

Founded 1925

President - Mr Raymond Mugridge

# Devon Calls

**Oct 2008  
Vol 1 Issue 23**

**Special points of interest**

- Potted history
- Theft from churches guidance notes

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**Ryan Trout - the youngest ever chairperson of the Devon Association of Ringers - is following in the family tradition with his love of bell ringing.**

To say Ryan Trout is following in his family's footsteps with his love of bell ringing does not do his interest justice. The 29-year-old's dedication to campanology is part of a family tradition which includes his father, uncles, aunts and a host of other relations. He has been involved in bell ringing since he was nine and is now the youngest ever chairperson of the Devon Association of Ringers. "My Dad used to take myself and my sister to ringing all over Devon and when I was old enough at the age of nine I started to learn to ring. I was fascinated with the sound and how a rope could make a noise." The team from St Edward's in Eggbuckland - where Ryan rings - have been Devon Six Bell Champions 17 times in the past three decades so Ryan says he has been taught by "some of the best ringers in the county". The team rings across the country where their style of ringing has raised an eyebrow or two among the ringing fraternity "Some people are stunned by the way we ring," said Ryan, from Estover in Plymouth. "And some method ringers don't like it." His love of bell ringing throughout his teenage years subsisted along (continued on page 3)

**Bill and Betty Avery Diamond Wedding Anniversary**

As many of you will know, Bill Avery is tower captain at Kingsteignton - that rough old G & J '8' on the A380. However, this is not so much about Bill's ringing skills and achievements but that of celebrating 60 years of marriage to his beloved wife Betty on August 2nd 2008. It was in Barnstaple where Bill and Betty met and married there in 1948. Bill spent many a happy time ringing at Pilton before moving to Kingsteignton in 1955. Even today, the Barnstaple and Pilton areas hold something special in the memories of Bill and Betty and their 4 children. Bill would be the first to agree with the saying 'behind every good man is an even better woman'. This is all so abundantly clear for all those fortunate enough to have witnessed, or in any way been part of, the lives of these two marvellous people. Evident not only in how they support each other but also others. Of the methods rung in celebration of Bill and Betty's achievement, Pilton Delight was composed especially for the occasion by Mike Mears - named because of its obvious significance. Bill and Betty listened to, and very much enjoyed, the final part of the peal at Kingsteignton rung on the actual day of their anniversary. (We are sure that whilst there was no book or pencil evident for judging (continued on page 4)

**Devon Ringers' Carol Service**

The Carol Service this year with the Ockment Valley Handbell Ringers will be held at St Peter's, Tiverton on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm. The superb bells at St Peter's will be available for open ringing both before and after the service. All welcome.

**Affiliation Fees now £10**

Affiliation Fees also includes a copy of Devon Calls) and have been kept at £5 a year for some time. The Committee debated this issue in February and August and have agreed to increased the fee to £10 a year as from 1 October 2008. Please see the letter of explanation from the Secretary on the back page.

**Church Thieves**

Ashburton, Bickington, Bovey Tracey Cullompton and Stoke Damerel have all been targeted by thieves who have stripped the church of lead and left the churches with huge repair bills that will be many more times the scrap value of the lead. Some churches have been stripped several times. Stoke Damerel is faced with a bill of £10,000 and this is the second time. (continued on page 7)

## Obituaries

### Geoff Bridges

Geoff Bridges died on 24 August 2008 in Exeter at the age of 59. Geoff learned to ring at St Andrew's church Derby and for a time was well known in London ringing circles. On returning to Derbyshire he rang several handbell peals with Michael Fellowes. After he married Elizabeth he lived in Cheshire for a short time and rang many handbell peals with the Hazel Grove band. The funeral service was held in Exeter Cathedral on Thursday 4 September at 1200. After the service refreshments were available in the Chapter House. Donations were to the Cathedral Choir Fund

### Norman Preston

Norman Preston's funeral was held at a packed Diptford Church on Wednesday 10 September 2008 followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. Norman, the former tenor ringer for Diptford, had been an active member of the community and had also been the Treasurer to the PCC.

### Graham King

Tim King's father, Graham, died 18 September after a short illness. He was 89 years old. Graham was a member of the first group to learn to ring on St. Marychurch bells after ringing re-commenced in 1975. The funeral was held on Monday 29th September 2.00pm at St Marys Kingskerswell. There was ringing from 1.30pm half-muffled and open after the service.

## Petition

A letter published in the Western Morning News drew attention to a petition that closed on 17 September and generated more than 13,300 signatures.

Phil Tremain was reported as saying, Am I barking up the wrong tree (or barking mad), or am I right in thinking that it is in our interests to support the online petition "Live with it" on the Number 10 web site? Never mind that the government probably will not actually do anything, the publicity, if enough people support it, must surely be to our advantage? The petition was as follows:

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to introduce a green paper proposing ways, that, where complaints have been instigated by resident(s) against a long standing activity (for example, church bells, sports facility, local airfield and similar), and where residence has been taken up since the start of the activity (providing there has been no significant increase in activity), a presumption should be made to protect the continuation of that activity and reject such complaint.

## Watch Found

A watch has been found at a tower in Devon during the summer. If it is yours and you wish to claim it, please contact Mike Pascoe, or alternatively the editor, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6QG. Tel: 01803 782591.

## Silence at Sidmouth

Please note that the Sidmouth bells are being overhauled and will be out of action from 22 September for 4-6 weeks. Please contact Andrew Harris, tower captain, for up to date information.

### ...and at Stoke Gabriel

The Stoke Gabriel church bells will not be rung after 5 October until Remembrance Sunday due to some work required on the tower.

## Dinner and Dance

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 51 Association members and friends enjoyed the Annual Dinner and Dance event which was held at Fingle Bridge Inn, Drewsteignton. A picturesque spot! Comfortable dining room. Excellent meal washed down by some decent ale. Very good value too, for this plentiful meal costing us £14.95 a head. The evening ended with an enjoyable dance – of many styles! A profit was made and proceeds will be offered to the Restoration Fund. Grateful thanks to Janice for her assistance and the President for his kind words.

I suggest that we return to the same venue in 2009 but perhaps holding the event in later June? Please give this event some thought and feed ideas back to me as soon as possible. JJ Darke, Hon Secretary.

### Frank Mack Ring at St Marychurch

A fete held on 19th July at St Marychurch included a sponsored abseil down the Tower and as the tower was out of bounds except for those jumping off, the Frank Mack Garage ring was loaned for the day. It was probably the first mini-ring and has a tenor weighing 1 1/2 lbs and go well and are quite ringable. Demonstrations of ringing on these and the handbells entertained people throughout the day. It maybe that this event helped to recruit the five new ringers.

## Ringling for the Olympics

In the Beijing stadium on Sunday 24th August 2008 the Mayor of Beijing handed the Olympic flag to the Mayor of London as the UK became the Olympic host nation.

In Britain's major cities, big screens beamed pictures from the stadium into our city centres. Many churches in the South West marked the occasion by ringing the bells, it was a Sunday after all.

We have a strong tradition in the South West for both the founding and ringing of bells, and there is nothing like the noise of bells pealing to communicate the collective mood of a community and nation to celebrate. We want people to know what an active and creative region this is. You may care to promote ringing by suggesting to your local community that members start learning to ring now so that they can be ready to ring for the Olympics in 2012.

## Road Show 2008

For the first time, the Ringers Roadshow was held over two days. This time the venue was Stoneleigh Showground in Warks and it was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. I am pleased to report that the Devon Association had a stand at the Roadshow in conjunction with the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The stand was organised by the Devon Ringers Council (formed for the Millennium with equal representation from Association and Guild). We were lucky to be in a prominent position and had many interested visitors. There was also a portable ring which was taken up and set up by Ian Avery.

I am grateful to ALL who helped and supported our stand at the Roadshow. Despite promises of assistance from many it was down to a small number of stalwarts who made the effort to travel up to Warks. **Special thanks must be offered to Guild members led by their President Lester Yeo for their efforts and continued support of our Call Change tradition.** We would welcome comments about our stand so that we may improve our presentation in the future.

