



Founded 1925

President—Mr Gerald Arscott

DEVON CALLS

Oct 2005

Vol 1 Issue 17

Special points of interest:

- Honeychurch
- Time running out
- To judge or not to?
- League tables
- Ringers' Roadshow

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RING FOR YOUR CHARITY

Gidleigh are hosting a one off five bell festival on Saturday 10 July 2006. Prize money of between £1,500 and £2,000 will be available and additionally other towers maybe open for ringing. The intermediate and senior section will follow the service. A meal will be available in the village hall followed by the prize giving. If this event is over subscribed teams will be selected on their reasons for choosing their particular charity. Further details will be available nearer to the time. *Chris Smallwood 01647 432200.*

Ivor Treeby

The funeral of Ivor, of Plymstock, took place on 20th September and his brother in law, the Reverend Brian Lay gave the address which is reproduced inside. Ivor, a well known figure throughout Devon was not able to ring for the past few years due to ill health. Read more about his life on page 2.

Trafalgar

Trafalgar Day is Friday 21st October 2005. Will your tower be ringing to celebrate this occasion? See inside for more.

Devon Association AGM

The 71st Annual General Meeting will be held at the Town Hall, North Tawton on Saturday 12th November 2005 at 2.15pm. The Agenda and minutes should accompany this publication. Please make every effort to attend especially as there will be a photograph to record this event. Subscriptions were due from 1st October 2005 and a notice is also attached to enable you to pay by post if you wish.

Officers will give their reports to the AGM and will be available to answer any questions. Competition venues for 2006 will be decided.

Teas will be available immediately after the AGM in the Mortimer Rooms of St Peter's Church and the bells of St Peter will be available for any ringers wishing to ring.

There are a limited number of 80th Anniversary Mugs available. These will be on sale on the day!

Richard Merson on bells

Richard Merson, a missionary, now in New Zealand, spent some time in the UK last year. He, as a bellringer has now given his thoughts on how the bells and bible are connected. He has entitled his article, The Background of Bell Ringing. He starts that if all the bells in England were rung at one time, remarked Bishop Latimer in 1552, there would scarcely be a single spot where a bell would not be heard. He was referring to the ease to which the population could be warned in the event of an invasion from the sea. It was a comment on the number of churches with bells that had existed

in pre-reformation England.

Devon is the most thickly populated county in England for church bells and they play a large part in the worship of God, or they should. It is not always understood what part they play in the service of the worship of the Almighty God.

There is much information about the number of bells, light to heavy and the different styles. But I will use the simplest example of all of change ringing and that is rounds on three bells. Personally, I learnt to ring 60 years ago, on three bells that were later augmented to four. *Continued on page 4*

Ivor MacDonald Treeby R.I.P.

Address given at his funeral in the church of St Mary and All Saints, Plymstock on Tuesday 20th September 2005 by the Revd. Brian Lay

We are saying farewell to this world today to an old friend and familiar figure to so many – to myself as his brother in law, when he called me on the phone he always said, hello, brother in law. Yes I married his sister and met him first when I first met Helen in 1968 – 37 years ago – so I've known him for nearly half of his life. He would come with the family to Belhus Park in Essex where I was a curate and he once said he felt sorry for me as it was "fifty to one" (The Treebys are a large family). Now it's fifty-one were all one – along with his giddy aunt as well, a saying Ivor often used.

Ivor is still part of our family parted from us by sight, but still with us in love. The personality is the real us – the real Ivor – the part that links us with God in this world, and we trust our lives with Him in the next. When someone is very ill, as Ivor was, the body suffers – it is frail, but the personality – the smile in Ivor's case still shines forth.

Ivor was the eldest of four children of Mac and Marjie Treeby: now sadly only two – Helen and Raymond remain. First of all we give thanks for Ivor as a loving husband – to Stella, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and friend to so many. He was born at Holbeton, where appropriately, Granny Treeby was a midwife. Stella tells me that they knew each other from the age of four or five, they attended the Church Youth Club and went dancing together and their families were known to each other. He and Stella were married for fifty-one years and brought five children into the world though sadly one, Mark, died when he was twelve year old.

He attended Goosewell and Plymstock schools and on leaving Ivor went to work at the Co-op Grocery. This was interrupted in 1949 by National Service, serving not in far Malaysia like Raymond but in Basingstoke and Colchester. Back to the Co-op and then to John Williams which later became "Heavy

Transport" and finally as a driver to ECLP which became ECC (I used to think it stood for Essex County Council), English China Clay of course. Retiring from there he worked for the Co-op funeral service (along with his brother Raymond) where he was loved and held in high regard. Then sadly he had to retire again due to ill health.

Ivor was a great Churchman. How appropriate that today is the forty first anniversary of my ordination as a priest in Wakefield Cathedral and Ivor was a strong layman in what we call the "priesthood of all believers". Three and a half years in the Sunday School, five years in the choir, forty years as a server, latterly as Master of Ceremonies. Two terms as Church Warden. During some of this time Ivor was involved in the construction of the "Memorial Chapel" later St George's Chapel – and of course he was a ringer. He became Captain of the tower at Plymstock church early 1977 – he had been Captain for a period earlier, taking over from Jack Hlyne and sadly had to give up three years ago. His nephew Paul is now Captain and other family members – brother Raymond and son John are also ringers as was Ivor's father. As well as their faithful duty here at Plymstock church, Ivor and the other ringers enjoyed taking part in competitions on Saturdays throughout Devon. They were often the winners and I am told enjoyed the celebrations perhaps forgetting their long journey home! They also enjoyed meeting with other church members and friends in the Plymstock Inn after the Sunday Service.

Apart from his last illness, he spent nine months in Didworthy Sanatorium with TB in 1969. During his last illness, Ivor still often managed his smile, the smile of welcome – following in his father's footsteps – and a former organist, Michael Mytton, remembers his jet black hair on his way up to the tower with that friendly greeting. He was always helpful: he has a great sense of duty and he was a stickler for punctuality, often criticising his sister Helen for being late! When she said to him – only a fortnight ago, this is Brian who takes time over funerals, he replied, "you can say that again".

He enjoyed holidays, especially the cruises his family and friend, Dennis had gone on in the last few years – especially too, visits to Oberammergau and the Holy Land.

It was wonderful that when Fr. David Waller took him his communion despite his illness, he joined in very well with the responses. Fr. Robert Coates of Bexhill and Fr. Peter Morgan at Honicknowle are offering masses for him today and a member of the Plymouth Pilgrimage is lighting a candle at the Holy House at Walsingham.

