

❖ Devon Calls ❖

Volume 1 Issue 3

January 2000

President: Mr Colin Adams

**HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM TO
ALL RINGERS OLD & NEW!**

The Newsletter of the
Devon Association of
Ringers

This was intended to be the Christmas issue of Devon Calls but I'm afraid that the dreaded flu bug got to us all. Hopefully for all of us this should be a bountiful time, with all the new and returning ringers who joined us for the millennium ringing. In my local group of parishes of Iddesleigh, Dolton, Dowland and Monkokehampton, two new ringers learnt specifically for the millennium, there are seven improvers and we even had one ringer return. Let's hope that the ringing bug will continue long after the millennium bug has packed up and gone!

In this issue you will find a report of the 65th Annual General Meeting, thanks from the Childrens Hospice regarding the carol service donation and the results of our Association Novice Competition Final at Throwleigh, among others. Apologies to those who supplied articles that have not been included this time. They will be in the next edition. There is a lot of information in this edition but don't be put off!

Did you take a photograph of your ringers for the millennium. If so would you please send a copy to me so that we can compile an album of



DEVON NOVICE COMP.
For 1999 results and this
years venue look inside.
Come and join us!

all the Association Ringers who took part. The intention is to place this in the Devon Record Office for posterity. Thanks.

JRG

**Report of
the AGM**

A well-attended AGM took place on Saturday 13th November 1999, in the familiar surroundings of North Tawton Town Hall - as Chairman Brian Drake observed, the counter attraction of the England/Scotland game proved no match for the

Association with a good show of 69 representatives present. In the opening prayers, Rev. Bob Southwood remembered those ringers who sadly passed away in the last twelve months. Of these, I no doubt like so many others, shall especially miss Edgar Bertram, & it was good to see Nora heading a strong South Tawton representation at the meeting. As the Rev. Woods said in his funeral address, Edgar cannot be replaced.

The customary reports followed and the minutes were recounted at length. On the subject of the latter topic, this was again cause for discussion & together with the rather protracted procedure for the election of judges, takes up an inordinate amount of time. As Rev. Southwood pointed out, one wonders whether there may not be a more streamlined means of carrying out these parts of the meeting's business? We look forward to further discussion next year; in the meantime, suggestions on a postcard please... News that it had been decided to hold an extra meeting each year provided evidence that the committee is hard at work, reflecting the upsurge of interest being taken in the work of the Association - the number of affiliated towers is now in excess of 110.

As our outgoing President, Mr Cecil Crocker, handed over his sash of office to his successor, Mr Colin Adams and Mr Mervyn Phillips became President elect, one was reminded how fortunate we are to have such fine ambassadors for the Association. Rather sadly, this year saw the retirement from office of our Hon. Treasurer, Mr Norman Fanner, who leaves with our grateful thanks for all his hard work and best wishes for the future. That he received at least five rounds of applause at various points in the meeting rather says it all. Another stalwart of the Association, Mr Ivor Hookway, succeeds him.

Competitions

Towers for next years festivals are as follows: Ashburton for the 8-bell; Morchard Bishop and Ideford for the North and South qualifiers; Churchstow for the Major final and Zeal Monachorum for the Minor. It is fitting that one of the festivals should return to the place of birth of the Association during its 75th year of existence. On the subject of festivals, how pleasing it was to hear of such a hugely successful inaugural Novice competition. This was held at Throwleigh on Saturday 9th October. The church was a picture decked out in all its harvest finery and the Rev. Louis Baycock matched this with a suitably sparkling address; and the Association even provided its own organist! Aside from the high number of entries, two of the most pleasing things were the large number of new faces to be seen and the fact that some younger ringers were able to try their hand at judging. As we

move into a new century, both these points give hope for a healthy future for the old art of Devon call-change ringing. The tireless hard working organisers of the Festival, Messrs J Darke and C Adams are to be warmly congratulated on their achievement, and we look forward to it becoming a regular event.