JJ Darke, Hon Secretary.

### Comments from ringers

It was a great show but the food and drink situation did need improvement - after problems of getting something on the Friday within a reasonable time scale.

The mini rings can be a problem - I know on ours we tried hard to get the balance between letting novices on a mini-ring have a go and arranging someone more satisfying ringing. In the circumstances when half our manpower was needed to just hold everything down in the wind and rain, I think we managed very well.

*I would have valued name badges, which included tower location, for everyone. I feel sure I missed people I should have known but faces change in 50 or more years. These comments should not detract from the fact it was a great show.*

Many heartfelt congratulations to the Team that put together this year's Roadshow. The "Mini" rings are indeed great fun, but PLEASE would the people responsible delegate a "Ringing Master".

*Many heartfelt congratulations to the Team that put together this year's Roadshow. In spite of the weather the indoor arena provided us all, no matter what our level of interest, a comprehensive coverage of bells, bell ringing, bell founding, clocks, teaching aids and every other aspect of our Art imaginable. Knowledgeable experts on hand to discuss and advise as appropriate. Super day.*

It had been frustrating for experienced ringers, having "grabbed" a rope at the end of a session to discover that two thirds of the band could not even handle their bell!

*A special mention to the towers that were open. I enjoyed ringing at those on the M69 route. The people who opened these up and acted as stewards also deserve our thanks.*

## Ryan - youngest ever

*(Continued from page one)*

side the more usual adolescent preoccupations of football, rugby and athletics and he does believe there is a kind of stigma attached to bell ringing among younger people - which he hopes to combat.

"You don't have to be religious in any way to ring church bells and you don't really have to be musical, what you do have to have is the commitment it takes to learn the art of ringing."

And in his role at the Devon Association of Ringers he hopes to attract more young people to his way of bell ringing to ensure the tradition is kept alive.

"It's waning and I want to keep it alive and to push our way of ringing to a wider audience," he said.

And he hopes a CD scheduled for release shortly - Church Bells of Devon and Beyond - will play a part in that too.

Ryan spends up to six hours a week bell ringing - practising and competing - and his work colleagues at the CSA in Plymouth are intrigued by his pastime.

"People always asked why I do it, I say that I enjoy the sound and I enjoy the team work and most of all I enjoy the pub afterwards.

"There aren't many churches in Devon that don't have a pub near them, so after some thirsty work ringing you have to quench it somehow!"

## Woodbury

A WOODBURY fundraising cream tea has raised £185 for the Devon Church Bells Restoration Fund.

The event was organised to raise much-needed funds, and also to raise awareness of the skill required to become a bell ringer.

The warm weather meant plenty of visitors dug deep and gave generously - including a donation from Peninsula Cars of Aylesbeare.

A dozen cyclists from the Lympstone Commando Training Centre also attended and were invited to climb the tower of Woodbury church to the ringing room for a demonstration of bell ringers in action.

Some went even further up to the belfry to watch the bells in motion - with their fingers in their ears.

Catherine Civill said: "Bell ringing is a tradition that dates back 400 years and some of the bells we ring are even older. "Ringers come from all walks of life and the exercise can be enjoyed by anyone from the age of 10 until into their eighties. "Once the skill is acquired you will be welcomed into towers across the country.

## Novice Comp at Modbury

More teams are required for the competition known as the Wilf Edworthy competition which will be held on the 25th October 2008, at St George's Church, Modbury starting at 14.30. This is meant to be a fun day. There are two sections with section one as round ringing for six minutes the first minute can be used for practise and judging starts after the end of that and lasts for five minutes. Section two is for more experienced ringers and we expect the teams to ring half of the peal known as sixty on thirds (either half) with no rising or lowering and the maximum duration is ten minutes to complete. Judging begins at the start of the calls and ends when the bells go back into rounds. The cost will be £2 per section per team. We are hoping to arrange tea for those who want it. Although parking is limited to the church there is a car park close by. Any further enquiries please contact Brian Meek on 01752 406317.

## Cornworthy backs tower restoration

The bells of St Peter's, Cornworthy near Totnes, will soon be ringing out loud and clear once more thanks to an astonishing fundraising campaign by the parishioners. With £30,000 already in the bank, it has been decided to phase the work of restoring the bell tower which has been leaking badly and giving a cold shower to anyone brave enough to ring. The task of repointing the south and west faces has already started and the fund-raising will continue so that the two other sides can be done next summer, at a cost of £40,000.

"The support and enthusiasm for the Tower Fund project has been phenomenal for a village of only 170 homes and with an electoral roll of 49," said the Rev Joanna Abecassis. "It is an amazing story and we have had tremendous help from everyone concerned."

The appeal was launched with a black tie dinner on New Year's Eve with a jazz band and although numbers were limited by the size of the village hall, it brought in £3,000. The momentum was continued with a number of events including a High School The Musical style event by South Devon teenagers and a Cornworthy Capers amateur dramatics evening.

A local artist (a former church architect and current Captain of the Tower) painted a series of images of the church and the village which he produced as notelets for sale. Another architect has made a striking model of the tower on which people are sticking 'bricks'. Yet another church architect is giving his services free and volunteered to write a letter to certain members of the community which led to several anonymous donations of £1,000 each. The Cornworthy Rock Trust has also been fund-raising, culminating with a magnificent wine tasting and auction which raised an amazing £11,160. There was also a successful concert in the church on September 3 master minded by baritone Christopher Helyer and included the Dart Singers.

## Sampford Courtenay Bells

Sometime in 1770 John Pennington III an itinerant bell founder, came to Sampford Courtenay at the invitation of the Rector and Churchwardens, to cast a brand new peal of six bells.

The Penningtons were well known in Devon and Cornwall having been casting bells there for well over a hundred years. John III was born at Winkleigh and that may have had some bearing on the choice. Instead of going to one of the established founders, for example Thomas Bilbie of Cullompton, they chose for their ambitious project a founder who was going to cast the bells in the churchyard. I say ambitious as most parishes at that time, were going for peals of five bells.

The bells were cast in the churchyard, nobody is quite sure exactly where and the brand new peal was hoisted up the tower into a new frame. And there they stayed until sometime before 1905. The Tenor must have failed, perhaps the cannons came off or the old frame broke. The result was that a new tenor had to be cast and this time they went to Taylor's of Loughborough. Taylor's were just producing bells tuned to a new harmonic method and the Sampford Tenor is a classic example of a bell with lovely tone.

The new tenor and the rest of the peal were hung in a frame designed and built by Harry Stokes of Woodbury. Well known for his fine and strong examples of oak frames.

In 1970 the old plain brass bearings were replaced with new ball bearings and some of the fittings were renewed by Arthur Fiddler at that time working at Bow.

It has now been decided to completely rehang the bells in the existing frame, on new cannon retaining headstocks, drill the bells and fit new clapper bearings with all new fittings. At the same time update the chimes. The work to be done by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London. it will cost about £46,000. A large sum of money for a small rural parish. Please help in any way you can. The appeal committee is Chris Clayton, Malcolm Craig, Terry Bulworthy and the Church Treasurer Chris Owen to whom any donations may be sent. Address, Middleton, Sampford Courtenay. Okehampton. Made out to St Andrews PCC (Bell Fund).

All donations will be received with thanks and replied to and ideas for fund raising are especially welcome. With thanks for your help, Chris Clayton. (Tower captain.)

Acknowledgements to James Clark, Littleham for much of the information.

## Lustleigh

On Saturday the 30th of August there was open ringing on the bells at Lustleigh with a short service to mark the refurbishment of the bells. In addition there was a flower festival in the Church and cream teas available during the day. All proceeds were in aid of Ethiopian Famine Relief.

## Berry Pomeroy

The bells of Berry Pomeroy have been craned out of the 100 foot church tower in a 12-hour operation to get them on their way for repair work with the help of members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers who worked alongside contractors to get the bells down in one day.

For the last 18 months the eight village church bells have been silenced for fear of shaking the 15th century church's bell tower framework to pieces.

The bells set off on a journey to Loughborough, where a team of bell experts will be giving them all a revamp. Meanwhile work will begin on strengthening the framework which will hold them up once they are returned to the village.

