



Founded 1925

President – Mr Raymond Mugridge

# Devon Calls

**July 2008  
Vol 1 Issue 22**

**Special points of interest**

- Chairman reveals all
- Award your teacher a training certificate

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## Brian Drake

At the last AGM our Chairman of over thirty years was succeeded by Ryan Trout. Brian has served and led the Association well and received a warm round of applause. In Brian's thirty years there is not much that he has not seen or done and in recognition of his devoted service he was presented with a set of crystal whisky glasses.

Brian thanked everyone for their support over the years. Brian has led the Association and certainly brought it forward from when he was first elected. The rules were changed a number of years ago and the Chairmanship will alternate every three years between the North and the South.

## South Brent Devon Champions

The Major Final held at Zeal Monachorum on 14 June 2008 was a fitting place as this is where the Association first began. The church was packed, and tea was on the laws in marquees. There was plenty of activity, people listening, talking, judging. Many were sat around the churchyard, others went slightly further afield. There was Julia and Evan collecting the late raffle tickets and ensuring they were all folded.

The winners on these tricky bells were South Brent with the President, Ray Mugridge and the Secretary, Jereme Darke, ringing for that team. Congratulations to Suzanne and the rest of the team for being Devon Champions 2008.

**Ringling in the Olympics in the South West - an invitation to bellringers and parishes throughout the region.**

In the Beijing stadium on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at 3.45pm, the Mayor of Beijing will hand the Olympic flag to the Mayor of London and the UK will become the Olympic host nation. See inside how ringers can mark this.

**Ringling Roadshow  
5th - 6th September  
Stoneleigh Park,  
Warks.**

**Devon Ringers' Council will have a stand and goods for sale. Plenty of activities for ringers**

## Ryan Trout Chairman

Congratulations to Ryan being elected Chairman at the AGM. Ryan has natural enthusiasm and passion for bell ringing and I am sure that we will be hearing and seeing a lot more from him. Ryan has provided some background information on his life which you will find inside along with some trips that have been planned.

**Dinner and Dance  
Friday 19 September  
Fingle Bridge Inn  
Drewsteignton  
7.30pm for 8.00pm  
Tickets £17.50 each  
available from the  
Secretary or  
Treasurer on  
first come first served.**

## Venues and Judges for 2009

The next Committee Meeting will be on 21 August at North Tawton when business for the forthcoming year will be discussed along with competition venues for 2009. Invitations are still required. Judges will be proposed for 2009. Liaise with the Hon Sec or Chairman. Notify your representative on the Committee or the Hon Sec if you have any issues that need to be discussed.

## Obituaries

### Earnie Furneaux

passed away on Sunday 28 August after a long illness. He was tower captain at Holne for many years. He also rang regularly with Broadhempston on practice nights and in competitions for almost 20 years. His funeral was at Holne church on 10th September 11am followed by cremation.

### Jack Heggadon

a long time ringer at Alphington died Friday 21st September 2007 and the funeral was at Alphington on 3rd October.

### Doris Setherton

(wife of Cecil, captain of Mariansleigh) passed away and the funeral was held at Mariansleigh on 6 November 2007.

### Chris Longridge

A thanksgiving service for the life of Chris was held at Beaminster on Saturday 1 December 2007.

### Jack Welch

A former member of Morteheo Bellringers Mr Jack Welch passed away on Christmas Eve. He rang for Morteheo in the 1950/60 before ringing with Georgeham in the 70/80 before he retired from ringing. He helped to win a number of competitions with both Morteheo and Georgeham. He was a great supporter of bellringing and he would often arrive up a Morte early for service in the 90's to listen to us ringing! He lived at Woolacombe and leaves a widow and 2 daughters Members of Morteheo and Georgeham rang an open peal at Morteheo after his funeral service at Woolacombe at the request of his family. He was interred at Morteheo Cemetery Ringers were John Barnes, Margaret and Fred white, Tom Welch, Tony Barrable and Ron Phillips.

### Barbara Dodd

Wife of Martin, Tower Captain of Teignmouth, died on 28th December after a brave fight against cancer. The funeral took place on Thursday 10th Jan at St. Michael's Teignmouth followed by a private service at Torbay Crematorium.

### Bill Ware

Bill died peacefully on 12 January 2008 aged 87, following several years suffering with ever increasing dementia. His funeral was held at Exeter Crematorium on 23 January.

### Ena Ford

Died on 2 April and the funeral took place on 9th April 2008 at Thorverton.

### Dr Ray Ayres

Director of Taylors, Eayre & Smith Ltd, Dr Ray Ayres had a sudden death on 4th June 2008 killed in a motoring accident on his way home from the foundry.

## BEST KEPT SECRET AT KINGSBRIDGE?

There has been a church on the site of St Thomas of Canterbury in Kingsbridge since before the 10th century, it has a wonderful altar and rood screen but many local people have never been inside the church so a booklet has been published to try to raise its image. Full of colour photographs it shows what the people who hurry by the church at the top of the hill on the edge of town are missing. It is a church in very good repair with a font dating from Norman times, a porch added in Tudor times and beautiful stained glass windows full of biblical stories. The bell tower dates from the 14th century and was designed as a place of refuge during raids and riots. Warning beacons could be lit on top of the tower and the bells were rung to alarm residents that the Spanish Armada had been sighted off Bolt Head, a few miles away. Most people in Kingsbridge know about St Edmund's parish church in the town centre the older Dodbrooke church is nowhere near so well known. Yet there is a large housing estate next door and a primary school alongside it. The booklet, to raise awareness rather than funds, costs £2 and can be obtained from the church which, unusually these days, is open from 8am to 3.30pm every day.

### CREDITON RINGERS' CELEBRATION

The bells on Saturday 17 November rang out across Crediton for nearly three-and-a-half hours to mark the diamond wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The then Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip at Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. The master of the Ancient Society of College Youths has accepted an invitation to bring an elite band of members to ring the 12 bells of the Church of Holy Cross, Crediton. The College Youths, formed in 1637, are the oldest ringing society in England, and its members ring the bells at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

They rang a special peal of 5,040 different changes of Bristol Surprise Maximus to mark the royal 60th wedding anniversary. Event co-ordinator Howard Egglestone said: "Many ringers from the area came in to Crediton to hear our distinguished visitors perform on our new peal of bells and were not disappointed.

### STOLEN BELLS BACK IN MERTON

Three bells belonging to All Saints Church in Merton were stolen while awaiting repair in Tavistock. Parishioners had raised £6,000 to restore six bells, which had hung silent for 15 years. Churchwarden, Mary Ford, said: "The whole community here is relieved and pleased that they are back. It really shows how much this community wants to hear the bells ringing again. All our prayers have been answered." The bells were found in Manchester after a tip off. The church is still raising funds for repairs to the tower to be made.

## RINGERS ON A ROUND ROBIN

John Kelly enjoyed a free birthday train trip through South Devon to celebrate his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday last year. He set off on the steam train, before transferring to a ferry and special bus, to visit churches in Paignton, Kingswear, Dartmouth and Totnes. John was joined by ringers from across South Devon at each of his stops, where they rang bells and raised over £250 for the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust in Ivybridge. John, who lives in Paignton, was given use of the steam train in recognition of his 40 years working at Dart Valley Railway. Barry Cogar, general manager at Dart Valley Railway, was full of praise for John's loyal service work as a signaller and his dedication to bell-ringing.

## Berry Pomeroy Appeal

Berry Pomeroy Parish has spent £250,000 on refurbishing the church. The next phase is repair of the bells and bell frame costing a cool £45,000 and church reserves are totally exhausted!

In England it is customary to ring the bells in a harmonious peal, in which all are rung at the same time, the volume of sound thus produced being enormous and the effect very beautiful, particularly at a distance. We have a full written record and diagrams of our own eight bells and detailed photographs of them. We have received plenty of fund-raising ideas from the Central Council of Church Bellringers. All offers of financial help gratefully received. Revd Peter C Belenens.

## PULLING STRINGS ON SMALL SCALE

Phil Stevens, bell captain at St Mary's Kingskerswell is very pleased. He has recruited three new members for the church bell ringers after a mini ring with six bells was set up in the parish centre. It attracted a lot of attention, and from publicity point was very good. The mini-rings loaned by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers was created by the late Frank Mack in 1963 as the first true mini-ring. The bells together weigh only 7lb 14oz. This had been the first outing for them under ownership of the guild. This was an excellent way to promote church bell ringing and let the public see what actually happens.

## RINGOUT WILD BELLS 2

The Ringers' Council organised an event as part of the Exeter Autumn 2007 Festival at St Petrock's Church, Exeter High Street on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm. Live performances of bell ringing and readings were given about the development and heritage of bell ringing. It was a marvellous opportunity for people to discover the fascinating history and unique music of this ancient British art. The Ringers' Council has decided not to take part in the Exeter Autumn 2008 Festival.

