



Founded 1925

President—Mr George Boucher

DEVON CALLS

Oct 06

Vol 1 Issue 19

Special points of interest:

- Devon Ringers' Interchange
- Commemorative ringing
- Ropes
- Handbook updates
- Ringing Centres

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Dunsford

Congratulations to Dunsford on winning the Devon Association Major Final Competition at Westleigh. They are officially the best team in Devon and have broken the long run by Egguckland. Dunsford were also awarded the top ringing trophy with 7.25 faults. Two of today's Dunsford band were also in the winning Kingsteignton 8 Bell band so have won both the Devon 6 and 8 Bell competitions in the same year. Can anyone remember the last time this happened??? I suspect you would have to go back to the 60's or 70's to find an equal or better.

Affiliation Fees

Affiliation fees for 2006 are payable on 1 October 2006. The fees have been held at £5 for the year. If you wish to enter the Association's competitions the rates will be £14 for 6 bell towers and £17 for 8 bell towers, these include the £5 affiliation fee. You may pay at the AGM on 11th November at North Tawton or by post to Mrs Janice Gist, Honorary Treasurer, Barries Corner, 5 St Giles in the Wood, Torrington, EX38 7JQ. Please enclose SAE if a receipt is required.

Devon Association AGM

The 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Devon Association of Ringers will be held on Saturday 11th November 2006 at North Tawton Town Hall, starting at 2.15pm. Minutes from the last AGM along with minutes of the two committee meetings are enclosed within the edition. The Secretary states

that the Association looks forward to seeing you at the meeting. All are welcome! This is YOUR opportunity to come and hear about the Association and have YOUR say. Teas will be served after the AGM in the Mortimer Rooms. The bells of St Peter will be available before and after the AGM.

Membership is rising

The number of towers affiliated during 2006 had risen to 148. The previous record had been 133. This is very encouraging to the Association that has undergone a number of reforms recently.

With the rapid increase in membership the Association wishes to meet this challenge. How do we promote our style of ringing, and not just in Devon. We have some wonderful ambassadors who attend national events and stun the audiences with some remarkable striking and the rising and lowering in peal.

With the talent currently available in Devon the Association wishes to capitalise on this and is seeking ideas to organise roadshows and workshops on a varied range of activities within ringing.

The Devon National Challenge was cancelled this year and the Association has been invited to take this on. This could be a potential for a show case for our style of ringing. The Association will be seeking views from members and from the Deaneries as this is a wonderful opportunity for us to use this network as an effective means of communication from the ringers. It is envisaged that the Secretaries of the Deaneries will come forward with ideas and suggestions and direct these to the Secretary either by post or as is happening more frequently, by email. Secretaries are reminded that any news and results or items from their deanery can also be sent to the Editor of Devon Calls. It is your newsletter.

Diamond Wedding— Mr and Mrs H Pascoe

Herbert (Pickles) and Vida Pascoe celebrated their diamond wedding yesterday 7th September. It was a open house from 10am with a succession of friends and relatives passing through. A family meal is planned for later.

Herbert and Vida first met in Yorkshire shortly after Herbert returned from the North Africa campaign at the end of the war. The couple married there and returned to Herbert's native Devon where they have lived ever since. For the first 50 years they lived in the same house at Buckland in the moor. Herbert at first worked on the Whitley estate as a stone mason but later become self employed running his own building business based at Buckland. Both became

very involved in village life and the local church of St Peters. Herbert was tower captain there and leader of a very strong team of bellringers from the mid 60's through to the millennium. Both have been church wardens and closely involved in setting up and running the community hall opposite the church. Although they moved to Ashburton some 10 years ago they still have very strong ties back at Buckland.

Herbert in his 90th year and Vida 83 have a son and daughter plus three grandsons and three great grandsons. To mark 60 years of marriage they decided to forgo the usual presents and ask that donations in lieu are made to the church bell restoration fund at St Peters Buckland. Graham Pascoe (son)

Central Council for Church Bell Ringing—PR Committee

This letter from Jane Wilkinson of the CCCBR Public Relations Committee is addressed to the Secretary and Public Relations Officer. Neither officer is able to attend and the letter is reproduced to let members know what is happening and for information in case any other member wishes to attend.

Following on from the first Public Relations Workshop at Moulton in April 2005, the CCCBR Public Relations Committee, is holding another this autumn. This time, to make it a little easier for those further north, we are going to Melbourne, Derbyshire, on Saturday, October 14th, 2006, starting at ten o'clock and finishing promptly at four.

As we did last year, we aim to share ideas and experience and provide a chance to discuss the practice and problems of presenting ringing to ringers and to the wider world.

Speakers are to include Lord Raynham - you may remember the BBC programme in the spring about the restoration at East Raynham - and Tim Joiner who made bells and ringing such a feature of his year as Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Invitations at this stage are going specifically to association Secretaries and Public Relations Officers, and we hope very much that they may perhaps be able to come - though I do realise you're a long way away - or you could possibly send a representative. And if you know of someone else with a particular interest in PR, do please encourage them to come too. The cost of the day will be £7.50 to cover expenses and coffee, lunch, and tea; and all that's now needed is to let us know if you can come: further details will then be forwarded.

Jane Wilkinson. Organising group.

Salcombe

The tenth anniversary of the bells being installed at Salcombe was on Thursday 24 August 2006 when their captain, Mike Wrigley and his ringers and friends and supporters rang to celebrate this occasion. Five bells of the six came from North Huish and were hang with the help of Diptford and West Alvington ringers. The Vicar, Rev. R A Owen, said a prayer

before ringing commenced at 4pm. After ringer there was a superb buffet at the Salcombe Yacht Club. Thanks were expressed to Ken Creber for this hospitality. There followed a talk by Mr Ernie Brazier on how the money was raised and the help from Salcombe people. This was finished with thanks by the vicar. Submitted by Norman Mortimore

Ken Stacey

Ken Stacey, a ringer at Highweek passed away on Sunday 18 June 2006. In the 70's and 80's he rang with the Police Team at Wolborough and the Clock tower. Ken was one of life's gentleman and his loss will be felt by all that knew him.

Arthur Redstone

Brian Redstone's father Arthur passed away on Monday 26 June 2006. Arthur the long time captain at Highweek was 95.

Arthur's funeral was at Highweek on Monday 3rd July at 2.30pm with ringing from 1.30pm.

Doreen Mudge

Doreen Mudge passed away at 2.p.m. Sunday the 1st October. Doreen's funeral was held in Tavistock Parish Church at 11 am on Friday October 6th. George says, 'No flowers please, donations if desired made out to DOREEN MUDGE CANCER FUND and sent to Morris Bros (Tavistock) Ltd, The Old Foundry, Lakeside, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 OAZ.'