The bill for refurbishing the bells and strengthening the tower is going to come to £45,000. But it is hoped that the bells will be re-hung in time to ring out for midnight mass on Christmas Eve this year.

Berry Pomeroy's village church starred in the wedding scene in the acclaimed 1995 Hollywood period piece *Sense and Sensibility*, starring the likes of Hugh Grant, Kate Winslet, Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson. Since then there has been a queue of young lovers all wanting to get married at the rural village church after seeing it in the film. However some have been changing their minds when they found out that the bells cannot be rung and they have to make do with bells recorded on a CD or none at all.

The next day the bells were carted off on their journey across the country to the bell foundry at Loughborough.

### Totnes ring for Berry Pomeroy

A further £15,000 is needed to complete the work for Berry Pomeroy and bellringers from all over South Devon have been pulling together to help.

Teams from as far apart as Ide and Modbury gathered at St Mary's Parish Church in Totnes to spend a whole day ringing and raising funds. Some ringers were unable to attend and sent in donations to help with the fund raising.

The event raised three hundred and sixty nine pounds and Peter Phillips, team captain at St Mary's, Totnes, praised the response he is married to his appeal for ringers to take part in the marathon peal.

This well publicised had ringing starting from 10 am through to 6.30pm. Peter said, "It was a magnificent effort however we did have one complaint that the bells were too Further donations are still required and other non ringing events are taking place at Berry Pomeroy. Any further donations can still be made to Friend of Berry Pomeroy Church "Bell Appeal". Please telephone Peter Phillips on 01803 863962.

## Bill and Betty Avery

(continued from front page)

purposes, Bill would have been listening with his ever astute ear) The peal was followed by a buffet in 'The Bell' for the peal band, ringers, family and friends.

The week-end of celebrations were rounded off on the Sunday when family converged on Kingsteignton from all over the country, and after a special Sung Eucharist at St Michael's, sat down to enjoy a family lunch at the Passage House Hotel.

We are sure ringers and friends would like to join the Kingsteignton band in wishing Bill and Betty many more years of happy marriage and thank them both for touching so many lives and being such special people.

Kingsteignton Band

### Peals and Quarter Peal by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers

St Thomas of Canterbury **Thorverton**

Thursday, 31 July 2008 in 2h54 (15-0-4)

**5040 Pilton D Royal**

Composed by: M E C Mears

- 1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
- 2 Mervyn C Way
- 3 Paul J Pascoe
- 4 Jill M Hancock
- 5 Pauline Champion
- 6 Michael R Rose
- 7 Ian W Avery
- 8 D John Hunt
- 9 Ian V J Smith
- 10 Michael E C Mears (C)

To celebrate the Diamond wedding anniversary of Bill and Betty Avery.

First peal in the method:

x30x14x12x10x14x10x12x10x56x90 (b)

St Clement, **Powderham**, Devon

Friday, 1 August 2008 in 39mins (10cwt)

**1260 Abergynolwyn Bob Minor**

- 1 Don Roberts
- 2 Sue Sawyer
- 3 Nigel Birt
- 4 Hilary Beresford
- 5 Philip Stevens
- 6 Donald Carter (C)

Diamond wedding anniversary compliment to Bill and Betty Avery of Kingsteignton.

50th together - 3 & 5

St Michael, **Kingsteignton**, Devon

Saturday, 2 August 2008 in 2h57 (16-3-11)

**5040 Grandsire Triples**

Composed by: J J Parker (12 part)

- 1 Philip Stevens
- 2 Ian W Avery
- 3 Lee D Avery
- 4 Elaine Grant
- 5 Nigel G Birt
- 6 James Grant
- 7 Michael E C Mears (C)
- 8 Harry Kennar

To celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Bill & Betty Avery

## What do we know about Bells?

What do we know about them, the sound of bells and their many uses?

When babies are born a string of bells amuses a baby, when we ride our bikes we have a bell to warn people, we have bells in clocks to chime and for alarms. We have a telephone bell to ring to call us, we ring a bell for happy birthdays, and at Christmas time on the trees, we have doorbells to call us, we put bells on cats so the birds can hear them, we have "cowbells" so that we can find them.

The Town Crier rings a bell to alert us, we ring bells to sell different things, we have bells on ships for timing, we put a large bell, "Big Ben" in a tower in London for this, we put bells on trains, ambulances, fire engines etc., to alert us. We have school bells for timing and we have pubs that ring a bell at drinking up time, and I am sure there are many more uses, such as we have handbells, ringing in groups, ringing Christmas Carol tunes, raising money. This gives so much pleasure to the ringers.

This also applies to church bells, we ring to call people to the services, weddings, ringing the bride in and out; muffled for deaths and tolling in respect. We refrain from ringing when a person is lying dead in the parish. We ring bells for competitions to improve our standards; it gets very competitive within the Deaneries.

To learn to ring a church bell, we need to control the rope and then rise and lower. Bell weights vary mainly from 3 cwt to 4 tons. We say it takes up to 3 years to master the "art". Teams will generally have a Captain who tries to keep the ringers in order and to ensure that the ringers will ring the best they can, by having rhythmical striking. In Devon we mainly ring "call changes". Churches vary but most have 6 or 8 bells. Some of us travel throughout the UK, ringing church bells in small groups. We also arrange larger groups for holidays, with some non-ringers, who would otherwise not have the chance to see other parishes and churches.

There are groups of ringers that like the challenge of ringing different methods, the length of time it takes to ring the methods can vary. The ringers refer from a "touch" to quarter peals to full peals that can last 3 to 4 hours. This continuous ringing can cause annoyance to some and it would be a great pity to stop this unique hobby.

All ringers should try to understand that opinions differ and we all realise that bell ringing can be "noisy" and more so at some towers! I can only finish in saying that my partner, Pat Johnstone, and I, have enjoyed ringing bells and the fellowship, all of our lives. I would encourage anybody to take up this "art", and get as much out of it, as I have. Bernard Miners, Broadsands, Paignton.

**Potted History of Devon Association**

Call change ringing has a long history and is unique mainly to Devon and parts of Cornwall. In the early 1900's 5 bell towers were common and competitions were being held in them. Both 6 and 8 bell competitions then followed. Around the 1920's probably due to an increase in the number of method teams, who had a guild to back them. (The Guild of Devonshire Ringers) which was formed as long ago as March 1874, call change teams decided to get together in 1925 to hold an annual competition or festival.

Both a 6 and 8 bell competition took place at North Tawton in June 1925. The winners were Barnstaple and Atherington. At this time a further competition was planned and held in October 1925 at Zeal Monachorum. The 6 and 5 bell competitions were won by North Tawton and Throwleigh respectively.

"Rules of a sort" were drawn up by Revd. McCarthy such as "Hats off" in the belfry and no smoking in the "House of God"

**The start of the Devon Association.****6 Bell**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1926 | Held at Lustleigh  |
| 1927 | Held at Moretonhampstead won by North Tawton   |
| 1928 | Held at South Tawton won by Lapford<br>An 8 bell at Alphington won by North Tawton                                     |
| 1929 | The first formal meeting of the Devon Association was held at "The Ring of Bells" North Tawton at 3.00pm on March 30th |

The Revd. McCarthy proposed that Mr. W. Fewings (North Tawton) be elected Chairman with himself as Sec. Treasurer

The first President of the Devon Association was Alderman C. J. Ross of Exeter who presented "two magnificent shields". One for the eight bell and one for the six bell competitions, "to be presented annually."

The constitution of the Association was drawn up and printed in June 1929. All affiliated towers were issued with these and a few towers still possess the original copy.

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1929 | 8 bell competition held at Torrington 12th October                         |
|      | 6 bell competition held at Zeal Monachorum 19th October Winner Burrington. |

In 1925 the first prize was an ink well in the shape of Zeal Monachorum treble. This was made by Gillet and Johnston and presented by Mr Cyril Johnston representing the company, who, also acted as a judge with Mr. W. Fewings of North Tawton.