Grand Draw

Further good news (via interpreter) came from Julia Endacott regarding a highly profitable annual draw. As a result the Hon. Treasurer was able to recommend that £3,000 be given to the DCBRF. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way. On the subject of the DCBRF (Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund) a vacancy on its committee, brought about by Tom Wright stepping down, was filled after a vote by Mr Jeremy Darke - best wishes to Tom and thank you for all the hard work put in over the years raising funds through the Draw.

Ring in 2000

News came from Mr Martin Mansley concerning the *Ring in 2000* project. Yes, the Big day will soon be upon us... and whilst a good many folk are by now heartily sick of hearing the M word, there has been one major long term benefit to Devon ringing as a whole in the form of the ad-hoc committee set-up originally to deal with all the extra ringing inspired by it. It is pleasing to report of the ever increasing co-operation between our county's two ringing organisations as they meet in the St. Petrocks Ringing centre, Exeter.

A current focus for this is the new ringing recruitment leaflet, especially designed to inform would-be ringers of the unique situation here in Devon, where we are fortunate to have two distinct ringing traditions. It is hoped to have it ready for distribution during the first half of next year. Appropriately, congratulations go to David Trist on the fruits of his labours on this front, as one acknowledges his efforts in keeping the Chamber Pot competition running through the winter months & also for setting up the Devon call-change Master Classes. These will be held in various parts of the county with the help of some of the associations most experienced ringers. Following general discussion during the most recent meeting, there is a desire to put Devon's *Ring in 2000* committee on a more formal footing. With this in mind, anyone willing and/or interested in acting as a rep. for deaneries currently without a presence on the committee, is asked to make themselves known to any of the Associations officers! (It is pleasing to report that the Association was particularly well represented at this, the last meeting of the century, by members from the middle and southern parts of the county.)

Dinner/Dance

Finally, returning to the Association's AGM, further innovation, this time regarding the Annual Dinner. Following disappointing attendance, it was decided not to have the pre-dinner church service. Two points to consider here; firstly that with

many members travelling considerable distances, is often difficult for them to get there in time and secondly, as Rev. Southwood said, it is perhaps inappropriate to mix the two different elements on such an occasion. So, instead, this year we can all look forward to dancing the night away after our meal. Get your boogie shoes on now folks!... I'm sure that our President will be leading the way!

JMGB

THANKS

"I would like to convey my deep appreciation for all the kindness shown to myself and my family, from all the ringers who attended and represented teams at Ed's funeral on 27th October. It was a very great tribute to a dedicated bellringer, who had rung at South Tawton for nearly 40 years.

I, and my family were overwhelmed to see so many people in the church, especially knowing that a large percentage were of the Bell-ringing fraternity.

I also received nearly 200 sympathy cards, and whilst in hospital, Ed received 40 get well cards, many of which came from our ringing friends and colleagues.

I can't find words to express the amount of appreciation I feel for all the prayers and kindness shown to me and my family.

Thank you all so very much. (Donations received in Edgars memory amounted to £855.50)

*NORA BERTRAM
SOUTH TAWTON*

A big thank you to all who came along to the Ringing and Skittles event at Pinhoe recently. It turned

out to be a very enjoyable social occasion and an opportunity to meet some ringers who we don't see at competitions. The results of both the ringing and skittles were very close between a few of the teams but the eventual winners proved to be triumphant in both. Each member of the winning team was presented with a crystal glass and miniature bottle of spirit, with chocolates going to the runners up. My thanks also to Rob Franklin at Pinhoe; all those who gave draw prizes, and those of you who were unable to attend and have kindly sent donations. In all £140 was raised towards my "Vietnam Venture". I very much appreciate all your support and look forward to seeing you again when I return from my travels in the new millennium!

*BEN TROUT
EGGBUCKLAND*

There was also a letter from the Childrens Hospice South West regarding the collection from the Carol Service which is attached to the newsletter.