When someone has been so ill, like Jesus on the Cross, we say "why". (Raymond would want me to say this one!) Let us share our whys with Him; Jesus died on the Cross – let us share Ivor's death with His, Jesus rose again: may Ivor rise to new life. All of you there, rather than me up here knew Ivor better. We thank God for his life on earth and commend him to the glory of heaven. May he rest in peace and rise in

George Retter

George Retter of Clyst Honiton passed away on 6th October. A quarter peal was rung to his memory in the evening at Clyst Honiton.

DCBRF

The Secretary of the Bell Restoration Fund is now Ian Smith (contact details below) but Mary Mears is retaining the post of Treasurer. So donations and queries re grant cheques, etc., should still go to her but all other enquiries and correspondence, including applications for grants, should now be sent to Ian.

New Secretary, Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

Mr Ian V J Smith

Church Cottage

Mary Tavy

Tavistock

Devon PL19 9PR

Tel. 01822 811071

Email

ianvsmith@supanet.com

John Kelly raises money on his birthday

John Kelly BEM was 70 this year and celebrated his birthday by raising over £400 for Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge and enjoying himself and treating his guests to a special event. The treat was a train ride from Buckfastleigh to Totnes and return, twice. On the train, guests were treated to furnishings that were for royalty. The carriages were authentic and still have the separate easy chairs around the tables, four on one side of the carriage and two on the other. John's guests were also treated to a buffet along with an excellent course of sweets. Guests included staff from Dame Hannah Rogers who gave a speech thanking John for the Paignton Handbell ringers being the longest serving fund raising group. Little did they know that this event was also raising money from John's guests and he was able to present the donations after the speeches.

Celebratory ring

John Kelly's birthday started early with a day of ringing around South Devon. The first tower was at 10.00 at Ipplepen with guests arriving from all over Devon. After some splendid striking and a visitor, returning from buying a newspaper the party went to Marlton. This heavy six was a challenge and proved to be thirsty, or was it that the pub was on the way to the car park? The next tower was John's home tower at Paignton. Time allowed for a drink in between the rings, but the local pub was having the kitchen refitted! The last ring of the day was at Totnes, the heaviest eight in Devon. The rise was to be remembered, and the peal caused comments from the townsfolk as to why can't all the ringers coming to that tower do not ring that tune. A quick explanation as to the ringers ringing slower changes caused some confusion. Peter Phillips, the Captain joined in the ring and the peal finished on a fine lower. The day finished in the King William IV public house nearby watching the sports results...and a few beers to make up the lost energy in dealing with the rise and lowers of the day.

Exeter St Mark Augmentation Project—eight bells to ten

Matthew Hilling thanks all who helped, stewarded or came along to support the open day on 1 October with 27 towers ranging from Buckfastleigh to Torbryan being available, or in aid of the augmentation project at St Mark's, Exeter. A total profit on the day was £927. A brilliant result.

For those interested, the new bells are being cast in November and being installed by Andrew Nicholson at the end of January. Anyone is always welcome to join the practice night on a Wednesday or on a Sunday morning. Please contact Matthew Hilling for further information.

The current bells are comprised of the six bells from St John's, Fore Street Hill and two new bells donated in 1949. They were dedicated by the Bishop of Crediton on 28th April 1951. These bells are tonally excellent and of a good weight for teaching purposes. They are much in demand for peals and quarter peals - and practice nights have always been well attended acting as a magnet for those wishing to progress to 'the difficult stuff'. So what is needed in Exeter is a suitable tower where ten bell ringing can be practised in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.... St Mark's is the ideal place for this.

The Cost: How you can help

St Mark's are looking to raise something in the region of £25,000 in total. This will include the casting of two new bells and all the work connected with installing them in the tower - including the labour. Unfortunately they have to include VAT. This sounds like a lot of money, but it can be broken down into smaller chunks, details are available.

Can you help with a contribution, no matter how small? For further details of how to make a donation please contact St Mark's, Exeter.

Mid Week Ringers - "Ringklies"

The Ringklies have certainly be going from strength to strength. The July towers were Dolton and Dowland in the morning. Dowland was a new tower for many of the ringers and for a short while we were in competition with organist who wanted to practise for a forthcoming wedding. The organist delayed the practise after discovering that the hoard of bellringers would shortly be dispersing to Iddesliegh for a fine lunch and a ring at the church afterwards. August saw the Ringklies in Weare Gifford for the morning. A superb venue and superb weather. A long journey for some but well worth the effort. Claude had organised the meal in Bideford and it was a superb carvery. Cars were left in the Hotel's car park and many made the short walk across the bridge to Bideford church.

The September venue was changed to ring at Mannaton The BBC Radio Devon had a roadshow at the village hall and some ringers found time to see the exhibition and ensure that the Ringklies got coverage on the radio. Lunch was at Mannaton and was thorough enjoyed. The afternoon was spent ringing at Chagford. Well done to Chris Clayton for arranging this event.

What is a Ringkly?

Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be retired—just time available to join us on the second Wednesday of each month, other than January and February.

We normally have one tower in the morning, with a 10.30 start, along with tea and biscuits and another tower in the afternoon with each individual probably ringing two to three times at each tower. Lunch is usually in a nearby pub—and we have had some splendid lunches. We normally have between 30 and 50 ringers turn up each month.

Proposed towers for 2005/6

November	St Marychurch	Babbacombe
December	Newton Abbot area but to be confirmed	
March 2006	Holcombe Burnell	Tedburn St Mary

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Richard Merson on bells, the bible and Honeychurch *(continued from page 1)*

I would point out the lightest bell is the treble which leads the ringing; this is followed by the second and then the tenor, which is the third bell. This is the deepest and usually the heaviest. The three bells I am going to refer to the scripture as what I see from the scriptures. We see a lot of types and shadows of the number three, for instance Jesus Christ, who is the word of God, said, I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the father but by me. So Jesus Christ is the way, the minister, the sent one, sent down by God to bring us a revelation. He came down a revelation of Himself, who is the truth and who is the life.

Jesus Christ was the preacher, the great high priest, and we read that the high priest who ministers in Exodus Chapter 28 v 33-35, had a gown, cape, or outer garment that was woven in one piece, and at the bottom there was a bell and a pomegranate. We see that the bell, because it sounds, it comes first, and then the pomegranate, that speaks of fruit.

With our Saviour there is a teaching and preaching and followed up by good acts or a righteous living. We, as Christians, who follow the Lord Jesus Christ, have been made priests, to serve him, to minister and we also, have to, not only do we have to testify what Christ has done for us and to minister the gospel, but we are to have the fruits of the spirit which is love, joy, peace and suffering. Jesus said, a new commandment I give unto you that ye shall love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man other than this, than a man laid down his life for his fellow man.