Although the shields were presented for the 1929 competitions, the winners from the 1925 competition in October and the following years had their names added to the shields. See photograph on page 6 for the First Presentation of the Devon Shield at Zeal Monachorum in 1929.

*Information and photograph kindly submitted by Mervyn Way.*

**Auntie goes to Wales**

It was on 15 August and not an earlier start as some years, maybe this Chagford trip organised by Mervyn Langdon and Chris Clayton on behalf of Julia Endicott for the Chagford team had something to do with it.

All people on board, including the driver, were presented with a superb 20 page book in glorious colour detailing the towers, the ringing order and some important historical facts.

Things soon fell into a routine with the fry up breakfast stop at 8am to fortify the ringers for the first ring and in Wales at Caldicot (8). This was followed by Bassaleg (8) where there was a missed call due to the effects of the perfect pint. Lunch was in Cardiff where only one person found the large open air screen to see some of the Olympics. Some others found hostelrys although Cardiff did deserve exploring due to the new developments that have recently taken place.

Lunch was followed by ringing at the Cardiff ten and then to Coity for a light six. We were staying for two nights at the Dragon Hotel in Swansea for bed and breakfast and an evening meal. The facilities and staff of the hotel were excellent however the nearest Wetherspoon's did provide a distraction and this was a magnet for the ringers for both nights after the delightful meals at the hotel. Saturday we rang at Cadoxton-juxta-Neath (6) and Neath (6) before lunch and then Aberavon (8), Baglan (6) and Sketty (6) before returning to the hotel. There were at least two people who were sensible to take their swimming trunks and make use of the hotel facilities including the Sauna. Others on the trip made excuses that they did not realise there was a pool there!

Sunday was an early start and making sure that all luggage was ready by 8.30 so that we could walk to St Mary, Swansea (8) and ring for the Morning Service. This was followed by a walk to the nearest coffee shop where people queued patiently. There was another famous name coffee shop just around the corner that did not have a queue!

Lunch was important as this may be the last cooked meal of the day for most. We were booked into the Butchers Arms at Llandaff and took over the back room. A short walk was all that was needed to walk to the Cathedral and Parish Church of Llandaff to ring the twelve, tenor of 24 cwt.

Thanks must go to Auntie, who recovered from her operation to have a little pull at Llandaff. Special thanks to the others who helped and especially to Mervyn and Chris who have set high standards for the selection of hotels and of course, selecting churches that had nearby pubs that sold good beer.

It was a tiring and busy weekend of ringing, however we seemed to avoid the rain and were pampered by the hotel and staff. We did miss Catherine and Paul who unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute and look forward to seeing them soon.

**CCCBR - Stewardship Committee**

Ringers do not operate in isolation, and the Tower Stewardship Committee was formed in order to give guidance in the general areas of tower management within the wider community recognising Church and Common Law.

It has been increasingly obvious in recent years that bell ringers cannot exist "in isolation". There are a number of external factors that now impinge on the activities of ringers. As responsible bell ringers, we must be aware of these factors, be able to communicate effectively with the relevant authorities and be able to manage these factors to the benefit of ringers. Particular areas of concern have been identified and the committee has produced an initial set of guidance notes on the following topics:-

**GN1 - Insurance****GN2 - Tower Management****GN3 - Child Protection in Towers****GN4 - Health and Safety****GN5 - Church Law****GN6 - Fire Assessment and Protection**

These documents are not being widely distributed as hard copies but are available to everyone to download as .pdf documents free of charge from the Central Council website:

[www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship)

Note, as most of the ringing towers in the world come under the jurisdiction of the Church of England, these guidance notes have been produced with that in mind. However, most of the principles addressed will apply to other areas.

**GN1 - INSURANCE**

What is insurance? Why do we need it? What about the insurance my church has? Does that cover ringers? Where can I find out more? Start with this guidance note!

**GN2 - TOWER MANAGEMENT**

The good management of a bell tower is important to ensure that (a) the bells & fittings, which are the property of the Church, are used correctly, maintained properly and not allowed to fall into disuse or disrepair and (b) the quality and quantity of ringing is controlled so that the Church is able to maintain a good relationship with the wider community.

This guidance note provides guidance for those who manage towers. It explains the relationship between the bell ringers and the Church authorities and shows the responsibilities of each, both within the Church and in the wider community

**GN3 - CHILD PROTECTION IN TOWERS**

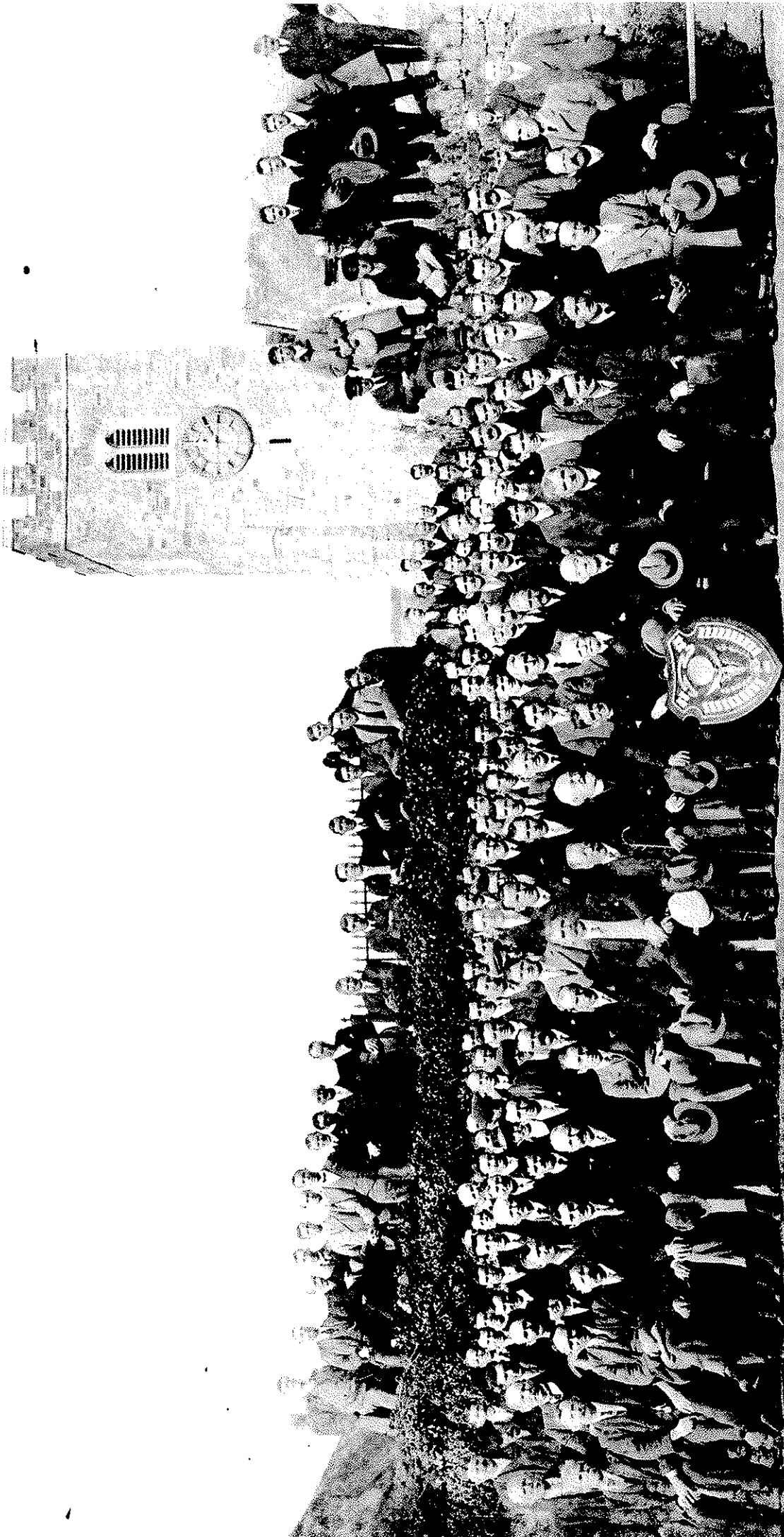
This guidance note expands on the CC leaflet 'Protecting Young Ringers' and details the ways in which ringers can keep children safe and work with the Church Authorities' requirements.

