



Founded 1925

President—Mr Gerald Arscott

DEVON CALLS

January 2005

Vol I Issue 15

Special points of interest:

- Secretary's report to AGM
- 60 years of ringing
- John Caunter dries up
- Surprise boost to bell fund
- Coffinswell and Kingskersell

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Secretary's report | 2 |
| Mid Week Ringers | 3 |
| Letter—Beaworthy | 4 |
| Devonshire Ringers | 5 |
| AGM | 6 |
| Arthur & Jean's Tour | 7 |
| Tedburn St Mary | 8 |
| Chuffed to Bits | 9 |
| John Shebbeare | 10 |
| Ken Raddenbury | 10 |
| Crediton ring out | 11 |
| Notices | 12 |

Crediton

The new peal of 10 bells, recast over the summer from the previous 8 have been dedicated by the Bishop of Exeter. After the service there was a demonstration by Eggbuckland, Kingsteignton and the Cathedral band. The ringing chamber has also been fitted with a new blue carpet. Further fund raising is taking place and there are items for sale including Christmas Cards featuring the new tenor bell.

Teignmouth

There is still some work to be completed in the tower and they are not yet quite ready to welcome visiting band but they would be pleased to see individual visitors at their Tuesday Practices. As an innovation the practice at the sister church, St James, has moved to Monday evenings. Please contact the Tower Captain, Martin Dodd on 01626 776863.

Clifford Setherton

Clifford Setherton of Mariansleigh died on 27 November 2004 and his funeral took place on Tuesday 7th December at Mariansleigh at 12 midday.

AGM—2004

The members at the AGM held on 13 November elected Gerald Arscott as the new President and George Boucher as president elect. Past presidents were presented with a badge and a commemorative plaque were presented to three newly elected Honorary Life Vice-Presidents, Herbert Pascoe, Mervyn Phillips and Jack Rhymes. Brian Drake, chairman was re-elected and Ryan Trout was elected as vice chair-

man. 2005, being the 80th anniversary year, there will be extra celebrations. The dinner and dance will be on 19 March at Waie Inn Zeal Monochorum. The competitions are as follows: Novice at Tedburn St Mary on 12 March. 8 Bell Widecombe in the Moor, April 23. South six at Diptford and North at West Worlington, both on May 14. Minor final at Monkleigh on May 28 and Major final at Meavy on June 11.

Child Protection

The Ringers' Council has formed a committee of six people who have experience of child protection to look at this complex issue with a view to providing guidance to the towers in Devon. At the moment we do have guidelines from the Central Council of Church Ringers. Some towers may have already taken action as Child Protection is the responsibility of the individual PCCs. The suggestions from the Committee are that a checklist be drawn up for Tower Captains to follow. The ringers, and potential ringers will have Agreement that is proposed and applicable to all ringers. There is an additional section for people under 18,

making it clear what the parents responsibilities are, such as the child's safe journey to and from ringing. A letter will also be issued to the person learning to ring welcoming them to the team. The Committee is to meet Denise Stockford who is the Child Protection Officer for the Diocese and it is hoped that at that meeting both parties can agree a procedure. It should not be forgotten that the PCC is ultimately responsible.



Secretary's report to the Association

For those of you that were not able to come to the AGM at North Tawton on November 13th, I wanted to give you a flavour of the proceedings. Yes, you can argue that any AGM is potentially boring and uninteresting. Not the case with the Association however! The Devon Association of Ringers AGM has become more streamlined and encourages the participation of all members more than ever before. It is one opportunity for all ringers from affiliated towers (and this could include any tower in Devon) to come and have their say! This organisation is certainly a democratic one. We have an elected Committee who meet twice a year on your behalf and members are there to represent YOU. A New Year Card will soon be produced – use it to make contact with Association Representatives who can help you – whether it relates to training and education, proposals for festivals, advice on bell restoration, etc. etc. The list is endless! We even have a Constitution – the European Union is still sorting theirs!

“A new Year Card will soon be produced”

Some of the highlights from the 2004 AGM include:

- The sad resignation of our Honorary Treasurer – Ivor Hookway, who in addition to nearly 60 years of support of the Association has just served as Treasurer for 5 years. In this time the number of affiliations has increased, public liability insurance has been sorted and the bank balance is very healthy. We hope that Ivor will continue to keep in contact with us. He has kindly agreed to judge at West Worlington and Meavy next year. Congratulations also Ivor on receiving your Past-President award.
- A positive report from yours truly. My second in fact. I thank you all for your continued support and cooperation. The highlight of the year for me was the Novice Competition at Holcombe Burnell in March. A good entry! The most

youngsters attending an Association competition for many a year! There was a wonderful atmosphere and Holcombe were excellent hosts. The Vicars that officiated this year at festivals seem to be getting younger – all services were enjoyable and the clergy interested in learning more about us. The sad passing of one of our Honorary Life Vice President Mr Sid Cooper must be noted. Sid lived at Belstone and rang for many years at South Tawton.

“28 years as Hon. Secretary”

- Thanks to the generosity of Mrs Pat Johnstone (now in her 82nd year!), Past Presidents awards were given to eleven stalwart Devon Call Change Ringers. This was very memorable. Sadly Bill Avery was unable to attend. An official photograph was taken. Good to see Mr Edgar Cole – who served the Association for 28 years as Hon. Secretary.
- Three new Honorary Life Vice Presidents were presented with a commemorative plaque – these were Mr Herbert (Pickles) Pascoe from Buckland in the Moor, Mr Mervyn Phillips from West Down and Mr Jack Rhymes from West Alvington. This presentation was Mr Harry Bardens' last official duty!
- A discussion on Child Protection took place. The Devon Ringers Council has formed a working party to meet up with the Exeter Diocesan Authorities. Every parish seems to be doing something slightly different. Mr Osborne from Lamerton has had a clear 'vetting' (helps me earn a bit of cash on the side!) by the CRB. We will do our best to keep you informed.
- Training efforts. The Hon Secretary and Mr David Trist have made some headway. A concentrated effort in the Woodleigh Deanery has initiated a monthly practice. This is well supported and is now run by the more ex-

perienced ringers in the Woodleigh Deanery. It has been a way of capturing enthusiasm and giving people confidence to learn new skills. In just 4 months, bell handling and striking has vastly improved. I appreciate that many deaneries/ areas run knock out competitions and other events. Please let us know how they're going. We can all learn from each other.