## New Chairman Ryan reveals all

At the Association AGM in November a new Chairman, Ryan Trout was appointed. Brian Drake, the outgoing Chairman was presented with a set of Whisky Crystal glasses. Brian has kept ringing active in all parts of Devon and has been extremely active and supportive. If not ringing he has been acting as a judge. He can certainly be proud of his 30 years as Chairman. He has taken ringing to the standard of today where the Devon style of ringing is much admired throughout the rest of the country so much so that when ringers from Devon go on tour it is not unusual to have people outside the church listening to the ringing.

Ryan Trout the new Chairman was born on the 14th January 1979 at Freedom Fields Hospital in Plymouth, and started to ring in October 1989. He has been Captain of the Football and Athletics teams, and also played Rugby, cricket and Basketball. Ryan ran for Plymouth at 100 and 200 metres and played football for Devon School boys, although he wished he had played Rugby more! On leaving college he got a job as a civil servant and still in the same job now. After the first 8 months he resigned from his position and went travelling to South East Asia, fortunately when he came back he also got his job back! His current ambition is to run his own pub and he is working the bar in his local in Eggbuckland. Ryan has a love for organising trips to different areas of the UK and loves ringing with other like minded individuals, people who know him will know that he loves Real Ale and food or is it food then ale! Ryan said, "Having been elected as Chairman of the Association I honour that people think me fit enough to carry out these duties." Ryan is under no illusion that the next three years, being his term of office, will be a hectic and hard working time.

### Bells on Youtube

There are some interesting sights on youtube. Check out the following:

#### Dartington

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT959cTvJ2s>

#### Video clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4cnf6V70FQ&feature=related>

#### Buckfast Abbey

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1Z5kAT96kM>

#### Buckfast Abbey grounds

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjTo17Abomc&feature=related>

#### Powderham

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JS9IITA2-E>

#### Dunsford

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgnGJLNhbOU>

### SURPRISE DAYS RINGING ON DARTMOOR

Thirty ringers from all over Devon came along to wish Jack Rhymes of West Alvington a Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December. Jack a long serving member of the Association, Past-President, Honorary Life Vice-President and Committee Member; has been a ringer at West Alvington and currently captain for good many years. His team has a commendable record of achievement in The Devon Final, entering two teams for many years. He has for many years and continues to serve as Secretary to the Woodleigh Deanery. His record of participation in the South Devon Inter-Deanery Association Competition surpasses all others – in fact the 2007 festival at South Brent marked a 60 year anniversary!

Jereme, our Secretary learnt to ring in the South Hams and has always had great respect for Jack, being privileged to ring with him on several occasions over the years.

Jereme and David Trist initiated the current Woodleigh Deanery monthly practice, which visits towers on the third Tuesday of the month, several years back. It is still going strong and is lead by Jack, with assistance from Harry, John, Clifford and Ray.

We met at Bovey Tracey at ten o'clock. When Jack came down from the tower after the first ring, he was met by a mass of ringing colleagues and friends. Ringers from Kingsteignton, Egg Buckland, South Brent, Buckland, Exeter, Burrington, Dunsford, The Woodleigh Deanery and even two from Somerset greeted Jack on his special day.

Following some good striking on the eight and back six, we headed for Ilington. The heavens opened but our spirit was not dampened! This tricky but musical set of six still goes well. Some beverage was consumed in the shelter of the Carpenters Arms and we made our way out to Widecombe. This fine tower holds an outstanding peal of six and eight. Call me old fashioned, but I prefer the six!

Our fourth tower was Buckland in the Moor. This little set are an enjoyable ring, now looked after by Clare Caunter, who is bringing along several new ringers. A welcome brew of tea was put on by Mrs Pickles Pascoe in the hall, where we took chance to dry out and chat with one of our most senior members – Pickles himself – who was on fine form!

Our final tower was South Brent. Some enjoyable striking was realised here. We then resigned to the Royal Oak, where a dwindling but hearty contingent enjoyed a good meal.

Thanks are extended to the five towers for accommodating us. Thanks are also extended to all ringers that came to support the day and finally thank to Jack for having a birthday. A comment was uttered that we look forward to the 90<sup>th</sup> in a few years time!

On behalf of the Association Jack, we wish you good health and good ringing in years to come! There are many of us who are indebted to you.

JD 30.12.2007

### Wet weekend in Poole

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December eleven members and friends of the Wednesday Night Ringers met up at Shipton Gorge, Dorset. Sadly we were missing Gillian, Margaret and Fred and Colin. We were pleased that Trevor and Val, Ryan and Tony were able to join us.

The bells at Shipton go well. A light ground floor ring of six. We then adjourned to the New Inn in Shipton for a long lunch break. We travelled eastwards onto Wareham. This is a 16-cwt peal of ten. We enjoyed some good striking on the back eight and the 10!

Our final tower on the Friday was at Corfe Mullen. Two Dorset gentlemen expecting some decent striking met us! To be fair we did ring them pretty well, but they were not the easiest peal of six. They sounded rather like Lustleigh, but upstairs and a tricky set. The Hon Sec produced his medicine bottle and many enjoyed a fine tippie of sloe gin. We then travelled a short distance (thanks to sat nav!) to our digs in Wimborne Road. This was an eight-bedroom guesthouse – very comfortable, accommodating landlady and a bar. We had all the rooms booked out – bet she wondered what she was letting herself in for! Later she was to meet and hear Mr Clayton!

The day was rounded off with a fine meal at the Coventry Arms, Corfe Mullen. The Timothy Tailor Landlord bitter was pretty good!

Saturday arrived. Rain and wind for most of the day. Off we set to the Purbeck region. We started at Corfe Castle – these were good – around 11-cwt peal of six. Braving the downpours we then went onto Kingston (also of St James as the Kingston in South Devon). This fine reputed set of 10 did not disappoint us. Rose the back 8 three times and had some very respectable ten bell striking to finish. A thirst was worked up and we soon piled into the Square and Compass at Worth Matravers. Outstanding ales and cider served, with delicious local pasties. A party of Cambridge students ventured in with their half-pints – bet they thought we were a strange bunch!

Following dinner we wandered down to the tower at Worth and enjoyed some good ringing on this light six. Poor Trevor was tired and sat the 5<sup>th</sup> twice (did it slip the wheel?). Several took some shifting from the pub (no names mentioned) – our driver Steve was very patient.

Eventually we got across to Hampreston – a fine ground floor six recently done up by Whitechapel and Taylor's. Worth a visit again. Our final tower was Canford Magna – the trickiest peal of the weekend by far. Cannot forget to mention the trouser losing incident – poor Trevor on the 4<sup>th</sup> and he kept ringing to the end. What a laugh at our poor friends expense! Following a quick clean up and pre dinner drinks at the guesthouse, we arrived back at the Coventry Arms for our second evening dinner (difficult to find a venue in Poole). It was good to see John Pearse from Wantage, near Oxford – he was down in Bournemouth for the evening and (contd. p4)

(contd. from p3) came out to meet us – a true patron of Call Change Ringing who flies the Association Flag up in Oxford for us.

Sunday soon dawned. Drier at last (on the outside). Who missed breakfast? Off to St James in Poole to ring for service. Good sounding lumpy 10 – work planned for the back bells! A wonderful church with massive gallery. We then travelled across to Bourne-mouth St John. A magnificent ring of eight – the best of the trip??

Dinner beckoned and we settled in the Greyhound at Winterborne Kingston. Good carvery. Then after lunch we rang at the village church just along the road – a good set of six. Our final tower was at Piddlehinton – beautiful tone, went well but needed some guides for ropes. We said our good byes and headed for home.

Mention must be made of the tremendous welcome given to us by these 12 Dorset towers. Selection of some excellent towers and organised by the Hon Sec. To Trevor for decorating and organising the bus. To Stephen for driving and his patience. Finally to our ringing master who (tried) to keep us in check.

*JJD December 2007.*

## Cathedral Ringers Explain

At the Bishopsteignton Probus Club in April the meeting room at the Cockhaven Manor resounded with the sound of live hand bells, a model church tower bell and recordings of bells, as the 39 members present, together with guests enjoyed a fascinating presentation given by the Exeter Cathedral Tower Captain, Ian Campbell, and two of his colleagues. Bell ringing has evolved over 400 - 500 years, originating with the requirement for churches to ring a bell to call the faithful to prayer. By the 16th Century, more than one bell was being used, possibly due to the community use of church buildings. More elaborate use of bells became possible with advances in technology, particularly the fixing of the bell to the wheel. Church bells are made of copper and tin. The swinging of the bell through 360 degrees improves its tone. It stops with its mouth upwards and its movement can be controlled. The number of bells determines the number of changes which can be made. With six bells there are 720 possible changes, 5,040 with seven. It would take 350 years to ring all the changes with 12 bells. Computer simulations give perfect bell ringing, but the slight imperfections in live performances are thought to enhance their musicality.