If we show love, then we show the world that Christianity has something to offer. If we do not have the love of God, the world has a perfect right to say that we are false and we have nothing to offer. In the teaching of Jesus Christ, not only does he teach but the teaching that he gives, as he tells us in Mark 3, 34-39 and Luke 9 23-27 that Jesus said to his disciples, unless a man denies himself and picks up his cross and follows me, he cannot be my disciple. The cross speaks of death. Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life. True Christian life springs out of death. Unless a person is prepared to die to self his own self-interest, his own self-importance, takes up his cross and follows Christ and prefers others to self, he cannot be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. But it is also out of death that Jesus

Christ came to life. And as we die in him we also will have life. Jesus Christ said that unless a seed of wheat falls into the ground it abides alone. But if it falls into the ground and dies it brings forth much fruit, so it is with bell ringing. If we, as bell ringers, do not find new people and teach them, and are prepared to spend hours teaching them, the art of bell ringing will die a death.

Unfortunately, today many are selfish with their bell ringing. I have travelled quite widely and I have noticed that there are many ringers who all they want to do is glorify their own satisfaction. They do not care about the church, or the worship of the church. It is for them and they go round and round and what do they produce? Many ringers in Devon will know what I am talking about. We see from the point of worship, bells play a very important part. If we go to Samuel 2, chapter 6 especially verse 5, we see the word, symbols, which is bells. In the worship, King David, when they brought the Ark where the presence of God was, dwelling between the cherubims, they put the players of the instruments and the last on were the symbols, which were the bells. So bells play an important part in church bell ringing or in the service.

In the service, we are to use the bells to call people to church. When heard, people will come to church. In the West of England, years ago, in my Great Grandfather's time and onwards, my Great Grandfather from Holcombe Rogus, on the Somerset boundary, and there in the afternoon the parish priest would go into church at a certain time and ring the treble bell. People working in fields, would stop and know that there was prayer and reading of the bible in the church. Villagers would go in to receive instruction from the word of God and pray and join in fellowship, although I am not sure if this is still held. Also with the bells, the treble is the 5 min bell. The bells go up in peal and alerts the people up. They have time to prepare and go to church. If they are late, the bells will be lowering in peal, the treble bell then rings on for 5 minutes and the people must hurry to sit in church and be prepared for the service. Last of all, the minister preaches, and we are priests and we in 1 Peter, chapter 1 v 15 we are told we are a holy people separated to the Lord and told in 2, v.5 and 2, v.9 that we are a royal priest-

hood, therefore we must have the bells sounding in our lives and also to produce the fruit.

In our last days we talk of death, after the death of this life, when the Great Millennium comes, then the perfect times comes. We read this in Zachariah when the nations that turn against God's people will be judged, in Zachariah 14, you can read what is going to happen when the Millennium time comes and in verses 16-20 there is going to be upon the horses, bells, and there is going to be holiness unto the Lord. I would like to stop now and hope that what I have said will be a help to you. I have a little bit more. I started my talk on three bells and want to finish where I have started. An information sheet, I have refers to Honeychurch, where there are three bells and they are rung regularly, I think this is excellent. I have been going to the library in New Zealand and have read history books on churches and Honeychurch comes up again and again. Honeychurch, is referred to as one of the smallest churches, it is one of England's atmospheric churches. People have been known to go there and find peace and there is something they cannot explain. There is a mystery with the church, the door is always left open and when I was in England a few months ago, I made sure I went there. I have rung the bells and also at the Cathedral, Dunsford, Kingsteignton, Widecome in the Moor, North Devon, Somerset, but with a great blessing I rang at Honeychurch, I believe and can anyone tell me the secret of the little church in Honeychurch? It has stood there for so long, and the bells have been there so long. People such as Paul Pascoe, Michael Mears and Ian Avery have said, that they are not easy bells to ring; many have gone there and tried to ring and found that they are very difficult. If any of you are passing that way, if you ring or not, take a visit to the little church of Honeychurch. You will find that the head of the church there, who is the Lord Jesus Christ, said these words, come unto me all you who travail and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. You will find a peace and a rest if you will give yourself not only to bell ringing but also to the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find that he will give you life and give you an assurance of life. What I have received in Christ? I am a preacher of the gospel; it is my desire to see people turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

Time running out

As part of the Association's 80th anniversary, Jereme Darke, Secretary, is hoping to put together a history and memorabilia booklet. There must be a number of long standing members who will still have a full memory of past Association activities and he wants to include as many memories and stories as he can. As a start Jereme has tabulated the Association's minutes from 1929 to 2004. He states that members of the Association are best qualified to provide the information and he wants to capture the knowledge of the more senior members before it is too late.

Jereme asks that members search out old documents, rules, newspaper articles and photographs to compile a history of the Association's first 80 years while memories are still there. Jereme says that there is a wealth of information with towers and members that has not been properly recorded. Time is running out and that unless we record it soon, it may disappear for ever.

There has already been a good response with cups, shields, minute books and newspaper articles on display at the Annual Dinner and Dance and the Major Final at Meavy. This is a special appeal and former members now living elsewhere may be able to provide valuable information.

Many of us have heard from others and this has provided us with fascinating information.

Any memorabilia and photographs will be copied and returned quickly. Your information will provide a living history that hopefully will be captured for future generations to read. Please contact the Secretary.

Website

Any www surfers will have noticed the transformation of the website. When you log onto www.devonbells.co.uk you are met with the sound of some very pleasant striking. It does not stop there, going through the pages, registered members can make entries onto the diary to record their tower events. There is a news page where you can be updated by the latest competition results. This newsletter is also available online in its printed format. The advancements are thanks to our hard working webmaster, John Anderson.

Update league table

Last season I produced two league tables of the most regularly competing teams in Devon. As this was met with interest amongst the people I spoke to around the county, I have produced same tables for this season, based on the results up to and including the competition at South Brent on July 2nd.

As the scheme used to calculate the results has been published in the July '05 'Devon Calls', I will not go into these details here. So far this season there have been 12 competitions with published results, and 52 teams have entered.

As this is for the first half of the season, qualification for the tables is to have rung in 3 or more competitions instead of the usual 5.