- Festivals for 2005 – full details in Competition Schedule to be sent out in the New Year. A new ring of 8 for the Eight Bell – splendid peal of bells in a picturesque part of the county. Let's see a good entry at Tedburn St Mary on March 12th 2005. I hope that the Qualifiers on May 14th are bursting with entries – remember the criteria for entry – must be able to attend either or the Finals.
- We must offer our thanks to our out-going President Mr Harry Bardens from Bigbury. He has made great efforts in attending and supporting Association events over the year. Thanks also to Ellen, Harry's wife, for letting the Association have the benefit of Harry's Presidency over the last 12 months.
- We welcome Mr Gerald Arscott of Chittlehampton as our new President and Mr George Boucher of Tavistock as our new President-Elect.
- I am sure that you will join me in thanking them for their efforts and wishing all the best to current serving and past Officers of the Association.
- The minutes of this meeting will be published in due course. Any person wishing to find out more should contact me, or any one of the Committee.

“Carol Service—18th December 3pm at St Andrews Church, Plymouth”

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Devon Ringers Carol Service on Saturday December 18th 2005 at 3pm at St Andrews Church, Plymouth.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable year of ringing in 2005.

Sincerely JJ Darke.

Mid Week Ringers - "Ringklies"

Ringklies' Rounds *By Oddstruck*

October found us going as far east as we had travelled previously and we ended up in Talaton. The weather was fine and we were met at the church by Sir Jack Boles. As we entered the church the first thing that struck us was that the North aisle had been converted into a kitchen and community area. The conversion was so well completed that you would have thought that it had been in the original design. This conversion I would recommend to villages that might be looking at a scheme in this modern era where a lot of churches are far too big for their communities.

The church like many in Devon was 15th century and had been heavily modified by the Victorians with an ornate wooden screen and pulpit with a sounding board that was set far too high above the pulpit to be functional. Around the walls were plaques recording the lives of many Boles, obviously ancestors of the gentleman who first greeted us on our arrival. The wives of some of the members provided teas and coffees whilst Mike Webster arranged the whole day out, so thanks go to all concerned.

The peal of six bells with a tenor of 12 cwt rang well except that there was an annoying buzzing and vibration that came from the glass dividing screen that sealed off the ringing chamber from the nave. Most people had problems and difficulty in raising and lowering the back three as they were "wide-mouthed" and needed holding in at the bottom. A few complained that the back bells rang heavier than they actually were but all in all a successful morning.

Lunch was held at The Six Bells at Payhembury and what a splendid lunch it was. We had a large room at the back of the pub to ourselves with over thirty-five sitting down to eat. The usual speeches took place with Chris Clayton complaining that he was not able to do two things at once, eat and listen, which brought many ribald remarks from "A good job he wasn't a woman" to "I wonder how he rings and counts at the same time". John Staddon did his usual, arriving late, and reminded us all of the arrangements for next June's

trip to Kent and also that there were still some places left, if you are interested, please do contact him direct.

The afternoon saw us just across the road at The Church of St Mary, Payhembury. This again a 15th century church on the site of a much earlier church dating back to the 12th century but as before the church was heavily restored in 1897 by the Victorians and is now dominated, by what I consider, overly carved wooden decoration. One has to admire the skill of the carvers but it was pleasing to see that they had left the painted screen, that dated from 1450 a.d. in tact although it had been restored. There were some rather plain windows in the northern wall but at the top of the gothic arches were a few panes of stained glass depicting saints. These were said to be the oldest stained glass in Devon but I suspect some churches might dispute that.

The six bells, although the ropes were hung very low, rang very well and I think all enjoyed ringing them. All in all it turned out to be a very good day.

November saw us in Winkleigh and Broadwoodkelly and in December at Drewsteignton and Throwleigh. Thanks to the organisers and the people supplying tea and coffee. Special thanks in December for John Staddon arranging the Christmas Dinner which was held after the ringing at the Post Inn, Whiddon Down. Numbers vary between 25 and 45 and it is a socialable day out with an excuse to ring. The group restarts in March and is always the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Kent Trip

The Ringklies are planning a trip to South East Kent based on a stay at Folkestone. If you are interested in joining us, it will mean a hotel stop from Monday night to Thursday night returning to Devon on Friday. Please contact John Staddon in the first instance by email to john.staddon@nasuwt.net or by post to "Little Anchor", 96 Rivermead Road, Exeter EX2 4RL.

A trip to some memorable towers on the edge of the Weald are planned including a 12 bell tower in a small village!

If you have a list of suitable hotels etc. for bell ringing groups which are known to you, please do inform John as he wishes to publish these names.

Broadclyst

Clyst, like many Devon river names, is Celtic in origin and has similar derivation to the Clyde in Scotland and the Clydach in Wales. The meaning, according to Elert Ekwall (The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names), is probably 'clean stream'. The Clyst in East Devon has given its name to a number of settlements, including Clyst St George, Clyst Hydon and Clyst St Lawrence. Broadclyst was recorded as Glisun in 1006, and Cliston in the 1086 Domesday Book. These spelling meant 'farm on the Clyst'. It took a recognisably modern form in 1372 with Brodeclyste. The 'broad' element, also found in Broadhempston, near Totnes and elsewhere means 'great'.

Proposed towers for 2005

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| March | Lydford | Marystowe |
| April | To be confirmed | Bickleigh |
| May | Whimble | Feniton |
| June | Trip to Kent | |
| July | Dolton/Dowland | Iddesleigh |
| August | Weare Gifford | Bideford |
| September | Chagford | Gidleigh |
| October | W. Alvington/Churchstow | Dod- |
| brooke | | |
| November | St Marychurch | Babbacombe |
| December | To be confirmed | |

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Letter to the Editor—Beaworthy

Dear Editor,

I found the article on exploring the three bell towers in Devon very interesting and agree that they are just as important as the towers with more bells.

I feel sure that one of the towers visited was Beaworthy which has the anti clockwise three bells. Beaworthy parish borders the parishes of Highampton and Northlew. Highampton Church has three bells which are rung regularly. The Church in the village of Northlew has six bells but the other Church which is part of Northlew parish, situated at Ashbury has three bells, unfortunately this Church is redundant and the bells are unringable.

With regard to the wonderful response from the locals, I experienced a similar response earlier this year. Mrs Mavis Watson, Churchwarden and Organist at Beaworthy asked me if I could gather some bell ringers to ring at their flower festival. For normal services the other Churchwarden, Mrs Carolyn Tanner chimes two bells.

A fortnight before the Flower Festival a small band of ringers went to Beaworthy to have a practice session. We were greeted by the Churchwardens and offered tea and coffee. First, we checked the ropes and noted that the second and tenor ropes needed replacing. We then checked the bell chamber and found

that some of the shrouding on the bell wheels was breaking away and that the clappers needed attention. Woodworm were active in the four beams that supported the bell chamber floor, frame and bells.