Sunday Ringing

At the Ringing Roadshow in 2003 a survey of 211 people showed that: 93% were ringers.

59% stated that they collected peals 51% collected towers.

91% stated that they rang for Sunday Services.

51% then stayed for the Service a quarter of those who didn't stay stated that it was because they went on to ring somewhere else.

We often hear about ringers and/or tower grabbers who allegedly do not ring for Sunday services. Has anyone ever actually assessed the truth of this assertion?

Who knows, we might actually find that some of the keen ringers were equally keen service ringers, and turned up more often than those who are less keen.

With ringers supporting neighbouring churches or ringing within a Team Ministries, Sunday Service ringing can be an all day affair. Just how many churches do you ring at on a normal Sunday?

East Worlington

The bells at East Worlington are to be completely rehung by Nicholson's with the work likely to be completed for late November 2006. We wish them well with this venture.

Zeal Monachorum

At Zeal Monachorum Nicholson's are due to rehang the bells with new fittings during March 2007.

Merton

The bells of Merton will be rung again after an absence of almost 15 years. Thanks to the efforts of Merton villagers and the church congregation work on the new bells has begun. Ideally they will be up and ringing by Christmas. Now the money for the bells has been raised, villagers have launched a second push for cash in a quest to raise the £18,000 needed to restore a stained glass window. John Kimber who has been part of the fund-raising effort said: "This has been a long haul. "It started off with individual donations from coffee mornings and small events but then someone selling a second home said if we sold the contents we could have 60% of the value towards the bells." The villagers hope to hear the bells by Christmas. Measuring about 12ft high, the window in the tower would light up the bell chamber, but it was blown out in a storm in 1986 and has been boarded up. Mr Kimber said: "The Friends of All Saints at Merton are a very active group and the people of the parish not involved in the church have proved to be very interested in the projects and offered so much help." To begin the next stage of fund-raising the church is hosting two events. A flower festival took place and a Songs of Praise service during August.

Chawleigh

Bride Janet Webber rang the bells at her own wedding in Chawleigh. Janet was escorted to the belfry by her father to join her fellow bell ringers for a short peal before going up the aisle. She is also an enthusiastic fund-raiser and supporter of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and other charities.

Mid Week Ringers

Holidaying in Birmingham

The high point of any year is a holiday and this year in June the Mid Week Ringers, Ringklies, set off for Birmingham. It was a superb holiday with plenty of ringing and a comfortable hotel. Ringing started on Monday 5 June with towers in Gloucester. On Tuesday we rang at Habourne, Moseley, (steel bells), Redditch (where we had lunch provided), Ipsley and Rowley Regis. On Wednesday the ringers (except for two) had a rest and visited Cadbury World. The other two went canal exploring and were later seen being interviewed by the police. The afternoon was memorable. Ringing at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, then the Anglican Cathedral and then ringing at St Martins on all 16. Yes it can be done and all the ringers enjoyed it. The day ended by ringing at St Paul's. Thursday was spent at Smethwick, Brierley Hill, Wollaston, Amblecote and Old Swinford. The evening meal ended with speeches thanking John and Linda Staddon for the arranging. Friday was the day to go back home and we rang at Boeley and were met by teas and cakes which proved very difficult after a week of cooked breakfasts and muffins supplied during the morning. The final church was Tamworth in Arden. A very enjoy week. Next year the holiday has been booked for 11 to 15 June 2007 staying in Leicester. 2008 is likely to see us in Swindon. Further information will be given at the monthly meetings. If you are interested, please, just turn up.

The Mid Week Ringers, the Ringklies, have been ringing throughout the summer. The timetable is from April through to December. No organised ringing takes place from January to March in case of cold weather and difficulty in travelling.

The September meeting saw us at Poughill and what a welcome. We were met with pasties, sandwiches, cakes and biscuits along with teas and coffees. There was plenty of energy and the ringing was non-stop. For this particular event the lunch was later than normal and therefore we had time to travel to Washford Pyne to ring rather than after lunch. One piece of excitement was that whilst ringing at Poughill, the most direct road to Washford Pyne was closed and this meant a detour. It does seem that all ringers made it. A superb lunch was served at the London Inn, Morchard Bishop. We had a number of guests from Oxford, who were very impressed. Other guests were Arthur and Jean Fidler who stayed locally. A splendid day out with the standard being exceeded in every aspect. Thank you to all concerned.

Could you be a Ringkly?

This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month and is open to Ringers and non ringers. The only criteria is that you have time to join us. The morning venue is a 10.30 start, with tea, then a pub lunch at 1pm and a further venue at 2pm or 2.30pm.

Proposed towers for 2006/7

Second Wednesday of the Month

October	Moretonhampstead	North Bovey
November	Holbeton	Yealmpton
December	St Mark's Exeter	10.15—11.15
	Heavitree	12.00—12.45
	Christmas lunch	13.00
March 2007	Plympton St Maurice	To be decided

Please check the venue before setting out.

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Part Two of the Emerald Isle visitation by Egg Buckland Ringers & Friends.

Grateful thanks are extended to Dave Trout for organising a fabulous trip to Northern Ireland at the end of May. We toured the South in 1999, having travelled by mini-bus from Plymouth, catching the ferry at Fishguard and spending a week ringing at most of the ringable peals in the South; with the exception of Waterford which unfortunately was a lock out and Drogheda.

Fourteen of us met up at Exeter airport on Sunday 28th May at 12.30pm. The party consisted of Dave and Hilary Trout, Roger and Ryan Trout, Sue Ashton, Suzanne Driscoll, Harry and Ellen Bardens, Bernard Miners and Pat Johnstone, Norman and Sylvia Mortimore, David Trist and the Hon Sec. Due to an administrative error by Flybe, Norman had to go to Ireland with a Sylvia Bortimore, sadly leaving his wife behind for the week! We boarded the plane on about schedule, with the Training officer managing to conceal his dangerous weapon through customs!

Following a smooth flight, we landed in Belfast; collected our baggage and all got into a mini-bus, which had been hired for the week. We then headed to Ballymena to our first tower. We were made very welcome and had over an hour to ring this 14-½ cwt. peal of 12. The book is wrong by the way (17-½ cwt.). We rose the back 10 in peal and achieved some reasonable striking.

