



Founded 1925

President – Mr John Conibear

# Devon Calls

**Feb 2009  
Vol 2 Issue 1**

**Special points of interest**

- Interchange newsletter included
- Invitation to a steeple keepers day

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**Annual General Meeting**

At the AGM in November the outgoing President Ray Mugridge handed the new president, John Conibear, with the Presidential sash and bell. Retiring President Mr Mugridge thanked the Committee and Officers for their hard work and said he had enjoyed his year.

Mr Conibear stated he was pleased to be elected. He said he had been ringing since 1950 and that comradeship in ringing was second to none. He thanked his wife for her support, recommended the Ringkly organisation, the mid week county group, and thanked all his ringing friends across the county and outside for their friendship over the years. Mr Mugridge was presented with a Past President Badge. President Elect for 2008/2009 is John Kelly BEM from Paignton. Honorary Life Vice President Awards went to William Avery, Rita Western and Cedric Hockin.

**John Conibear - President**

John Conibear, now 80, was born and educated in Shirwell and still lives there. He admitted that he hated every day of schooling. He left school at 14 to work on a farm. He enjoyed ploughing and sheep shearing competitions and won many championships in the late 1940s. After just over 20 years of farm work he went into building and DIY which he thoroughly enjoyed. His first marriage was 21. When he was 22 he heard the bells ringing and went to ask if he could have a go, he got bitten by the bug and has been ringing ever since. His first wife died in 1973, they had two sons now aged 55 and 58 living in New York and Barnstaple, respectively. John married Hilary from Marwood, Bideford, in 1986. His ringing has been notable, John having been in the winning side for the Devon Association 8 bell competition in 1961 at Barnstaple and also for the Devon Association 6 Bell (Continued on page 4)

**Hand injury for Chairman**

The Chairman, Ryan Trout has broken the 5th metacarpal in his right hand, this is the bone that attaches to the little finger. Ryan acquired this injury playing football on Saturday 20th December and he has not rung since Tuesday 16th December. He can only return to ringing and football dependant upon the healing of the bone and the 5th knuckle which has been pushed back due to the break. Ryan believes it could be the middle of February at least before he starts ringing again. Ryan missed out on Christmas ringing and organising a trip for his birthday.

**Mortehoe overall winners**

For those who follow James Kerslake's league table, he has an apology. After running some new programmes he found that the overall winners of five or more competitions of 2007 were Mortehoe. See page 11 for more of James' league tables.

**Devon Association Competitions 2009**

<b>NOVICE EVENT</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>LYDFORD</b>	Messrs S Adams, C Clayton, M Langdon and S Herniman
<b>EIGHT BELL</b>	<b>Apr 25</b>	<b>IPPLEPEN</b>	Messrs R Trout, B Osborne, B Drake, M Way. Scrutineer J Cole
<b>SIX BELL SOUTH</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>WHIMPLE</b>	Messrs I Avery, J Cole, P Pester and P Pascoe. S: Sue Husband.
<b>SIX BELL NORTH</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>YARNSCOMBE</b>	Messrs M Poole, M Way, C Hockin and J Wickett. S: G Arcscott.
<b>MINOR FINAL</b>	<b>May 23</b>	<b>WEST DOWN</b>	Messrs R Trout, R Burnham, S Facey & S Herniman S: I Hookway
<b>MAJOR FINAL</b>	<b>Jun 13</b>	<b>LUSTLEIGH</b>	Messrs B Drake, M Way, I Avery and J Dietz. Scrutineer J Cole.

## Obituaries

### Bert Blackler

Immediate past captain at Littlehempston died on 27 December 2008. The funeral was held on Friday 9 January at Littlehempston with many local ringers ringing and attending the service.

### Bill Elliott

Bill Elliott who was in his late 90s had been the Tenor ringer at Stokenham for years. He and Bill Sanders taught Jereme Darke to ring. The funeral was held on Friday 21st November at Stokenham Church at 2.30.p.m. William John 'Bill' Elliott, who has died aged 97, was a true Devonian who was proud to be called a 'son of the soil' and became a legend in bell ringing circles in and around Kingsbridge. He was still ringing in his 90s and his enthusiasm was typified by what happened when fellow ringers hatched a plot to celebrate his 70th wedding anniversary. Bill and his wife May thought they were going to a church service when they were taken to All Saints, Malborough but found the bells were being rung in their honour, in a two hour salute. Bill was supposed to be in the audience but couldn't contain himself. Although 91, he climbed up the steep, winding stairs to join the team. Later, at an impromptu party, he serenaded his wife with You Are My Sunshine and My Old Dutch with the words changed to 'We've been together now for 70 years'. Born at East Charleton he attended schools in the village and at Kingsbridge before starting work on a farm at Strete where he met and married May. They moved to Whitley farm at Thurlestone and then to a tied cottage at Stokeley, near Stokenham. The farm was one of many taken over in 1944 as part of the mass evacuation of the area so that American troops could rehearse for the D-Day landings. Bill recalled that they were given six weeks to find somewhere else to live and move all their possessions

and the animals. With other members of the family they went to Tigley, just outside Totnes where he found work on another farm. When peace was declared they went back to Stokenham where Bill achieved his ambition to buy a house of their own and he became a well-loved character in the village. He was verger and a sidesman at the village church of St Michael and All Angels. With agriculture beginning its gradual decline he left the land and went to work for what was then the South Devon Water Board, using his manual skills and later operating a digger to improve the water system over a wide area. After retirement he would often point with pride to places where he had laid a pipeline. As well as taking responsibility for the tenor bell in his own church, Bill took great delight in ringing elsewhere and helped to produce joyous sounds from many of Devon's churches. He also used his skills to play hymns on a set of miniature bells in his village. Jack Rhymes, secretary of the Woodleigh Deanery bell ringers, says Bill was universally popular. "Whenever we went on an outing to ring elsewhere he was the life and soul of the party and kept us all in stitches with his jokes," he said. After living in Stokenham for more than half a century Bill and his wife moved to Malborough to be near their daughter and he remained active, tending a productive garden until only a few months ago, with regular visits to Slapton for whist and euchre and to Stokenham for the lunch club. His health declined and he died in a Kingsbridge nursing home. May predeceased him four years ago and he leaves a daughter, Mrs Joyce Rushmere, two grand daughters and two great grandchildren.

### Deanne Coward

Dee was 39 and died of a pulmonary embolism. She leaves a seven year old daughter, Jasmine. She had been a ringer

for 10 years at St Marychurch, Torquay. The Funeral was held on Tuesday 16th Dec. at St Mary the Virgin St Marychurch at 11-00am.

### Denis Thompson

Denis Thompson, husband to Misha, died on Friday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at Derriford Hospital. Denis's funeral was held at All Saints church, Okehampton Friday, 9th January at 12 noon. The local band rang half muffled before the funeral and immediately after. There was an opportunity for other ringers to show their respects by ringing followed by a gathering after at the White Hart.