Table 1: Average faults

1 Egg Buckland	15.4
2 Dunsford	18.69
3 West Alvington	24.47
4 Morthoe	27.58
5 South Brent A	29.2
6 West Down	29.72
7 Iddesleigh	32.42
8 Drewsteignton	32.5
9 Collaton St Mary	36.21
10 Exeter, St Petrock	36.63
11 Exminster	37.89
12 Down St Mary	37.95
13 Stoke Gabriel	38.18
14 North Bovey	38.28
15 Mariansleigh	42.5
16 Sampford Courtenay A	43.83
17 Lamerton	44.53
18 Holbeton	47.25
19 South Tawton	58.7
20 Widecombe-in-the-Moor	59.17
21 Colebrooke	62.53
22 Ide A	68.29
23 Sampford Courtenay B	69.67
24 South Brent B	95.56

Table 2:

Average finishing position

1 Dunsford	2
2 Egg Buckland	2.29
3 West Alvington	2.4
4 Exminster	3.67
5 Stoke Gabriel	3.86
6 Exeter, St Petrock	4
7 Sampford Courtenay A	4
8 South Brent A	4.2
9 West Down	4.33
10 North Bovey	4.33
11 Mariansleigh	4.33
12 South Tawton	4.8
13 Morthoe	5.25
14 Sampford Courtenay B	5.33
15 South Brent B	5.33
16 Down St Mary	5.4
17 Holbeton	5.8

18 Collaton St Mary	5.83
19 Drewsteignton	6
20 Lamerton	6
21 Widecombe-in-the-Moor	6.5
22 Iddesleigh	7.67
23 Colebrooke	8.5
24 Ide A	9

The most significant thing to note is that Dunsford have knocked Egg Buckland from first place in the average position table (table 2). This suggests that for the early part of the season, Egg Buckland are not the most consistent and Dunsford are challenging them more frequently.

Number of competitions entered:

7 Egg Buckland, Exeter St Petrock, Stoke Gabriel
6 Colebrooke, Collaton St Mary
5 Down St Mary, Holbeton, Lamerton, South Brent A, South Tawton, West Alvington
4 Dunsford, Ide A, Morthoe, Widecombe-in-the-Moor
3 Drewsteignton, Exminster, Id-desleigh, Mariansleigh, North Bovey, Sampford Courtenay A, Sampford Courtenay B, South Brent B, West Down.

A response from Paul Pascoe: I also have some cards with some of the statistics from the late 70s and early 80's which were done for personal use about 20 yrs ago but in a similar vane.

It may be useful to collate the past with the last few years and come up with a league table of say the last 50 years - I certainly know where a lot of records exist.

Yarcombe progress

On Tuesday 9th August, our Honorary Secretary was invited back to Yarcombe to assess the progress since their last training evening around 12 months ago. This tower is one of the most easterly-situated affiliated towers in the county and houses a tricky, heavy set of bells on plain bearings. This friendly and progressive band is lead by Ruth Everett. Although the team is struggling to rise the six in peal, the standard of their top ringing has improved a lot. There were enough ringers present to make up two teams. Well done Yarcombe and keep up the good progress.

Jereme Darke

Results

Widcombe in the Moor 6th August 2005

1. Eggbuckland	11 ½
2. Lamerton	38
3. Exeter St Petrock	46 ½
4. South Tawton	48
5. South Brent	50
6. Dunsford	52
7. Buckland in the Moor	53 ½
8= Chagford	54 ½
8= Stoke Gabriel	54 ½
10. Burrington	56
11. West Alvington	56 ½
12. Collaton St Mary	71
13. North Bovey	84

South Tawton 3rd Sept 2005.

A Section	
1. Burrington	12 ½
2. Morteohoe	16
3. Egg Buckland	20
4. South Tawton	29
5. St. Petrocks	32
B Section	
1. Zeal Monachorum	45
2. Sampford Courtney	49
3. Spreyton	54 ½
4. Mariansleigh	56
5. Ide	68 ½
6. Monkleigh	75
7. Warkleigh	

Cadbury Deanery held at Sand- ford on 17 September 2005

A Section	
1. Down St. Mary	33 ½
2. Zeal Monachorum	34 ½
3. Lapford	47 ½
4. Colebrooke	49 ½
5. Sandford	62 ½

Intermediate Section

1. Down St. Mary	11 ½
2. Sandford	13 ½

Round Ringing Section

1. Sandford	10
2. Zeal Monachorum	10 ½

Iddesleigh 24 September 2005

A Section	
1. Egg Buckland	11
2. Down St. Mary	14
3. Morthoe	15
4. East Anstey	23
5. Littleham	25
6. Iddesleigh	27
7. Burrington	29
8. West Down	No Result

B Section

1. Sampford Courtney	32
2. Mariansleigh	41
3. St. Giles	64
4. Monkleigh	80
5. Lydford	95
6. Little Torrington	99
7. Dolton	105

Newton Abbot, Ipplepen and Torbay Deanery (NAIT)

Deanery Festival held on 24 Sep-
tember 2005 at St Marychurch.

1. Paignton A	25 ½
2. Kingsteignton A	32
3. Kingsteignton B	39 ½
4. St Marychurch	41
5. Paignton B	78

Deanery Carol Service at Upton on
15 December 2005

Three towers competition will be
held on 18 March 2006 (no rise or
lower).

South Devon 8 Bell held at Moretonhampstead on Satur- day 1st October 2005

Overall faults / Top ringing faults

1 Kingsteignton	10 ½	5
2 Exeter Cathedral	23 ½	13 ½
3 Eggbuckland	25	18 ½
4 Buckland in Moor	27 ½	14 ½
5 Kingsbridge	40 ½	21 ½
6 Lamerton	41	25
7 South Brent	54	25
8 Stoke Gabriel	57	38 ½
9 Moretonhampstead	68	43
10 Widcombe in Moor	110	88

Ringling Holiday

The Ringkly Ringers are organising a trip to Birmingham from Monday 5th to Friday 9th June 2006. The hotel will be at the Norfolk Inn, at Edgbaston. There are 40 towers within a fifteen mile radius of the Hotel including Birmingham Cathedral. This area extending to Solihull, Dudley and Walsall this will give ample opportunity to find fifteen towers to fill Tuesday to Thursday. Hopefully there will be two or three towers on the Monday and on the Friday travelling to and from Birmingham. The cost will be £220 a person and this includes the hotel, coach, tower fees gratuities and insurance. If you have your own insurance it will be less.

A deposit of £25 should be made to John Staddon, 96 Rivermead Road, Exeter, EX2 4RL by the Ringkly meeting on November 9th at Torquay (see page 3).

Any cheques should be made payable to "Ringkly Ringers".

This is an annual event and has proved very successful. If you are interested in this trip, please contact John as soon as possible.