We then made our way back to Belfast to check into our base for the week – Benedicts Hotel in Shaftsbury Square. This was situated in the city centre. It was evident that much rebuilding and development of the centre had occurred recently, and in places was still ongoing. Our hotel was not very old either. It was very welcoming, clean, the rooms spacious and comfortable, and the food and service of a high standard. A good evening meal was enjoyed, with a visitation to a local public house to find some real ale after dinner.

Monday morning arrived and all the party made breakfast. Well set up for the day we departed for Hillsborough. We felt that we had something to prove as this tower boasted one of the best competing teams in Ireland. We rang the back eight for most of this stop. They go well, tenor weighing nearly 19cwt. Not the easiest to hear and probably could do with

some guides. I think the tower captain was modestly impressed with our striking!

We then headed for our next tower – Drumbo. Following a circular scenic tour we finally arrived at the tower to be met by a lively Irish character. This was a fine 11 ¾ cwt. eight. All of us enjoyed these excellent bells and were probably slightly reluctant to leave!

Lunch stop was back in Belfast. Toasted sandwiches were washed down with some suitable liquor. On this fine summer's day, a group of us decided to get some air and stroll over to the next tower. This turned out to be further than expected making us late for the first tower after lunch. A certain South Brent ringer struggled to keep up!

This first afternoon ring was at St Marks, Belfast. A tall red bricked tower, housing 10 bells with a tenor weighing 12 cwt. These bells also went well and were enjoyed.

A short trip brought us to Hollywood – another fine peal of eight, also around 12cwt. A bit snug and springy ropes, but we made a reasonable effort. Not the easiest to hear either.

An enjoyable drive along the coast to Greyabbey then followed. A very enthusiastic ringing family greeted us. This was a pretty little set – a six weighing just 2cwt. These bells had stays and went really well. I find that you need just that little bit of extra concentration – to avoid over pulling and to settle your striking. This little set rounded off an enjoyable day ringing at 5 towers in total. We made our way to a local hostelry in Greyabbey, where the landlord and his daughter kept us entertained!

Tuesday morning soon dawned. All make breakfast bar young Trout (he needed his beauty sleep). Off we headed westwards towards Enniskillen. The first stop was at Lurgan – a 21cwt eight. What a welcome! Coffee plus a selection of bites, even scones too I believe. Had Madams Bardens and Bortimore got competition in the bun department? This set was slightly challenging – due to tower movement. An unfortunate accident occurred during ringing. One of the local lady ringers was standing on a wooden ladder watching us ring. The ladder slipped and next we hear a bang and lots of

shouting. The poor lass had broken her upper arm – luckily her pelvis and legs were okay. Well done to Dave who jumped down to help with first aid. The paramedics took a while to arrive. Eventually she got on her feet and was able to walk down the stairs to the ambulance. We followed up her progress and arranged for some flowers to be sent. Ringing was thus cut short, but one of our hostesses was fortunately not too badly injured!

On we travelled westwards to Enniskillen. Where we had a lunch stop before ringing. This was an excellent set of 10 bells housed in this magnificent cathedral building. The bells were down and initially the tower captain though he'd help by pulling up the tenor for us on his own! We explained our technique and he quietly stood to one side! Some fine striking was had on the back eight. Proper tone.

On then to our final tower of the day – Londonderry – St Columba's Cathedral. Twelve bells including a flat and sharp, tenor weighing 32cwt. Not easy to hear. Had a crack at the minor eight. Did not really have enough ringers to rise in peal. The back eight went well. Really smart cathedral church – similar to the style adopted in England. We headed back towards Belfast, stopping at The Thatch at Castle Dawson. England was playing Hungary in a friendly and they had a screen. Roger and Ryan were happy.

Wednesday dawned. This was our exploring day with only one tower. We walked down to Giants Causeway in the morning. An interesting geological feature. It looks like it is man made! Fortunately a shuttle bus was able to run the more senior members down to the feature. Did all the youngsters walk back up? Following lunch we headed to the Bushmills Distillery – makers of the famous and oldest Irish Whisky. Three connoisseurs in the party took part in the whisky tasting spot. We then travelled the northeast coastline back down to Carrickfergus. This interesting set of eight weighing 13 cwt. where in a detached tower situated over the churchyard entrance. Certainly unusual. These bells went well but were tricky.

Sadly we could not ring at Coleraine – the captain doesn't allow visiting teams (continued on Page 5)

Emerald Isle (continued from p.4)

(even from Ireland). Despite intense efforts by Dave, it was no go! No logical or reasonable explanation was given! Finding some live traditional music in an Irish bar, following a decent meal at McHugh's Bar rounded off the night. Thursday morning soon arrived. We were to head south. The weather finally warmed up. It was dry all the week, but cooler at the start. The first stop was Newcastle. This was a 3-½ cwt. six. Hardly ever rung! Went well and very enjoyable. A joy to listen to the organist practicing. On we travelled to Rostrevor. We were due to start at 12 noon, but a large catholic funeral was just beginning up the road for a youngster killed in a fatal accident. We decided to wait and delayed ringing until after a pub lunch. The ropes were low and the 5th tricky. This was a 13cwt peal of six. The final tower of the day was in the South. We crossed the border and soon arrived at Drogheda. A friendly welcome greeted us. A fine set of eight weighing 22cwt. Some decent striking was realised. This tower was missed in 1999 due to its position being out with the itinerary.

A fine day rounded off with a meal at The Plough in Hillsborough. The pub down the road served some glorious bitter. Friday, the final morning arrived. We checked out and headed for Bangor. This was a fine 21cwt eight. We then headed to St Donard on the outskirts of Belfast to ring a good set of six weighing 9cwt. The BBC were present recording a program about the current incumbent who had an interesting military history. They 'wanted' the bells ringing in the background. Some reasonable striking was had. We missed two towers – one was Coleraine (do not allow visitors) and the other was St Thomas in Belfast (repair work underway on frame). A quick lunch and we headed to the airport. A fine sunny day and a smooth flight home. Summing up, this was an excellent trip. The bells were all in good order. The flag was certainly flown for Devon Call - Change Ringing. Timing was impeccable – remember that the roads are not all good. The hospitality of the Irish is to be commended – food, drink and service all good. The company was brilliant. We were privileged to be invited. Thanks Dave for all your efforts. Another memorable trip.

Ring and make some noise for children

The Children's Society is appealing to bell ringers from across the country to help celebrate its 125 anniversary by making a big noise and raising money for the charity between September and December.

The charity is calling on people across the UK to sign up to take part by calling 0845 300 1128 or email: prchairman@cccbr.org.uk to find out how you can find a local bell-ringing group near you.

Bell ringing is an ancient art and great fun. There are 5000 bell towers in the UK and over 40,000 bell ringers. So whether you're an old hand or fancy learning a new skill we'd like to hear from you.