### Sue Wildig

Elizabeth Ann "Sue" Wildig passed away peacefully on Saturday evening 13 December 2008, at Cadogan Court. She had seen all her close friends and relatives throughout the day. The Cremation was held on Monday 29 December, at Torquay followed by a celebration of Sue's life at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell at 2.30pm. The retiring collection was for Loddiswell Church and "Send a Cow" charity to be shared equally. For those who would still like to make a donation in memory of Sue, to her chosen charities, may contact Maunders Funeral Service, 27 Well Street Paignton Devon TQ3 3AW Tel: 01803 556581. Ringing commenced after the service and refreshments were provided at the Loddiswell Inn.

Sue was well known particularly in South Devon having been a ringer herself. Sue did stop ringing many years ago but was always an active supporter and always cheerful. She provided her legendary baking at competitions and attended the monthly meetings of the Ringkly Ringers. Sue took a great deal of interest in any person and many tributes were paid in her memory at the Thanksgiving Service.

### Atherington

Over £30,000 has been raised for the tower and bells. Fund raising is still ongoing and any donations will be gratefully received and if you want to do a little bit extra to help, please use search engine [www.everyclick.co.uk](http://www.everyclick.co.uk). Just nominate the "Friends of St Mary's Atherington" as your chosen charity and every time you use the site, a small donation will be made to the fund. Rev John Carvosso is enthusiastically leading the restoration and hopes to get the bells ringing again by the end of 2009. Please do whatever you can to help!

### Down St Mary and Bow Competition

An idea that Jim Steer, Bow's captain, has been talking to Bob Robinson, Down St Mary, about is the intention to run the two competitions side by side because of the close proximity of the towers.

It is proposed to hold the competitions on the Down St Mary date of the third Saturday in May.

There is an open invitation to contact either person if you have any views for or against the proposal. Both will appreciate any feedback and look forward to hearing from towers or individuals before planning matters further.

### Record Breaking Paignton Hand Bells

The Paignton team of hand bell ringers had exceeded last year's total of collecting money for Dame Hannah Rogers Trust through hand bell ringing at pubs and hotels throughout Torbay over Christmas. There were a number of Tinsel and Turkey Holidays being run by the hotels and the hand bell ringing of Christmas Carols went down very well with the visitors. As always the Christmas Holiday proved very demanding for the team. So far well over £4,700 has been collected for 2008 and a formal cheque will be presented at the Ringers' Annual Dinner in February.

**Secretary's report to the AGM**

Jereme Darke gave his 6th report to the AGM and acknowledged that the last AGM brought about a change in Chairmanship and thanked Brian Drake for his many years of service. Jereme stated that there was a successful carol service held at Exeter Cathedral and Ian Avery was thanked for his organising efforts. The competition season started with a well attended Novice event at Drewsteignton with Yarcombe winning the Round Ringing. Entries to eight and six bell events were disappointing. Margaret White was thanked for officiating at East Worlington. At Cornwood the issue of teams asking to 'ring early' was discussed with 6 out of 10 teams asking to ring early. A fantastic day was had at Zeal Monachorum in June for the Major Final. South Brent won with the President and Secretary complementing the team. The topic of Judges expenses was touched on. Continued support from the Guild was noted in particular with reference to the Roadshow in September at Stoneleigh. Members were reminded to sell as many 'Eco' bags as possible as produced by David Trist's great efforts. Disappointing that National Event was cancelled due to lack of teams. Congratulations were offered to Mr and Mrs William (Bill) Avery who had recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. There had been a successful Annual Dinner at Fingle Bridge. Mr Darke reminded Committee Members to report back to members (via Devon Calls/Web Site) activities in their deaneries. He reminded members of the Association's main function which is to Encourage the Art of Call Change Ringing. He thanked members for their continued support. After the Secretary's report, the Chairman, Ryan Trout, thanked Jereme for his efforts.

**New Committee Members**

At the AGM Dave Conway from the North Committee resigned due to ill health. There was a proposal to keep to nine representatives and Steve Herniman was elected.

For the South Committee, the outgoing President, Ray Mugridge was elected to return to the South Committee.

The Chairman, Ryan Trout, wished to stand down from the Devon Ringers' Council and Graham Sharland was elected. The Association's other representatives to serve on the Ringers' Council are Margaret White, Maurice Sharland and Michael Webster.

**Training Certificates**

The Committee had proposed to adopt four nominations for Training awards. The two letters of proposition were read out by David Trist were John Dietz from Stoke Fleming and Tim Chapman from Dartmouth St Saviour who were nominated by Mr and Mrs A Barnes and fellow local ringers. Dave Kent and Ms Hilary Beresford were nominated by the Frithelstock ringers. Mr Chapman and Mr Kent came forward to accept their awards from the President and received a warm round of applause. Mr Trist outlined training activities at other towers around the county.



**Dave Kent received a training certificate from the President, John Conibear**

**THE DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND**

The Committee met on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Brian Drake's home in North Tawton. Mervyn Phillips, who had attended the meeting in 1972 at which it was agreed to set up a bell restoration fund, and who had subsequently served as a Trustee since 1980, expressed a wish to retire at the end of the meeting. He was warmly thanked by chairman James Clarke for his services. Later that day, at the Devon Association AGM, John Barnes from Georgeham was elected to take Mervyn's place on the Committee. Mary Mears reported the Fund to be in a healthy state, currently standing at £23,951. This was augmented later in the day with the receipt of £2,750 from the Association following the Annual Draw. Significant donations during the year had been £1,000 from the Guild, £600 from the Ottery St Mary ringers, £575 from the Troyte Ringing Centre, £303 from the Competition arranged for the Fund by Graham Sharland, and £100 each from the Withycombe Raleigh ringers, the Association 'Ringklies' and the St Brannock's Society. £1,300, mostly gift-aided, had been received as donations from Guild quarter peal ringers, etc. Since the last meeting four grants had been paid: £1,500 to Plymouth Emmanuel; £900 to Lustleigh; £1,000 to Walkhampton; and £5,000 to Sampford Spiney. Four further grants were agreed: £2,200 to Membury; £4,600 to Sampford Courtenay for rehangng the six bells there; and £400 to Buckland Brewer, both for replacing heavily corroded beam ends in the sub-frame; and £1,000 to Merton for a general overhaul of the six bells. Assuming that all previously grants are taken up, the uncommitted balance of the Fund currently stands at about £10,100. It was understood that the work at Sidmouth had now been done, and that the rehangng of the eight bells at Berry Pomeroy should be complete soon. Stoke Canon bells had been taken out during the first week of November, though no date has yet been set for the continuation of the restoration scheme there. Other work is planned at Hawkchurch, Kilmington and Meavy. It is hoped that the Fund may be able to join with the Guild and Association on the Church Stand at the Devon County Show next May.

Ian Smith.

**Chairman's first AGM**

A message from the Chairman.  
I would personally like to thank those of you that congratulated me on my first AGM as Chair. I hope that we can really push the Association forward in the next few years and with the comments and debate we had at the AGM I feel we are already heading in the right direction. The AGM is a meeting for who have an opinion or wish to comment on things. We are always after new ideas and we strive to be a forward thinking organisation. There is a time limit at the AGM and not everything can be concluded, this is why we have two committee meetings a year. The committee can hopefully come to a decision and present this to the next AGM. There were very valid points discussed at the AGM, and I think the major one was the rulings of the Association. This will be discussed thoroughly in February. We adopted a constitution in 2004 and we said we would review that every 5 years, this can be done in 2009!  
Please, if you do have something that you feel is valid, we do need it writing or by e-mail. We now need correspondence so we can take these matters forward and discuss them at the Committee meetings. Thank you for your continued support. I hope to see more faces at next year's competitions, they are there to raise the standard of ringing within Devon and we, as an Association are here to promote the Encouragement of Ringing.