Bishopsteignton has six bells, the cathedral has 12. It was in late Victorian times that guilds and associations were formed. Each diocese has a bell adviser and a great deal of bell restoration is being done. During the question and answer session, Philip Gourd informed the meeting that the bells at St John's Church, Bishopsteignton, were the exact twin of the original Bow Bells, having been cast together with those made for the church of St Mary le Bow in London.

## The Bishop and David and Valerie Row

Doing a favour for a Bishop of Exeter paid off handsomely for David and Valerie Row. David's parents had put up the Right Rev Charles Curzon at their Pennsylvania home during the Exeter Blitz, during which the Bishop's Palace damaged.

It was a favour the Bishop was happy to return some years later when in 1947 David and Valerie married at Bishopsteignton Parish Church. David said: "He was a wonderful chap and readily agreed to marry us at the church where my parents had wed. It was a wonderful day." And one remembered particularly today by the couple, now of Topsham, who are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary.

David, born in Topsham and baptised there, had met Valerie during the war when she was based in Boston, Massachusetts.

A former midshipman cadet at the Nautical Training Establishment HMS Worcester - and one of the few navy men to have carried out sail drill amid the masts of HMS Worcester and the Cutty Sark - he had seen duty on the grim Arctic convoys to Murmansk aboard the 20,000-tonne cruiser.

When the ship needed special repairs, it embarked for Boston, Mass, of all places, and it was there that David met and fell in love with Valerie.

David said: "It just happened she was the only Wren in Boston and would you believe it, she had virtually grown up in Bishopsteignton. We had a wonderful time and were eventually married by Bishop Curzon at Bishopsteignton."

David was given command of his own ship, the frigate HMS Padstow Bay, but it was short-lived for the ship was soon decommissioned. It was during one of those tours that David visited Hiroshima. He said: "It was not that long after the atom bomb had been dropped and it was absolutely awful. You could not believe how terrible it was until you actually saw the devastation."

Back home there were staff appointments and David, now a lieutenant commander, served under the Commander in Chief, Plymouth, Admiral Sir Richard Onslow.

David and Valerie now live in Elm Grove Road, Topsham, near their son Jeremy.

In retirement David, who recently received the special Arctic Convoy Campaign Medal commissioned by a grateful Russian government, has rediscovered his love of bell-ringing. He said: "There was national shortage of bell ringers for the Millennium, so I put my head above the parapet and volunteered to help out.

"Now, every Sunday I ring the bells at my parish church in Topsham for the glory of God and the pleasure of man.

"I have to say I have been very lucky."

## Raising Awareness of Our Unique Tradition

At the recent Committee Meeting in February, the Secretary wished that members re-visit this area since it is in our constitution and number of ringers/teams continue to fall.

This was to target current members and the general public. Yes, locally towers do much work to try and keep their bells ringing. There is much to be learnt from towers, which have a plentiful supply of enthusiastic and capable ringers. However, the Association has a duty to promote call change ringing – this can be done on a county and local level.

At this Committee Meeting much useful discussion lasting nearly 30 minutes occurred on this interesting and important topic. Mr Avery reminded members of the Devon Ringers Council commitment to try to attend Devon County Show in 2009. Mr Trist mentioned efforts made by training centres such as the Troyte Centre at Huntsham and the possibility of the BBC coming to the Major Final. Further potential from the Road Show and the National Event was highlighted. Mr G Sharland suggested an assistant Publicity Officer to help Mr Webster – this was put on hold and would be discussed with Mr Webster. Mr Quance mentioned the Shebbear College and teaching 12 youngsters at Shebbear. The question was asked – Should we approach local schools? The Child Protection Issue was sited as an important consideration. Other organisations to approach would include Brownies/Scouts, Young Farmers Clubs and Women's Institutes for instance. Advertising in the parish magazine realised a positive response after some seven months at Paignton. Granted that the drop out rate was always high, but that young ringers once confident and able to ring could, and often do come back to ringing later. The President Mr Murgidge said it was vitally important to keep the belfries 'alive' and in regular use.

The realisation that most new ringers were mature people was specially sited by Mr Rhymes, where the Woodleigh Deanery monthly meetings were very well attended but lacked the presence of youngsters. This was a common experience, but some towers were fortunate enough to have young ringers in the locality.

Mr Way suggested that it be down to the local team. However, members were again reminded that they were the 'branches' of the Association 'Tree' and that they should continue to promote activity back in the towers in their region. Ultimately the foundation of the Association continues to be at the grass root level, where the Committee should do all in its power to assist/ensure new and continued ringing activity occurs.

In summary, it was agreed that the Secretary would write an article on this topic for Devon Calls and that we re-visit this area at the next meeting.

*JJD 22.02.2008*

## LUNDY ISLAND SOCIETY'S FIRST EVER DEVON CALL CHANGE COMPETITION.

The bells of Lundy have rung out for the last ten years thanks to the work of Bob Caton and the Lundy Island Society, and whilst there have been many visiting bands both method and call change on the island this years annual festival saw a mix of both with the Moorland Ringers from Dartmoor attending this year's festival. The call change competition was on 24th of February 2008.

To even things out a bit the bands were formed from a mix of call change ringers and method ringers, a number of which had turned up when the Moorland Ringers were ringing in the previous days to get a bit early of practice in.

Once the bands were sorted out in Devon tradition the draw was undertaken. The teams commenced the rise, sixty on thirds and lower with the same rules as in Devon Association Competitions.

Mervyn Way of Chawleigh who has judged many Devon competitions was tucked away with his pencil and book.

The occasional open hand stroke would creep in, there was the missed change and most bands faults were in rise and lower. The third team to ring having raised the bells realised they had no one in the band to call the changes, this was sorted out by the scrutineer and matters were back on track.

At the conclusion of the ringing all adjourned to the Marisco Tavern where having gained sustenance (The beer was excellent !!) the results were given out. Both the scrutineer and judge praising the standard of ringing and the effort put in by all those that took part.

The results were

1st	Marisco Maraunders	37	Faults
2nd	Moorland Maybes	39	Faults
3rd	The Late Lundys	45	Faults
4th	The Lundy Loonies	52	Faults

Judge: Mr Mervyn Way of Chawleigh

Organiser and Scrutineer: Mr Robert Brown of Bovey Tracey.

Interestingly the winning band had ringers from a far a field as Norfolk, Mersey side and Devon and Cornwall

A good afternoon was had by all and talking afterwards I am sure it will encourage a few to enter the National Call Change Competition later in the year.

Participants were Jen Pascoe (Devon), Barry Trevethan (Devon), David Mattingley (Cornwall), Neil Thomas (Norfolk), Bob Caton (Somerset) and Peter Furniss (Merseyside). This event posed two questions was this the first ever Devon style Call Change Competition on the Island?

And what would be the prospects of holding another one?

On a personal note if you haven't been to Lundy then you ought to go, not just for the bells but also for the whole Lundy experience. Robert Brown. Bovey Tracey

## Germansweek Bells Ring Out Again

After much hard work by Brian Singleton, Germansweek bells are now back in the tower and ringing again. They sound sweeter, ring better and are a credit to Peter Bazley, the bell hanger and to the Germansweek team led by Brian. It is always difficult when giving thanks like this to get all the names right, those who have been involved in the work which has been considerable are: Brian, Alan Smithers, Tim Donkin, Gordon Jennings from Ashwater, David Corthine from Clawton, Brian Benyon from Stowford, Halwill. Also to Claire Williamson-Carey and her father Bob who managed to persuade several organisations to give grants towards the cost. There are others I know who have helped with support in other ways, thank you to them as well. None of this work could have taken place had it not been for the generosity of the people of Germansweek, various grant aid bodies and people from other communities. There have been organisational difficulties as well as engineering ones, all have now been overcome, not without some hair pulling and gnashing of teeth, but also with a great deal of prayer and considerable commitment by a few people. I hope now that as the bells ring out once again across the village people will be called to hear the Word.

Thank you and God be with you all.

*Revd Stuart Wilson, Vicar*

### Message from the Bell Keeper

As Bell keeper of Germansweek Tower I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard with me, sometimes in extremely poor conditions, dust, dirt and the cold weather to see the job through. It has been well worth the effort, the whole refurbishment cost just over £7000.

A big thank you to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, The Okehampton Deanery Ringers, The Sharpe Trust, The Pennon Group, The Balsdon Trust, The Friends of Germanweek Church, The Germansweek PCC and The Germansweek Bellringers Club and to everyone who gave us financial support, at last our goal has been reached.

*Brian Singleton*

## Dartmouth Ringers Take a Hike to Raise Funds

The Dartmouth Town Ringers undertook a sponsored 'Ring and Walk' to raise money to buy a new set of muffles for St Saviour's and St Petrox churches. The team of 15 Dartmouth St Saviour's ringers met at St Clements.

Tim Chapman, the Tower Captain of St Saviour's, said: "After ringing for an hour at St Clement's we started on the walk to Dittisham. It took a bit longer than we thought. A lot of our ringers are over 60 and they found the hills a bit heavy going.