The Peal Appeal fundraiser is part of a national Bell ringing campaign across the UK. Bells as far a field as Perth, Australia will ring out between September 1 until December 2006 in celebration of the 125 anniversary of The Children's Society.

The Children's Society and The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers are promoting sponsored bell ringing to celebrate this special anniversary and invite bell-ringers around the UK take part.

Judith Rogers of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers says, "The money raised will help the

charity's work with children to help them deal with life's harshest challenges and face the future with confidence. We want as many young bell-ringers as possible to take part to introduce a new generation into the world of bell ringing and The Children's Society."

The Children's Society was founded by Sunday school teacher Edward Rudolf in 1881 after finding two of his pupils had missed class to beg for food. Their mother had died and left them alone. He was determined to help children for whom there was no provision. The charity continues to support children whose needs are overlooked, neglected or ignored.

Sponsored teams set out to ring for a given length of time and can be sponsored either for the number of 'changes' they ring or for the number of minutes continuous ringing they produce.

Last year over 800 bell towers worldwide took part in special ringing.

The charity hopes ringers everywhere will rise to the occasion and make this a very special year for The Children's Society, and use it to stimulate new interest in ringing in their own towns and villages.

Commemorative Ringing

Following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, advice was given on the various forms of commemorative ringing and the circumstances in which they are appropriate. It was stressed that they were offered as suggestions only; they were not intended in any way to replace local customs. Before any form of commemorative ringing takes place, the local incumbent should be consulted. Commemorative ringing is normally undertaken with the bells half-muffled, open at handstroke. In some places it is the custom to leave the tenor unmuffled. This can be effective especially when tolling the bell.

Fully muffled ringing is very rare and should be undertaken, if at all, only on the death of the sovereign or of someone of outstanding local importance.

The custom of ringing half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday

is widely practised.

Muffled ringing on other Sundays during a period of national or local mourning is approved by some clergy, but not by others. The advice of the incumbent must be taken on this point.

Practices are best avoided when the bells are muffled. If in doubt, the incumbent should decide.

In some places it is the custom on New Year's Eve to ring the bells half-muffled up to midnight and open thereafter.

Muffled ringing must be well-struck to be effective. Thus whatever form of muffled ringing is undertaken it should be well within the capabilities of the band. Every effort should be made to ensure that muffles are securely fastened to the clappers and will not move in the course of ringing.

For safety reasons, muffles should not be fitted or removed while bells are up.

East Devon Tour – Sat July 15th

The weather was glorious, the scenery stunning and the company was good, all we needed was some decent bells! Ringers attended from Egg Buckland, South Brent, Exeter St Petrox, Sampford Courtenay, High Bickington, Collaton, Dunsford and of course the Hon Sec!

At 10am a group of 14 Association members met up at Woodbury. We had three decent peals, rising this heavy eight on each occasion. The 23-cwt tenor takes some shifting – a strapper is certainly recommended. The villagers were holding their market stall fair and enjoy hearing the bells. On to East Budleigh to be met by David Pratt. I always thought this was a ground floor ring – not for around 40 years apparently! A pretty little set. Some decent striking was had. The three and four took a bit of sorting. Lunchtime arrived – refuelling at the Otter Inn in Colaton Raleigh. A pleasant surprise – young Mr Percy Pester was sat inside having a pint and snack! Can recommend this pub – decent ale and good choice of food of good value. We then rang at Colaton, a fair ground floor ring of six. The fifth is less tricky. Proper tone. Percy now lives in Budleigh. We were grateful that he gave up his time to travel up to let us in. We said good bye to Messrs Adams and Sharland, and travelled north east to Sidbury. Not rung here for ages. Well kept set of eight weighing nearly 17cwt. Everybody enjoyed these. Tall people that ring the back bells need to negotiate the clock case!

Our fifth tower was set down in the valley behind Honiton – Farway. Got this tower at short notice due to problems at Feniton! Had some good striking. Need a reasonable fourth man – one ringer lowered this bell at backstroke!

Finally, we crossed the A30 and arrived at Payhembury. Mr Training Officer reversed into the wall at speed and gave the Exwick mayor a jolt! Luckily limited damage (to the wall!). This is a fair set. Sadly the ropes were rather low!

We rounded the day off with a fine meal in the Six Bells. Worth a visit – the proprietors were previously in West Down and knew Mr Phillips! Many thanks to those who attended and helped to make it a memorable day. Got to make the most of my 39th year!
JJD.

Paignton Outing

Paignton is one of the fortunate towers that has at least two formal outings each year for all the ringers of the tower, regardless of their experience. Paignton always prefer to rise and lower the bells when visiting, even if the bells are left up. On August Bank Holiday Monday the day started at Crediton. We encouraged the less experienced ringers to join in with the rise and they did us proud. We heard a rumour that a certain Association ringer who lives nearby was startled by the impressive rise and striking and made enquiries—he assumed it was a Devon Association team and was right. The compliments were not to end there.

We had a delight in ringing at St Michael, Tiverton. This tower is always worth including in an outing.

After lunch we arrived at South Petherton, early, and made our way towards the church. A beer festival was being held in the pub opposite and a few real cider drinkers were in for a treat. Ringers tore themselves away to ensure that ringing commenced on time and the local captain was so pleased with the rise and striking that he remarked that he wished some of his ringers were present so that they could hear what the striking should be like.

As if we had not had enough of heavy bell ringing we ended up at Axminster and were grateful to the ringers from Devon who joined us. We thought that we had the best rise of the day there, where did we find the new energy from?

Axminster is still fairly lumpy but a pleasure to ring and having arrived early we were able to ring that bit longer than planned and still finished at the published time.

Tired and exhausted we made our way to the Otter Inn, Weston, near Honiton. It is becoming difficult to find pubs that will take a coach in the evening and serve good food and beer and the Otter Inn excelled itself. We had pre-booked and were warmly invited. All meals were served swiftly leaving us with ample time to talk and drink before the coach was due to leave.

A tiring day for some, although the same person did rise the tenor in every peal, in every tower, single-handedly. Thanks to Paul Rowe for arranging the towers, John Kelly for the selection of towers and John R Kelly for ringing the tenors.

Ropes

Who still uses an all hemp rope? We had to swap a terylene top rope because of wear on the tail and noticed what it was like to ring on an all hemp rope. Rather springy and the length differed according to the weather. Terylene ropes do come with their own problems though.