**A New CD of Devon Ringing**

The New Devon Ringing CD is still ongoing. I am still collating recordings and do require some more. I know people have some very good ringing tapes that they've managed to transfer across to CD and I would like to have a copy as we may be able to use them for the new CD. I am looking for call change ringing by Devon bands on 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells and the recordings don't have to be taken from Devon towers. The other day I came across Bob Brown's website and I listened to a superb clip of ringing from the 8 bell final that was held in the late 80's at Emmanuel in Plymouth. This is an ideal recording for this CD. I want like the CD to represent the whole spectrum of call change ringing over the last 30 odd years. If you do have recordings on tape or on CD then please let me have a copy. Please send to me, Ryan Trout.

**John Conibear***(continued from page one)*

competitions winning 3 times, once with Swimbridge and twice with Molland. On taking up his role as president at the AGM in North Tawton on 8 November 2008 he remarked that he was pleased to see the North and South ringers mixing so well together. Ringers are becoming scarcer and he stated that it is important that ringers do work together as a team to further the aim of recruiting and enhancing ringing.

John and Hilary join the Mid Week Ringers (Ringklies) on the second Wednesday of each month to ring at two towers and meet the ringers who come from all over Devon. John and Hilary also go on ringing holidays and have found good friends within the various ringing groups. John's other hobbies include skittles where with his brother's team he has won the Devon Championship four times. He enjoys bowls and to show he has an eye for detail, cake decorating. We wish John a pleasant and successful year as President of the Devon Association. The role is a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his life to ringing.

**Cars Damaged in Floods**

A flash flood on 17 January 2009 may have written off a ringer's car. Ringers who parked in the road running alongside the Collaton St Mary church returned to find their vehicles standing in 16 inches of water. This had incapacitated some cars with at least one being towed away and possibly being written off. Although there are signs to say that the road is liable to flood, no notice appears to have been taken of the high winds and torrential rain during the Totnes Deanery Winter League competition being held. The heavy rain had swollen the small stream that follows the road and the run off from the nearby steep hills had contributed to the flood.

**Sampford Courtenay Bells**

In the October Issue, I wrote giving some history of the bells and details of the re-hanging we intend to do. Fund raising is continuing and we are confident enough to place an order with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Work will start in July and the intention is to have the project completed and the bells ringing again for Christmas 2009. We have had many generous donations, however we are still a long way from raising the £45,000 needed to do all of the works required. All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Cheques should be made payable to St Andrews PCC. (Bell Fund) and sent to me, C. Clayton, Further progress will be announced in Devon Calls.

**Berry Pomeroy Open Day**

Berry Pomeroy has been hit by £10k setback. The bells of Berry Pomeroy's famous 'Hollywood' church will stay silent longer amid fears £150,000 of new rendering could come crashing to the ground. The entire outside of the 15th century church's 100-foot high tower was re-rendered with mortar in a six-month operation in 2007. Last year all eight of the church bells were removed. It is now feared that using pneumatic drills to cut channels in the stone on the inside of the tower to fit the frame lower in the tower is likely to shake the old tower so much that the new rendering on the outside will simply drop off. Now the work has to be done by hand, adding another £10,000 on to the final bill. And it is now likely the bells will have to remain silent until at least Easter. An open day has been planned inviting all ringers to come and join in with the ringing on April 11<sup>th</sup>, Easter Eve. Fund raising activities will now take place to cover the extra costs.

**Ringkly Programme for 2009**

Second Wednesday of each month except April

Month	Morning Tower	Afternoon Tower	Contact
March	Modbury	Ermington	Harry
<b>April 15th</b>	South Brent	Diptford	Roger
May	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Cliff
June	Ashwater	Holsworthy	John O
July	This meeting will go ahead, towers to be confirmed		Mike W
July 20 - 24	Ringing holiday staying in the Windsor area		John S

Some venues may vary, please check with Mike Webster (01803 782591) or the contact before setting out.

# A new six at Sampford Spiney by Ian Smith

It was in April 2004 that the idea of restoring the bells at the remote church of Sampford Spiney on the western edge of Dartmoor was rekindled. Permission had been obtained to swing-chime them to allow a recording to be made for the Aune Head Arts "Dartmoor Changes" project. While this was going on John Pugh, the church treasurer, who had met us, enquired about the possibility of making the bells ringable again. (A previous attempt in the 1990s had unfortunately come to nothing.)

Mary Mears, then DCBRF Secretary, agreed to send John a grant application form, and three weeks later Ian Smith had a meeting with John and churchwarden Sir Peter Badge. After several more meetings it was finally decided to remodel the ring of five as a ring of six using the existing fourth bell as the tenor, all to be hung in a new steel frame. After what seemed interminable discussions with the Council for the Care of Churches, English Heritage and the DAC, the order was finally placed with Nicholson Engineering for the work to start in April 2008.

The bells had been heard on only one occasion since the recording session; this was when they were again swing-chimed for a wedding in October 2005. It was therefore decided to ring them one last time to give the congregation the opportunity to hear their bells again and to see ringing in action. This took place on Mothering Sunday (March 2) at the 3 pm Evensong. Ian did some work on the bells to ensure that they would be safe(ish) to ring and borrowed some ropes from Tavistock, most of the existing ropes being totally rotten. Those who were to help with the restoration project, plus four Guild officers, were invited to ring.

At 2.30 pm the bells were gently raised individually and then rung one at a time so that recordings could be made. They were then rung to call changes up until service time. At the beginning of the service Ian gave a short talk about the bells and the work which was to take place.

"It's always an exciting time when the bells at a parish church are restored; it's something that only happens on average about every three generations. In the case of Sampford Spiney it is 120 years since the bells were last restored, and it had been again about 120 years before that, in 1764, when any significant work was carried out. Bell restoration is expensive – you will be spending £57,000 – and

it is important that you know what is going to be done and why.

The bells were last rehung in a new frame in 1885. It would appear that this frame was built by a local carpenter with little knowledge of bellhanging. The frame was built to a design generally abandoned by about 1650, and the main members of the frame are far too slender for their task making the whole construction inherently unstable. Three bellhangers were consulted as to the best way forward. Two dismissed the idea of re-using the existing frame out of hand. The third said that it could possibly be strengthened by the insertion of metal tie-rods and brackets, but that within twenty to thirty years it would be giving trouble again. The decision was therefore taken to replace it with a new steel frame.