"Dittisham bells were a joy to ring. They are so musical. Everyone enjoyed ringing and listening to our efforts. Several of our team members have never rung in different churches before so it was good to see John, who is only 13 and our newest recruit, having such a fun time. "Lunch at The Red Lion was very good but short. There wasn't much time for resting before we headed back to Dartmouth on the Dittisham Ferry. The ferry trip was a real highlight for the younger and the older team members. It was also a great opportunity for us all to rest our feet again. "Then we went on the Castle Ferry boat out to St Petrox Church and as we boarded the Castle Ferry it was good to have a couple of local Dartmothians ask us how the walk was going and cheer us on our way. That was a much needed boost! "After ringing at St Petrox we walked back into Dartmouth, arriving at St Saviour's for our final ring of the day. We were greeted with cups of tea and cake before enjoying our final ring of the day in our 'home' tower.

"The day has not only raised money for our cause, but has also been an excellent team-building exercise for our band of ringers. We will all take something away from the fun experience. Some have blisters on their feet. Some have blisters on their hands! As a result of the efforts we have raised more than £500, which will pay for the two new sets of bell muffles. It has been a real team effort. All the St Saviour's ringers can be proud of what they have achieved.

Tim Chapman, the Tower Captain at St Saviour's and St Petrox churches can be contacted on 01803 833754.

## Paignton Hand Bell Ringers Raised over £4,000

The Paignton Hand Bell Ringers raised a record-breaking £4,321 for charity last year. The cash has been donated to the ringers' chosen charity, the Dame Hannah Rogers School in Ivybridge, which provides education and care for young people with profound physical disabilities. The money will go towards the school's new respite centre and specialised equipment.

The hand bell group traditionally ring carol tunes on handbells to entertain guests and customers of pubs, clubs, hotels and homes throughout the Bay over the Christmas period. For 2007, they raised 33 per cent more

than the previous year. The group, led by John Kelly, has been raising money for the Ivybridge school for 53 years. Each year the money goes to the worthy cause of the Dame Hannah Rogers School and through the generosity and kindness of so many people they are able to make a wonderful difference to the students. The ringers presented the cheque at a formal dinner to Tanya Gibson, head of therapy at the school, who told members the non-maintained specialist school takes children from all over the UK. She said any equipment bought for the youngsters is thanks to fund-raising.

## Devon Belles " We Did It For Devon"

Way back in 1984 the late Tom Wright (Down St Mary) suggested that it would be nice to have a ladies team of ringers, and "The Devon Belles" were "born".

For a few years Tom "took us under his wing" He used to arrange our practice nights and would often come along and coach us.

There are only four of us left from the beginning, two from South Devon, Hilary Trout and Sue Ashton (Egg Buckland) and two from the north, Sue Belton (West Down) and Margaret White. (Mortehoe) There are now eight of us again, the others being Suzanne Driscoll, Emma McCullough, (South Brent), Gillian Herniman (High Bickington) and Mandy Nicholas (West Down). We have been ringing together 23 years, meeting every couple months somewhere fairly central for us all.

So, this year being a "special big birthday" for Sue B we decided to have a weekend away ringing, and what better place to base ourselves in than Hereford, as that's where Sue's daughter Claire lives.

We have Fred to thank for planning the towers and route. (Our heaviest tower was just over 10cwt). After a few worrying moments of injuries, one bad shoulder, one bad back and one who had recently been involved in a car crash we finally got to the night before with everyone relatively fit (or at least going!) Unfortunately Mandy was unable to go so that left seven of us.

Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> dawned clear and cold and after a text from Gil saying "I'm running late" we set off from Braunton and similarly Sue A and her 3 passengers set off from down south. We were well on the way when we had a text from Suzanne to say that they were held up in traffic. Over the new bridge into the frosty, beautiful countryside, we arrived at our first tower, Llangarron. This ground floor ring of six proved to be a good start to the day and we soon had some very nice striking of sixty on thirds.

We then crossed over the border into Wales again to Grosmont (Mons). The pub where we had our lunch was lovely and the mulled wine was excellent, as were the bells. It was a very unusual church and a huge upstairs ringing chamber. Suzanne dropped her glove here, but Emma found it, which was just as well as Suzanne then lost Emma's glove at the next tower, Ewyas Harold (Herefs). Some of our group had been there before and we all really enjoyed them (we had a couple of ringers come to listen to us from nearby towers!) Then it was on through the November sunshine to Peterchurch. It was getting dark by this time and after a little trouble of not being able to see very well (remember to take a torch next time) we had to climb the vertical iron ladder into the ringing chamber. These bells were lovely and we really did them justice.

We then made our way into Hereford and managed to find our headquarters - The Three Counties Hotel without problems. We then

took Sue B to Claire's house, which was not too far away.

Our evening meal at The Bay Horse pub recommended by Claire was excellent and all had a very good time. We finished the evening back at our hotel in Hilary and Emma's room drinking wine. Next morning with the weather still good, we had our breakfast at nearby Sainsbury's (a lot cheaper than the hotel dining room). Then off to pick up Sue B. We all travelled together which was really good fun, thanks to Sue A for driving (and also thanks to Gil for driving us from North Devon). On to our first tower Stoke Lacy, which was another pretty set of bells. The captain delayed his "other country sport" to hear us ring. He and another fellow ringer were very impressed with the ringing and the captain was going to try rising Devon style " on his practice night. On through the lovely Herefordshire countryside which was looking at its very best, for a mid November day, to Bredenbury - another upstairs ring. These were the first tricky bells that we had encountered! They were very loud - we were right up under the bells and there was grave stones in the tower on the wall (however did they get them up there?

Lunch was had at Stockton Cross - another really nice pub and very nice puddings!. Guess who had a pud? Only trouble here was that the young chap behind the bar did not think we had paid enough. Soon sorted - he had put the money in the till without checking it. Then on to Kimbolton right in the middle of nowhere. Another ladder to climb! The bells were rather clunky but went well. Then making our way back towards Hereford our next tower was Canon Pyon. These bells were delightful - just as good as I remembered them and we had some really good striking. It was a beautifully kept tower and a lovely church. Time to say our goodbyes to Emma, as Patrick had come to whisk her off gallivanting elsewhere (I can hear you say that possibly she had had enough of us! But I am sure that wasn't true). Our last tower was Burghill. We were locked out here but a quick phone call found from a number in the porch soon had a really nice tower captain arriving on his bike to let us in. (the tower correspondent had flown off to Singapore but had forgotten to tell the captain which day we were coming.) We were made very welcome, unfortunately we could not ring the 8 for lack of ringers but we soon had the back 6 singing round to some good Devon striking! Someone who shall be nameless - (but she came from S Brent!) said that we rang them better as a 6 than they did back in 2006! That was a compliment as some of the best ringers in Devon happened to be there then! It did become very apparent during the week-end that there was much jealousy from some of the male fraternity back in Devon by the amount of texts received! I am sure the men thought that we would not be able to manage without them. Back to base for a spruce-up and a taxi and over to Claire's where we all

thoroughly enjoyed a Chinese take away -and some wine of course. We were all very tired tonight and were back at our hotel and in bed by 23:30 - can you believe it?

Next morning we awoke to horrible weather. So, after packing, and checking out we made our way over to Claire's for breakfast. Good-byes and thanks were said to Claire and her lovely children. We headed towards home ringing at Little Dewchurch for service. These bells were lovely, some of my favourites and we had three peals of really good striking. Look out men! We would give you a run for your money on these bells! We were asked if we had a walking stick as there was a mouse in the church and the small congregation were trying to catch it! Did we look that old? The lady vicar was very impressed with our ringing, and we were invited back any time we wanted!

On to Bridstow. The churchwarden had locked the church after morning service. Another phone call got us in and ringing the bells. The gentleman who let us in was very impressed with our performance. We were not impressed with these bells. Perhaps the eight might go better than the back six. Would be nice to go back and try sometime.

Then on to May Hill for lunch it was now raining, snowing, sleeting' blowing a gale - the lot! The Glass House which some of our members had visited previously this year (a lovely spot on a nice day) did not do pub grub on a Sunday. Eventually we went to a garden centre at Huntley right next to the church and lunch was absolutely beautiful. We then spent a pleasant ½ hour doing a bit of retail therapy! Our next ring was Huntley where we were met by a couple who seemed to have rung at most of the towers in Devon - in fact was there any where they had not rung in the country? (They were into ringing 3 bell towers!). We soon had these bells clunking when disaster struck, the third rope broke on Gillian so that was the end of that. They were going really superb too!

On to our last tower of our first ladies tour - Wynne Holcombe met us at North Nibley. She had a ring with us, which she really enjoyed. Derek Carr came up from Bristol to listen to us. (Sorry Derek for not letting you ring but we would have never heard the last of it from our fellow male ringers back home!) Wynne had brought along home made cakes, yummy, and a very welcome cuppa.