**GN4 - HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Does Health and Safety really apply to ringing? Yes it does and this guidance note tells you how to meet your responsibilities quickly and easily; it includes a simple to use risk assessment tool.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on Church Law and Fire Assessment please see the website that covers all the above subjects fully.



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB, 1901

**Stoke Damerel £10,000 bill**

Stoke Damerel faces a £10,000 bill after thieves climbed on to the roof and stripped away large amounts of lead. Police are appealing for information about the 'desperate' theft from Stoke Damerel Parish Church. It is the second time within a year that lead flashing has been stolen from the building. PC Brian Perry warned other Plymouth churches to be vigilant, saying police feared thieves were targeting such buildings due to the rising price of metals. The latest theft comes after four bronze plaques, worth around £2,000 each, were stolen from the naval war memorial on Plymouth Hoe. Criminals struck at the Stoke Church, on Paradise Road, between June 29 and July 2. They took thousands of pounds worth of lead flashing, with the total bill for damages racking up to around £10,000. Rhona Prichard, church warden at Stoke Damerel, said thieves caused significant damage to the roof over the church boiler room and choir vestry. Further damage had been caused due to rain leaking into the pulpit area through the damaged roof. "It's so dispiriting that people will go to these desperate lengths", she said. "They've obviously come in the night when no-one's around. "We had about £2,000-worth of lead stolen in June last year – and there wasn't nearly so much damage as this time", she said. "It's a very old building and it's all we can do to maintain it in the best of circumstances, let alone when people come along and vandalise it. "It's disheartening." The theft was discovered by a bell-ringer who went up into the church tower last week. Ms Prichard said the church had insurance but the crime would still lead to a financial loss. Services have continued as normal. Ms Prichard said the church would be painting the new lead with tar, which devalued the metal and made it more difficult to steal. She added: "I suppose as a Christian you should feel pity for these people; they're risking their lives, in some cases, to take the lead." Police say theft of all metal materials has grown by 150 per cent over the last two years nationwide. Church roof lead, along with drain covers, railway cables, memorial plaques and statues, are among items targeted by thieves. PC Perry said: "We are asking anyone with information about this theft to contact us, or anyone who has been offered lead for sale or who knows of people stockpiling the metal. "We are also asking for people who live near churches to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police", he said. "With the rising price of materials such as lead, we're concerned this type of crime is on the rise and that buildings such as churches are being targeted by thieves." Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the police on 08452 777444, quoting crime reference ED/08/4775. Alternatively, witnesses can call Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555111.

**Theft of metals from Churches**

A letter issued by the Archdeacon to clergy within the Totnes Deanery

You will all be aware of the problems being encountered by numerous churches at present because of the theft of lead from roofs. It is not only the theft but the consequent damage to the interior of buildings through water ingress which causes immense nuisance and huge amounts of work to restore, as well as the cost and the work entailed in making insurance claims. I spent some time this week with the Chief Executive of *Ecclesiastical* and the company is very exercised over the number of claims they are having to process. I have given the Rural Deans a recent letter from *Ecclesiastical* and asked them to pass on its content as the claims will have certain restrictions put on them from now on – which will make life difficult for some churches.

I have had clergy and churchwardens phone me a number of times in the last few weeks to say they have suffered from their churches being targeted by lead thieves. Today I have had a call from a police officer informing me of another theft locally. Both Ashburton and Bickington have lost a considerable amount of lead in the last two weeks. Others of you have informed me in recent months that your church has suffered through this particular crime.

There is no easy answer. Sitting up all night on your church roof waiting for thieves is not an option. However, making as many people in your congregations, PCCs and those living around the church aware of the problem and its consequences might help. Any unusual activity at a strange time of day or night should be reported to the police. I am sure everyone by now has made use of the 'smart water' kits supplied by *Ecclesiastical* but if you have not it is a matter of urgency, especially if a claim is to be made. The letter the Rural Deans have explains things in detail and the consequences of not using it. But even if it has been used properly it does not guarantee recovery of the lead or prosecution of those who steal it.

Some churches are not used every day and may stay locked or unvisited for some days at a time. If lead is stolen and the theft not realised for a number of days the weather will take its toll and there will be a lot of mess to clear up as well as serious damage to the fabric of the building. Therefore, it would be helpful if people in the congregation and churchwardens were asked to visit the church as frequently as possible so that anything untoward is reported and acted upon as soon as possible. If thieves are seen it is imperative that no one challenges them or puts themselves in danger of being assaulted. Phone the police and note the registration number of any vans or trucks in unusual vicinity of the church at the time – providing this does not compromise anyone doing so or drawing attention to themselves by being seen by thieves. Extra vigilance might make it less likely that your

church will be the next victim. All this I am sure is common sense and I apologise if I seem to be stating the obvious in a situation which has already caused much distress to a number of churches in this archdeaconry. (Eggs and Grandmothers come to mind.)

If you are unfortunate enough to be the next victim or need any more advice, please let me know. The DAC office is also keeping a record of the churches which have suffered from lead theft and those which have had lightning conductors ripped out for the value of the copper.

**Guidance notes**

*Check your premises and identify the location of materials that may be attractive to thieves.*

*If you are unsure speak to your church architect. Examples of items desirable to thieves include lead, copper and stainless steel roof coverings, copper lightning conductors, lead and copper water pipes, metal statues, iron gates and church bells.*

*Regularly check your roof to make sure that it is intact. Unnoticed theft of lead from the roof can lead to extensive water damage.*

*Review church security - e.g. lock gates and consider removal of large or over grown bushes which may obscure the view of neighbours. Restrict vehicular access to the church.*

*Restrict access to the roof by removing items such as waste bins, water butts and tall trees located near the building. Make sure ladders are locked building when left unattended and be especially careful when building works are being undertaken and scaffolding in use.*

*Make sure that items such as wheelbarrows or wheelie bins are locked away at night as these items may be used to transport materials away from the church.*

*Engage with the local community; make sure neighbours know of any authorised work at the church so that they can report any suspicious behaviour or the presence of unauthorised workmen to you or the police.*

*Secure areas of the roof which are easily accessible and consult a crime prevention officer.*

*Consider planting defensive shrubs or bushes. Consider the area you wish to plant these types of shrubs or bushes i.e. don't plant where children could fall and injure themselves.*

*Consider using anti climb paint on drain pipes and on the metal itself in situ. The paint should only be applied above two metres from the ground and in each case suitable warning notices should be posted. Whenever it is applied, ensure that the appropriate health and safety regulations are followed.*

*Ensure all outside lighting is in good working order and consider installing security lighting, particularly at roof level. "Dusk till Dawn" security lighting is more cost effective than motion sensors as they give an even spread of light and avoid dark areas. Also, white light is better than yellow as this distorts colour.*

(Continued on page 11)

## Results

### Spreyton on 21 June 2008

1. South Tawton	26½
2. Zeal Monachorum	33½
3. Drewsteignton	49½
4. Sandford	53
5. Down St Mary	58½
6. Spreyton A	66½
7. Sampford Courtney A	71½
8. Spreyton B	126½
9. Sampford Courtney & Ide	138

### South Brent Competition on 5 July 2008

1. Egguckland	14 1/2
2. Stoke Gabriel	15 1/2
3. High Bickington	18
4. Dunsford	19
5. Kingsteignton	24 1/2
6. Plymstock	25
7. Zeal Monachorum	27
8. West Alvington	28
9. Iddesleigh	28 1/2
10. Burrington	30 1/2
11. Holbeton	46 1/2
12. South Brent B	49 1/2

South Brent A 12 (declined place)

Judges: Brian Drake and Mervyn Way

### Competition held at Stoke Gabriel and at Collaton St Mary on 12 July 2008

#### Stoke Gabriel

1. Egguckland	351/2
2. Burrington	46 1/4
3. Exeter St Petrock	50 1/2
4. South Brent A	53 3/4
5. Stoke Gabriel B	59
6. Stoke Gabriel A	60 1/2
7. Exminster	63 1/2
8. North Bovey	66 1/2
9. Holbeton	75 1/2
10. Ide	80 3/4
11. Exeter St David	101 3/4
12. South Brent B	113 1/2

Judges: John Dietz and Robin Burnham

#### Collaton St Mary

1. Egguckland	22 3/4
2. Burrington	36
3. Stoke Gabriel	39 1/2
4. South Brent A	52 1/2
5. Exeter St Petrock	56 1/2
6. Exminster	58
7. North Bovey	60
8. Holbeton	104
9. Exeter St David	111
10. Ide	120
11. South Brent B	137 1/2

Judges: Lee Avery and Mary Mears.