Germanweek

On Monday 25th July the Germanweek ringers joined the Bratton Clovelly ringers to celebrate Gerald Box's 80th birthday. Prior to going to the Clovelly Inn for the celebration party the ringers joined Gerald in the ringing room at Bratton Clovelly Church and all had a ring with him. Then to the Clovelly Inn where more friends were waiting to congratulate him. He was presented with a framed picture of Steeperton Tor from the Germanweek ringers and also a framed photo of Bratton Clovelly Church in recognition of his outstanding commitment to bellringing. Gerald has been ringing for 60 years, helping out at different towers when required. He is well known throughout the ringing fraternity for his friendliness, always prepared to stop and talk to anyone he meets. He has been a great help at Germanweek taking the treble bell and conducting the band of ringers. We wish him many more years of happy ringing. All the best Gerald for the future from the Germanweek Bell Ringing Club, Clair, Heather, Cristine, Sue Nigel, Gordon, David, Tim, Philip and Brian.

Broadhempston

Broadhempston tenor is out of action due to wheel and floor damage by woodworm. It is likely to be out of action for several weeks. In the mean time ringing continues as normal ringing the front five. Staverton bells have been almost silent for Sunday services for some time and now has no captain. Sheila Beare (sheila@staverton.com) is the tower correspondent in the interim until a new captain is appointed.

Broadhempston and Staverton ringers are combining their practice nights to assist the new comers at Staverton. The combined practice night is now Mondays starting on the 17th October at Broadhempston. The following week will be at Staverton. It would be best to check with me before attending a practice night for the venue. The combined force will ring for Staverton services as and when they can. We look forward to the support of experienced ringers during this time. *Graham Pascoe.*

Network for training

Just to let you know that at the last Central Council meeting I was elected to the Education Committee. At our last committee meeting we discussed the Network for Ringing Training (NRT) and decided to investigate regional usage and possible activities. I was given the job of investigating the South West area. My early findings are that the use of NRT in this area is very much in clusters - mainly near ringing centres. It was felt that it was important to increase the coverage of the region - hence this contact.

NRT was designed as a way of spreading good practice and supporting those involved in training ringers. Its main tool at present is a discussion list. This is mainly available to email users but a digest is regularly sent to members who do not have email facility. This allows full discussion of training related topics. At present it is used sporadically but to good effect. Many of the discussions relate to topics of equal interest to Call Change ringers as method ringers (e.g. bellhandling, raising & lowering, etc.) An expansion of membership would increase the use and usefulness of the service. It is also hoped that a support network "on the ground" will be more used if we can increase membership. At present Worldwide membership is about 450.

I am contacting you all as I know you are involved with training and will also know others who have an interest in it. I would urge you to consider joining NRT and to discuss it with others who are interested in training.

More information can be found on the CC Ed Committee website on: <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/edc/edc.php#nrt>

If I can help in any way please let me know. It would be really pleasing if we can build up a strong network here in the Southwest which could improve training and be a resource for all involved with training ringers for the future.

Martin Mansley
Torquay
01803 314059

Auntie's Weekend in Bristol

Chagford's 14th annual ringing weekend took place 19-21 August and Mervyn Langdon and Chris Clayton arranged the events.

The accommodation was the Novotel near to the City Centre and this has set a difficult standard for others to follow. There were a number of nearby public houses that offered real ales at a cheaper price.

Some had a very early start to the day on the Friday. Whether this was the excitement or fear over missing the weekend was never explained.

There was the customary breakfast stop where some were to start as they meant to carry on.

The ringing started at Dursley, a fine peal of eight bells. Others not already on the coach were able to join us there. This was the start of a busy day. We then rang the ten bells at Berkeley followed by lunch in the pub where the coach had parked as this was the only parking available. This was an opportunity for some of the party to try the local brew.

The ringers travelled at Wotton-under-Edge and onto a nine hundred-weight, six at North Nibley. A splendid recast in 1999 and a new ringing floor installed in 2001. The ringers met us with tea and sponge cake. We then headed towards the City Centre for the final ring of the day at Almondsbury.

The hotel was new and clean and we certainly felt spoilt. There was some confusion with the number of rooms and some people offered to double up, but we will not give details unless requested!

The evening meal was spent at the Novotel Restaurant with some of the party taking a walk afterwards. I was very impressed with this healthy option. It did appear that the walk made some thirsty.

Saturday was the coach driver's day off which meant that after the cooked breakfast we walked to St Mary, Redcliffe to ring the twelve, the tenor weighing 50-2-21. What a magical way to start the day. The ringing chamber is a massive room and the bells are automatically treated with the respect that they deserve. After this energetic ring there was a twenty minute walk to St Philip and St Jacob. We were met by the local ringer who had rung in Tiverton for some years. He knew what to expect from Devon ringing and although the bells, other than the 7th, are on plain

bearings, he was not disappointed. The next tower was more than 20 minutes walk away and some could not manage this without a drink. Some others walked through Castle Park and down Broad Street looking at the marvellous architecture. We had to climb the Christmas Sts and then even more to reach St Michael on the Mount Without. Lunch followed with some having a dilemma in walking past so many pubs that were open. One group went to a pub and found that food was not available, this did not stop the drinking but resulted in another stop nearer to the next tower where food was available.

The next ringing was for a service at St Mark's, the Lord Mayor's Chapel with a short walk to the next tower, St Stephen the Martyr, a 19 cwt, 12. Then back to the Cathedral where there was a splendid 21 cwt 8 that rang so well. We were able to walk back to the hotel from that point although walking past the city centre pubs proved difficult for many after a long day of ringing.

Saturday evening was spent at an Italian restaurant giving that continental touch. Well done to Mervyn and Chris. Sunday was even more hectic with us packing our bags onto the coach and travelling north, by following our local guide, Derek Carr, to St Matthew at Kingsdown where we waited to ring so as not to wake up the locals too early. Our ring was for the morning service. We then travelled back and had a 20 minute break in the City Centre, where we met the local group of ringers going for coffee. Our journey was then through Bristol heading South and to Knowle. This was a brick tower, and when inside the ringing room it felt as if you were ringing in a chimney. We then headed back to the city centre where Chris and Mervyn had persuaded a pub that does not normally serve food on a Sunday to serve us and a fine meal it was along with the range of beers on offer. The afternoon, and our last ring was spent ringing a light six at St Paul, Bedminster before heading back to various parts of Devon. Congratulations to Julia in choosing Mervyn and Chris who certainly excelled themselves not only in the rings, the hotel but also in the availability of real ales. All had an excellent weekend.

Ringers Roadshow

The fifth Ringer Roadshow held at Newbury racecourse on Saturday 10th September was well attended. According to the released figures – nearly 3000 ringers/interested parties attended. For those who have never been, lets outline what a Roadshow has to offer.