We then made our way down the M5 to J 27 to The Globe at Sampford Peverell recommended by Jerome (he knows how to pick them!). So our last supper ended with a lovely carvery we could not manage a pudding. Not even Suzanne! We all agreed this weekend had been a real success. The standard of our ringing was very good. We received a very warm and helpful welcome from all tower correspondents, captains, and everyone who met us. I feel that this will not be the last time that The Devon Belles go " On Tour". I hope not anyway! MW.

## Mid Week Ringers on Holiday in Swindon

A splendid holiday was experienced by 40 ringers and non ringers in June organised by John and Linda Staddon.

It was an early start for most, rising at 4am with the first pick up at Meeth at 6.30am and further pick ups at Folly Gate, Lydford, Tavistock, South Brent, Ashburton, Exeter and Tiverton Parkway.

The first ring was at Mere and then onto an organised lunch at The Waterfront, Pewsey. The afternoon ring was at Marlborough before reaching the hotel and settling down for an evening meal.

Our stay was in the Madison Hotel in Swindon and the nearest pub was across the dual carriageway and along a cycle path, these obstacles did not deter those who wanted an evening stroll.

Tuesday saw ringing at South Marston, Highworth, Hannington and Castle Eaton where the pub had to be visited as it was the first pub from the source of the River Thames.

Wednesday we rang at Stratton St Margaret, near to the hotel, Christ Church, where three explorers found the grave of George Jackson Churchward. We then went to the Steam Museum on one side or the Outlet Centre on the other side. Some visited both although lunch times can pass so quickly. The afternoon rings were at Radbourne Cheney and St Marks, the other side of the railway line from the Steam Museum.

On Thursday we rang at Wanborough, although some did not see the spectacular views from the church because of the light shower, we then rang at Wroughton. The afternoon rings were at Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze which is part of a beautiful stately house and garden.

Friday, we packed early, and enjoyed our comfortable stay and headed for home. Ringing was at Enford and Fittleton. Unfortunately the last ring of the day, at Amesbury, was a lock out. We did manage to summon the churchwarden, who was also a ringer, but, alas, the absent keyholder had the only key.

The week's weather was beautiful with just some light rain on Thursday morning. The meals in the hotel were enjoyable and the staff very friendly and helpful.

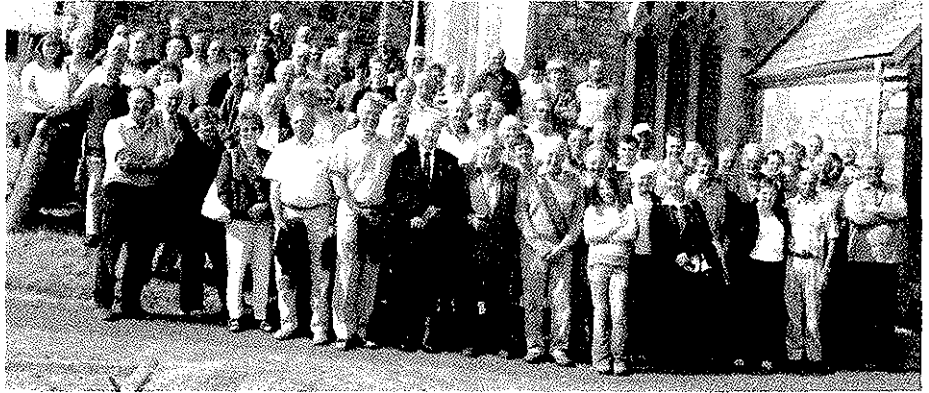
John and Linda Staddon were thanked on behalf of all the travellers and Chris Clayton presented them with bottles of wine.

John Staddon thanked the hotel staff and presented them with our tips. The chef came out and thanked us!

We did break two ropes but had so many splicers in our midst that this only meant a few minutes were lost.

John kindly organised the ringing rotas which had to be carefully timed to ensure that all ringers rang at the churches, not bad when there were over 30 ringers to cater for. A "captain" was selected at each tower to ensure that times were adhered to and to replace any missing ringers!

## Major Final held at Zeal Monachorum 2008



AQ 6309. Photo given by kind permission of Alan Quick, Crediton Country Courier  
President, Ray Mugridge, surrounded by the judges and participants of the Major Final held at Zeal Monachorum in June 2008. The President rang for the winning team, South Brent, and was able to present the shield, to his daughter, Suzanne, Captain of the team. South Brent's team was also Emma, Charlie Hard, the Honorary Secretary, Jereme Darke and Alan Brown.  
Congratulations to South Brent for being Devon Champions 2008.

## Ringling in the Olympics in the South West

In the Beijing stadium on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at 3.45pm, the Mayor of Beijing will hand the Olympic flag to the Mayor of London and the UK will become the Olympic host nation.

It's a moment the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games wants us all to mark and celebrate, and there are many ways in which we can all do this.

Here in the South West, however, Team South West, the team responsible for getting the most out of the Games for the region, are inviting us all to mark the moment with "two minutes noise". The Team would like our "noise" to be led by the pealing of bells from churches in parishes across the region.

So this is an invitation to the bellringers of the region to take this opportunity to lead the region in its celebrations and make a huge contribution to two minutes of noise! Contact [richard.crowe@culturesouthwest.org.uk](mailto:richard.crowe@culturesouthwest.org.uk).

## Devon Ringers Tour to Warwickshire, September 2008

Ringers from Eggbuckland, South Brent, Dunsford and Burrington are going on a 4 day tour to Warwickshire, leaving approx 07.30. Our itinerary is as follows:

**Friday 5th September:** Wincombe (Glos), Bourton-on-the-Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh and Lighthorne.

**Saturday 6th September:** Stoneleigh, Bubbenhall, Offchurch, Leamington Spa, All Saints and Warwick, St Nicholas.

**Sunday 7th September:** Shilton, Wolvey, Monks Kirby, Bilton, and Kenilworth.

**Monday 8th September:** Ilmington, Great Wolford, Broadwell, Drayton (Somerset).

Our accommodation is to be at "Castle Laurels" which is situated in the old part of Kenilworth right opposite the Historic Kenilworth Castle. I am very much looking forward to this trip!  
*Ryan Trout.*

## New CD planned

It has been nearly 4 years in the making with recordings being taken on MP3 and Mini Disc from Devon 8 bell and Devon 6 bell Finals since 2005 and recordings being taken from trips to places such as Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Wales. I have found someone that has their own recording studio and editing suit which will substantially cut the cost of producing this CD. The gentleman that is going to be producing this for the Association has kindly offered his services and I will be sitting in on most of the editing. The CD will be different in some ways to the last CD "Devon Bells" in that this will be a double CD, the first CD will be similar to "Devon Bells" in that it will have snippets of ringing and rises and lowers on 6 and 8 bells, this CD will have an introduction at the start to let listeners know what the CD is all about, the 2nd CD will have 4 or 5 full peals on it alternating between 6 and 8 bells, these recordings will be taken from the last 4 years 6 bell and 8 bell Finals. All money raised will go to the DCBRF.

We do hope that the first stages of this will take place in the next few weeks and the gentleman has assured me that 100 copies could be initially made to be sold at the Ringing Road Show in September! The price of producing this CD will also include a guide booklet that will accompany the CD.

My aim for this CD is to show the rest of the ringing world how we strike bells and how rhythmical our ringing is, I believe we have an art that is very much dying and I want to produce a CD of some of the best ringing we can put onto it. Maybe if anyone has recordings of Down St Mary and Eggbuckland along with the likes of Stoke Gabriel and North Tawton amongst others from 15, 20 years ago we can put this onto the CD too; I think we all know that at that point the ringing in Devon was at its best.  
*Ryan Trout.*

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League Held At Sandford on 18 Oct 2007**

1. Bow
2. Zeal Monachorum
3. Sandford
4. Down St Mary
5. Lapford

**NAIT Deanery Competition held at Abbotskerswell on 27 October 2007**

1. Kingsteignton B 32
  2. Kingsteignton A 32 1/2
  3. Upton 33
  4. Paignton A 34
  5. Kingskerswell 38 1/2
  6. Paignton B 40 1/2
- lpplepen no result

Judges: Norman Mortimore and Bernard Miners

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League Held At Lapford on 15 November 2007**

1. Zeal Monachorum
2. Lapford
3. Down St. Mary
4. Bow
5. Sandford

**Call Change Competition at St Petrox Dartmouth on 17 November 2007**

Ringing half competition peal off the stay.

1. Stoke Gabriel 8 3/4
2. Dartmouth's Capt'n's Team 20 1/2
3. Stoke Fleming 22 1/2
4. St Petrox 23 1/2
5. St Saviours 37 1/2

Judge: Robin Burnham

The invitation competition was rung for the Brian and Christine Ridalls Sheild and organised by Tim Chapman to celebrate his 10 years as Captain of St Saviour and St Petrox, Dartmouth.