In the last two years there have been problems with terylene ropes disintegrating. The pattern is always the same at a point between the pulley box and the garter hole, a section of rope about six inches long appears to lose its tension, and the three strands hang straight and rapidly fray. Ropes have been carefully checked to see that they are not rubbing anything. Interestingly, the point of disintegration appears to be where the rope flexes most as the bell goes over at handstroke.

The problem seems to have only occurred with ropes supplied in the past few years, and seems only to affect the ten millimetre rope. There have been a problem on a number of the smaller and middle bells at York Minster. The back bells, which have a heavier gauge rope, have not been affected. It was discovered that a rope on one of the rings of six in York had done exactly the same, again for no apparent reason. The only solution when the ropes go like this is to cut out the affected part and splice the ends back together, but this is not ideal as it inevitably leads to the splice going through the pulley box.

Have other towers had this problem, and does anyone have any explanation or suggestions to stop it happening? It seems to only affect the Marlow terylene (which has red and black tracer threads) on ropes supplied within the past three years or so, and only seems to be a problem with the ten millimetre rope. Many ropes have been recently spliced where they have done exactly the same thing in exactly the same place, from various bells, and so far it has defied any explanation.

Ropes are expensive and in some towers do not last any longer than six years. Rope manufacturers do give guidance on how to store and use ropes and it is best to follow this advice to ensure that you obtain maximum use of the ropes. If you have any useful tips please do not keep them to yourself, let other towers benefit from your knowledge.

Devon 8 Bell call change ringing by Robin P Burnham

A Distillation of 46 years thoughts & hints by Robin P Burnham ex Dartmouth Ringer 15 years latterly Tavistock Ringer for 25 years, Captain Emeritus 12 years

1. The Treble starts the race, the second sets the space, and the Tenor holds the Pace. Earn Tucker told me this very early on, a very much respected Dartmouth Ringer. It is quite correct, the treble starts and has the responsibility of rising and falling the Bells in peal but once the tenor is striking, has to follow him closely and evenly because with a heavy Tenor the Ringer is at full stretch to get the bell up and cannot alter his speed of rising. Once up the second has the very important job of setting the space to allow the bells to follow at the correct speed. Finally the tenor holds the set pace constant to provide support to the changing bells. It is possible for the tenor man to adjust the speed to attain the best pitch for the particular set of bells being rung.

2. It is my belief that every set of bells has its own correct pitch at which they sound best and can change the easiest.

3. When ringing from stay the tenor must be brought down to pitch immediately otherwise the bells will stay at too high a level.

4. In Devon call changes, the sallies must be snapped back as it is called, and allow the ends to rise up to the correct level. I believe the reason for this is that on the sally stroke the rope is only wound around a short length of wheel, while on the end stroke it goes much further around thus giving much more leverage. This is how in Devon ringing that lovely rolling rhythm is attained, described by many elsewhere as cart wheeling. They do not know what they are missing!

5. In method or change ringing the end is pulled firmly to ensure the sally rises to provide the treble rest characteristic of method ringing where the sally speed is slower than the end stroke. This gives the disjointed sound to the ringing rather than the smooth even speed of Devon Call changes.

6. It is always interesting to watch method ringers trying to ring the Devon way for the first time, they try to snap back the sally, but also through habit the end stroke so if you do not look out you find the bells lowering.

7. When pitching off for the rise the back bells have to follow well forward to get the sound right. We used to pitch the Tavistock Tenor behind the 6th. They have to swing well to ensure striking on the usually 3rd pull, once striking the swing is immediately reduced to allow the trebles to get away as until their sally strike is achieved the correct lead cannot be attained.

8. Jack Hine of Plymstock used to say it is like Concord, taking off, the nose or treble has to rise up first until the correct lead is obtained sally to tenor end. Only then can the rear / tenor bells get away. Once the trebles are up to the correct level then they have to wait until the tenors also arrive at top ringing. This is because a treble might have only a 3' wheel whereas the tenor could have a 6' or 7' wheel with correspondingly much more rope to travel. Lowering is the reverse, tenors have to squeeze in the sally stroke, and taking in rope until the trebles can start to come down. Once the tenors are moving a few inches only then can the treble start to take in the last of his rope, though he will still have more swing left than the tenor.

9. This difference in rope lengths also shows up when a small bell is following a large bell. It might have to pull out 12" after the large bell to strike in the correct place after it. Likewise the Tenor following the light bell could well pull out before the treble to ring after.

10. All very confusing.

11. It is most important for a ringer to learn at an early stage to hear his bell within the peal. It should be noted that the bell strikes every time the ringers hands pass his /her face going up on both end and sally.

12. A steady stroke should be aimed at from the start not slavishly following the bell in front, though this can only be obtained from experience. This irons out the small changes in rhythm.

13. When changing it should not be possible to hear the change, only that the notes have altered.

14. Strapping. Or the art of two people working as a team to rise a heavy bell in peal. George Boucher and I found the best way is for the actual ringer to stand on a box to allow him to reach well above the strapper, who has the coil of rope in his hand.

This also gives the strapper a reasonable length of stroke to pull the bell

beneath the ringer, otherwise they cannot work as a team. During the rise the strapper eases out the rope as required, leaving the sally to the ringer who in turn must release the rope after the sally pull. Catching hold again just above the strapper's hands on the end, as his hands reach their lowest point release the end to the strapper in readiness to catch the sally. If he does not, he will get pulled off the box. Once the bell is up and the strapper has only the end in his hand, he should ask the ringer if ready. If so say "next time" and only when the ringer is on the end stroke and has the rope in his hand must the strapper release. **This is imperative.**

I have seen many times, ringers not doing this and the poor man on the box has his hands on the sally and no end in his hand not funny! The ringer can then if wished hop off the box and the strapper remove it out of the way.

15. I can never understand while many towers have boxes for the ringers to stand on, usually largish bells with long ropes. It means that the ringer has a heavier weight of rope to carry, this can get quite tiring. Also the chance of the rope getting beneath the ringers toes if there is no front on the box, possibly upending him. We used to ring Tavistock which is 24 cwt, without a permanent box, very easily. When rising a large bell on one's own you need to be able to move around the floor with out worrying about staying on a box.

16. Rope work.

When fitting new ropes, if pre-stretched, hang as soon as possible otherwise all benefit will be lost. All the surplus rope should be retained in the wheel not cut off. This will allow cutting and splicing at a much later date giving a new lease of life to the ropes. Long splices should be used, never short splices which hinder free rope movement.

Bell rope tails should always be turned back and tucked in for the full length supplied. this increases the life of the rope and safety. Not cut off and only a short eye splice inserted at the very end, this I feel is a very bad practice.