Unfortunately, we were the bringers of bad news. The two Churchwardens were downcast. We suggested that as we were amateurs, they should contact the local bell hanger for a report. A week later he completed his inspection, made a few adjustments to the headstock bolts and said that the clappers and wheels needed refurbishing, the oak beams needed replacing amongst other things. He said that we could have our practice and that we would be able to ring for the flower festival. The Churchwardens are very determined and said that they would raise the money for the repairs, their aim was to have the bells, etc., repaired and ringing in time for Christmas.

We did our practice on the Wednesday morning, within 10 minutes several local people and some holiday makers came into the Church to express their delight at hearing the three bells ringing. We rang for the flower festival and enjoyed the enthusiasm expressed by the congregation. The bell ringers were Gordon Jennings, David Corthine and myself.

That was in June after which the

bells were silent whilst the repair work took place which included a new middle room floor of oak. With some voluntary help, the bell hanger did what I consider was a budget job which was a great help to the people of Beaworthy Church. It is a Church with a small congregation and limited fund which are hard to come by. The bells were rung on October 3 for the Harvest Festival, the ringers were Gerald Box, Gordon Jennings and David Corthine.

During the summer months if you wish to visit this lovely little Church, Wednesdays are probably the best days as the Churchwardens tend to the beautifully kept graveyard and clean the Church and no doubt would make tea and coffee. I am sure they would be pleased to see you.

Best wishes to Mavis and Carolyn, their determination is an inspiration to us all. Maybe we will be asked to ring again at Christmas.

Brian Singleton.

Church Warden and Bell Keeper.
Germansweek Church

PS.

If anyone wishes to visit Beaworthy Church apart from Wednesday, the Churchwardens would be happy to open up the Church if they are given a phone call first. Telephone nos:- Mavis Watson 01409 221 414 and Carolyn Tanner 01409 221 513. The bell hanger was Peter Bazely of Tavistock.

Novice Competition-Holbeton

The competition was enjoyed by all in fact Ashburton had entered for the first time and their captain stated that they have rung better for the Sunday service following the competition than the tower had rang for ages and stated that he was going to enter the next competition in March? My thanks must go to all the backroom staff who help to make these events possible, the ladies who make the teas the judges, the vicar and of course the people who enter teams, without them we would have no competitions as you know bell ringing is struggling to find new ringers and we need to keep the ones we already have, hopefully this type of competition will help? We are only trying to encourage people to have fun with bellringing in an attempt to

find and keep new ringers for our art. The results of the novice competition that was held on 23.10.04 at All Saints Church Holbeton.

Section 1- Plympton St Mary 14.5

Section 2

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1 Holbeton | 13 |
| 2 Yealmpton | 17.5 |
| 3 Modbury | 20.5 |
| 4 Plympton St Mary | 23 |
| 5 Brixton St Mary | 35 |
| 6 Ashburton | 44 |

We did make up a fun team of ladies at the end who did better than most competing teams as they only scored 17 faults. Thank you for all the help and all the teams are looking forward to next March when J Darke will be holding a novice competition. We must also thank the Rev Tim Deacon for the use of his bells.

John Kelly Down Under

John Kelly BEM, Captain of Paignton, went to Australia last year and will be returning this year. One of his most memorable events was ringing the Swan Bells and he even has the tee shirt to prove it.

John, who only flew for the first time last year, will make the best use of his holiday by combining his steam engine interests with bellringing.

The journey to Australia from England takes about 24 hours and there is a stop on the way.

The Swan Bell Tower holding 16 bells, is a distinctive landmark tower and houses the largest set of "change bells" in the world.

John said that he was made to feel very welcome and that there was a lift, air conditioning along with drinks and requests to return.

60 years of ringing

Two bellringers are celebrating providing sweet music at Lapford Parish Church for the last 60 years. George Tucker, captain of Lapford bellringers and Arthur Westcott, from Nymet Rowland, both started ringing bells at the church when they were in their teens. George, 75, of Posford Way, Lapford, said he joined the bellringers because they were short on numbers ... and stayed! He said: "I thought it looked like a fun thing to do and I was right. It takes a long time to become good at it, at least a couple of years. "I have enjoyed every minute of it and made a lot of friends through bell ringing." As well as ringing the bells on a weekly basis, Arthur also helps with the maintenance of the church by cutting the grass, raising the flag and being a general handyman. He also helps at other towers and trains ringers at Coldridge. Until it was recently changed to electric he used to wind the church clock up every day. The pair were recently presented with certificates from the village to mark their achievement. George said he and Arthur wanted to keep ringing the bells for as long as they could.

Keen Ringers

A ringer made headlines in that he is so keen that he has built a tiny 7ft by 8ft belltower with eight miniature bells so that he can have ringing practices in his garden.

Even more headlines were that on October 2nd 2004 three ringers smashed that record by ringing 50,400 changes on handbells. The band set themselves a task of phenomenal difficulty and physical and mental toughness and determination required to ring for over 17 hours.

Website

John Enderson is continually improving the website and entries can be made via the website. If you wish to have details of your group available to a wider audience, please use the website or alternatively notify the Publicity Officer, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG. Phone: 01803 782591 or email on:

mtwebster@btinternet.com

DEVONSHIRE RINGERS GO WEST

On Friday October 15th, fourteen ringers set off towards Lands End. The Hon Sec was chauffeuring the organiser – Scott Adams. Messrs Trout (Junior), Langdon and of course Clayton were also on board. Trevor from Morthoe was riding with John Phillips. Tony from West Down was chauffeuring Mr and Mrs Fred White and young Herniman. The Bowdens from Kenton were in the 4th vehicle.

We started with a splendid ring of eight at Probus. What a fine tower. These bells go really well. Several needed a Cornish pasty for breakfast, since there was insufficient time to stop for a full English on the way! Mr Clayton would not let us forget this! The hour was soon over. We then headed for the Lizard and had lunch at St Keverne before having a crack at the ten. A respectable job was made of the back 8 and the ten.

Then on we travelled to St Antony – in – Menage. One problem – a lock out! Never mind, the first 8 climbed through the ringing screen. Some ringers were prevented from entering due to their portly shape! See Marg for the photos!

We then rounded off with two sixes – at Ludgvan and St Gwinear. We checked in at our base, which was The Old Quay House Inn at Hayle. A fine meal was served, being washed down with suitable beverage. A good night was had by all. Saturday morn soon arrived. Mr C got his Full English – what a relief! We headed for Paul. What a peal of bells! 14 ½ cwt. six. Proper tone. Will be coming back here again. Then on to the heaviest six in the world at St Buryan. They were already up – we lowered them first – got to rise them to say you've had a proper go. We rose them twice in peal – pretty good effort. Three on the tenor. The tenor rope broke at the start of the second rise – however, Mr C came to the rescue and soon spliced the damage. Saved the day.

Good ales were discovered in the pub at Zennor, where a relaxed lunch was enjoyed by all. Two teams were named by pulling out of a hat and, Gerald and Paul Bowden kindly agreed to judge. A tricky but easy going six. Mr C's team came 2nd!