The draw and donations raised over £81.50 for the benefit of RNLI.

**Results from Stratton and Kilkhampton Competitions - 24th November 2007****Stratton 8 bell**

1. Egguckland 18 1/2
2. High Bickington 25 1/2
3. Paignton 29 1/2
4. South Brent 35 1/2
5. Exminster 37 1/2
6. Okehampton 41 1/2
7. Chittlehampton 55 1/2
8. Broadhempston 66 1/4

**Kilkhampton 8 bell**

1. Egguckland 42 ½
2. Exminster 52
3. Chittlehampton 52 1/2
4. High Bickington 57 1/2
5. Paignton 62 1/2
6. Broadhempston 68
7. South Brent 78
8. Okehampton 115

**Stratton 6 bell****A section**

1. Egguckland 15 1/2
2. South Brent 22 1/2

3. Chittlehampton 40 1/2
4. Lamerton 45

**B section**

1. Black Torrington 27 1/4
2. Exeter St Petrock 37
3. Bridgerule 56

**Kilkhampton 6 bell****A section**

1. Egguckland 12 1/2
2. Broadhempston 18 3/4
3. Exeter St Petrock 20 1/4
4. South Brent 25
5. Lamerton 38 1/2

**B section**

1. Black Torrington 49 1/4
2. Bridgerule 53 1/2
3. Chittlehampton 55
4. Kilkhampton 74 1/2

**Totnes Deanery Winter League****Collaton St Mary on 1 December 2007**

1. Stoke Gabriel A 37 1/2
2. Collaton St Mary 44 1/2
3. Diptford 65
4. Broadhempston 66
5. South Brent 73 3/4
6. Stoke Gabriel B 86

**Top Ringing**

1. Broadhempston 66 1/2

Judges: Mary Mears and Lee Avery

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League Results Held At Washford Pyne on 13th December 2007**

1. Down St. Mary 54
2. Zeal Monachorum 71
3. Lapford 79
4. Bow 111

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League at Down St. Mary on 17 Jan 2008.**

1. Zeal Monachorum 26
2. Down St. Mary 32
3. Sandford 33
4. Lapford 70
5. Bow 85

**Totnes Deanery Competition at South Brent on 26 January 2008**

1. Stoke Gabriel A 34 1/2
2. Broadhempston 49 1/2
3. South Brent 66 1/2
4. Collaton St Mary 67
5. Stoke Gabriel B 98 1/2

**Ringing off the stay**

1. South Brent 37 1/2
2. Collaton St Mary 38 1/2
3. Broadhempston A 77 3/4
4. Broadhempston B 91

Judges: Robert Dietz and Jereme Darke

**Totnes Deanery Winter League Broadhempston on 9 Feb 2008**

1. Broadhempston 65 3/4
2. Collaton St Mary 75 1/4
3. Stoke Gabriel A 89
4. South Brent 91 3/4
5. Stoke Gabriel B 118

**Top Ringing Section (off the stay)**

1. South Brent 47
2. Broadhempston 49
3. Collaton St Mary 57

**Judges**

John Dietz and Graham Sharland.

**NAIT three towers competition held on 16 February 2008**

Overall results of the three towers (faults added from each tower - see below)

1. Kingsteignton 62 1/2
2. lpplepen 73 1/2
3. Kingskerswell 75
4. Paignton 91 1/2
5. Upton 131

Judge: Bernard Miners

Ringing off the stay in all cases

**Brixham front 6**

1. lpplepen 19
2. Upton 29
3. Kingsteignton 30
4. Kingskerswell 31
5. Paignton 47

**Churston Ferrers**

1. Kingsteignton 8 1/2
2. Kingskerswell 18
3. lpplepen 25
4. Paignton 28
5. Upton 54

**Paignton (back 6)**

1. Paignton 16 1/2
2. Kingsteignton 24
3. Kingskerswell 26
4. lpplepen 29 1/2
5. Upton 48

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League held at Bow on 21st February**

1. Down St. Mary - 29
2. Zeal Monachorum - 30
3. Lapford - 37
4. Sandford - 42

**Devon Association Novice Competition held at Drewsteignton on Sat 8th March****Round Ringing section**

1. Yarcombe 25 1/4
2. Dartmouth A 33 1/2
3. Dartmouth B 38 1/2
4. Plympton St Maurice 91 1/2

*Call Change section - top two teams invited to the Minor Final:*

1. South Brent A 29 1/4
2. Upton 34 1/4
3. Salcombe 40 1/4
4. Chivelstone 42
5. South Pool 44 1/2
6. South Brent B 47
7. Dartmouth 48 1/4
8. Plympton St Maurice 48 1/2
9. Chagford 48 3/4
10. Exeter St David A 50 3/4
11. Dolton A 57
12. Sampford Courtenay 57 3/4
13. Dolton B 60
14. Exeter St David B 67 1/4
15. Ide 86 3/4

Judges: Chris Clayton, Steve Herniman, Mervyn Langdon and David Trist



**Cadbury Deanery Held At Coldridge On 3rd April 2008**

1. Zeal Monachorum - 51
2. Down St. Mary - 71
3. Lapford - 75
4. Sandford - 80
5. Bow - 115

**Overall Results Of The Cadbury Deanery Winter League**

1. Zeal Monachorum - 31
2. Down St. Mary - 27
3. Lapford - 20
4. Bow - 15
5. Sandford - 12

Judge for this season - John Coulthirst

**Competition held at Ide on 5 April 2008**

**A Section**

1. Dunsford 34 1/2
2. South Brent 37
3. Burrington 40 1/2
4. Stoke Gabriel 52 1/2
5. Kingsteignton 57
6. Spreyton 73 1/2
7. Down St Mary 74
8. Exminster 74 1/2
9. Ide A 76 1/2

**B Section**

1. Alphington B 101 1/2
2. Ide B 102 1/2
3. North Bovey 105 1/2
4. Widecombe in the Moor 124 1/2
5. Broadhempston 135
6. South Brent B 141 1/2

Judges:

John Coulthirst and Percy Pester

**Devon 8 Bell Competition held at Huntsham on 26 April 2008**

1. Kingsteignton 29 1/2
2. High Bickington 31 1/4
3. Exeter Cathedral 42 3/4
4. Plymstock 52 1/2
5. Georgeham 68 1/2
6. Paignton 78 1/2
7. Exminster 83 1/4
8. Widecombe in the Moor 87

Best Top Ringing awarded to High Bickington with 15 1/2

Judges

B Drake, I Hookway, B Osbourne and R Trout. Scrutineer Janice Gist

**Totnes Deanery Competition held at Stoke Gabriel on 3 May 2008**

1. Stoke Gabriel A 44
2. South Brent A 47
3. Diptford 76
4. Stoke Gabriel B 106
5. South Brent B 134
6. Broadhempston 143

Judges:

Colin Avery, Roger and Ryan Trout. First two teams qualify for Interdeanery Competition 2009

**Woodleigh Deanery Bellringers 61st annual competition held at St. Martins Sherford on May 3rd 2008.**

**Senior Section.**

- 1 West Alvington 45 1/2
  - 2 Modbury (B) 49 1/4
  - 3 Loddiswell 82 1/2
  - 4 Modbury(A) 114
  - 5 Churchstow 131
  - 6 South Milton 183
- Deanery Ladies Team 87 1/2

**Junior Section**

- 1 Malborough 71 1/2
- 2 Chivelstone 79
- 3 South Pool 97
- 4 Salcombe 98
- 5 Sherford 105 3/4
- 6 Stokenham 155

Sherford does not boast a pub so it was just as well the weather was pleasant!! A first class tea was provided by the ladies of the host tower in their new and very well equipped village hall. Many willing helpers sprang forward to assist when it was reported that the jam and cream scones had been over catered for! The judges, Messrs Darke and Langdon found a comfortable lounge to mark the teams from and were fortified by some cider provided by the Hon Secretary of the deanery.

Thank you Sherford for a very pleasant day.

**Devon Association 6 Bell South Qualifying Competition held at Newton Ferrers on 10 May 2008**

1. Egguckland 12 1/2
2. West Alvington 25 1/2
3. Stoke Gabriel 26 1/4
4. South Brent A 31 1/2
5. North Bovey 34 1/2
6. Lamerton 34 3/4
7. St Petrock 38
8. Dunsford 38 3/4
9. Holbeton 48 1/2
- 10 South Brent B 110
- 11 South Pool 147 3/4

No result for Chivelstone (147 1/4)

Judges: I Avery, J Cole, P Pascoe and P Pester. Scrutineer: C Adams.