- Run by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. These shows are 'moved' around the country. The first was in 1997 at Birmingham. In 2003 it was held in Lincoln.
- There were over 200 exhibitors – made up of Associations/Guilds, Bell hangers, Rope makers, Private mini rings, Ringing software producers and just about anything you can think off to do with Ringing.
- To date, this Show has only run over one day – from 10 am to 5 pm.
- In 1997 the Devon Association was represented by a group of ringers lead by Frank Bye. We did not have a stand, but gave an exhibition of call change ringing at a local 8-bell tower.
- In 2003, Devon Ringers Council had a stand, ably manned by Jonathon Bint and Lester Yeo. The Devon Ringers CD was on sale. Some of the Egg Buckland ringers were able to 'autograph' copies of the CD – since it con-

tains ringing from their tower.

- Now in 2005, the Devon Ringers Council attended again. The theme was purposely biased towards Call Change Ringing. The team was lead by Lester Yeo and myself. Visitors to our stand showed much interest. We certainly did our bit to put Devon ringing on the map. My grateful thanks to the Devon Ringers who assisted in manning the stand. Our mark was further stamped by the display of Call Change Ringing given by a group of ringers from Egg Buckland and friends lead by our Vice Chairman Mr Ryan Trout. There was great fascination in our style of ringing and absolute dismay as to how we rise and fall in peal – many had never heard it before!

We must continue to fly our 'Association Flag'. If we don't, no one else will! We have a unique style and MANY people outside Devon are intrigued to find out more about us! Currently the Central Council is reviewing this latest Roadshow and considering plans for 2007. If any of you wish to find out more or have an opinion to put to the Roadshow Committee, then please contact one of the Central Council Reps (Mervyn Way or Paul Pascoe) or myself.

Jereme Darke.

Dartmoor Changes

A celebration of bell ringing drew together ringers from all over Dartmoor.

The moor's 32 bell ringing teams are featured on a new triple CD called Dartmoor Changes which was launched at an all-day event in Widecombe on Saturday 6 August and co-ordinated in conjunction with the Annual Six Bell Striking Competition and many of the featured towers open to the public. The project, which gained funding from the Dartmoor National Park Authority and West Devon Borough Council, is run by Aune Head Arts, a rural arts organisation based in Princetown. Dartmoor Changes is an 18-month project to record all the ringable towers with five or more bells within Dartmoor National Park.

A selection of the more than 60 hours of sound recordings has been edited on to three CDs and is accompanied by a 24-page booklet of information about the project. The public and bell ringing enthusiasts were invited to the launch and enjoyed some of the traditional ringing patterns distinctive to Dartmoor and Devon.

On the day there were demonstrations, an exhibition of photographs and films and the striking competition. The 3-CD set and booklet of the Dartmoor Changes was on sale for £15 throughout the day. On Dartmoor, home of Aune Head Arts, the scope for projects to bring the magic of the wild moors, its farms and its villages and towns to the people is never ending.

Torrige Deanery

The Guild is quite active at the moment holding two social evenings each year, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn at different towers, as well as the Annual Ringing Festival.

This year the Ringing Festival took place at Bradworthy on 30 July. The results were as follows:

Open Section

1st place (Cup & Certificate)

Egg Buckland with 7 faults;

2nd **Exeter St Petrock** 37½;

3rd **Burrington** 38;

4th **West Down** 48;

5th **Mariansleigh** 72½ and

6th **Mortehoe** 74½.

Torrige Section

1st place (Shield & Certificate)

Littleham 'A' with 25½ faults;

2nd (Cup & Cert) **Littleham 'B'** 42½;

3rd (Certificate) **Appledore** 43;

4th **Monkleigh** 88½;

5th **Morwenstow** 114½.

Novice Section

1st place (Shield & Certificate)

Little Torrington with 118 faults

and 2nd (Cup & Certificate)

Petersmarland 127½.

Junior Novice Section

1st place (Cup & Certificate)

Bradworthy with 16½ faults;

2nd (Certificate) **Langtree** 26½;

3rd (Certificate) **Bradford** 41 and

4th **Little Torrington** with 50½.

May I remind everyone that any tower within the guild can enter the Torrige or Novice section and others will be welcomed to ring in the Open section. Many thanks to our hosts at Bradworthy, who were in the middle of their flower festival in the church, for their hospitality and the wonderful spread of refreshments they provided.

Brian Broadhurst, (Hon Secretary)

Results Service

Results can be found on the website www.devonbells.co.uk. You may enter your own results if you log in. Results and any news can also be sent to your email address automatically if you subscribe to Auto Groups as there is a group called devonringing and by subscribing the news, including results will be sent to you.

Secretaries may continue to send results and news by post, phone or email to the editor of Devon Calls, please see last page for details.

TO JUDGE OR NOT TO JUDGE?

For the foreseeable future, we will have to be reliant on our stalwart judges to assess and mark the standard of our call change ringing. The number of regular judges is dwindling fast – certainly faster than new ones are coming forward! To this end, I feel it appropriate to summarise the current situation and make some suggestions as to how we need to go forward. We all enjoy taking part in ringing competitions, but need to stop for a moment and try to appreciate what our judges actually do for us.

One is not out to be critical here in anyway, but to try and stimulate the interest of ringers to find out more about judging and giving them opportunity to have a go!

We must remember that all judges give their time free of charge and often travel long distances to officiate.

ACCEPTED FACTS?

- We all prefer to ring rather than judge
- Judging is not an accurate science – it is subjective and no two judges are the same
- Judges act professionally and aim to be consistent
- We are more concerned about the position our team achieves rather than the number of faults awarded
- Judging is not boring. Rather, although tiring; it is interesting and requires much concentration.
- Other than the judges, no competitor will listen to every peal from start to finish in a similar position

WHAT SHOULD A JUDGE BE ABLE TO DO TO QUALIFY FOR JUDGING?

- The simplest answer is probably 'to have done it before and done a good job'.

This really is just based on having the respect of other ringers, especially those with some experience.

It has certainly been said that the best judges on the day are those that are taking part in the ringing!

However, some of the following qualities or points are surely worthy of discussion:

- Be able to understand the basics of bell mechanics
- Understand what happens in a rise and fall
- Be able to pick out all the individual bells at any time throughout the peal (unless bells are being fired)
- Know the set of call changes being used
- Appreciate the difference between a good and bad rhythm
- Be prepared to concentrate
- Be prepared to be professional and do ones very best
- Be consistent

DO WE HAVE ANY WRITTEN STANDARDS OR CODES FOR HOW WE ARE EXPECTED TO JUDGE?

