you ringers out there know of any other towers who wish to join us, please let us know. The assistant secretary likes to visit new towers!



## CHAMBER POT RESULTS

Novice teams recently completed the challenge of the Chamber Pot competition with the final being held at Ashreigney on 6 March 1999.

Eleven teams took part, with the eventual winners being Clawton. A great achievement for them as five of the six ringers had been ringing less than two years, one of them only for six months.

There was a wide spread of teams from both the North and South of the county, and an enjoyable if cold day was had by all involved. All teams were to be congratulated for the effort they put in and they should all remember that even the best teams were once learners with 100 faults!

Many thanks go to David Trist and his team for organising the competition, the day and providing the much needed hot cups of tea, coffee and refreshments.

Final results were:

1 Clawton	24 1/3
2 Iddesleigh Boys	27 1/3
3 Sandford	28 1/3
4 Dartmouth St. Clements	32
5 Iddesleigh Girls	35 2/3
6 Morchard Bishop	42
7 North Bovey	44 1/3
8 Dartmouth St. Saviour	56
9 East Budleigh	64 2/3
10 Down St. Mary	69
11 West Buckland	116 2/3

The Church service although not

well attended was enjoyed by all as was the following dinner service, and newly appointed

the 1999 Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Parish Hall on

## Calling all Treasurers!

Does your tower have a bell or tower fund that is separate to that of the church? If so you need to speak to the Treasurer of your PCC, to let him know the funds you hold, as following recent new legislation this needs to be included in the Church accounts.

## BUILDING?

Are you thinking of building on land near your Church? If so why not do what Thurleston have done and stop complaints about ringing before they start. Prospective owners of new houses have to sign a contract to say that they and all subsequent purchasers cannot complain about the sound of the bells. Does this work for cockerels?

## GRAND DRAW 1999

The Grand draw takes place on Saturday 22 May 1999 on Major Final day at Morebath. Don't forget to get your tickets in to Julia Endacott or bring them to the final yourselves, ready folded, with the money. Funds raised by the draw go in a large part to the Devon Church Bell Restoration fund, which any of us may need at some time. Remember you've got to be in it to win it! Let's try to make the last draw of this century a big one. Thanks go to Tom Wright for all his hard work in the past and to Julia Endacott for her work in this and future years.

**DON'T FORGET TO ORGANISE YOUR VICAR FOR THE MILLENNIUM. HE MAY HAVE MORE SERVICES THAN YOU HAVE RINGERS!**

## Births, Deaths, Marriages & Messages

Sadly, in the South over the last few months, we have lost several notable ringers: Jack Hine from Plymstock, Percy Rhymes from West Alvington, Jack Wood from East Portlemouth, Ted Widgery from Plymtree, Allen Frampton from Exminster and George Stevens from Ide. All were experienced and competent ringers and each had their own individual characteristics. Our thoughts and sympathies go to their families and friends.

On a lighter note, in the North we welcome into the ringing world Benjamin Squire, a son to Raymond and Karen Squire of Chagford and Sampford Courtenay.

We also send messages of speedy recovery to Edgar Cole of Ashreigney, Bill Sage of Burrington and Tom Wright of Down St. Mary (where else!). We hope to see you ringing again soon Boys!

Also apologies to those who gave me information for the newsletter not included. I haven't forgotten you, you'll be in next time!



## TOWER TALK

with  
**Colin Adams**  
(President Elect)

There are probably more peals of bells in Devon now than ever before. Some of the more notable rings, Thorverton and more recently Tavistock, have been augmented to ten, Salcombe now has a splendid ring of six and even the little five at Dowland have been brought back into use, many similar projects are underway. It is all too easy to overlook the efforts which were made towards fund raising and the provision of local labour. Ringers both local and as visitors to the county now have many peals to choose from. I am sure more peals exist now than were available at the commencement of this century; by contrast though, are there more ringers?

Spring is always an enjoyable time of year for me. Two recent occasions reminded me of the pleasure of another ringing season about to dawn. The first was standing in Castle Circus at Torquay with the sound of the eight bells at Upton coming down through the street blending with the sharp, clear morning air. Full marks to those who were ringing them. The other was catching the aroma of Stan Martin's pipe as he lit up in front of me recently. Was it St. Bruno again Stan?

I am pleased that the Devon Association have decided to "come south" this year for the Annual Dinner and Church Service on Saturday 20th March. The Church service although not

well attended was enjoyed by all as was the following dinner.