We know that there were three bells in the tower in 1553. This was still the case when the restoration of 1885 took place, although each bell had been recast at some point. In 1890 two new bells were cast by Llewellyns & James of Bristol. The bells are numbered from 1 to 5 from the highest note to the lowest. The two new bells form numbers 1 and 2 of the ring. The No. 3 bell, cast by John Pennington of Tavistock in 1674 is a very poor sounding bell, but, because of its age, is listed and so cannot be recast. All that can be allowed is some sympathetic tuning. The No. 4 bell, by Thomas Pennington of Tavistock in 1653 is quite a pleasant sounding bell. The No. 5 (or tenor) bell, cast by the Penningtons of Lezant in 1764 is a very poor bell, described by the late Prebendary John Scott, the foremost authority on bells in Devon, as one of the three worst bells in the county.

So what have we decided to do? At an early stage in our discussions it was decided that the No. 5 bell would not be re-used, but that it should be preserved for display in the church. However in recent years the rapidly increasing prices of metal on the international market have made bells, along with copper and lead roofs, a prime target for the criminal element, so we have more recently decided that this would be unwise. Fortunately, having been cast after 1750, this bell is not listed for preservation, so the decision was taken to cut out the inscription band (which contains all the historical information about the bell) and use the rest of the metal to cast two new bells. These will form bells numbers 1 and 2 of

a new ring of six bells, with existing bells 1 to 4 forming bells 3 to 6 of the new ring. The casting of the new bells and the tuning of the old will be carried out by the Whitechapel bell foundry in London, the whole contract being coordinated by Nicholson Engineering of Bridport. We can save a significant amount of money (about £7,000) by providing volunteer labour, and I have enlisted the help of three of my fellow ringers, Robert Franklin, Roger King and Ian Campbell to this end.

Next, of course, we will need recruits to help ring the bells. Anybody between the ages of 9 and 90 are eligible. Please come and watch us ringing after the service and let us know if you are interested."

At the conclusion of the service the treble rope was hastily changed (it being down to only one strand!) and it was decided to try some method ringing – a plain course of Stedman and a 120 of Reverse Canterbury being achieved – after a fashion! Bill Ford's model bell from Thorverton was made good use of for describing how a bell worked. The bells were then lowered, four of the ropes were removed, that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> being left for chiming.

We are currently ringing rounds and call changes for service on the first Sunday in each month from 2.30 to 3.00 pm, and for practice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Anybody wishing to have a ring is more than welcome to join us for any of these sessions. Hopefully after a few months we will be able to open them up more fully or we will have to consider some form of sound-control, something we are currently trying to avoid as, to my ear, the volume outside is just about right and not too intrusive, such that it is quite possible to carry out a conversation in the churchyard without raising your voice. The scheme has cost in the region of £60,000, of which the church itself has underwritten £10,000. All the rest will have been raised by the local inhabitants, which at the last census numbered 147. About £3,500 remains to be found of which £2,500 was the cost of welding the tenor (the old 4<sup>th</sup>), which was found to be cracked when the headstock was removed and so was not included in the original quotation. They have various events planned to cover this. The bells are to be dedicated by the Dean of Windsor, patron to the living, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The tower correspondent for the time being is John Pugh.

**NORTH DEVON STEEPLEKEEPERS DAY  
AND AN INVITATION TO SOUTH DEVON**

Following a notice in a recent Devon Calls, on Saturday 4 October, thirteen (lucky for us!) steeplekeepers joined me for a few hours at Chittlehampton, to discuss how we can better look after our towers and bells. Whilst I am not best qualified to tell you how it was received, those who came seemed to indicate that it was time well spent.

We met at 10.00 for coffee in the church and started discussions soon after. The preliminary run through my list of items to which we should pay attention, always seems to provoke plenty of questions and therefore usually takes longer than I allow. However we were soon climbing the tower to view the eight bells and their iron and steel frame. I chose this tower for several reasons, not the least being that it is possible for observers to stand around three sides of the frame, without the need to climb all over it. As is usual (and as Gerald Arcscott anticipated) there were a few items that needed attention, and each were discussed. I demonstrated my favoured way of tying a rope to a wheel, for those who wished to see it.

The participants then repaired to The Bell for lunch (this was the other main reason for choosing Chittlehampton). After refreshment we motored over to St Giles-in-the-Wood to have a look at a timber frame installation. Again, and unusually, there is room here for observers to stand comfortably around three sides of the frame. Following the discussions I was kindly thanked for arranging the event, and those who wished stayed for a peal. I would like to thank Gerald Arcscott and Chittlehampton PCC for permission to use their facilities, and to Janice and Andrew Gist and St Giles PCC likewise. Chris Ley organised a quick "whip around" so that we were able to make a small donation to each tower, and assisted your truly with the "domestic" arrangements.

I did say that I would arrange a similar event for those "down south", if there was sufficient interest. I have already had two persons do so, and so I now invite others to contact me and add themselves to the list. I will take the first dozen, and see how we go from there; a few more or less won't be a problem. I am still sorting out a suitable date and venues, and so will make contact with those on the list when these details are confirmed. I am aiming for Spring 2009. I am also happy to run the event in the north again, if there is demand (perhaps in the autumn of 2009). James Clarke.

## Central Council Bell Restoration Fund

The following is a report from the Central Council as shown on [ccbr.org](http://ccbr.org) website.

The Bell Restoration Fund's income comes entirely from legacies, donations and interest, and the amount available varies significantly from year to year.

When funds are available, applications for grants are invited by notices in *The Ringing world* and on the [ccbr.org](http://ccbr.org) website, generally in December or January. All available money is allocated in accordance with the criteria and priorities established by the Central Council.

Grants are not paid until the work is completed and any grant will lapse if not claimed within two years.

The Council is extremely grateful to the generous benefactors who enable us to offer these grants. It seems that there will always be bells to restore and never enough money with which to do so.

Ringers are encouraged to remember the cause of bell restoration in their wills, leaving sums either to their local or favourite BRF or to the Council's Fund.

Please send any donation you wish to make to Derek Harbottle, CCCBR Hon Treasurer, using the CCCBR Gift Aid Declaration Form. This form can also be used to declare for Gift Aid income tax treatment earlier donations made since April 2000 and/or all future donations you may make in addition to one enclosed with the completed form. The form can be printed directly from your web browser.

### Other funding sources

#### The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

The LCF is not a fund in the usual sense of the term -- it is a UK tax credit scheme which enables operators of landfill sites to contribute money to projects which improve the lives of nearby communities. The money is derived from the taxes on landfill waste which were introduced in 1996 as a means of reducing the growth of landfill sites and to promote a shift to more environmentally sustainable methods of waste management. Landfill operators must collect these taxes on waste that they dispose of in a landfill site.

The LCF allows them to give a proportion of that money to organisations which deliver environmental objectives, instead of paying it to the Government.

Comprehensive information on how to find funding from the LCF may be found on the website of ENTRUST, the body which regulates the fund on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs.

### Applicability to bell restoration projects

One of the categories of community project which may benefit from this scheme is the repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship (or a place of architectural importance).

This is one of the six main areas of work that can be undertaken when utilising LCF monies. It is described in more detail under OBJECT E on the LCF Objectives webpage.

### Practical experience from bell restoration projects

The CC Bell Restoration Committee contacted a number of people who we knew had made applications to the LCF and asked them about their experiences. It was a small sample, but we think that their comments will be helpful to anyone else making an application. To make sense of some of these comments, you need to understand how the scheme works by visiting the web pages detailed above.