**Stan Blackmore Competition at Bovey Tracey on 17 May 2008**

1. Kingsteignton 14 1/4
2. Alphington 16 1/2
3. Paignton 23 1/2
4. Ide 37
5. Widecombe B 45 1/2
6. Holne 101
7. Bovey Tracey 112 1/2
8. Moretonhampsted 113

Judges

Bill Avery and Sandra Coombes

**Down St Mary on Sat 17 May 2008**

1. Egguckland 9 1/2
2. Stoke Gabriel 25
3. South Brent 25 1/2
4. Dunsford 26 3/4

5. Iddesleigh 27 1/2
  6. Bow 29
  7. Zeal Monachorum 30 3/4
  8. South Tawton 44
  9. Kingsteignton 56
  - 10 Lapford 57
  11. Ide 71 3/4
  12. Sandford (broken rope)
- Judge: Mervyn Way

**Devon Association Minor Final held at Comwood on 24 May 2008**

1. Dunsford 24½
2. Zeal Monachorum 26½
3. Exeter St. Petrocks 30
4. Lamerton 31
5. Burrington B 32½
6. Holbeton 56½
7. East Anstey 60
8. Down St. Mary 60½
9. South Brent B 125½
10. South Pooi 126½

Top Ringing from Novice competition

1. Upton 47½
2. Salcombe 68½

Judges: H Bardens, S Facey, P Pester and M Poole. Scrutineer: C Adams

**Okehampton Deanery Festival 2008 held at Hatherleigh on June 7th**

**Novice Section**

- 1st Hatherleigh 18
- 2nd Chagford 24
- 3rd Meeth 53½

**Intermediate Section**

- 1st Hatherleigh 31
- 2nd South Tawton 52
- 3rd Sampford Courtenay 53
- 4th Bridestowe 55½
- 5th Chagford 56

**Main Section**

- 1st Chagford A 24½
- 2nd Sampford Courtenay A 45
- 3rd Sampford Courtenay B 49½
- 4th Chagford B 56½
- 5th South Tawton 77
- 6th Inwardleigh 83

North Tawton no result

Judges- Robin Burnham & Arthur Baker

**Moreton Deanery Festival held at Trusham on 7 June 2008**

1. Bickington 27
2. Widecombe A 43 1/2
3. Chudleigh 45 1/2
4. North Bovey 49 1/2
5. Bovey Tracey A 71
6. Holne 88
7. Ilington 89 1/2
8. Manaton 95
9. Widecombe B 95 1/2
- 10 Ashburton 133
- 11 Bovey Tracey B 133 1/2
12. Trusham 171

Judges Bill Avery and Harry Bardens

There were a number of notable achievements, not least the excellent support from the towers in the Deanery.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

The Chudleigh team was made up of 6 members, covering three generations of the same family, the Tucketts, including Rachel who rang in her first competition. Holne won the improvers cup, which is a tribute to the hard work they have put in since last year when they had in excess of 160 faults on easier bells.

This was the 75th year that the Deanery festival had been held the first being in 1933. Harry Bardens has judged this competition for the last 25 years.

**Littleham Competition held on 7 Jun 2008**

**Open Section**

1. Georgeham - 22 1/2
2. West Down - 23 1/2
3. Morethoe - 24
4. Alphington - 28 1/2
5. Burrington B - 31 1/2
6. Burrington A - 32 1/2
7. Zeal Monachorum - 40
8. Winford - 42 1/2
9. East Anstey - 85 1/2
10. Down St Mary - 90
11. Mariansleigh - 160

**Ivybridge and Plymouth Deanery held on 7 June 2008 at Brixton**

**Main Section Result:**

- 1st. Egguckland 11 1/2
- 2nd. Plymstock 28 1/2

Thanks go to Pat Johnstone and Bernard Miners for judging. Unfortunately they have said this would be their last time judging.

**Devon Association Major Final 6 Bell Competition held at Zeal Monachorum on 14 June 2008**

1. South Brent 28 1/4
2. Exeter St Petrocks 36 1/4
3. Burrington 37 1/4
4. Dunsford 38
5. Egguckland 40
6. Stoke Gabriel 48
7. North Bovey 55
8. Littleham 56
9. West Alvington 60 1/2
10. Inwardleigh 61 1/2
11. Iddesleigh 66 3/4

Mortehoe 45. No result under time

Judges: Ian Avery, Brian Drake, John Dietz and Mervyn Way. Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott.

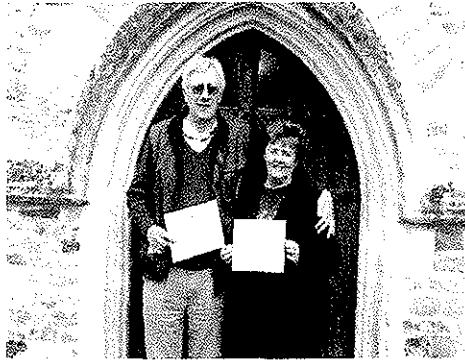
**Beric Bartlett Invitation Festival in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust held at Marldon on 28 June 2008.**

1. South Brent 14
2. Egguckland 16
3. Stoke Gabriel 24
4. Exeter St Petrocks 35 1/2
5. Exminster 42 1/2 (Top 36)
6. West Alvington 42 1/2 (Top 37)
7. Ide 68 1/2
8. Holbeton 70
9. Widecombe in the Moor 97
10. Upton 132 1/2

Judges: John Coulthirst and Percy Pester. The amount raised for the DCHT was £206.45.

**Husband & Wife**

**Reach 50 years ringing apiece.**



James & Joan Clarke have recently been presented with their 50 year certificates from The Tamar Guild. James first started ringing at the age of 11 years and was taught by his father Ken Clarke at Sidbury, East Devon. Joan was also 11 years and also taught by her father at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. They first met in a belfry in Ilton in Somerset and introduced to each other by the late Frank Mack.

**St Swithin's Littleham Sunday Service Band**

**Now has four ringers with 50 year's certificates**

The Littleham ringers who have a total of 211 years ringing between them are:- Raymond (Curly) Clements, James Clarke, Joyce Nicholls and Joan Clarke.



**100 years of Bell Ringing at Chagford**

Julia and Evan Endacott have together notched up 100 years of service in the art of bell ringing. Evan, 66, learned 53 years ago when he lived at Gidleigh and Julia, 65, learned when she was 18 years old in Chagford with her father. Julia, affectionately known as "Aunty", said, "My father was captain at Chagford and before I went to Plymouth to do my radiography training, he said "Well you better learn bell ringing before you go". "I took over from my father in 1977 as captain." Julia, as captain, has to train new ringers, something she is incredibly passionate about, even 47 years later. Currently there are 15 ringers at Chagford ranging from 13 to 70 years old. She said: "it's all about commitment. We ring on Sundays for the service at 9am and we practise every week on a Tuesday night. Initially you have got to learn the control of the rope as it can be dangerous when standing with others - an important thing to have with bell ringing is a sense of rhythm. I hope to be ringing in Chagford for years and years to come.

**Awarding Your Teacher a Training Certificate**

Cast your mind back to when you first learnt to ring. Do you remember the excitement of discovering this other world with its strange terms, strange mix of physical and mental demands and, if you were really lucky, strange people! Somewhere, there would have been a group or an individual who taught and inspired you. They quietly put the time and considerable effort and patience that it takes to bring a ringer on.

I remember David Hobbs and Jackie who taught me to ring with great fondness to this day. These people are the unsung heroes of ringing and I would like to see their efforts marked.

If you have someone who you think deserves recognition for the effort they have put in to training it is now possible contact the Secretary or Training Officer to request that your trainer is awarded a certificate from the Association and your team.

What you have to do is write a letter, signed by as many members of your team as possible, giving details of the person or persons deserving recognition.

This will form the basis for the formal presentation of the certificate, probably at the AGM, and will be kept as a record of achievement for future generations to look back on and as a record of what is going on to keep this great tradition of ours alive.

This is your chance to recognise those that have given you so much.

I look forward to hearing your stories.

David Trist. Training Officer.

**Association raffle - Proft £2,651**

The results were:

- 1st John & Wendy Wills, Exminster
- 2nd Robert Hill, Buckland Brewer
- 3rd Calvin Roberts, Colebrooke
- 4th Sue Powell, Lamerton
- 5th Brett Wheaton, Barnstaple
- 6th Jamie French, Feniton
- 7th Margaret White, Mortehoe
- 8th I. Hawkins, Goodleigh
- 9th Kathy Gray, Talaton
- 10th T. Jackson, Morchard Bishop
- 11th Mrs. C. Blood, North Tawton
- 12th Mike Webber, Chagford
- 13th D. Treeby, Halwell
- 14th Mr. E. Wonnacott, Ipplepen

## Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund Report for Devon Association AGM on 10 November 2007

## League Table

Sadly, the most significant event of 2007 was the death of John Scott in July. It was in no small part due to John that the DCBRF came into being in 1972, having its first formal meeting in February 1973. As Diocesan Bell Advisor, John chaired the committee until 2003, a total of 30 years, and continued as a trustee until his death. His immense knowledge of Devon's towers and bells and his wise counsel will be sorely missed. At a Special General Meeting of the Guild in October, Ian Campbell – tower captain at Exeter Cathedral – was elected as trustee to replace John.