Then on to Lelant. A bit early so we

needed a tea break. Where do you think we ended up? The West Cornwall Country Golf Club! The Hon Sec had been barred from entry – not for his bad language, but for wearing jeans! Some questions were asked – the barman at the Old Quay House came across young Trout in the WC – I think a little white lie was told about an earlier round of golf that day!

Some of the oldies started ringing before we arrived! What cheats! Gerald and Paul agreed to judge again. The youngest six versus the oldest six. The result was very politically correct – a tie! Under Association Rules, both teams would have been disqualified for ringing under time! Then onto our final tower of the day – Phillack. What a lovely eight. Despite the 'Bucket of Blood' being tempting, we had several enjoyable rings.

Back to Hayle for a spruce up and another good evening of ale and grub.

Sunday morn soon beckoned. Full English all round. Poor waitress was new and burnt the toast! After checking out, we headed for Carbis Bay – not for a dip but to ring for 11 am service. Very light. Mr Adams struggled with the treble. Respectable striking on the 10 and 8.

Back eastwards now to St Cleer. An interesting pub and landlady, but good wholesome hospitality. Past – President Colin Adams and his lovely wife joined us. The tower captain knew his ringing and sited many a character ringer back in Devon – past and present!

On to St Ive. Poorest peal of the trip. Need some attention. Made a reasonable job. Mr H decided to lower in reversal!

A quick stop for tea at Hatt and then onto St Stephen by Saltash. This peal remains one of the best. A rematch between the oldies and youngies was had. Colin and Roger joined the Bowdens to judge. The youngest six drew number one. They had a clinker! The oldies did not disgrace themselves – coming a close 2nd! We then said our good-byes and headed for home.

Thanks to all for their good company.

Thanks to Cornwall for putting up with us. Finally, a big thank you to Scott for his excellent organisation and inviting us all! JJD

Annual General Meeting

The Chairman Mr B Drake opened the meeting and welcomed 59 members to North Tawton. The Rev Brian Ardell said prayers, remembering those that were sick and unable to attend the meeting, especially Mr R Muggeridge of South Brent; and then asked that we remember all those members passed in the last year – Valerie Dummett of Ashreigney, Pete Verney and Ken Raddenbury of Kenn, Dennis Elstone of Broadwoodkelly, Peter Price of Meavy, John Came of Loddiswell Rev Bob Southwood, Edward Punchard of Kingsbridge, Peter Tucker of Ide and Sid Cooper of Belstone.

The Secretary gave his report (see above).

The treasurer Mr Hookway then gave his report (see page 7). The balance sheet was in a very healthy state – greatly assisted by the increased number of affiliations and number of competition entries. Publishing Devon Calls was one of the largest expenditures. He thanked the organisers of the Annual Draw for their sterling efforts. Public liability insurance covered any Association organised event, but not invitation competitions. Mr Hookway proposed and the President seconded that a sum of £2,500 is handed over to the DCBRF this year – this was carried. The Chairman thanked Mr Hookway for all his efforts in the previous 5 years and said that we were all sorry to see him not standing for re-election. The President made a presentation of 6 flute glasses to Mr Hookway.

Past Presidents

The Past Presidents (see photo below) that were still active were then called up individually by the Secretary to receive a 'past president's badge' from the President. These were Mr E Cole (1986), Mr H Pascoe (1991), Mr W Avery (1993) Mr I Hookway (1994), Mrs P Johnstone – the first lady President (1995), Mr J Rhymes (1997), Mr C Adams (1999), Mr M Phillips (2000), Mr H Clements (2001) and Mr G Stevens (2002). The Secretary arranged for Mr Quick from the Crediton Courier to take a group photo of the all the Past Presidents, including the Chairman and 2004 President Mr G Arscott.

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents

The President presented a commemorative plaque to three elected Honorary Life Vice-Presidents – Mr H Pascoe, Mr M Phillips and Mr J Rhymes.

Election of Officers

President—Mr G Arscott
 President Elect—Mr Boucher
 Hon. Secretary—Mr Darke
 Hon. Assist. Sec Mr Ward
 Hon Treasurer—Mrs Gist
 Publicity Officer—Mr Webster
 Training Officer—Mr Trist
 Fund Raising Off.—Mrs Endicott
 Guild Liaison Off.—Mr I Avery
 Devon Ringers Council
 Mr Darke (ex Officio), Mr Trist (Ex St Petrocks Centre), Mr Webster, Mr Bint, Mr C Adams, Mr M Sharland and Mrs Gist.
 D.C.B.R.F Trustees
 Messrs Phillips, Darke & Sharland.
 Central Council Reps

Messrs M Way and P Pascoe.

Committee North

Messrs J Barnes, D Connibear, D Conway, B Drake, J Enderson, M Phillips, C Nicholls, L Quance and C Setheron.

Committee South

Messrs I Avery, G Boucher, J Kelly, B Osborne, R Pengelly, J Rhymes, M Sharland and Ryan Trout.

Chairman—Mr B Drake

Vice-Chair—Mr Ryan Trout

With the exception of the President, President Elect and DCBRF Trustees, all the other elected Officers and Committee will now be in office for a Triennium – next election due in 2007.

Fund Raising Officer Report –

Mr Ward reported on the 2004 Annual Draw that most of the 4000 books were sold. Tremendous efforts meant that there was £2500 available for the DCBRF. He stated that running the draw had been relatively easy – putting this down to all the help that he received.

Devon Ringers Council and Guild Liaison Officers' Report –

Mr Mansley reported that the Devon Ringers CD had now sold out. The CD had raised £3500 for DCBRF – an example of much continued effort from a few people on the DRC. Child protection was topical, with a small group working on it.

Devon Church Bell Restoration

Fund. James Clarke reported that since March 2004 grants had been paid to Filleigh, George Nympton, Heanton Punchardon, Slapton and Teignmouth St Michael. Crediton and Huntsham were about to be paid. New applications had been received from Bridgerule, German-sweek, Hacombe and Ide.

AOB—Tax if paid for ringing

A member reported that bell ringers were going to be liable to taxation for any earnings gained at weddings/funerals.

80th Anniversary Year – 2005

Special commemorative certificates for the 2005 competitions are to be issued which will include the '80th Anniversary'. Other events are to be considered.

Annual Dinner – The Waie Inn on March 19th 2005 will host the annual dinner and dance.

Date of next meeting – Saturday 12th November 2005 at North Tawton Town Hall to mark the 80th Anniversary Year.



Competitions 2005

Novice Six Bell – Tedburn St Mary on Saturday 12th March 2005.
Judges: Messrs C Clayton, S Herniman, J Bint & M Langdon.
Scrutineer Mrs S Ewings.