How had they found out about the LCF?

1. General awareness of grants awarded to other projects in local area.
2. On list received from Community Centre warden.
3. Information from local District Councillor.
4. Seeing the waste lorries going through the village.

### To whom did they apply?

Some projects had made their application direct to the LO, some had applied to a DEB, and some had applied to both. In our small sample those who had applied directly seemed to have more success.

### Was the application process difficult?

Most applicants felt that the process was not difficult, just time-consuming. Usually a detailed application form was required often having lots of questions unconnected to ringing, such as how many trees would be planted. On the other hand, most applicants received lots of help from the organisation they applied to and/or comprehensive written guidance. Most applicants reported that organisations kept in close touch with them during the project, and at least one required written interim and final reports before the grant was paid.

### What contributed to a successful application?

The most important qualification was being local. Most LOs specified a radius within which the project must be located, and some applicants had to mark up an OS map to prove they were close enough.

## Stoke Canon

After more than 100 years of ringing, the six historic bells in the Norman tower of Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Canon were due for an overhaul. And the complex process of removing them for vital repairs, which will cost more than £50,000, began in November 2008. The bells, the oldest of which dates to the 18th Century, have actually been carefully dismantled by three volunteers and one professional bell-hanger. John Woods, 69, captain of Stoke Canon bell-ringers, said he was looking forward to the day when the bells would once again ring at the church. "We have not been able to ring here for two years because the bells were out of tune and in danger of ruining their frame," he said. "We have been ringing at nearby Rewe and Poltimore instead, and it will mean a lot to us to have the bells back. "First we've got to raise more than £54,000 to get them tuned, cleaned and up to scratch, so we don't know how long it will take. "Hopefully, we'll get them done within 12 months." Fellow bell-ringer Bill Blake, 87, also from Stoke Canon, said: "I'm hoping they will be done pretty soon while I'm still able to ring them. "I've been ringing Stoke Canon bells for 19 years and I want to be able to ring in my tower, as I call it. You feel attached to your own tower." As well as fitting a new frame, two of the bells will be melted down and recast, while another will be completely replaced, with the original kept in the church for preservation. "We don't know if we will keep or scrap the third bell, but the fourth and tenor are okay" said John. Reg McKenzie, of Nicholson Engineering, is heading up the dismantling operation together with three volunteers: Neil Deem, of Exmouth, Ian Campbell, from Exeter, and Rob Franklin, of Pinhoe. All four are bell-ringers and have experience in dismantling and erecting church bells. Ian, 58, who has been ringing for 40 years, said: "We've done this sort of work before, so people asked us if we could help in Stoke Canon. "It's interesting and makes a change from other things I might be doing. It keeps me out of mischief." Rob added: "It is an effort and it is quite dangerous work." Church warden Maureen Owen-Jones said that in due course the bells would go back into the tower through a carefully designed staircase. "Then, once more the bells, which are an iconic part of village life, will be able to be rung for services, weddings and other special events," she said.

## You Can't Silence Church Bells

People who buy a house near a cricket pitch, church bells or a pub have few grounds to moan about the noise later, the High Court has ruled. The decision has been welcomed in the West country where there have been cases of people moving into a village only to then complain that the local church bells are spoiling their quality of life. A judge said incomers who knew about the potential disturbance before they moved in had few grounds for challenging the perceived nuisance.

Last year, a couple sparked outrage in Crediton after they called for the church clock bell to be silenced for the first time in 150 years. The clock at the Holy Cross Church chimes on the hour and every 15 minutes but Claire and Peter Robinson, who moved to the town in 2006, wanted the chiming stopped between 7pm and 9am.

Ms Robinson said at the time: "We chose our house carefully because a quiet life and a good night's sleep are important to us. We are not that close to the church, so the problem of bell noise didn't occur to us. But we were shocked to find out that we have to put up with a loud noise from the bells every 15 minutes all through the night, every night." The complaint was overruled. Lawyers now believe other long-standing establishments such as airfields, sports grounds, farms and churches could be offered some protection against similar noise complaints following the ruling in the High Court on Thursday.

The ruling came after a hearing into an appeal by St Albans Council in Hertfordshire which had supported a complaint from a woman that she could hear drinkers talking in a pub beer garden after she had moved in next door. The court was told that Jane Lockley's garden adjoined the grounds of the pub. The case originally went before magistrates who were satisfied that there was a noise nuisance but dismissed the case against the pub landlord after taking into account that Mrs Lockley had known about the pub when she moved in.

The decision has now been upheld by Mr Justice Forbes at the High Court, who dismissed an appeal from the council. His ruling will have implications for similar cases across the country. The Rector of Crediton, the Rev Nigel Guthrie, said he supported the ruling.

He said: "From the point of view of our bells, we're always very careful about when they're rung. Nevertheless, I think it does make a lot of sense because many people have valued the chime which was being complained about, and for someone to move here and say they don't like it and should be stopped does seem unfair on the majority."

In 2002, a row broke out in Totnes over chimes from the parish church's 115-year-old clock after the then rector received letters of protest from newcomers who complained it was keeping them awake. The Rev Nicholas Martin silenced the bells following the complaints but reinstated them after receiving legal advice. A spokesman for the diocese of Exeter said it "supported the traditional ringing of church bells".

He said: "This ruling appears to support such activities which place the church at the heart of the community."

In a similar case in 2000, residential care owner Derek Sharp eventually gave up his fight to keep his cockerel, Corky IV, after a protracted legal battle over the bird's crowing at his Torquay home.

### Ringings Clips shown on YouTube.com

As editor, it is obvious that I have an insatiable appetite for reading, however proof reading is not one of my attributes! I am looking for volunteers to assist me? In the Feb 09 edition of the Reader's Digest it stated that in April 2005 the first video ever was uploaded onto YouTube. Nowadays ten hours of viewing is uploaded every minute, 24 hours a day, this works out at 50 years of additional material for every month.

Bellringing has benefited and I have seen some wonderful clips of hand bell ringing and some even giving tutorials, such as ringing with two hand bells in one hand. Our web master set a competition on our website, asking for people to name the tower to a clip (maybe from YouTube) of a tower with the bells ringing. See our website (19 Dec 08) for more information. There are probably many more clips (please let me know of any other Devon towers) shown on YouTube. So far there is, Ringing at Moretonhampstead, Ringing at Chagford, Ringing at Lustleigh, Bellringing at Huntsham, Rounds at Axminster and St Andrews Church Plymouth. Give YouTube a try, enter the above titles into the search area.