As far as I'm aware the answer is no. Why not? Should we have a set of guidelines/set protocol so that all judges mark in the same way?

In actual fact, the majority of judges do their job in the way they have learnt/picked up/been told by other judges.

SO WHAT DOES JUDGING INVOLVE?

- Being prepared to sit for a number of hours and listen diligently
- Having pen/pencil poised following the warning treble dings
- Time the peal to the nearest second from start to finish
- Mark the peal from start to finish. It is generally accepted that a full mark is given to every round where all 6 or all 8 bells cannot be heard. Dots or quarter faults are given for every blip or minor error – this would include clipping and gaps/delays between bells.
- Marking the rise and fall is more difficult since each round is over very quickly. There are mixed views as to how the first and last few rounds are marked, since you will never hear all the bells strike both sides right in the bottom of the rise and fall. Teams that get the bells away quickly and efficiently should be credited for it. Should a team that has a fair rise, but takes twice as long for the tenor to strike both sides be awarded the same faults as a team that manages it more quickly? Similarly teams which pull the bells in tidily in the lower should get the credit for it. What do you think?
- Record the top of the rise (generally the first change), the half way change, and the end of the changes. Several competitions give a trophy for top ringing only.

- There is certainly a valid argument that the judge should record the bell that is making the error.
- Add up the total faults at the end of the peal and average them with the other judges officiating.

In summary, I think it is fair to say that any person wishing to 'learn the trade' would be extremely welcome to sit in with the judges, and have a go. To judge one peal is rather fruitless since there will be no real comparison as every judge is different.

As far as high or low marking goes, surely it is consistency that matters. Lesser teams should not be put off by a high mark – all judges are more than happy to show their book and highlight peals' problem area (s).

Any comments or opinions would be welcomed. See this as a starting block. A judging workshop needs to occur to give interested party's opportunity. All judges should be prepared to explain their result – judges of any other sport or past time certainly have to be accountable. Competition ringing will always play a pivotal role in maintaining a high standard of our unique tradition in Devon.

Jereme Darke.

Keep up to date

In addition to the whole page that was devoted in the last edition of Devon Calls we do have some updates. Please, do keep your "Bells of Devon" up to date. Update pages are available if required, please contact Paul Pascoe, his details are on the back page. Wrong information can delay you making arrangements and can annoy the person you called in error. Please notify the Secretary of any further updates.

Results

Competition results are posted on www.devonbells.co.uk the web site for the Devon Association. Members too, may enter results.

Bells Ring for Battle Bicentenary

Bells all over the world will ring out on Friday 21st October in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Britain's greatest naval victory, the Battle of Trafalgar. To mark this important occasion, the National Maritime Museum Nelson Commemorations Committee is co-ordinating the national Trafalgar Festival. This celebration culminates in Trafalgar Weekend (21st - 23rd October 2005) which commemorates the bicentenary of the battle and the heroism of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson and the gallant crews of his outnumbered fleet which scuppered Napoleon's plans to invade Britain.

As in 1805, when church bells rang out the news of Nelson's victory, bells will play an important part in this year's celebrations. The Nelson Commemorations Committee, in conjunction with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, is co-ordinating the ringing of bells throughout the world on 21st October and over the following weekend to mark this special anniversary.

"The first ringing of the day worldwide, will take place whilst most of us in the UK are still in bed!" said Richard Offen, co-ordinator of the international ringing. "The bells of Nelson Cathedral, New Zealand, will be rung at noon local time. This will be followed by the bells of St Mary's Basilica, Sydney and the Swan Bells, Perth, Western Australia. At the other end of the international time zones, among the last bells to sound that day will be those of Stanley Cathedral in the Falkland Islands. International coverage indeed!" Hundreds of bell towers have already indicated that they will take part and many are planning to ring special commemorative peals or quarter peals for the occasion. "For centuries bells have played a huge part in the celebration of important events, so it's fitting that they should play a major part in this commemoration" explained Judith Rogers of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. "The bells of St Paul's Cathedral in London will be rung following a formal wreath laying at the tomb of Lord Nelson which is timed to start at 11am and a full peal will be rung there in the evening. We hope that bells will ring around the country to make this a celebratory weekend to remember!"

Lieutenant John Richards Lapenotiere, born in Ilfracombe, travelled 271 miles from Falmouth to London, by horse, with news of Horatio Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar and the tragic news of his death. Lapenotiere on his schooner HMS Pickle which, after an epic 1,000-mile journey, arrived in Falmouth on November 4, 1805. Its captain then headed by post chaise to London where he thrust the dispatch into the hands of William Marsden, Secretary to the Board of the Admiralty. The 271-mile route was covered in 37 hours.

Devon men, together with those from the rest of the West Country, formed the backbone of Nelson's valiant forces.

The Trafalgar Way will be a permanent addition to Britain's maritime heritage. The historical new tourist attraction was inaugurated in Devon. The Trafalgar Way, which celebrates the delivery of news of Admiral Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, had its official unveiling in the picturesque village of Lifton.

With the sound of the parish church's bells ringing, members of Lifton's Local Historic Group, dressed in period costume, walked among the crowds giving children packets of sweets and small bouquets of flowers to hold.

Of the 1,115 Devonians who fought for Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar, two were born in Lifton. Both men survived the battle and returned to Devon.

The bravery of the Devon men who fought in Britain's greatest naval triumph will be remembered when the Trafalgar bicentenary celebrations sweep across the county.

Bells may have played a large part in notifying people that there was some news available and while a reenactment was being performed throughout Devon, by the procession passing through, many churches were having the bells rung to let the people know of this event.

The Queen and Prince of Wales are among those who will be lighting beacons to mark the 200th anniversary of the sea battle and the death of Lord Nelson.

More than 1,000 other beacons will be lit around the country during the evening of Trafalgar Day on 21 October.

There are also plans to create a peal of bells across the country on Trafalgar Day at noon and over the weekend and finishing on Sunday evening, 23 October.

At 7.00pm, or after Evensong, church bells will ring out across the UK and Channel Islands as a final Salute to Nelson and to mark the end of the Trafalgar Weekend.

If your tower takes part, there is a commemorative certificate available from www.cccbr.org.uk. Fill the certificate with the names of the ringers and have the certificate framed. It will be a lasting reminder and hopefully a talking point when you have visitors who may be ringers or interested in bell ringing.

John Lapenotiere (1770-1834)

Biography Taken from The Nelson Encyclopaedia by Colin White.