Eight Bell Festival – Widecombe on Saturday April 23rd 2005.
Judges: Messrs B Drake, M Philips, B Osborne & R Trout.
Scrutineer J Cole.

South Devon Six Bell – Diptford on Saturday May 14th 2005.
Judges: Messrs I Avery, W Avery, P Pascoe & P Pester.
Scrutineer Mrs S Husband.

North Devon Six Bell – West Worlington on Sat 14th May.
Judges: Messrs I Hookway, C Hockin, M Rose & M Way.
Scrutineer Mrs E Stevens.

Minor Final – Monkleigh on Saturday May 28th 2005.
Judges: Messrs J Coulthirst, C Hockin, P Pester & M Poole.
Scrutineer Mrs E Stevens.

Major Final – Meavy on Saturday June 11th 2005.
Judges: Messrs I Avery, B Drake, I Hookway & P Pascoe.
Scrutineer J Cole.

John Caunter dries up

Churchwarden John Caunter has tea towels for sale in aid of Buckland in the Moor church. The tea cloth features the historic clock face, which has 'My Dear Mother' instead of numbers and also a poem.

It stands, a timeless symbol, in an anxious changing land

Our bible is King James and the hymns are Ancient and...

Political correctness seems to somehow pass us by.

We hear it works in cities but it makes us wonder why

They've shed the lovely cadences, the beauty of the true,

Were God and neighbour loved the less in 1662?

The church clock stands at Y to R instead of ten to three

For time is less important here than filial piety.

So Buckland will be faithful to traditions we love best.

Believing souls return to heaven and old bones dug deep, find rest.

Treasurer's report: Accounts ended 30 Sept 2004

| Receipts | £ | Payments | £ |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance b/f | 6168.79 | DCBRF | 2500.00 |
| Interest | 194.78 | Officers' expenses/fees | 86.61 |
| Subs, donations, fees, etc | 835.25 | H.Sec printing & certificates | 264.98 |
| Entry fees | 423.00 | Badges, teas, insurance | 259.76 |
| Badges and guides | 94.50 | Public liability insurance | 250.00 |
| Draw surplus | 2785.79 | Dinner and dance | 907.50 |
| Dinner and dance | 1114.00 | Devon Calls Newsletter | 479.46 |
| | | Balance c/f | 6867.80 |
| | <u>11616.11</u> | | <u>11616.11</u> |

Arthur & Jean's Autumn Tour 2004

An early morning start for many. Claude and Joyce called for me at 5.30am to get to the Mid Devon Coach Station at 7am. With cases stowed away and greetings all done we set off for Exeter and the M5. Sad to say several of our regulars were missing this year and our thoughts were with the families and friends of those who had passed on. This year we welcomed John and Hilary from Shirwell and hope they had enjoyed the tour with us.

Our first stop was at Sedgemoor for a 'fry up' and much needed pot of tea. There was then a 2 hour drive to Beckford Church. A good ring of 6. To me the highlight was the 40-1 scale model of the church made by a man to commemorate his Golden Wedding. You put a pound coin in and the bells would ring and the roof opened up showing the complete model. Inside the organ played, 'All things bright and beautiful', more bells and the roof closes. All money went to church funds. It took 2 years to complete but what a devotion and love to his wife and his church. After lunch at Beckford Inn we rang at two more churches before arriving at The Falstaff Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa, which was our base for the week. After a drawn out evening meal most retired to rest after a long and tiring journey and prepare for an early start the next day. On Tuesday we had five good towers, though some felt ringing at tail ends without a coil a bit scary. Even Barbara and Margaret joined in even though neither were use to ringing eights. Well done ladies! Our first tower on Wednesday was Todington, a light six, but after we all had been on the Gloucester Warwick Steam Railway for a trip. The line has been brought back into use purely by voluntary labour and funds. Even the engine driver, por-

ters, signalmen and the waiters who served us drinks and nibbles gave their time freely to keep the line going. Surely a 'labour of love' and it brought back memories of days gone by. Then onto Winchcombe and Mickleton, both very good eights, before heading back. Again on Thursday, five good towers and our first heavy shower of rain. We had been lucky with the weather and the bells. Friday was 'one for the boys or men'? Stow on the Wold, 27 1/2 cwt tenor but they managed it, before heading off to Bourton on the Water. We had two hours to get a meal and for the ladies to do some shopping, before returning to our hotel for our last evening together. Drinks from Bells, jokes from Roger and laughter from everyone, a perfect end to a perfect week. On Saturday, cases packed and loaded we left the hotel to go to the two churches in Warwick and time to look around before meeting at the 'Crown and Castle' for a carvery. After ringing at 21 towers in the tour, everyone would like me to give thanks. Firstly to Lynette of Mid Devon Coaches and her husband Bruce, our bus driver, for a safe journey. What a good idea to fit a motor scooter in the luggage bay so that Arthur could leave his crutches behind and get nearer to the churches. A good move Bruce! Thanks to Pete our navigator. His detailed maps were a great help in finding and arriving at the churches on time. Next we must thank Claude who kept things moving. Thanks Claude. Finally to Arthur and Jean who arranged the tour. You really excelled yourselves this time. A super tour and well organised and enjoyed by everyone. We do hope Arthur can throw away his crutches next year and be able to ring with us. Thank you both and see you in 2005.

Barbara.

Tedburn St. Mary Competition

This year's competition on the 18th October was held in support of the BBC Chestnut Appeal to build a specialist unit for the treatment of Prostate Cancer in the Southwest.

The competition was well supported by fourteen teams of ringers coming as far afield as Plymouth, Exeter, North Devon as well as locally. The ringing was first class and is a standard that the Tedburn Ringers will aim to achieve in the future.

The winner of the A section for the Tom Coulthirst Shield was Egg Buckland from Plymouth with only 91/2 faults, the cup was won by Mollan with 22 faults. Third place went to Stoke Gabriel with 23 faults. There were a further five teams taking part in this section.

The B section for the Jack Wroth Shield was won by Zeal Monochorum. Kenn took the cup with Ide close behind, a total of six teams in this section.

The ladies, throughout the afternoon provided teas. There was a raffle with a good selection of prizes donated mostly by the visiting teams. The whole event was rounded off by the Tedburn school hand bell team playing a selection of tunes, while waiting for the results to be announced.

The Tedburn Ringers would like to thank everyone who helped to make this competition a success and the event raised £315, which has been donated to the Appeal.

Prostate Cancer is one of the little known cancers but it kills about 10000 males a year. It is called the silent killer as very often people do not realise they have it until it is

diagnosed too late. There is a simple blood test that can be taken which can give an early indication. It is recommended that all males over the age of 55 should see their doctor and ask for a PSA blood test. This may be the action that saves your life.