<b>Results</b>			
<b>Mariansleigh 13th Sept 2008</b>			
<b>A Section</b>			
1	Mortehoe	12 1/2	
2	West Down	18 1/2	
3	Burrington B	23	
4	Burrington A	35 1/2	
<b>B Section</b>			
1	East Anstey	40 1/2	
2	Littleham	44	
3	Zeal Monachorum	55	
4	Bishops Nympton	58	
Judges Cedric Hockin and Brian Drake			
<b>Cadbury Deanery Festival held at Bow on Saturday, September 20. 2008</b>			
1 -	Down St Mary	46	
2 -	Zeal Monachorum	48.5	
3 -	Sandford	49	
4 -	Bow	56	
5 -	Lapford	67.5	
<b>Iddesleigh 6 bell Event on 27 Sep 08</b>			
<b>A Section.</b>			
1.	Eggbuckland	18 1/2	
2.	Burrington A	30	
3.	South Brent	33 1/2	
4.	Littleham	38	
5.	Zeal Monachorum	47	
6.	Burrington B	71 1/2	
<b>B Section.</b>			
1.	Down St Mary	48	
2.	Iddesleigh	58	
3.	Sampford Courtenay	69 1/2	
4.	Dowland	71	
5.	East Anstey	72 1/2	
6.	Mariansleigh	100	
7.	Dolton	105	
<b>Chawleigh Sat Oct 11. 2008</b>			
<b>A Section</b>			
1.	Zeal Monachorum	26½	
2.	Dunsford	40	
3.	North Bovey	40½	
4.	Burrington	43½	
5.	Lapford	51	
6.	East Anstey	51½	
<b>B Section</b>			
1.	Mariansleigh	58	
2.	Alphington	61½	
3.	Down St Mary	69½	
4.	South Tawton	94	
<b>Cadbury Deanery held at Zeal Monachorum Thurs Oct 16. 2008</b>			
1.	Zeal Monachorum	34	
2.	Sandford & D. St Mary	57	
3.	Lapford	59	
4.	Bow	75	
<b>Tedburn St Mary held 18th Oct 2008</b>			
<b>A section</b>			
1.	Kingsteignton	18 1/2	
2.	Dunsford	23 1/2	
3.	Exminster	42	
4.	Stoke Gabriel	43 1/2	
5.	Exeter, St Petrock	44	
6.	Monkleigh	53 1/2	
7.	South Tawton	57 1/2	
8.	East Anstey	65	
9.	Zeal Monachorum	70 1/2	
<b>B section</b>			
1.	Alphington	54	
2.	Down St Mary	56 1/2	
3.	Bow	59	
4.	Sandford	61 1/2	
5.	Ide	63	
6.	Spreyton	119	
Judges: Colin Adams and Percy Pester			
<b>NAIT Deanery Festival at Babbacombe on 25 Oct 2008</b>			
1.	Paignton	46	
2.	Kingsteignton	46 1/4	
3.	Kingsteignton B	59 3/4	
4.	Paignton B	66 1/2	
5.	Ipplepen	75 1/4	
6.	Upton	87 1/4	
Judges: Harry Bardens, Maurice Sharland			
<b>Wilf Edworthy Comp held at Modbury 25th October 2008</b>			
<b>Section 1 Round Ringing</b>			
1.	Modbury A	18.5	
2.	Modbury B	26.5	
3.	Modbury C	27	
4.	Plympton St Maurice	33.75	
5.	Plympton St Marys	44.5	
<b>Section 2 Call Changes</b>			
1.	South Pool	29.5	
2.	Yealmpton	32.5	
3.	Chivelstone	37.5	
4.	Plympton St Maurice	39.25	
5.	Plympton St Marys	47	
6.	Sherford	61.25	
A good fun day where I think all of those who took part enjoyed themselves. My thanks to John Irish, (tower captain, Modbury) for jumping into the breach at such short notice. It was also good to see youngsters and we had five who defeated their nerves and took part. This is an improvement on last year and long may it continue. Brian Meek.			
<b>Warkleigh and St Giles in the Wood on 25 Oct 2008</b>			
<b>WARKLEIGH</b>			
Chris Lethebridge Shield			
1	Burrington "A"	45	
2	South Brent "A"	54	
3	Kingsteignton	54.5	
4	Georgeham	86	
5	Burrington "B"	93	
6	Chittlehampton	101.5	
7	Mariansleigh	105	
8	East Anstey	113.5	
9	Warkleigh	127	
10	South Brent "B"	175	
<b>St GILES in the WOOD</b>			
<b>NOVICE CLASS</b>			
1	Frithelstock	88	
2	Dowland	91	
<b>A CLASS</b>			
1	Burrington "A"	10.5	
2	South Brent	12.5	
3	Iddesleigh	17.5	
4	Littleham	22	
5	Burrington "B"	32.5	
6	Ilfracombe	46.5	
7	Down St Mary	56.5	
8	Zeal Monachorum	57	
<b>B CLASS</b>			
1	Sampford Courtney	20	
2	Alphington	24.5	
3	Monkleigh "A"	28	
4	East Anstey	39	
5	Monkleigh "B"	40	
6	South Brent "B"	54.5	
7	Dolton	56	
8	Mariansleigh	69	
9	Little Torrington	79.5	
<b>Tawstock Shield held at Kingsteignton on 1 Nov 2008</b>			
1.	High Bickington	52 1/4	
2.	South Brent	67 1/2	
3.	St Petrock's	70 1/2	
4.	Cathedral	76	
5.	Chittlehampton	80 1/2	
6.	Paignton	120 3/4	
7.	Moorland Ringers	125 3/4	
8.	Ipplepen	146	
9.	Widecombe in the Moor	148 1/2	
Judges: Mary Mears, Maurice Sharland			
<b>Monkleigh on 1st November 2008</b>			
<b>Open Section</b>			
1.	Zeal Monachorum	30	
2.	West Down	31	
3.	Ilfracombe	47.5	
4.	East Anstey	62	
5.	Hill Billys	27.5	
<b>Local Section</b>			
1.	Iddesleigh	25	
2.	Monkleigh	28.5	
3.	Littleham	33	
4.	Little Torrington	71.5	
5.	Monkleigh	85	
<b>Novice Section</b>			
1.	Dowland	65	
2.	Frithelstock	102	
Judge: John Wickett			
<b>Dartmouth St Petrox on 15 Nov 2008</b>			
<b>Rounds Section</b>			
1.	Dartmouth St Saviours	41	
2.	Dittisham	58	
Half a competition peal off the stay			
1.	Stoke Gabriel	27	
2.	Dartmouth St Saviours	33 1/2	
3.	Dartmouth St Petrox	46	
4.	Slapton	51 3/4	
5.	Stoke Fleming	72 1/2	
6.	Broadhempston	84	
7.	Dartmouth Ladies	101	
Judges: Steven Came and Robin Burnham			



**Cadbury Deanery Winter League held at Sandford on Thursday, Nov 20. 2008**

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Down St. Mary         | 35½ |
| 2. Zeal Monachorum & Bow | 46  |
| 3. Sandford              | 47  |
| 4. Lapford               | 62  |

Judge: M. Sharland

**Competitions held at Stratton and Kilkhampton on 22 November 2008****Stratton 6 Bell**

- |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. South Brent    | 16 1/2 |
| 2. Egguckland     | 20 1/2 |
| 3. Chittlehampton | 78 1/2 |
| 4. South Tawton   | 86     |

**B Section**

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Exeter St Petrock | 22 1/2 |
| 2. Bridgerule        | 59     |
| 3. Alphington        | 72     |
| 4. Monkleigh         | 73     |
| 5. Lamerton          | 87 1/2 |