17. In dry weather, single rope gets very whippy and especially on eight bells which usually have longer ropes, can cause accidents. Ern Tucker at (continued on page 10)

Results

Devon Association Minor Final at Kenn on 27th May 2006

1. West Alvington	27 1/2
2. Collaton St Mary	39 3/4
3. Drewsteignton	40 1/2
4. Iddesleigh	41 1/4
5. Down St Mary	46
6. Lamerton	51 3/4
7. Ide	61 1/4
8. Pyworthy	80 1/4

First two qualify for the Major Final
to be held at Westleigh on 10 June
2006.

Result of the top ringing only held at
Kenn on 27th May 2006.

From Novice Competition.

1. Inwardleigh
2. South Brent B

Judges: John Coulthirst, Cedric
Hockin, Percy Pester and Michael
Poole. Scrutineer: David Trist.

**Okehampton Deanery Festival
held at Bridestowe 3rd June
2006.** Judges: Cedric Hockin &
Robin Burnham

Novice Section: 5 minutes of rounds.

1st. Chagford	42 1/2
2nd. Exbourne	55 1/2

Intermediate Section: 1/2 Peal.

1st. Sampford Courtenay	69
2nd. South Tawton	83 1/2
3rd. Exbourne	97 1/2
4th. Chagford	98

Main Section: Full Peal.

1st. Chagford A	35
2nd. South Tawton	45
3rd. North Tawton	53 1/2
4th. Chagford B	56
5th. Bridestowe	69
6th. Sampford Courtenay B	77
7th. Sampford Courtenay A	97

**Competition held at Littleham
on 3rd June 2006**

A Section

1. Winsford	19
2. Mortehoe	24½
3. Down St. Mary	26
4. East Anstey	27½
5. West Down	30½
6. Burrington	33
7. Mariansleigh	45½
8. Alphington	47½

Devon Association Major Final held at Westleigh on 10 June 2006

1. Dunsford	14 3/4
2. Egguckland	19
3. Burrington	19 1/4
4. East Anstey	23 1/2
5= Collaton St Mary	25 3/4
5= Morthoe	25 3/4
7. Exeter St Petrock	29 1/4
8. Stoke Gabriel	30
9. West Down	31
10. Littleham	34 1/4
11. South Brent	37 3/4
12. West Alvington	47 1/2

Judges. Ian Avery, Brian Drake,
Ivor Hookway and Paul Pascoe.
Scrutineer. Gerald Arscott.

The Viscount Lambert Shield held at Spreyton on 17 June 2006

1. Down St. Mary	29½
2. Zeal Monachorum	38½
3. Sampford Courtney A	53½
4. Alphington	68½
5. Ide	73
6. Mariansleigh	77
7. Drewsteignton	88
8. Spreyton	104
9. Sampford Courtney B	142½
10. South Tawton	154

Judges: Messrs P. Pester & M. Tate

South Devon Ringers Association
Annual 6 bell competition held at
East Portlemouth on 1st July 2006
in aid of Devon Historic Churches
Trust.

1. West Alvington	29 1/2
2. Exminster	34
3. Stoke Gabriel	43 1/2
4. Ide	49
5. South Brent	73
6. South Pool	101
7. Chivelstone	114

Judges: John Coulthirst and Percy
Pester.

Lapford Revel held at Lapford on 11th July 2006

A Section

1. Ifracombe	18½
2. Mortehoe	25
3. Littleham	26½
4. East Anstey	28

B Section

1. South Tawton	29½
2. Burrington	31½

3. High Bickington	36
4. Alphington	51½
5. Down St. Mary	63
6. Ide	96½
7. Mariansleigh	112

Competition held at Widecombe- in-the-Moor on 5 August 2006

1. Egguckland	33
2. South Brent	40
3. West Alvington	50
4. Exeter St. Petrock	59
5. Exminster	64
6. Burrington	72
7. Stoke Gabriel	83
8. North Bovey	84
9. Chagford	97
10. Widecombe	106
11. South Tawton	122
12. Ide	144

Results of the Bridestowe com- petition on 19th August 2006

1 Egguckland	9.5
2 South Brent	15
3 Mortehoe	18.5
4 Exminster	26
5 Stoke Gabriel	26.5
6 Littleham	28.5
7 Lamerton	33
8 Alphington	36.5
9 West Down	41.25
10 Holbeton	54
11 South Tawton	54.5
12 Ide	103

Judges: John Wickett and Helen
Robinson

Lydford on 19 August 2006

1 Egguckland	8.5
2 South Brent	16
3 Stoke Gabriel	18
4 South Tawton	19.5
5 Littleham	21.5
6 West Down	23.5
7 Exminster	24
8 Mortehoe	24.5
9 Lamerton	34.5
10 Alphington	41
11 Holbeton	45
12 Ide	57

Judges: Pat Johnston and Bernard
Minors

Results of the Kenn Deanery held at Cheriton Bishop on 23rd September 2006

A section:

1 Exminster	32
2 Dunsford	36
3 Alphington A	59.5
4 Ide	92.5

Results

B section:	
1 Christow	59.5
2 Kenton	63
3 Alphington B	64.5
4 Dawlish	78.5

Novice section	
Kenton	31.5
Judges: Percy Pester and John Coulthirst	

South Devon 8 Bell competition held at Plympton St Maurice on 7 October 2006

1 Kingsteignton	12.5
2 Eggbuckland	19.5
3 Exeter Cathedral	23.5
4 Buckland in the Moor	30
5 Lamerton	31
6 South Brent	36.5
7 Stoke Gabriel	37.5
8 Exminster	51
9 Kingsbridge	61
10 Plymstock	65
11 Plympton St Maurice	102

Top ringing prize:

Kingsteignton	5.5 faults
Judges: Brian Drake and Mary Mears	

League table by J. Kerlake

Table up until the end of September 2006

C = competitions entered, +/- = fault difference

	C	+/-
Eggbuckland	7	19.14
Dunsford	5	16.00
South Brent	9	14.44
Mortehoe	6	14.17
West Alvington	8	12.00
Stoke Gabriel	9	11.78
Littleham	5	11.60
Burrington	5	10.80
Exminster	6	9.67
Down St Mary	6	9.00
West Down	5	7.60
Alphington	8	7.25
South Tawton	7	6.29
Lamerton	5	4.40
Widcombe	5	4.00
Ide	10	2.80

Results

You can post your own results on the Devon Association website, please see www.devonbells.co.uk. If you wish your results to be published please inform the editor. Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG.