### Lapford Revel Competition 12 July 2008

#### A Section

1. Zeal Monachorum -	22½
2. Friends of Lapford -	25½
3. East Anstey -	26½
4. Black Torrington -	29½

#### B Section

1. Littleham -	32
2. Down St. Mary -	33½
3. Inwardleigh -	49½

4. Mariansleigh -	50½
5. Morteohoe - did not complete peal	

### Doddiscombsleigh and Dunsford 19 Jul 08

#### Doddiscombsleigh Results:

1. Egg Buckland -	25½
2. South Brent -	39½
3. Kingsteignton -	46
4. Burrington -	51
5. Zeal Monachorum -	53
6. Exeter St. Petrock -	57½
7. Lamerton -	58
8. West Alvington -	60½
9. Holbeton -	87½
10. Iddesleigh -	104½
11. East Anstey -	118½

#### Dunsford Results:

1. Egg Buckland -	11
2. South Brent -	20
3. West Alvington -	21½
4. Burrington -	21½
5. Exeter St. Petrock -	27½
6. Zeal Monachorum -	34½
7. Holbeton -	37
8. Kingsteignton -	41½
9. Lamerton -	47½
10. Iddesleigh -	55½
11. East Anstey -	83½

The Torridge Guild held its annual Ringing Festival at Welcombe on 26 July 2008. It was a big disappointment that only one team entered the Open section, the first time in recent memory. However, it was very encouraging that 7 teams entered the Novice sections. The results are as follows:

#### Open Section

1st East Anstey	46
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#### Torridge Section

1st Littleham	17
2nd Alwington	22
3rd Monkleigh A	24
4th Appledore	32
5th Little Torrington	48
6th Monkleigh B	52
7th Morwenstow	61

#### Novice Section

1st Frithelstock	44
2nd Bradford	87

#### Junior Novice Section

1st Frithelstock C	39
2nd Frithelstock B	42
3rd Shebbear	46
4th Frithelstock A	56
5th Morwenstow	63

Judge: Michael Rose

May I remind everyone that any tower within the guild can enter the Torridge or Novice sections, and we encourage any other towers to ring in the Open Section.

Brian Broadhurst, (Hon Secretary) (01805 624743)

31st July 2008

### Holy Trinity, Burrington on 26 July 2008

1. Egguckland	25 2/3
2. Dunsford	28
3. North Bovey	41
4. South Brent	43 1/3
5. Morteohoe	53 1/2
6. Sampford Courtney	58 2/3
7. West Down	61 1/3
=8 Littleham	73 1/2
=8 Georgeham	73 1/2
9. High Bickington	76 2/3
10. Mariansleigh	84 1/3
11. South Tawton	91
12. East Anstey	93

### Widcombe-in-the-Moor on 2 Aug 2008

1. Egguckland	8
2. Royal Cumberland Youths	14 3/4
3. Kingsteignton	15 1/2
4. Exminster	17 1/2
5. West Alvington	18
6. Burrington	24
7. South Brent	24 3/4
8. Stoke Gabriel	26
9. Lamerton	28
10. Exeter, St Petrock	28 1/2
11. North Bovey	40
12. South Tawton	46 1/2
13. Holbeton	49
14. Ide	71 1/2

### Shebbear Competition on 9 Aug 2008

#### A Section

1. Devon Belles -	10½
2. Burrington A -	12
3. Dunsford -	14½
4. Zeal Monachorum -	28
5. Morteohoe -	31½
6. South Tawton -	33
7. West Down -	40½
8. Exminster -	45½
9. Alphington -	52
10. Mariansleigh -	60
11. East Anstey -	NR

#### B Section

1. Littleham -	18
2. Burrington B -	50½
3. Poughill -	56
4. Little Torrington -	65

Jack Bale cup for top peal ringing was won by Littleham = 9 faults

### Lydford and Bridestowe on 16 Aug 2008

#### LYDFORD

1. Egg Buckland	16½
2. South Brent	21
3. Burrington	32
4. Lamerton	33
5. Exminster	36
6. East Anstey	40 1/2
7. Littleham	44
8. Alphington	48 1/2
9. South Tawton	50 1/2
10. Holbeton	52 1/2
11. Ide	74

Judges, Harry Bardens and Robin Burnham

(Continued on page 9)



**Lydford and Bridestowe on 16 Aug 2008**

*(Continued from page 8)*

**BRIDESTOWE**

1st Egg Buckland	12 1/2
2nd South Brent	19 1/2
3rd Burrington	21 1/4
4th Exminster	26 3/4
5th Alphington	35 1/2
6th Littleham	36 3/4
7th South Tawton	43
8th Lamerton	52 1/2
9th Holbeton	57
=9th East Anstey	57
11th Ide	87

Judges, John Wickett and Mervyn Way

**South Tawton on 6 September 2008**

**Open Class. Tawton Trophy.**

1. Stoke Gabriel	30 1/2
2. Down St Mary	46 1/2
3. Widecombe-in-the-Moor	59 1/2
4. Zeal Monachorum	61 1/2
5. Sandford	80

**Junior Class. Kingsford-Lethbridge shield and Perce Aggett Cup**

1. East Anstey (K-L Shield)	81 1/2
2. Marlansleigh (P A Cup)	84
3. South Tawton	86 1/2
4. Monkleigh	87
5. Spreyton	92
6. Sampford Courtenay	173 1/2

Judges: John Coulthirst and Percy Pester

**Mariansleigh on 13th Sept 2008**

**Open**

1 Morteheo	12 1/2
2 West Down	18 1/2
3 Burrington B	23
4 Burrington A	35 1/2

**B Section**

1 East Anstey	40 1/2
2 Littleham	44
3 Zeal Monachorum	55
4 Bishops Nympton	58

Judges Cedric Hockin and Brian Drake

**Kenn Deanery at Powderham 27 Sep 2008**

**Novice Section**

1 Exminster	33
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**B Section**

1 Dawlish	60.5
2 Ide	115
3 Dawlish B No Result	

**A Section**

1 Dunsford	52.5
2 Exminster B	87.5
3 Ide	91.5
4 Exminster A	92
5 Alphington	98
6 Kenton	110

Judges; P.Pester & J Coulthirst.

**South Devon Eight Bell Competition held at Buckland in the Moor on 4 Oct 2008**

1. Egguckland	32 1/2
2. Kingsteignton	51 1/2
3. Exeter Cathedral	63 1/2
4. Lamerton	68
5. Stoke Gabriel	69

6. South Brent	72
7. Exminster	73
8. Plymstock	82 1/2
9. Broadhempston	99
10. Widecombe in the Moor	167

Judges: Mary Mears and Brian Drake

**The Dartington Carillon Project**

Information obtained from the [dartingtoncarillon.org](http://dartingtoncarillon.org) website.

Creating the World's most advanced carillon. The big idea - a community built creative resource Carillon are the largest of all instruments - a building containing bells played by a keyboard. The plan for the Dartington Carillon is to have 77 bells created by leading contemporary artists. Newly developed acoustics software and electronics will make the Dartington carillon the most advanced in the world. We aim to include a permanent foundry, an art gallery and performance amphitheatre. The Carillon will be a community build project located on the Dartington Hall Estate one of the UK's leading cultural centres. Core elements of the carillon project will be:

The magic of bell casting—bringing together metal and fire to make music.

New technology – casting bells to 50 micron accuracy.

New software allowing radically new bell shapes.