The hand bell ringers of Tedburn primary school started ringing just over two years ago, as a lunch time club with thirteen pupils from year four class, this has now resulted in a team of eight very keen girls who attend practice every week.

The Tedburn set of hand bells consist of twelve bells tuned to E major, this number is ideal for the girls as it keeps the music played reasonably simple yet allows them to play a variety of tunes.

The team have over this last year played for a number of events and running up to Christmas have been busy going to carol concerts playing to senior citizens in residential homes and at coffee mornings. These activities are encouraged by the head teacher as the schools involvement in the community

The very positive outcome of introducing the girls to hand bells is that three of them are now learning the art of church bell ringing. They are doing very well for their age.

As the whole team will be leaving Tedburn school at the end of the summer term, they have asked to keep the team together as an out of school activity. A new team of year four pupils have now started, so they will take over when the first team go on to comprehensive in September. *Submitted by John Moody.*

Colebrooke Competition Reinstated

On 20th November a ringing competition was held at Colebrooke for the first year since 1995. Sixteen teams took part, competing for the St Andrew's Shield and the Courtney Thorne Memorial Shield. The 'A' Section was won by Eggbuckland with 23 faults, with Exminster second and Down St Mary third. The 'B' section was won by Exeter St Petrocks. An enjoyable day was had despite the appalling weather, with spirits being revived by the provision of a glass of hot punch to each of the ringers, which we intend to make a Colebrooke tradition. We were particularly pleased to have David

Thorne, Courtney's grandson, with us to present the shields and certificates. Thanks to all the teams who supported our first attempt at organising and running a competition, and to Percy Pester and John Coulthirst for ably judging.

We also recently ran a Quiz Night to raise money for work needed on our bells, and again this was well supported by our ringing friends, with a particularly strong contingent from Kenn. These two events have enabled us to raise over £300 for our tower funds. All we need now are more ringers!

Graham Shepherd. Tower Captain.

Monkleigh

MONKLEIGH - Thirteenth Annual Bell Ringing Competition - 6th November 2004. Sixteen teams entered and the competition judges were Helen Robinson, from Pyworthy and Brian Drake, from North Tawton. Dolton kicked off at 2:40pm with Littleham being the last team, finishing at 8:40pm. The rector Penny Dobbin joined us for tea, she expressed appreciation of all ringers for the regular contribution they make to church life and then finished with a short prayer. Many thanks, to Penny and David MacRoberts who kindly allowed the use of their premises for the judges. It has to be said (even though it hurts me) Littleham once again proved themselves to be the best of the Local teams by winning for the seventh time. Mortehoe put in an excellent performance, which ensured their name appeared on the Open shield for the fifth time. They are now one ahead of Egg Buckland who were unable to attend this year, although Margaret feels they would not have stood a chance this year!

Monkleigh's two novice ringers, Barbara and Emma Dart, who only started their ringing careers in June 2003, once again put in a superb showing by winning the Novice section with a very respectable score, proving the results at Dolton and St. Giles "were not a flash in the pan" (go on Emma try a smile).

Open

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| 1 st | Mortehoe | 5½ |
| 2 nd | West Down | 7 |
| 3 rd | Molland | 10 |
| 4 th | South Tawton | 10½ |
| 5 th | Burrington | 17 |
| 6 th | Exeter St. Petrocks | 19½ |
| 7 th | Mariansleigh | 53½ |
| 8 th | Kenn | 79 |

Local

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----|
| 1 st | Littleham | 25 |
| 2 nd | Iddesleigh | 27½ |
| 3 rd | Black Torrington | 33 |
| 4 th | Great Torrington | 36 |
| 5 th | Dolton | 43½ |
| 6 th | Littleham | 85 |

Novice

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----|
| 1 st | Monkleigh | 41 |
| 2 nd | Colebrooke | 67½ |

Practice night is Wednesday for anyone interested in learning or if you are just curious "what's it all about" feel free to join us, contact Clive Ward 01805 622041.

SOUTH POOL TAKES SALLY ON SOUTH HAMS TOUR

A belated half-day trip organised by the Honorary Secretary for his good old Mum's 60th birthday!

On Saturday 23rd October nearly 20 ringers descended on Blackawton. Several congregated in the George Inn for suitable refreshment during dinner time.

At 2pm, we started out to ring at Blackawton. These bells go well. The noise problem has been dampened. The ropes were wiry however. All ringers had a good go and the striking was very reasonable.

We then went onto Halwell. Despite the inexperience in the group, these bells were well handled. Many people are not keen on these bells! The tower captain's grandson came in on the last ring and lowered really well. You have good reason to be proud of him, Edward!

"Mrs Mortimer makes exceedingly good cakes!"

Then on to Diptford. Thanks to the Diptford ringers for providing a cup of tea and special thanks to Sylvia for bringing the buns. It is worth noting that Mrs Mortimer makes exceedingly good cakes! (Not forgetting Mrs Barden's of course).

Finally, we went to South Brent. One of the best rings of 6 in Devon! All ringers enjoyed these bells.

Thanks to David Trist, Norman and Sylvia, Suzanne and Bernie and Pat for supporting us.

The general feedback was very positive. Training in the Woodleigh Deanery is paying dividends. Keep up the enthusiasm – you will all go far. JJD

Richard Merson

The editor was fortunate enough to receive a Christmas Card from Richard who returned to New Zealand and he wishes to thank all the ringers who rang with him whilst he was in Devon. Richard states that he had a wonderful time and will always remember it. He was made very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed all his ringing activities. He is especially fond on Honeychurch with its 3 bells. We all look forward to Richard coming over again and his enthusiasm is an example to us all.

Surprise Boost to Church Bell Fund

A surprise donation of £1,000 has given a big boost to a church appeal to restore its bells after a 20-year silence. The money has come from ex-parishioner Michael Sinden, who used to ring the bells at St Mary's in Atherington in the 1970s.

The sum will go towards the cost of renovating the six bells, five of which are currently in a bell hanger's workshop in Derby.

Local vicar, the Rev John Carvosso, said: "We were deeply appreciative.

"This helps put us on target for the £66,000 we need to restore the bells to good ringing health."

For the past three years a group of villagers has been campaigning to raise interest and money for the project.

It will cost around £26,000 to renovate the bells, of which £18,000 has already been raised locally.

The scheme also involves strengthening the church tower to hold the bells which weigh nearly three-quarters of a tonne. That will cost an extra £40,000.

Five of the bells were removed in July.

The sixth - the tenor - was too large to get down and will be renovated in the tower itself.

When all the work is complete they will be re-hung in a different configuration.

Mr Carvosso added: "We're in the process of setting up a charity called the Friends of St Mary's, whose main object is to restore the bells.