OBITUARY

We were told by Derek Diggins of the passing of Mr Harold John Rogers on 10 May 1999 at the age of 97. He was a founder member of his village cricket team and a stalwart ringer at Buckland Monachorum.

He was the last of the pre-war ringers at Buckland, ringing the tenor and teaching many ringers over the years. He was a very popular and quiet man who got things done. In 1947 he painted the bell frame at Buckland on his own, taking him a week. He served in

the Merchant Navy in the war and gave up ringing in 1962 due to back trouble. A muffled peal was rung at his funeral. He will be sadly missed.

NOVICE 99

Invitations were sent out on 5th July 1999 to 268 towers in Devon both affiliated and non affiliated. Entries closed on August 19 with 31 entries for the competition with over 50 enquiries.

Competition day (9 October) arrived, and the three judges, competition secretary and others rang a full peal of Sixty on thirds with the bells being left on stay for the start of the competition.

The Competition started with the round ringing section. Six teams entered with the Kingston team being made up entirely of school children, a great achievement.

Results of the round ringing section were announced in the Churchyard whilst the call change section assembled for their draw in the church.

Sixteen teams were present for the call change section with nine teams having dropped out due mainly to the maize silage harvest. Ten teams asked to ring early and we managed to get through nine of them before stopping for the service and tea.

Teams were to pull the bells off the stay and ring half a peal of sixty- on- thirds, with the option of ringing either the first or second half. Interestingly all teams rang the first half. Teams were given a time limit of 10 minutes maximum with no

minimum period.

Ringling stopped at 4pm for a shortened version of evensong with the Rev. Louis Baycock of Chagford taking the service, and Mr Jonathan Bint playing the organ. It was noted that the ringers hymn was written in October 1949 - this competition was being held on the hymns 50th anniversary. The service was attended by a large congregation, with all the offertory collection being given in full to the Church.

A generous cold buffet tea was available in the studio basement, adjacent to the churchyard. Mrs. Eileen Clarke and her helpers coordinated this fine tea, which was welcomed by all competing teams and any other visitors to Throwleigh on this competition afternoon.

Results of the call change section were given out by Mr Neil Holloway with the presentation of certificates and the Percy Rice shield. The shield was presented to Chivelstone by Mrs. E. Rice.

The afternoon was rounded off with votes of thanks being given to the judges, Throwleigh Parish Church and the vicar for allowing the Devon Association to come to Throwleigh, to Mrs. Eileen Clarke for her sterling efforts prior to and on the day, and to all the teams for their support and co-operation. Results of both sections are attached, together with invitations for this years competition to be held on Saturday 11th March 2000 at Dunsford.

Closing date for entry has been extended to 13th February 2000

due to this publication not going out earlier.

J J DARKE

Wrinkly Ringers

Who in the name of campanology are they? You may well ask. We are a loosely knit group of ringers, all of whom have time on their hands on the second Wednesday of every month except Jan, Feb and March (our Mum's won't let us out in the bad weather!). We consist mainly of ringers of retirement age, hence the "nick" name, but we have also embraced may who have "retired" early and as others would say, some that should have just "retired". The oldest in the group is in his eighties and the youngest is at present about fifty.

The group contains males, females, husbands wives and non-ringing guests. They come from as far afield as Maker in Cornwall to Exminster in Devon and inland as far as Buckland-in-the-Moor, in fact from all over the southern half of Devon. This does not mean that we would not welcome people from all over Devon.

The aim of the club is more of a social nature with ringing being the common interest that brings us all together. Subsequently the ringing is not intended to be of competition standard, but I am sure all members would argue that it often is. Two towers are chosen each month by one of the group together with a hostelry large

enough for us all for lunch. First tower starts at 10am to 10.30am with refreshments, lunch gives us all the opportunity for a pie and a pint before moving on to the afternoon tower.