**Stratton 8 Bell**

- |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. South Brent    | 34     |
| 2. Exminster      | 35     |
| 3. Paignton       | 38 1/2 |
| 4. Egguckland     | 40 1/2 |
| 5. Broadhempston  | 44 1/2 |
| 6. Chittlehampton | 80     |

**Kilkhampton 6 Bell**

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Egguckland        | 15     |
| 2. Broadhempston     | 31     |
| 3. Exeter St Petrock | 45 3/4 |
| 4. Chittlehampton    | 46     |
| 5. South Brent B     | 56 1/2 |
| 6. South Tawton      | 63 1/2 |

**B Section**

- |               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. Alphington | 35     |
| 2. Lamerton   | 66     |
| 3. Monkleigh  | 78 1/2 |
| 4. Bridgerule | 88     |

**Kilkhampton 8 Bell**

- |                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. Egguckland     | 29     |
| 2. Paignton       | 33 1/2 |
| 3. Exminster      | 45 1/2 |
| 4. Broadhempston  | 54 1/2 |
| 5. South Brent B  | 74     |
| 6. Chittlehampton | 88     |

**Totnes Deanery Winter League held at Dean Prior on 29 November 2008**

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Stoke Gabriel A | 32      |
| 2. South Brent A   | 44      |
| 3. Broadhempston   | 60 1/2  |
| 4. Stoke Gabriel B | 71      |
| 5. Dean Prior      | 118 1/2 |
| 6. South Brent B   | 133     |

**Top ringing only**

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Broadhempston B | 99 1/2  |
| 2. Broadhempston C | 120 1/2 |

Judges: Colin and Scott Adams

**Cadbury Deanery Winter League held at Lapford on Thursday, Dec 11. 2008**

- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Zeal Monachorum | 36 |
| 2. Lapford         | 47 |
| 3. Down St. Mary   | 48 |

- |             |    |
|-------------|----|
| 4. Bow      | 49 |
| 5. Sandford | 72 |

**Cadbury Deanery Held at Bow on Thursday, January 15. 2009**

- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Down St. Mary   | 47 |
| 2. Sandford        | 66 |
| 3. Zeal Monachorum | 72 |
| 4. Bow             | 91 |
| 5. Lapford         | 93 |

**Totnes Deanery Competition at****Collaton St Mary on 17 January 2009**

- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Stoke Gabriel A  | 25 1/2 |
| 2. South Brent A    | 27 1/2 |
| 3. Collaton St Mary | 28     |
| 4. Broadhempston    | 32     |
| 5. Stoke Gabriel B  | 68     |
| 6. Dean Prior       | 74     |
| 7. South Brent B    | 93     |

Top ringing, off the stay

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| 1. Collaton St Mary B | 35 |
| 2. Broadhempston B    | 44 |
| 3. Broadhempston C    | 59 |

Judges: Colin and Lee Avery.

## Whitechapel Trophy

I have already started to ask a few people if they would like to donate a trophy for the National Call Change event.

I have already secured a donation from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. They will cast their metal Hall Mark. The Hall Mark of the Whitechapel Foundry is the Ornate circle filled by the 3 bells.

A copy is shown on their website at [www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk](http://www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk). The first thing you'll see is the Hall Mark. They are going to be casting ours at the same time as they cast one identical for The All London 12 bell striking competition. The Whitechapel Trophy for the National Competition has been cast in "Pure Bell Metal" and is ready for collection. The trophy will be mounted onto a piece of Hardwood ready for presentation. The actual casting weighs 3.5kg.

I hope that this will really push our National Event forward! I am however seeking two more donations, one for a trophy for the winners of the 8 bell event and another for the out of county trophy for the same event. We already have a out of county trophy and winners trophy for the 6 bell event. I will be asking a few people if they are willing to put their name to a trophy and have come up with a few names already. We are now waiting for Whitechapel to inform us as to when and where we can collect the trophy from and we hope that photographs can be taken with Whitechapel making the presentation. The photographs will be placed on our own website.

Ryan Trout

## National event and new format for 2009

Posted by Ryan Trout (editorial changes made) on the Website on Wednesday, November 5. 2008

This is just a small article to let you know my proposals for next year's National Call Change Competition.

In 2009 the National Event will change. I hope to hold a double competition which will involve a 6 bell and 8 bell competition in two different towers in close proximity to each other.

The date has been provisionally booked as the 19th September 2009. My aim for the event is that both venues have ample parking, have pubs and that the bells go well.

This event was brought about to try and define our ringing and striking as some of the best in the Country!

I still believe that we, in Devon, have a lot to offer. I also feel that this competition should be used to increase the standard of ringing by inviting method teams that do well, such as in the 12 bell striking event, and amongst our regular followers from outside the County.

I have provisionally said that 14 teams will be allowed to enter, 7 from Devon and the other 7 from outside the county. The teams from Devon will be made up of the first 5 teams from the Devon Major 6 bell Final in June and the first 2 in the eight bell team Final held in April.

I know that there are a few ringers that ring for both the 6 and 8 bell events, with this in mind and if it happens that these teams finish either in the top 5 of the 6 bell or the top 2 in the 8 bell then those teams will have to decide which tower they are going to represent.

If any team does pull out, then the team next in line will be able to qualify for the National. Teams will have to stick to Devon rules on borrowing people, and if the rule changes, a team will only be able to borrow two ringers for the 8 bell and one ringer for the 6 bell. Ringers can only ring for one team on the day.

The event will be run where there will be individual winners for both of the events. However, the overall winner and National Call Change Champions will be the team that rings both events with the lowest number of faults.

The teams marks from both events will be added together.

I really believe that this event could take our ringing forward and I think we can all learn from our method ringing friends as they can from us.

**Tim Chapman of St Saviour's, Dartmouth receiving a training certificate from the President, John Conibear at the 2008 AGM**



Tim said that he was surprised and shocked to receive the award and will value it being grateful that he has had the opportunity to train so many ringers. He wishes to thank all of those who proposed the training award.

**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.

**The Bells of St Petrox, Dartmouth**

Across the ocean's might swell  
 The cheerful ringing of the bells  
 Calling the folk to Evensong  
 Weddings or a sing-along  
 Joyously on Christmas morn  
 Telling when the Child was born  
 To the music of their ringing  
 In the trees the birds are singing  
 And the cadence of the changes  
 Out along to Dartmouth ranges  
 Melodies to cheer the soul  
 And make the wounded spirit whole  
 They echo round the castle walls  
 Vibrating all the cannon balls  
 Saying that such wars have passed  
 Into peace and love at last  
 The bells speak out with all their might  
 To fill mankind with pure delight  
 Such skilful efforts of the ringers  
 That in our hearts the sound doth linger  
 ©Judith Barnes

**Roll of honour**

The Ringers Roll of Honour, retained in St Paul's Cathedral, is for those who gave their lives in the great wars. There appears to be a dearth of information on Devon Ringers on this Roll, as there are only 18 entries. With the help of older ringers, we could identify those who are not on the list.

This is something we need to do now so that the information is not lost for ever. The weblink is <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/rollsofhonour/>

Robert Brown has gone through the list and there are some names with historical connections such as KELLY and TROYTE and he wonders if the Seager mentioned at Heavitree was anything to do with the Seager chiming apparatus.