Lapenotiere is best known as the man who brought home the news of the Battle of Trafalgar to Britain. But he had a most interesting and varied career both before and after his brief moment of glory. Born in Ilfracombe in Devon, in 1770, Lapenotiere was the son of a naval officer and first went to sea with his father, Frederick, at the age of ten.

In 1802, he was given command of the schooner HMS Pickle and served in her at the Battle of Trafalgar (21 October 1805). After the battle, Lapenotiere travelled to London and handed over the dispatches with the simple words, "Sir, we have gained a great victory. But we have lost Lord Nelson."

As was customary, Lapenotiere was rewarded for being the bearer of the news of victory with promotion to the rank of commander and was presented with a sword of honour, valued at one hundred guineas, by the Patriotic Fund at Lloyds.

His famous feat in bringing home the Trafalgar dispatches in such record time is honoured to this day by the Royal Navy with 'Pickle Night' dinners, traditionally held on, or near, 6 November. And the first arrival of the news of Trafalgar in Britain is still celebrated each year by a special service in the church at Madron, near Penzance in Cornwall.

Make ringing attractive to youngsters

Young people will only take up, and persist with, ringing if it is attractive to them. The idea of becoming a ringer must be attractive beforehand, and the experience of learning to ring and developing within the ringing community must remain attractive afterwards. Negative factors that young people might associate with ringing include:

Image - Ringing isn't 'cool' for youngsters, and has a nerdy image in society at large.

Association with the church - In a secular society this can be negative.

Slow progress - Ringing is slower to learn than many things youngsters do.

Lack of peers - Youngsters like doing things with others of their own age.

To these must be added the indirect effects caused by child protection measures.

Image

Why is ringing not 'cool'? More likely, it is the cranky image of ringers held by many people that percolates through to the young. Adults might appreciate the tradition of ringing, and therefore accept ringers as a necessary, albeit unusual minority, but their offspring would not wish to join that quirky minority, especially if, as popularly portrayed, they are mostly old. Correcting the distorted image of ringers is clearly needed, with much more exposure of ringers and ringing to the public, through as many channels as possible. If society at large, and young people in particular, perceive ringing as a significant skill, with challenges and excitement, then they are more likely to countenance taking part.

The church

The relationship between the Church and the community is changing. Most of the population has largely abandoned church-going as a duty and sees the traditional church as somewhat distant. Some churches are responding by reaching out to the community, with youth drop-ins and other forms of ministry. These all provide different points of contact between the church and the community. The agenda of these 'non-church' activities is necessarily set mainly on the community's terms, but they nevertheless offer a potential opportunity for ringers to meet

people in the community, especially the young, and to dispel some of the ignorance about ringing. A single contact is unlikely to cause an instant transformation, but over a period, the climate could be changed.

Slow progress

A report described a culture of 'instant gratification' among the young. Certainly many of the things youngsters do conform to that view, but many other things don't.

There will always be many things in a youngster's life that offer instant gratification, and it is neither sensible nor possible for ringing to compete on those terms. Rather, the aim should be to make ringing seem worthwhile to the outsider, and then to train and develop youngsters in a way that enables them to reach the point where ringing itself provides enough satisfaction for them to want to continue.

Competition

It is commonly said that youngsters do not take up ringing because there are so many other things to do these days. The assumption seems to be that decades ago, there was nothing else for the lads of the village to do, so they took up ringing to avoid boredom. Both assumptions seem highly questionable. Even in the 'golden age' when many of our senior ringers were in their youth, the majority of people did not learn to ring, but presumably they managed to fill their time. Youngsters probably do more things now, but that need not be to the detriment of ringing. Ringing after all is another 'thing that can be done' so in a climate when parents encourage their children to take up gainful activities, ringing could get its share of that increase, if it were perceived as worthwhile. The assumption that youngsters only learn to ring if there is nothing better to do is a sad indictment of how we ourselves view ringing. Do we ring because we can't do anything else, or because we find it rewarding? Ringing can be as stimulating and challenging as many other activities. If youngsters and their parents do not see it as such, we have a communication failure to rectify.

Peers

The simultaneous increase in older ringers and the reduction in young ringers has made it much less likely that young ringers will have ringing

peers. In many towers this has probably contributed to a vicious spiral, making it less likely that more youngsters will take up ringing. It is not surprising that bands take the easy way out by just training the (mostly older) people who come along, rather than seeking to attract youngsters, especially in the current climate of child protection restrictions. A few decades ago many bands were continually training half a dozen youngsters at once, most of whom were lost a few months after learning to handle a bell. Many tower captains have realised that the chance of success is greater with only one or two learning at once, because they can devote far more attention and rope time to each of them, but this approach inevitably reduces the number of young people in the tower.

Potential solutions

There seem to be several broad ways to make ringing more attractive to youngsters:

Get more information about ringing into the community, sowing seeds of interest whenever and wherever possible. Adapt the way we do things to take account of young people. Ensure that youngsters get high quality training and support. Get youngsters involved actively rather than passively in ringing. Develop different contacts with the community. Work through the church community ministry if there is one. Work with schools if possible. Offer to talk about bells and ringing to infant and junior schools. Offer ringing as a component of activity weeks for secondary schools. Organise some events specifically for youngsters - both ringers with some experience and non ringers interested to see what it is about. Help young people to organise some things for themselves. Encourage young people to take responsibilities in their towers and branches. Create role models for young people. Use young people as helpers, mentors and instructors as soon as they are able to do so. Try to attract youngsters early, before negative peer pressures of the later teens set in.

Involvement

Most of the young people we are concerned about are not 'children' with passive needs, they are teenagers with huge energy and enthusiasm that we could tap.

Recruitment leaflets

New leaflets are available from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Details are on their website. The leaflet asks, Why learn to ring? The answers given are:

- A global group of friends
- Lifelong learning experience
- Maintain a traditional skill
- A service to the church
- Team activity
- A great mental workout

Opportunity to visit amazing places. I feel sure that many of us can equate with the answers. How do we put this across to people who may be interested?

We might want to be reminded of the answers above in the event that when asked, we can say, well seven things spring to mind.

The Association still has a number of old leaflets left and it is hoped that members will use these and distribute them at places such as schools and libraries.

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 are due on 1 October or at the AGM and 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

Competition—Colebrook

Do not forget the date of the next competition: 19 November

Diaries

Wendy Campbell will shortly have a large box of RW diaries and a small supply of calendars for sale and will be attending all the usual Guild events such as branch AGMs and the striking competitions. Please do therefore go along and buy a copy both for yourself and also your tower or members and help the DCBRF, since there is a small profit on the sale of each diary. Cost £6.20 each. Calendars at £5.50 (shows towers from the Chester Diocesan Guild).

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