The individual marks from the Major Final at Westleigh in 2006 are listed below, the judges were (A) Ian Avery, (B) Brian Drake, (C) Ivor Hookway, (D) Paul Pascoe

	Team Ave	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
1. Dunsford	14.75	19	10	10	20
2. Egg Buckland	19	21	17	17	21
3. Burrington	19.25	23	14	17	23
4. East Anstey	23.5	29	17	18	30
5. Collaton St Mary	25.75	27	23	23	30
5. Morthoe	25.75	26	24	23	30
7. Exeter St Petrock	29.25	29	32	28	28
8. Stoke Gabriel	30	37	24	24	35
9. West Down	31	33	28	25	38
10. Littleham	34.25	40	25	25	47
11. South Brent	37.75	45	33	30	43
12. West Alvington	47.5	52	37	38	63

South Devon Association

SIX - BELL RINGING FESTIVAL HELD AT EAST PORTLEMOUTH ON SATURDAY 1ST. JULY 2006

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME:

Entry fees.	
7 teams @ £6.00	£42.00
Church collection	£43.00
Raffle takings	£75.00
Donation from Ide Ringers	£25.00
Totals	£185.00

Income	£185.00
Expenditure	-£23.40

£161.60 To Devon Historic Churches Trust.

EXPENDITURE:

Organist's fees	£10.00
Judge's travelling expenses	£10.00
Photocopying	£3.40
Totals	£23.40

Colin Adams reports. The day was a great success from my point of view and it was good to see everyone enjoying themselves. In spite of our numbers being small the cooperation I received and generosity conveyed made the whole exercise a great pleasure. As promised I am attaching a copy of the Balance Sheet. People were very generous and I am pleased to say I am able to send off £161.60 to Devon Historic Churches Trust.

The South Devon Ringers Association AGM will be on 24th February 2007 at 2.30pm at Upton

Handbell wedding

Paignton handbell ringers are always looking for ways to raise money for Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivy-bridge and were booked for the wedding in Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset of Catherine Morgan on 23rd September 2006. Catherine's mother had been a handbell ringer at Axminster and it was fitting that the Paignton Handbell ringers rang some of the same tunes that she had.

Stoke Gabriel at Huntsham

When a Stoke Gabriel ringer said his son was getting married and the reception was at Huntsham on 29 July 2006 the band immediately offered to travel to ring there on the fine set of eight. The wedding ceremony was held at Millfields School and as the cars passed Huntsham church to go to the nearby house for the reception the bells rang out, being a pleasant surprise to all concerned.

Devon 8 Bell call change ringing (contd from page 7)

Dartmouth lost the end of his thumb through this very reason. It is also very hard on the hands in rising and falling due to the small size of rope to hold.

18. Many West country Ringers also pass the loop over their wrist when ringing presumably to prevent the rope flapping if set overlong. This is a very dangerous practice, as if the bell is set for any reason the stay could give way. This might be due to woodworm or because damaged through heavy setting, and the rope will be wound up over the wheel lifting the ringer off the ground if he cannot release in time. Very painful!

19. The bell should be set on end to find the correct length of rope. Once tucked, any adjustment should be made in the wheel, or using temporary boxes or short stops not by **re-tucking** the ends.

Once the tucks are set in their place from new, a crease forms in the rope which retains the end in position. Any later adjustment destroys this and the end will not stay in place.

20. This leads to the horrible and very dangerous practice of using twine or tape to hold the end in place. I have seen this come loose during ringing and nearly take off a ringer's finger like a cheese cutter. People forget that while a bell is so easy to handle at the end of each stroke, during the swing several cwt are on the move and will not stop easily, like a garage door spring, keeps on going what ever is in the way. (Ever tried to change one?)

21. The only time twine is used is when the rope comes from the supplier, on the ends, careful examination will show this is always a sailmaker's whipping which has the turns retained in position. Any later repairs to ropes should have whipping done in this manner only.

22. Rope grease can be obtained, though I have always used the good old tallow to grease the rope where running through the fillet hole and the sheaves.

Bell ropes wear from the inside out at these points and in old ropes the characteristic decrease in rope size can be seen.

To check old ropes the lay should be opened to inspect the inside of the rope it should be a lighter colour than the outside, if not ditch it, far too old.

23. Long Splicing. The two ends to be joined are unlaied fully back 18". Marry tightly together alternately so that you have two sets of 18" strands in hand. Select a pair lying together and half knot them so that the strands appear at right angle to the lay of the rope. Pull snug.

Select another pair lying together, unlay the strand back along the rope, laying in the other gently twisting so it lays in well, light colour inside lay, proceed back until 3" from end of strand being laid in. Half knot as before. Cut off long end to match short end. Turn rope around and carry out the same procedure to the remaining pair and half knot. You should then have three sets of pairs spaced approx 15" apart. These ends should be cut back and tapered long enough to splice in. Tuck in for three tucks each and roll underfoot to settle in.

24. Should a rope get badly worn or break, the usual place being where passing through the sheave box. Unwrap the surplus rope in the wheel, cut off the worn section from both ends and drop it down until you have fresh rope through the sheaves around 4' beyond to allow for wear and splice. Ensure you have enough to retie in the wheel after splicing.

Then splice as at 23 above. Rub in plenty of rope grease to reduce friction on completion, as the rope gets hot it will melt into the rope, this is mainly at the start of the rise and end of lower.

I hope these few thoughts prove of interest to fellow ringers and their learners.

Exeter St Mark—10

Dedication of new bells

Now that the work is complete, we have turned our attention to the appearance of the ringing room which has been painted, we have added a heater, carpet and blinds. The new bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Crediton on Sunday 29th October at 4pm. All are welcome to attend. There will be ringing by the local band before the service and immediately afterwards. Open ringing on the 10 will then follow for as long as required. Refreshments will be served in the adjacent church hall after the service. *Matthew Hilling.*

Withycombe Raleigh—12

Following the successful appeal to raise funds to augment the bells of the parish church of St John the Evangelist, Withycombe Raleigh, the bells were rung for the last time on Whitsunday. A group of volunteers began the task of dismantling the frame so that parts of it could be transported to the bell hangers for modification to take the new pieces of frame and the three new bells. Under the guidance of Reg McKenzie from Nicholson Engineering the bells were lowered from their positions in the frame onto metal bearers so that preparations could be made for them to be moved into their new homes within the modified frame in the tower. Work commenced on Monday the 3rd of July on the installation of our three new bells. With volunteer labour and Reg McKenzie, the framework to make a second layer arrived and was then duly manhandled and placed in the order to be raised into the tower on the church floor. The bells themselves arrived on Tuesday. We had a visit from the local school to see the bells. Also a new design for the improvement to the sound control has been tried out, and once the whole 12 is in and ringing we shall be taking meter readings before and after to see how successful it is. The try-out took place on Friday 21 July, and the first peal was rung on Monday 31. The dedication service was on Sunday the 8th of October at 4.00, conducted by our very own Father Tony, who has supported us from the start, and also acted liaison with our main benefactor. We also now have one of our band as a member of the GPC and the amount of interest and enthusiasm that has resulted from our little project has brought the whole church and community alive. So now Devon has three 12's. Do come and visit us on Friday nights, everyone will be welcome. We have now closed the fund following a donation from The Foyle Foundation, which has secured the last funding to allow this project to go forward as such a rapid pace. From start to finish we have only taken 8 months to raise all the money, have a faculty granted, the framework designed, the bells cast, and back ringing again. A massive thank you to all those who have so freely given towards this. *John Forster, Captain.*