Towers are usually chosen for ease of access, ie. ground floor ringing or easily climbed steps. This said in August the choice for the morning church was **BRENTOR!** A lovely little church isolated and set on top of a Dartmoor Tor near Tavistock. To get to it one has to ascend a 1/4 mile of open sloping moorland that is approaching the vertical and on this particular day it rained as only it can on our moor. Despite this our oldest member Mr "Pickles" Pascoe aged 84, along with 30 others made it with ease.

If you would like to join us, be free on the second Wednesday in the month, be interested in ringing and be prepared to travel throughout South Devon, contact Bernard Miners on 01803 834748.

KROW of Paignton

Send your articles to:

*Janice Gist
Barrie's Corner
5 St. Giles in the Wood
Torrington, EX38 7JQ*

OR

*Jonathan Bint
Rushford Forge
Narrowbridge
Chagford
Newton Abbot
Devon*

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS.

NOVICE COMPETITION 2000

The first competition was held in October 1999. The interest and support given to this event was tremendous. It was decided at the Association AGM in November to hold this new Novice competition annually.

We have decided to move the date to the Spring.

PROPOSED DATE: - Saturday 11th March 2000.

START TIME: - Early afternoon (precise time to be decided).

PROPOSED VENUE:- Dunsford - 6 bells, 13cwt tenor, ground floor ring.

FORMAT OF COMPETITION:- Two sections - one for round ringing and one for call change ringing. **Teams may only enter one section.**

Bells to be pulled off stay - no rising or lowering.

RULES - similar to this year. Teams entering must remember the spirit of this novice competition. Those teams capable of rising and lowering bells, should seriously consider entering the Devon Association Six bell qualifiers (second Saturday in May).

Entry forms and a copy of the rules are now available.

Please get your entry in by **February 13th 2000**. This allows time for certificates to be printed (all teams will be awarded one), and allows sufficient time to fully organise the event.

Please contact the competition secretary :

J J Darke Esq., Thurlestone, 14 Fordhay Terrace, East Chinnock. Yeovil, Somerset. BA22 9EF.

Tel: 01935 863293 (eves)

Lets hope that we all get as much enjoyment out of this competition as we did this year. Teams that were very concerned about their standard, were able to achieve very respectable results - Go on - give it a try - I look forward to hearing from you.

J J Darke

RESULTS OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS
NOVICE COMPETITION - 9 OCTOBER 1999

SECTION ONE - ROUND RINGING

Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Faults</u>
1	Silverton B	33
2	Dartmouth Townstall	47
3	Gittisham	79
4	Slapton	121
5	Kingston B	150 1/3

Judges Marks

<u>Peal</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>M Sharland</u>	<u>F Bye</u>	<u>D Trist</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
1	Kingston B	183	107	161	451	150.3333
2	Dartmouth Townstall	40	45	56	141	47
3	Slapton	132	103	128	363	121
4	Gittisham	87	72	78	237	79
5	Silverton B	32	24	43	99	33

SECTION TWO - CALL CHANGE RINGING

Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Faults</u>
1	Chivelstone	26 1/3
2	Winkleigh	36 1/3
3	Clawton	39 2/3
4	Kingston A	41 2/3
5	Dolton	45
6	Pyworthy	46 1/3
7	Silverton A	47 2/3
8	Roborough	49 1/3
9	Ashreigney	50 2/3
10	Dartmouth	56 1/3
11	Wolborough	58
12	Lydford	62
13	Salcombe	62 2/3
14	East Portlemouth	70 1/3
15	Babbacombe	77 1/3
16	Uplowman	106