"There's been a church on this spot for a thousand years.

"This is a heritage that we have to pass on to future generations.

"Our small rural community is very much behind the project and I, as vicar, would love to see and hear the bells ringing again before I retire in a few years time."

Mr Sinden, who now lives in North Somerset, used to look after the bell ringing at Atherington with the help of others.

He said that when the restoration work was finished he and his wife Shirley - also a bellringer - would love to come back and ring the bells, perhaps as part of a dedication service.

Chris Hart, at the village shop, is helping to co-ordinate the fund-raising. He can be contacted on 01769-560248.

Chuffed to bits

If you had been in Collaton St Mary church on Sunday 30th May, you would have seen Paul Blight, captain of the bell ringers, presented with a "Footplate Experience" in recognition of his 30 years as Churchwarden at Collaton St Mary. When Paul was appointed as People's Warden and the late John Came as Vicar's Warden they were the two youngest wardens in the area at the time.

The day for Paul's "experience" was Saturday 16 October. He rose excitedly at the crack of dawn to meet the other participants at 9am at Buckfastleigh Station. They toured the sheds and engines and were briefed as to the rules and safety measures when driving a locomotive. Paul's guests and supporters arrived at 11am to join the "experience". This turned out to be a whole day of steaming up and down the track from Buckfastleigh to Totnes.

Two ladies were first to drive and stoke the engine under the careful eye of Driver Bob and Fireman Bob. The two male participants rode in the carriage with the followers and bubbly was uncorked. Paul's vicar and his wife along with Paul's family stood on the platform to wave as they left the station. At Staverton it was all change and the men took over for the ride to Totnes where there was time for a quick photo call and a peep at the work being carried out by a band of volunteers.

It was then all aboard for the return journey to Buckfastleigh where the train pulled over to give the drivers and engine a rest. This allowed everyone a chance to eat their lunch without swaying all over the place. After lunch it was time for another ride, and everyone was well into the swing of things. With the final journey completed, all the temporary drivers bid farewell. The two males staying behind to put the engine to bed! The participants agreed it had been a really wonderful experience and their friends and families had had a day to remember too. Many thanks are due to the efforts put in by the folk at Buckfastleigh, the majority being volunteers, had done everything they could to make it a perfect day.

Paul wishes to say a sincere "Thank you" to everyone who contributed to this very special gift.

John Shebbeare

Tributes have been paid to a man who had a distinguished and varied career. Major John Shebbeare, who died in October, had lived in the parish of Coldridge, near Crediton, for the past 20 years, and spent many weekends in his home there prior to his retirement. He took a great interest in local Devonshire history and was chairman of the Okehampton History Society for many years and Churchwarden and bellringer.

John Shebbeare was educated at Aysgarth Preparatory School, Yorkshire, and Highfield Preparatory School, Hampshire.

He then went to Rugby College, followed by the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, with a view to joining the Indian Army.

He was commissioned in 1939 and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel - but could not take the title with him into civilian life because he had served in the post for less than two years. He was given the substantive rank of Major.

He received the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, Defence Medal and General Service Medal.

After leaving the Army, Major Shebbeare read for the Bar, and joined the family chambers at 5 New Square, Lincoln's Inn. Later he became a legal adviser in the Department of Health.

Having spent much of his life in the Middle East, he applied to be, and was appointed, legal adviser to Binnie Deacon and Courlie in Baghdad, where he spent five or six years, living in a district called Devonshire. Each morning he would swim in the Tigris.

Later he took a course in Arabic at Shemlan in the Lebanon, then applied for a post in the Aden Protectorate, becoming the District Resident in Beihan.

After the British left Aden he wanted to stay in that part of the world, so he wrote to the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. He was summoned for an interview with the Sultan at Sallalah, and was offered a post "as a sort of Home Secretary" travelling around Oman with two Land Rovers, a guard or two, plus drivers and a cook.

After the Sultan died, his successor rearranged his government, and

most of the British advisers were made redundant.

Coming back to England, John Shebbeare took up teaching and started at Little Hampden Manor School.

Not having teaching qualifications, he went to the Lady Spencer Churchill College near Oxford, from which he passed the year's course but he had to do the second year in a state primary school

This he did with great success, then taught until he retired to live permanently in Devon.

He also attended meetings of the Crediton Area History and Museum Society, was a member of the Devon and Exeter Club and joined the local bellringing team at St Matthew's Church, Coldridge, where he was churchwarden for many years. Six years ago he proudly opened the bi-annual Coldridge Village Fete.

On another occasion he surprised many when he had a tent at the fete in which he charged people to see an "otter". The surprise was that the "otter" which they had paid to see was a kettle. Major Shebbeare, who was a bachelor, also enjoyed following the Taw Vale Beagles on foot.

Ken Raddenbury deceased 30th October 2004

Ken was the last of the post war ringers of the Kenn Team who were so successful in competitions around the Devon in the late 50's through to the 70's. He was a true Kenn man having been born in Gissons House on 1st December 1924. He moved with his parents and brother and sisters to Church house that could not have been nearer to the church, when he was 4 years old. He followed family tradition and became a churchwarden for much of his adult life. He was not only a stalwart of the Kenn Bellringers, he also wound the clock at St Andrews for 50 years only giving up during the last two or three years of his life. His falling between the bells when he was carrying out his regular maintenance checks aggravated much of his illness in the 21st century.

He served in Gibraltar in the RAF in the war and then returned to work for some years at the Garton & King foundry in Exeter. He was a keen gardener and in his later work life worked as a gardener. His own

garden at Church House was extensive he spent most days tending it and every Christmas was able to sell numerous Christmas trees.

Among his other favourite times were those he spent as an active member of the Kenn Cricket Club as an accomplished bowler. He was also a keen golfer and skittler, which was his excuse for regular visits to not only the Ley Arms in Kenn but many other hostleries around the County.

He will be remembered for his many exploits in his Red Bubble Car, an investment after his motor cycle accident in the 1960's. A two seater car with no reverse but nevertheless a carrier of many members of his family from Exeter to Kenn when they visited from London - luckily never caught for overloading his two seater with four passengers and all their luggage.

Ken spent a life dedicated to the church and bellringing, he will be missed but appreciated by many in Kenn village and beyond for his contribution to their lives.

Cancer Research

Nicholson Engineering, of Bridport, held an open day on 18 September with the aim of joining in with the town to raise money for Cancer Research. On display was Crediton's set of 10 bells. There is over 6,000 sq ft for the workshops which includes a frame and erection area. Over lunch a barbecue was held which proved to be extremely popular.

Andrew Nicholson had stated that the whole event was a considerable success though tiring for those who were involved. He estimated that over 300 passed through the works that day and that the amount raised was over £500 which was very satisfying.