A new generation of bells capable of producing a melody of notes from one strike. Bell sculptures—major international artists will be invited to create innovative bell designs.

Poetry – the bells will be inscribed with specially commissioned poetry.

A new and flexible instrument – a fluid carillon with movable polytonal bells and strikers presents composers, musicians and performers with huge creative opportunities.

Architecture – the brief is for a sustainable building that works as a musical instrument and that can be built by the community.

Performance—potential for dramatic combination of musical and visual performance.

National and international artistic and scientific educational resource – carillon and interactive visitor centre will be a major new resource for students of all ages from the local community and further afield.

Community involvement – the construction work will be carried out by local people (not major contractors), the work will offer training opportunities in a number of trades. The foundry will offer long term training and job opportunities.

Bells speak to communities – of God and war, victories, defeats, births, deaths, and marking out the days.

Bells call people together - physically, emotionally, temporally, spiritually.

The Dartington Carillon unites the very new and very old –the latest design and technology combining with the old cultural pull of bells.

**Community participation**

Carillon project founder Angus Noble has designed many world class racing yachts. Angus was one of the designers on the Team Phillips project which built the world's largest racing catamaran in Totnes near Dartington.

Angus recalls that one of the most significant features of the Team Phillips project was the strength of community involvement - with huge numbers of local people coming to the project's visitor centre every week. To help meet tight deadlines relatively unskilled local people were recruited to help build the yacht - many of whom have gone on to successful careers in boat building.

For Angus, providing inspiration, work and training for local people were the most important and long-lasting benefits of the whole Team Phillips enterprise.

Drawing on this experience, we want the Dartington carillon to be a community built project. Large contractors will not be involved - local people will construct the carillon, workshop, visitor centre and foundry.

The foundry will offer training and permanent employment opportunities. Local people will be invited to join in the planning and development of the project from a very early stage.

For more information please see the website [www.dartingtoncarillon.org](http://www.dartingtoncarillon.org)

**Kenton Bells on the continental stage.**

Kenton was recently approached by a film company who wanted to feature some bell ringing for a film they are making for German television. Initially they wanted to film bells from underneath but they had completely misunderstood how English bells are rung thinking they are rung in the same way as most continental bells.

However once they had looked they decided that they would like to film from above which of course posed some health and safety risks. After two planned visits which were cancelled due to overruns in their schedules, they eventually arrived on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

We needed 6 ringers with another in the bell, for safety's sake chamber supervising the crew. A signalling system was devised so that the ringers knew when to start and stop and after several changes to lenses and filming from different angles the job was completed without mishap, much to my relief.

The film will be shown on German television on the ZDF Channel sometime this autumn or winter so if you have relatives or friends then you could ask them to video it.

The film is called "A Wedding Without Love", and is based on a novel by Rosamund Pilcher. I expect there will only be a very short clip but nonetheless it will show some English ringing. Mike Adams. Kenton.

## Young Ringers' Day

The Young Ringers' Day this year was held on Saturday 19 July with activities at Wolborough and St Paul's Newton Abbot. A dozen young ringers enjoyed ringing at Wolborough and then had an act of worship led by Tim King at St Paul's. This was followed by a barbecue and some handbell ringing on the colourful mini handbells

## Mortehoe

You may have noticed in the results for Lapford on 12 July when Mortehoe did not complete the peal. It is from a reliable source that one of ringers had been unwell and was unable to rise the bell in peal. When the band decided to abandon the peal, and were called to lower, the ringer who had not been able to rise the bell decided to join in, with the bell still down. A few words were said to bring the ringer to order. Was this all down to drink?

## Flower Festival - Celebration of Harvest and Church Bells at Churston Ferrers

This flower festival with a difference was held from 18 to 21 September 2008, at St Mary the Virgin, Churston Ferrers.

There were the usual refreshments, stalls and ample parking. On Sunday at 16:30 There was a Songs of Praise. During the service the bells and ringers were the centre of the service. This was a moving time acknowledging the privilege of having such wonderful bells and the loyalty and devotion of the ringers.

## Paignton Outing

Paignton traditionally hold two outings a year, both on a Monday. Early Spring Bank Holiday and late Summer Bank Holiday. The August outing was to the Lizard and proved very popular with wonderful support from the parishioners who accompanied the ringers. Towers visited were Wendron, Landewednack, Mullion and St Mawgan.

Despite the poor summer, this outing was in glorious sunshine throughout, only to discover that back home, it had been raining. The evening meal was at the Dunmere Arms, near Bodmin.

## John Kelly - 50 yrs Captain

John Kelly celebrated 50 years as Captain of Paignton tower and on Tuesday 19 August Eggbuckland and Kingsteignton were invited to compete against Paignton at Paignton's own tower. Paignton came first which was a fitting tribute to John. The competition was a complete surprise to John who was practising with a hand bell team and upon hearing voices went outside to investigate. The evening finished with refreshments at the local pub. Will there be a return competition?

## Ryan's favourites

I have decided to write about my favourite 6 bell towers in Devon. I have rung over 260 towers in Devon so not quite all yet! Below are my top set in no particular order.

1. Lustleigh: These are probably the finest set I have had the pleasure of ringing in Devon. Gillett and Johnston got these bells spot on, the go of the bells is superb and they sound magnificent, inside the tower you can hear each individual bell perfectly clear. The Tenor weighs 12 cwt in G and covers the peal superbly well.
2. Dunsford: Whitechapel did a fine job at casting and hanging the 6 bells at Dunsford, they are a very good set of bells which sound superb, they would certainly benefit from having a ringing gallery installed. The tenor at Dunsford weighs 12-3-16 in G.
3. South Brent: The ringing room is lovely, the bells are a classy set and have that old fashioned resonance with them, they are lovely to ring and you can hear them very well. The tenor weighs 13-2-12 in F#.
4. Hartland: Probably the finest heavy 6 in Devon! Tenor weighs 17-2-8 in E. The bells are superb Taylor's, they go very well and sound excellent.
5. Throwleigh: These are very under-rated! They go very well and sound superb, Gillett and Johnston did a very good job with re-hanging and re-casting some of these bells. The tenor weighs 8-1-24 in A flat.
6. Sandford: These go even better since they had some minor work done on them recently, they sound excellent, the tenor weighs 10-2-22 in G.
7. Meavy: One of my favourite light bell peals in Devon. They are not as good as they used to be but still they go well and sound great. Tenor weighs 7-2-21 in G
8. Dartmouth, St Petrox: These are superb in tone and go. The tenor weighs 7-3-9 in G#
9. Bishops Nympton: Another superb Gillett and Johnston set, tenor weighing 10-1-10 in A flat. They have superb characteristics!
10. Shaugh Prior: Not everyone's favourite due to the rope length and the way that the ropes move around some times but considering the age of the bells and the fact that apart from new wheels that were needed after a severe storm about 10 years ago they haven't had much work on them. They are probably the finest sounding Pennington bells you will find in the County of Devon. The Tenor is one of the finest sounding in the County. It simply is one of the best covering tenor's and it's note of E flat makes it sound very deep throated and probably should be 2 or 3 hundred weight more, the tenor weighs 15-1-3 in E flat.
11. Bradford: Another superb Taylor 6 these being cast and hung in 1912, the tenor weigh's 10-2-8 in G. They are superb in both tone and go and are possibly one of the finest sounding lighter sets you will find in Devon, the tenor covers the peal superbly well. *(Abridged by Editor)*

## Association's National Event

I am planning a double competition possibly on the 3rd Saturday in September for 2009. I hope there will separate trophies for the winners of each event plus a trophy for best placed out of county team. There will also be an overall winner, the team with the least amount of faults over both events. I hope this will give a competitive edge to the event. I am looking for donations of a trophy for this event.

Carolyn Baker of Whitechapel stating that they will be casting the Whitechapel Logo for us and providing it to us as a donation! They are going to be casting ours at the same time as they cast one identical for The All London 12 bell striking competition. This could really push our National event forward! I am after two more donations, one for the winners of the 8 bell event and another for the best out of county team. We already have a out of county trophy and winners trophy for the 6 bell event. I will be asking if any are willing to put their name to a trophy and some have already offered. *Ryan Trout.*

## 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 to 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.

**North Lew and Okehampton July visit of Ringkly ringers****Guidance Notes***Continued from page 7*

Wednesday was predicted to be a wet and wild day and the forecasters were not wrong. Northlew and Okehampton were not without mishap.