Crediton

The Two Trebles Appeal launched by Holy Cross, Crediton, has reached £14,750. The aim is to take the church's current peal of 10 bells to a full peal of 12, putting it on a par with Exeter Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey. When the appeal was launched in February, it was estimated the project would cost £15,000, but that has since increased to £21,000 due to a rise in the worldwide market price of copper, a crucial bell-making material. Bell ringer, Howard Egglestone, walked the 184-mile Thames Path in September in aid of the appeal and has already raised £1,000 in sponsorship. Anyone who would like to make a donation to the Two Trebles Appeal can call 01363 772566. Cheques should be made payable to The Crediton Two Trebles Appeal.

Young Ringers

The Young Ringers' Afternoon held on Saturday 22 July was a great success. 14 young people from 9 to 20 came from various parts of Devon, with several parents, and a handful of other valuable helpers. The simulator at Wolborough was in constant use, and the handbells were also popular. The BBQ at St Paul's church seemed to go down well, followed by a thoughtful short act of worship conducted by Tim King, and yet more handbells for the mad and keen after most had gone home!

Handbook amendments

Salcombe, Mike Wriggley
01548 85 33 62 MOB 07973894748

Dean Prior, Alan Brown
01364 643 586

Feniton, Josephine Chown
01404 850513

Roborough (North Devon):
Andrew Ward, Merrifield, Roborough,
Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8TB

Beaford. Richard Heard, still at Beaford Garage. (Son of previous contact)

Vicar of Beaford, Roborough, St Giles in the Wood and Yarnscombe the Rev. S Thorp has gone to another parish and has not yet been replaced.

Burton Art Gallery

Sculptor, Marcus Vergette, was inspired in his latest series of work in featuring different types of bells. An exhibition at the Burton Art Gallery and Museum in Bideford has a serious and poignant meaning as the first sculpture was created following the end of the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001. Marcus explained: "I heard my neighbour ring the church bells all day after the movement restrictions were lifted on my parish at the end of the epidemic. This was the first time they had rung in six months. I realised something was disappearing that had been fundamental and was going largely unnoticed." Marcus, who lives near Bea-

worthy, was commissioned to make a commemorative piece in remembrance of the animals slaughtered and in recognition of the hardships endured by the farming community during the outbreak. I chose to make a bell that can be rung by anyone. I believe this is the only public access bell in this country," he said. Marcus explores the idea of bells as silent objects, sometimes solid or as acoustic amplifiers. "There is something universal, profound and spiritual we recognise in a bell with resonance symbolically as well as acoustically," he said. The Burton Art Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-5pm. Admission is free.

Ringling Centres

A **Ringling Centre** is a combination of people, tower bells, technology and other facilities designed to help people learn to ring. Centres are intended to promote high standards of teaching, and to train teachers of ringing. Each centre has a management team and access to competent teachers, and the tower will usually have an active band of ringers with their own weekly practice and service ringing. The facilities will normally include a simulator, classroom space, and other teaching aids such a dumb bell, a video camera and playback equipment.

History

The Ringling Centres Committee was formed in 1993 to support existing ringing centres and to encourage the creation of new ringing centres. More recently the Committee has administered the allocation of a £50,000 benefice given by The Worshipful Company of Founders to assist in the setting up of ringing centres. To date there are in excess of 40 ringing centres of which over 30 have received a grant from the Worshipful Company of Founders benefice.

Current activities

Currently the Committee's work consists mainly of promoting the setting up of ringing centres and formally recognising those who meet its standards. Increasingly the Committee is becoming orientated towards supporting ringing centres in their activities. The Committee is also managing the introduction of a

new £500 prize, also provided by the Worshipful Company of Founders, for the encouragement of young people in ringing.

Tavistock Ringing Centre

St Eustachius, Tavistock 10 bells 24 cwt. Contact: George Mudge, Meadowside, Collaton, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9JT. (01822) 615456. Simulator: Abel on all 10 bells + the 2 dumb bells. Teaching rooms, toilets and catering: Parish Centre across the road is available for hire.

Troyte Ringing Centre

Bampton and Huntsham, 6, 14-0-3 + dumb/bell; 8, 8-0-27 respectively. Contact: Michael Hatchett, Five Oaks, Bampton, Devon, EX16 9LE. Tel: (01398) 331843. Website <http://www.troyterringingcentre.org.uk>. Equipment - Bampton: Abel simulator fitted to independent practice dumb-bell, video camera, video player, tape recorder. Huntsham: Sound management, allowing unrestricted open ringing. Teaching rooms at both towers. Toilets: In church at Bampton, Community Hall at Huntsham. Catering facilities for light refreshments at both towers. Training Courses: see web site or contact details above. More tutorials for small groups arranged on demand.

Wolborough Ringing Centre

Central Council recognised. At Wolborough, Newton Abbot. 8 15-2-7. Contact: Rev Russell Chamberlain, 5 Coach Place, Wolborough, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1ES, 01626 368889.

Carol Service

The Devon Ringers Carol Service will be on Saturday 16th December at Crediton at 3pm.

Please make every effort to attend. The collection will be in aid of the Children's Hospital South West. In recent years well over £500 has been collected for this excellent cause. For those who have not attended, this is an inspiring service and a worthy prelude to the festivities of Christmas. Singers are invited to join the choir who sing a number of highly polished anthems.

In the past we have been accompanied by the handbell ringers, Harmony 400. A sound and sight you will not forget. There will be ample time for ringing before and after the service for members of the Devon Association and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Treasurer

The 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. These are all payable by 1 October each year. 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 Please remember that this is your newsletter and that your contributions are sought. Please make use of this newsletter.

Notices

The AGM will be held on Saturday 11 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

**Herbert (Pickles) Pascoe
90 years young on 11
November 2006.
Happy Birthday to you**

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