Judges Marks

<u>Peal</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>N Holloway</u>	<u>V Holloway</u>	<u>J Bint</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
1	Kingston A	39.50	39.25	45.5	124.25	41 2/3
2	Roborough	52	50	46	148	49 1/3
3	Dolton	54.5	47	40.5	142	45
4	Silverton A	46.5	52	45	143.5	47 2/3
5	East Portlemouth	68.5	69.5	73.5	211.5	70 1/3
6	Clawton	38.5	39.25	42	119.75	39 2/3
7	Uplowman	92	98	127	317	106
8	Winkleigh	35.5	37.75	35.5	108.75	36 1/3
9	Chivelstone	26	26	27.5	79.5	26 1/3
10	Lydford	66.5	64	55	185.5	62
11	Pyworthy	43.5	52	43.5	139	46 1/3
12	Dartmouth	54	67.75	48.5	170.25	56 1/3
13	Wolborough	58	64	52	174	58
14	Babbacombe	72	82.75	78	232.75	77 1/3
15	Ashreigney	49	50.5	52.5	152	50 2/3
16	Salcombe	58	63.5	67	188.5	62 2/3

children's hospice

SOUTH WEST



Little Bridge House, Redlands Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 2PZ

Telephone: Barnstaple 01271 325270

Fax: Barnstaple 01271 328640

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Wendy Campbell – Secretary
84 Whipton Village Road
Exeter
Devon
EX4 8AL

Mrs J.E. FARWELL M.A., B.Ped. C.Q.S.W.
(Administrator)

Little Bridge House, the only Children's Hospice in the South West, offers sick children and their families respite and relaxation, friendship and a sense of community, a sharing in the 24-hour care of the very sick child, expert palliative and terminal care and then support for the whole family into bereavement.

Ref: JF/BP

5th January 2000

Dear Wendy

I was delighted to receive the wonderful donation of £447.00 for the Children's Hospice. Would you please express our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed towards this gift raised from the collection at the Ringers Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral. Your very kind and thoughtful support for our Appeal is truly appreciated.

I thought you would be interested in what one mother wrote recently of our service:- "Little Bridge House is more than a beautiful building, it is a network made up of very special people who care and it is there to help families in whichever way they wish ... when the end of a child's life is near, Little Bridge House will be there to support you; helping you to do things the way you want with a quiet and dignified reverence. ... When you have a child diagnosed with a terminal illness you start to build – you build and develop memories for a time when that child will no longer be there. We have many very precious memories – a lot of them are at Little Bridge House"

Thank you therefore for being part of that network of special people who care and for your support in ensuring Little Bridge House can continue to be there to provide families with these precious memories. Your help has made a real difference to their lives.

Yours sincerely,

a very best wisher

Jill Farwell
Administrator

A Hospice for the children of the South West

Email: children@globalnet.co.uk

Web site: www.chsw.co.uk

Down Memory Lane...

Many thanks to Jack Rhymes for supplying the following extract from the Kingsbridge Gazette, 12th June 1937:

West Alvington competes at county event

Devon Six Bell Festival at Yealmpton

Teams

1. Lustleigh
2. Bridford
3. Plymtree
4. West Alvington
5. Brixton
6. Bishopstawton
7. Kingsnympton
8. Coffinswell
9. Atherington
10. Swimbridge
11. Loxhore
12. Goodleigh
13. Beaford
14. Down St Mary
15. Westleigh
16. Roborough
17. Colebrooke
18. Burrington A
19. Burrington B
20. Dunsford
21. Thelbridge
22. Lankey
23. Cornwood

Captains

- T Payne
- R M Elliot
- W J Bray
- H G Edwards
- E James
- C Morrish
- A L Gill
- P Trigg
- F Loosemore
- F W Newton
- C Delve
- J A Ash
- H Bright
- J C Towt
- S Butt
- C Thomas
- H Mitchell
- T Buckingham
- T Buckingham
- S J Sercombe
- W Tully
- A King
- J Thompson

Rev Lucas BA

Judges: J J Brewer, A Darch & R G Pidler

Quite some turnout! Do any of these names stir any memories? If so, then we'd like to hear from you: write to us....phone us....or even record your tales on a cassette....whatever, we'd like to hear of them!