Among the many facilities offered by Nicholson's is an in-house design service, joinery workshops, precision machining, a smithy, and frame fabrication in steel, cast-iron and hardwood.

There are often in excess of forty bells in at any one time and visitors are always welcome though a prior appointment should be made wherever possible.

Crediton ring out

Crediton residents have noticed the return of a familiar sound on Sunday mornings. For many months, the bell tower at the Church of the Holy Cross has sat in silence while a new peal of ten bells was cast. The silence was broken when more than 350 people gathered to witness Michael Langrish, the new Bishop of Exeter, dedicate the bells at a special ceremony.

"The bells were rung for the first time by Egg Buckland"

The bells were rung for the first time by the Egg Buckland team, the Devon six-bell champions for 2004, who rang the front six. Kingsteignton team, the eight-bell champions in 2004 then rang the front eight. Finally, the Peal of Ten was rung by members of the Cathedral Ringers.

It has been a long, hard slog for volunteers behind the project, who have been helping to raise funds for years. And some of the volunteers were recognised at the ceremony, with commemorative medallions made from surplus bell metal. The Rev Nigel Guthrie says it was an event worth waiting for.

"It went very, very well, it was a fitting ceremony," he said. "The bells sound a lot better than they did before and they are a lot easier to ring." Mr Guthrie also revealed the emotional moment at which he realised the hard work was over.

"I had to say 'let the bells ring out' and there was a short moment of silence before they started to ring and that was very satisfying indeed."

Another man for whom the ceremony was the realisation of years of hard work was Howard Egglestone. Howard was instrumental in fundraising and organising the renewal of the bells and he said: "It was a very special day."

"they liked them so much they couldn't stop"

The church was packed and we literally had people from all over the country.

"The ringers themselves thought the bells were very, very good. "In fact, they liked them so much they couldn't stop and carried on for two hours afterwards!"

Coffinswell and Kingskerswell

St Mary's Church in Kingskerswell has a band of bell ringers who also ring at St Bartholomew in Coffinswell. The bells are rung at 8.30am in Coffinswell and 10am in Kingskerswell each Sunday. Practice is in Kingskerswell each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm, with the exception of August when there is no practice.

Philip Stevens, who is tower captain, said: "We started our band of ringers in March 1987, and prior to that there was no regular band."

Philip has been tower captain since then, and met his wife, Mo, through bell ringing. Philip continued: "The band has 11 adults and four juniors ranging from 12 to 14 years old."

Giving a behind the scenes insight, Philip writes of the St. Mary's Bell Ringers: "The bell ringers perform their art half way up the tower of the parish church hidden away from view. As a result very few people are aware of what ringing entails. The bells are near the top of the tower.

The bells are usually left hanging mouth down and when ringing commences the bells are "rung up". When up, each bell swings a full circle and strikes at the end of each swing as the bell approaches the upright position.

A lot of skill is required to be able to strike the bells evenly. The heaviest bell in the tower (the tenor) is about eight hundredweight (406 kilograms). Considerably more skill is required to ring the tenor at Exeter Cathedral, this weighing 72 hundredweight (3.7 tonnes)! There are two ways of changing the order of the bells. The first way is call-change ringing where only pairs of bells change at any one time, the calls being made by the ringing master. This is the predominant style of ringing in the West Country and Devon in particular. The second way is method ringing, which operates by altering the sequence of the bells on every stroke of the rope according to predetermined patterns (methods). Our main task is of course to ring prior to the main church service each Sunday to call people to worship and to remind everybody that a service is about to take place. In order to be able to do this well, we practise each week on Wednesday evenings (yes, you may have heard us!). It is a chance for

learners to gain experience and for more experienced ringers to improve (that's the theory anyway!).

Like any activity, in order to keep people involved it has to be enjoyable. Apart from the social aspects where people from all walks of life come together on equal terms, once you have learned to ring you are able to attend local practices at other towers and other meetings organised by the local ringing association. The more ringing you do and the more different towers you ring in (every one is different) the quicker and the more you learn. You will also be made welcome in most other towers in the country (there are about 5,500 altogether). In our tower we have two outings each year to other towers and an annual dinner.

We welcome visiting bands from other areas, take part in striking competitions and ring at weddings.

We also ring at Coffinswell as some of our ringers only ring at Coffinswell on Sundays, we really could do with more ringers. It is suitable for most people of any age with two provisos: size (say eight years old and over) and being able to manage 37 steps to the ringing chamber.

Whether you are interested in learning to ring or not, please do visit us on Sunday mornings, or Wednesday evenings to see for yourselves what we do."

He said: "The ringers of Coffinswell have no lie-in on a Sunday morning as they start ringing the church bells at 8.30am. There are six bells in the tower, the heaviest weighing 11cwt. 5 lbs (bell weights are always shown in imperial measurements).

Two of the bells were cast in the late 15th century and have Latin inscriptions and are particularly fine castings. Another bell is dated 1626. There used to be only five bells in the tower, and it is exactly 100 years ago in 1904 that a sixth bell was added. The bells used to be rung from the ground floor, but are now rung from a new balcony overlooking the church. This was built nearly five years ago and makes the bells easier to ring and enhances the back of the church considerably."

Anyone who would like further information or is interested in learning to ring at Kingskerswell, Coffinswell or any other tower can contact Philip on 01803 873562.

Competitions

Novice

12 March at Tedburn St Mary

Eight Bell

23 April at Widecombe

Six bell qualifiers—14 May

South at Diptford

North at West Worlington

Minor Final

28 May at Monkleigh

Major Final

11 June at Meavy

Correspondence to the Secretary

Huntsham had sent an invitation to the Secretary for the Devon Association to ring on January 10th 2005 after the dedication service. The current eight bell winners Kingsteignton would be asked to represent the Association.

The second correspondence was information about the Ringers Roadshow on Saturday 10th September 2005 at Newbury Racecourse.

Huntsham rededication January 10th

Ringers Roadshow

Saturday 10th

September

Newbury Racecourse.

The Association's Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monochorum on 19th March 2005. Please support this event.

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Treasurer

The new treasurer is Mrs Janice Gist, Barries Corner, 5 St Giles in the Wood, Torrington EX38 7JQ. Please ensure that all subscriptions and competition entry fees are up to date. All cheques payable to Devon Association of Ringers.

Editor

The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the view of the Association. Any articles, comments to: The Editor, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG. 01803 782591 or via Email: mtwebster@btinternet.com

Notices

The AGM will be held on Saturday 12 November at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm

The annual affiliation fees due on or before the AGM will be £5. In addition the competition fees will be £1.50 a rope, being £9 for 6 bell towers and £12 for 8 bell towers.

Any bellringing clothing or badges can be obtained from Janice Gist 01805 624690.

Badges are available from the Secretary at a cost of £3.00

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