One ringer got the wrong place, he went to nearby Lewdown. There are no bells there, however two ringers did not correct him, and one was Ken Rowe the organiser of these events. The ringer did not waste the day and took his wife to The Tom Copley at Spreyton as an apology. A person after my own heart.

Parking was easy as the village boasts a large village car park, slap bang in the middle of the village. It seems a pity that the Post Office there is up for closure.

Teas were kindly provided by John Spry, the captain of the ringers, along with his wife and helper. The bells were well struck and sounded very musical over the village on this wet Wednesday morning.

Northlew is a Devon village on the edge of Dartmoor. It has an attractive main square surrounded by traditional buildings, some of them thatched; just off the square are, a pub, the local primary school and the church. Also on the square are the Village Stores and the Post Office which is up for closure. The village is about 7 miles north-west of Okehampton. Most places in the village have excellent views over Dartmoor. The village is relatively isolated, not being served by any main roads. The River Lew which runs through the valley and is crossed on entry to the village. The fine Parish Church of St Thomas of Canterbury contains a beautiful carved screen, pews and fascinating roof bosses and dates from the 15th century.

Historically, Northlew formed part of Black Torrington Hundred. It gets its name from the ancient manor of Lew, mentioned in the Domesday Book; the village of Lewdown and the River Lew are nearby. The village has the melancholy distinction of having lost the highest proportion of its enlisting population of any municipality in the United Kingdom during the First World War: of 100 men who

enlisted in the forces, 24 died. A stone memorial to them was recently erected in the churchyard, replacing wooden memorial tablets within the church.

The other mishap for a ringer was using the satellite navigation to go from Northlew to the pub, Crossways, at Folly Gate. The ringer was directed down a minor lane. The road sign said road liable to flood. It had been raining for days and even heavier that day. The road was impassable even with a 4 X 4 and the ringer had to undertake a U turn and go back up onto the main road, using common sense rather than the satellite navigation, which after all is just an aid.

The meal at the Crossways at Folly Gate was a wonderful roast beef dinner with plenty of meat and vegetables and an ample supply of gravy boats. Congratulations to John Orchard for arranging this pub. It is his local, does he realise how lucky he is?

Ken Rowe gave the traditional after dinner speech and thanked John Orchard for arranging the towers and the pub venue. Ken also thanked the absent John Staddon for the splendid holiday in Swindon and this was followed by a rousing applause. Hopefully John's companions will inform him of the spontaneous applause. We all know that the success was down to Linda in allowing John to undertake his research and in ensuring that the coach driver was kept on the right routes.

The afternoon ring was at Okehampton and it was a pleasure to hear the 8 bells well struck peal after peal.

All Saints have numerous headstones with three separate cemetery plots. You only have to look down as you walk up the path and see the stones which are dated from 1600. There is also the grave cover in the doorway, dating from 1223 which belongs to a returning crusader.

All in all a wonderful day thanks to John Orchard for the day's arrangements and to John Spry, the captain of Northlew, and his wife and helpers for providing the refreshments during the morning.

*Consider installing an alarm system. Alarm systems should be installed and maintained by an NSI or SSAIB approved company. To find details of approved installers visit [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk) and [www.ssaib.info](http://www.ssaib.info) Install Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) as deterrent. Please note that this can be an expensive option and would require a commitment to monitor.*

**Did you know John Allen?**

I am writing to the Guild and the Devon Association and to Aylesbeare in the hope that one or more of you may be able to give me some information or know somebody who can. My wife's grandfather was John Thomas Alien. He lived at Aylesbeare before joining the Devonshire Regiment in WW1 and was killed at the battle of Loos in 1915. His name is on the war memorial in Aylesbeare church. His son Jack (my wife's father) was only 8yrs old when JTA was killed. After both my wife and her sister had learnt to ring they discovered that their father had also learnt to ring and he told them that his father (JTA) had also been a ringer and had been tower captain at Aylesbeare. We have been looking at the Ringers Memorial Book and find that JTA's name is not included. We are wondering if anywhere within the records there are any details of the ringers at Aylesbeare before WW1 and if JTA's name appears. My wife and I are both ringers at Stokesley in North Yorkshire. My wife's sister rings in Australia. Thanks in anticipation, John Hallett, 54 Cooper Lane, Potto, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3HA.

**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.ccbr.org.uk](http://www.ccbr.org.uk).

**Devon Ringkly Ringers holiday likely to be 20th July**

While we were enjoying the wet summer, John Staddon has impressed us with the result of his research and bargaining powers. The Ringkly Ringers are use to going on an annual coaching holiday, arranged by him, and aided by Linda, and this date has been traditionally June.

For 2009 the hotel with the most competitive rates appears to be The Waterloo Hotel that is set in the quiet leafy village of Crowthorne on the outskirts of Windsor. The hotel is Grade II listed and has benefited from a one

million pound refurbishment restoring the hotel to its former glory with a modern twist.

The rates appear very competitive for Bed, Breakfast and Dinner during July but not, alas for June, as the Hotel has to cope with the Royal Ascot meeting.

Royal Ascot is Britain's most popular race meeting, welcoming over 275,000 visitors over the five days of Royal Ascot.

Royal Ascot is the most valuable race meeting in Europe with £3.5 million in prize money on offer in 2006.

At the September meeting in Clyst Honiton it was unanimously agreed to change the date to 20th July to secure the Waterloo Hotel. This may prove to be a popular venue as there are four counties, shortened as HBOS, Hampshire Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey within a ten mile radius of Crowthorne. There should be plenty of towers in the area and the non ringers will have a wonderful time in and around Windsor and presumably a few trips to London to see relatives and the museums and other sights.

## 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 (increased to £10). 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.

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## Ringers Bags

Eco friendly shopping bags, as featured by the Devon Ringers Council are now available to buy. Made from fairly traded cotton, the bag has the Guild logo on one side and the Association on the other. The cost is £3 and stocks will be available at the AGM. If you wish to purchase before then, please contact David Trist. All proceeds will go to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

**Devon Ringers' Carol Service to be held at St Peter's Tiverton on Saturday 20 September at 3pm**  
**The superb bells at St Peter's will be available for open ringing both before and after the service.**  
**All welcome.**

**A fun day at the Wilf Edworthy Novice Competition to be held at Modbury on 25 October 2008 starting at 2.30pm**  
**More teams are required.**  
**Please support this event.**  
**More information on page 3**

## 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 help him, or wish your team to take part, or require more information write to, Graham at, Ashleigh, Doddiscombsleigh, EX6 7PX .

### Editor

**Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QG.**  
**mtwebster@btinternet.com**

## Affiliation Fees Increased to £10

On open letter from Jereme Darke, Honorary Secretary to Tower Captains and Association Members and Friends.

At the Committee Meeting in February 2008 and August 2008 the topic of Affiliation Fees was discussed and debated. The current annual fee of £5 was deemed to be too low, especially when considering that the production costs for three/four editions of Devon Calls a year have increased. Affiliation fee covers ALL ringing members of that affiliated tower and also for one copy of each edition of Devon Calls to be sent to each affiliated tower. Individual ringers can subscribe to Devon Calls and receive a copy for an annual fee of £5. At the February meeting the Committee proposed to increase the fee to £7. It was unanimously agreed that the current rate had to be increased further to cover increasing costs. At the August Meeting Mr Barnes proposed and Mrs White seconded that the annual rate for Affiliation or individual subscription of Devon Calls to be increased to the sum of £10. This was put to the Committee and unanimously carried. The absolute correct protocol requires that the members at the Association AGM must ratify this – to be covered by AGM Agenda. However, the Committee is elected to 'run' the business of the Association and has strongly advised that Affiliation or individual subscription to Devon Calls stand at £10 a year as from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. We trust that this will be acceptable to members and remains in our opinion to be very good value.

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