Janice, our newly appointed Assistant Secretary, is already demonstrating through her efforts to get this first Devon Association Newsletter into circulation, how wise we all were in electing her to this newly created post last November. She has lost no time in getting this project underway and it is to be hoped that support from ringers, and non-ringers, will be forthcoming. The newsletter could grow and develop into something which everyone looks forward to receiving. Regular publication will help to ensure that everyone across this large county of Devon is kept well informed, thus enabling the harmony and goodwill that exists amongst our fraternity to be maintained.

Our secretary, Frank Bye, now has all the new technology to enable him to carry out his work smoothly and effectively. Jonathan Bint, our newly appointed Publicity Officer, is already demonstrating how positively he views his appointment with his account of

the 1998 Annual General Meeting, having been published in the Ringing World. Our Chairman, Brian Drake and Treasurer, Norman Fanner are well established in their posts having held them for many years. Cecil, our president will in the Autumn virtually "bring down the curtain" on this significant year in the history of the Devon Association of Ringers with the knowledge that the organisation is well placed to enter into the year 2000 and beyond.

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## THE YEAR 2000!

What would you like your Association to do to commemorate the year 2000 - millennium year? Perhaps the Annual Dinner could be a Dinner and Dance to bring those ringing widows (and widowers) into the fold; perhaps an evenings entertainment to raise money for charity, (perhaps the Church Bell Restoration fund) entertainment being provided by the ringers of the county. We know that the talent is out there. I was recently told that the ringers at Paignton each Christmas, go out with their handbells raising money for charity. In 1998 they raised £1335 for the Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge and £100 for Paignton Hospital. They've been doing this for 42 years. Don't let them be the only ones publicising ringing and ringers in such a good light. Remember we need all the good publicity we can get!

Any comments or items for the next newsletter should be sent to:

Janice Gist  
18 Castle Street  
Torrington  
Devon  
EX38 8EZ

Or

Jonathan Bint  
Rushford Forge  
Narrowbridge  
Chagford  
Newton Abbot



## Dates for your Diary

The competition season is again upon us. Below you will find a list of some of the competitions run during the season that have set Saturdays (ie they fall on the same Saturday each year). Apologies for those we miss, we'll include you next time. If any of the dates are wrong please would the organiser/deanery secretaries please let us know and we'll include changes in the next issue. Thanks.

### JANUARY

3rd Saturday - Kilkhampton

### MARCH

1st Saturday - Cornwood\*

### APRIL

1st Sat - Holsworthy\*  
Ide\*  
Tedburn

3rd Sat - Inter - deanery

4th Sat - Devon 8 bell

### MAY

1st Sat - Plymtree

2nd Sat - Devon Qualifiers

3rd Sat - Chittlehampton 3  
towers  
Hartland Deanery

4th Sat - Devon Major final

### JUNE

1st Sat - Littleham  
Deaneries of:  
South Molton  
Moretonhampstead  
Okehampton

2nd Sat - Devon Minor final

3rd Sat - Egguckland  
Spreyton

4th Sat - Loddiswell

### JULY

1st Sat - South Brent

2nd Sat - West Alvington

3rd Sat - Down St. Mary#  
Lamerton

4th Sat - Burrington

Last Saturday (either 4th or 5th)  
- Torridge Valley

### AUGUST

1st Sat - Widecombe

2nd Sat - Lapford  
Shebbear

3rd Sat - Lydford

4th Sat - Meavy

### SEPTEMBER

1st Sat - South Tawton

2nd Sat - Eric Bartlett

3rd Sat - Stoke Gabriel  
Cadbury Deanery

4th Sat - Iddesleigh  
Kenn Deanery

### OCTOBER

1st Sat - South Devon 8 bell  
Dolton

2nd Sat - Chawleigh

3rd Sat - Molland

4th Sat - Tawstock Shield

### NOVEMBER

1st Sat - Monkleigh

2nd Sat - Annual General  
Meeting at North Tawton

4th Sat - Stratton/Kilkhampton

### DECEMBER

We have not been told about any annual competitions held in December but this is when the Winter League competitions are in full swing, and of course we have the Annual Carol Service.

\* The dates for these competitions are dependant on when Easter falls.

# This competition is on hold at present, but we hope will be run again in the future.

There are also two other competitions, the East Portlemouth Bowl and the Art. Seymour Trophy which depend on who won them the previous year as to what dates they are held.