During the year the usual two meetings were held; in Holy Week at the home of Brian Drake, and this morning in the Mortimer Room at North Tawton Church.

At the beginning of the year the Fund stood at **£25,385**. Since that time four grants totalling **£8,900** have been paid. These were **£4,500** to **East Worlington** towards a complete rehang of the six bells in a new frame with all new fittings; **£500** to **Germansweek** towards frame repairs, new headstocks and part new fittings; **£1,100** to **Buckland-in-the-Moor** for refurbishment of clappers, replacement of pulleys and some bearings, and stripping and repainting the frame; and **£2,800** to **Zeal Monachorum** towards retuning and rehang-ing the bells with all new fittings in the existing frame.

Income during the year has amounted to **£8,800**, including over **£800** from the **Rambling Ringers' Tour**, **£1,000** from the **Guild** as agreed at their AGM in June, **£2,800** from the **Association** following the **Annual Draw**, **£250** from the **competition in July** organized by Graham Sharland in aid of the BRF, **£200** from the **National Call Change Competition** at Branscombe in September, **£400** from the **Troyte Ringing Centre**, **£200** from the **Ottery St Mary ringers**, and **£500** from **peal and quarter peal ringers** in the Guild, much of that being Gift-Aided. Added to that, **Gift Aid** claimed for the period 2002 – 2006 totalled over **£600**. As ever, we are most grateful for any donation, no matter how small; and please remember, if you are a tax-payer any donation may be gift-aided, giving us an extra 28 pence for every pound donated (25 pence

from next May). We now have our own Gift-Aid Envelopes available. At present the Fund stands at approximately **£25,300**.

Grants agreed this year include **£200** to **Hockworthy** towards rehang-ing their three bells for swing-chiming in a strengthened frame, and **£900** to **Lustleigh** for replacement of bearing seals and races, insulation pads and runner boards, and cleaning down and re-painting the frame.

On the morning of the AGM the following grants were agreed:

**Berry Pomeroy** **£6,000**  
**Sampford Spiney** **£5,500**

Grants previously agreed, but not yet taken up include **£1,500** to **Plymouth, Emmanuel**, where work should have started last month, but has now been delayed until early next year following renewed debate as to the treatment of the bell-frame. All other grants made more than five years ago are to be regarded as void, and I will be writing to those churches concerned advising them to make a fresh application if they are still intending to have work carried out.

Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted balance of the Fund stands at approximately **£11,200**.

During the last 18 months the Rules of the DCBRF have been revised to take into account decisions made over the years and current legislation. Having been agreed by the committee and approved by the Charity Commission they were formally adopted at this morning's meeting. The new rules are not designed to alter the way in which the Fund works, but merely to clarify its administration and to give the trustees more flexibility when considering grant applications. The one significant change, as previously mentioned, is that if the offer of a grant is not taken up within five years, it will be deemed void, the reason being that over that period of time further deterioration may well have occurred to the bell installation, and the work required may have significantly changed; also over five years costs would inevitably have risen, and a new application taking this into account would be eminently desirable.

IVJS. November 2007.

I'm proud to present the current league standings using the results posted on the website up to and including the Major Final 2008. The new Devon champions are making the early running helped by last year's league winners having a very indifferent start to the season. As always at this time of year the table includes teams that have rung in three or more competitions and the full table will soon be available (along with how I work this all out, and a few new bits too) at my website (opens in a new window/tab): <http://www.myconid.co.uk/ringing>. (By the way, this is not the same as Graham Sharland's ladder idea).

The Table:

Team	C	+/-	Ranking
South Brent	6	1656.00	18.50
Dunsford	6	526.25	17.33
StokeGabriel	6	1633.25	17.17
Burrington	4	1104.50	17.00
Exeter, St Petrock	3	502.50	14.67
West Alvington	4	553.75	13.50
Kingsteignton	5	768.50	13.20
Egguckland	5	178.25	12.00
Zeal Monachorum	4	544.25	11.75
Morethoe	3	463.50	11.33
Lamerton	3	273.75	11.33
North Bovey	5	-113.25	10.40
Exminster	3	2.50	10.00
Burrington B	3	501.50	9.33
Iddesleigh	3	-228.50	8.33
Ide	3	-291.00	7.33
Widecombe in the Moor	4	-693.00	7.00
Down St Mary	4	-433.00	6.50
Plymstock	3	-93.75	5.33
Inwardleigh	3	-411.00	5.00
East Anstey	3	-540.00	4.00
South Brent B	4	-2599.00	2.00

James Kerlake

### Use the websites

Be the first to get the news, check the Association's website daily for news and results. Go to [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk). Please feel free to enter your results or news. This is an Association resource, please make use of it. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers have a new format for their website. Many interesting articles. Go to [www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk).

### Broadhempston Phantom Rope Cutter

A routine visit prior to a birthday peal for myself revealed four out of the six ropes had been damaged. The tenor requiring some hasty splicing. Whilst doing the splice a squirrel entered the bell chamber. Clearly I had found the culprit. New ropes had to be ordered. Any suggestions on how to eradicate a squirrel 60ft up a bell tower? Access is by means of climbing up the shear face of the tower and entering via an already bird netted louver.

Graham Pascoe

## Atherington Church Bells

The church bells at Atherington have laid dormant for some 30 years. In 2004 the local community. The bells came back from Derby over a year ago and are now in the area ready to be re-hung, the new frame is being stored in the local area. The tower has yet to be strengthened before the bells can be fixed in their frame in the lower position in the tower. The project is still gathering money and any donations would be gratefully received! Please contact the Reverend Carvosso for any information or send a cheque payable to

"Friends of St Mary's" to local MP Philip Milton C/O The Conservative Office, The Strand, Barnstaple, EX31 1EU. The Bells were a complete ring of 6 by John and Christopher Pennington and were cast in 1786, by 1946 the 5th bell had become cracked and was then re-cast by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon. The Church is of great historical importance and has some very good examples of Architecture, St Mary's, Atherington needs its bells ringing again and with the help from the Associations members and others we can see this happen.

## AGM Notice

The AGM will be held on Saturday 8 November at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm. The annual affiliation fees are due on 1 October or at the AGM (currently £5). In addition, the competition fees, (currently £1.50 a rope, being £9 for 6 bell and £12 for 8 bell towers) will be payable.

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

## Big Wilf's Bell Muffles

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[www.bigwilf.plus.com](http://www.bigwilf.plus.com)

## National 6 Bell Striking Call Change Competition 13 September 2008

To be held outside Devon for the first time at North Nibley, Gloucestershire. Entry will be limited to 16 teams. The first six placed teams from Zeal Monachorum will be invited, as will the 8 bell winners, Kingsteignton and Exeter Cathedral. Eight places will be for teams outside of Devon, of which the Royal Cumberland Youths will get an automatic invite.

## Young Ringers' Event

To be held at Wolborough on 19th July, 2.00pm start. This time we are charging £5/head but this covers the BBQ!!

Tim King asks that some idea of numbers and ability would be very helpful. He has plans but cannot finalise things without numbers etc. If there are too many he may need to open another tower!!!

## Advance Notice Invitation Competitions

Dolton 6 Bell on 4th October. Top Ringing Section for Rounds and Call Changes. Contact John Lock 01805 804254.

Wilf Eldworthy Novice Competition to be held at Marlborough on 25 October. Contact Brian Meek, 01752 406317.

## Ringling Ladder

Graham Sharland is arranging a ringling ladder where towers ring against towers of similar ability. Please contact him as soon as possible if you wish to assist him, or wish your team to take part, or require more information write to ,Graham at, Ashleigh, Doddiscombsleigh, EX6 7PX .

## Keep up to date

Yarcombe.

Mrs Clare Seymour-Biscoe, Old School House, Howley, Chard TA20 3DX

## A Steeple-keeper's Instruction Day – North Devon

By James Clarke, DAC Bells Advisor and Chairman of The Towers & Belfries Committee of The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

A number of ringers have asked me to run one of these. I have discussed the proposal with Jereme Darke and David Trist, and have received their encouragement. I have set aside Saturday 4 October 2008, to share in a day's instruction in how best to care for the bells and belfries at your churches. It is intended to meet at about 10.30 and have (hopefully) some coffee and around 1.5 hrs discussion, followed by a packed or pub lunch. During the afternoon we shall inspect two belfries, one with a timber frame and one with a metal frame. I have yet to confirm the availability of the towers but I am prepared to take the first twelve candidates who ring/email me to book a place. When I have confirmed the arrangements, I will get back to those and let them know further details. There may be a small charge to cover expenses such as coffee. If there is sufficient demand, I will run another day in South Devon during next spring or summer. Please let me know if you would like to attend one of these even if you are unsuccessful with this one. Tel: 01237 451667. Email: [jjclarke1947@btinternet.com](mailto:jjclarke1947@btinternet.com).

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