If any one knows of anyone who should be added to the list then the following information would be of use

1. Full Name, DOB, rank etc., and Regiment
  2. Tower that they rang at
  3. Where they are buried
  4. Any contact details for further info
- Please send corrections or additions to Alan Regin: [aregin@spitalfieldse1.free-serve.co.uk](mailto:aregin@spitalfieldse1.free-serve.co.uk)

Phone: (H) 020-8471-7045  
 (O) 020-7332-3734. Post: 39 Maud Road, Plaistow, E13 0JT.  
 Robert stated that he would also be interested and asks to be copied in to see how things go.  
[robert@robertbrown.me.uk](mailto:robert@robertbrown.me.uk)

**Devon Ringers' Carol Service**

The Carol Service organised by Ian Avery was held at Tiverton, St Peter on 20 December at 3pm. The Oakment Valley and Exeter Cathedral Hand Bell Ringers gave wonderful performances. Ian Avery conducted a combined choir and an orchestra that accompanied the organist, Wyn Turner. There was open ringing both before and after the service with refreshments being available. The Carol Service for 2009 will be held at Buckfast Abbey on 12 December 2009 at 3pm.

**Old Photos of Ringing in Devon**

On our website [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk) on Saturday, 22 November 2008 Robert Brown gave a link that appeared on the Bell Historian website for an auction of old Photographs and Postcards. Many of them were from Devon and included a competition at Dolton, Moretonhampstead, Dolton and Tiverton bells.

Robert stated that he was surprised at how much the estimate of prices were for them. If you have any old post cards or photographs, they could be quite valuable.

**"League" results for 2008****Facts and Figures From James' Website**

	Team	No. Comp	Ranking
1	Dunsford	12	18.17
2	South Brent	22	17.14
3	Egguckland	21	17.05
4	Burrington	18	16.89
5	Stoke Gabriel	14	16.36
6	Kingsteignton	13	14.62
7	West Down	5	14.00
8	Exeter St Petrock	13	13.08
9	Zeal Monachorum	18	12.83
10	West Alvington	9	12.33
11	Mortehoe	7	12.00
12	Burrington B	8	11.50
13	Littleham	12	11.33
14	Exminster	15	11.13
15	North Bovey	10	10.80
16	Iddesleigh	9	10.11
17	Down St Mary	12	9.00
18	Alphington	11	8.73
19	Sampford Courtney	6	8.67
20	Lamerton	11	8.36
21	Monkleigh	8	8.25
22	South Tawton	13	8.00
23	Paignton	6	7.33
24	Chittlehampton	6	6.67
25	Plymstock	5	6.40
26	Sandford	5	6.00
27	Widecombe in the Moor	8	5.75
28	East Anstey	19	5.53
29	Holbeton	11	4.64
30	Mariansleigh	9	4.44
31	Broadhempston	6	4.33
32	Ide	11	3.82
33	South Brent B	11	2.36

**Number of competitions for each year**  
 2003 - 24  
 2004 - 26  
 2005 - 22  
 2006 - 27  
 2007 - 38  
 2008 - 46

**Highest entry for competitions**

Teams entering 15 competitions or more  
 20 Ide 2005  
 18 Iddesleigh 2004  
 17 St Giles in the Wood 2008  
 15 Tedburn St Mary 2003  
 15 Shebbear 2004  
 15 Ide 2007  
 15 Littleham 2007  
 15 Ide 2008  
 15 Shebbear 2008  
 15 Tedburn St Mary 2008

There is a host of further information on James Kerslake's website, visit : <http://myconid.co.uk> and this includes past years. James has recalculated some figures and Mortehoe were the overall winners for 2007 rather than Egguckland as originally calculated.

From the figures produced it shows that the numbers of teams and competitions have risen dramatically since 2007. Your views are encouraged, either through Devon Calls or through the Association's own website: [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk)

**Number of teams entering competitions**

Year	Number entering 5 or more competitions	All-comers
2003	14	76
2004	21	91
2005	22	67
2006	20	74
2007	27	97
2008	33	95

**Table showing how many competitions had been entered by teams**

## Top 25 teams listed

88	Egguckland (2003- )
76	Stoke Gabriel (2003- )
76	South Brent (2003- )
63	Exminster (2003- )
56	Lamerton (2003- )
55	Exeter, St Petrock (2003- )
51	Ide (2003- )
49	Burrington (2003- )
48	Dunsford (2003- )
44	Littleham (2003- )
43	East Anstey (2004- )
43	Mortehoe (2003- )
43	South Tawton (2003- )
39	West Alvington (2003- )
38	Zeal Monachorum (2003- )
35	Alphington (2003- )
35	Mariansleigh (2003- )
34	Kingsteignton (2003- )
33	Down St Mary (2003- )
33	Holbeton (2003- )
34	West Down (2003- )
28	Iddesleigh (2003- )
28	North Bovey (2003- )
27	Paignton (2003- )
26	Widecombe in the Moor (2003- )

**Devon Ringkly Ringers holiday to be 20th July 2009**

For 2009 the Ringkly's holiday will be at the Waterloo Hotel, 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.

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, Hampshire Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey within a ten mile radius of Crowthorne. There are plenty of towers in the area and the non ringers will have a wonderful time in and around Windsor and maybe a few

trips to London to see relatives, friends, museums and other tourist attractions. Deposits should now be paid to John Staddon if you intend to go. The full cost for bed and breakfast and an evening meal is £240 pp for those sharing or £264 for singles. The plan is to ring at three towers travelling up on Monday, five on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and three for the return on Friday.

# AGM Notice

The AGM will be held on Saturday 14 November 2009 at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm. The annual affiliation fees for 2009/10 will be due on 1 October or at the AGM (currently £10). In addition, the competition fees, (currently £9 for the 6 bell and £12 for 8 bell) will be payable.  
Any bellringing clothing or badges can be obtained from Janice Gist.

## Notices on the Website

If you missed the Treasurer's report from the Annual General Meeting, you can download this from our own website [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk). Articles are in chronological order as they are posted. The Treasurer's report is under 8 November 2008. The schedule for the 2009 competitions are under 31 January 2009.

## National Call Change Competition 19 September 2009

The Chairman, Ryan Trout, has stated that the National Event will be a double competition this year with ringing at Drewsteignton for a 6 bell competition and at Chagford for an 8 bell competition. Any tower that qualifies can ring at both of the competitions although there will be some rules laid down. Ryan welcomes any feedback. For further information of the competitions and trophy see inside on page 9.

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## 1100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Diocese of Exeter celebrates its 1,100th anniversary on Saturday 27 June 2009. Archbishop Rowan Williams will be in attendance from Friday when events start at the Cathedral at 8pm. On Saturday there will be the outdoor 1100<sup>th</sup> Celebration Communion starting at 11.30am followed by events throughout the day at various venues finishing at 10.30pm.

## Use the websites

Be the first to get the news, check the Association's website daily for news and results on [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.

## Ringling Ladder

Graham Sharland is arranging a ringing ladder where towers ring against towers of a similar ability. Please contact him as soon as possible if you wish to assist him, or wish to take part, or require more information. Please write to Graham Sharland.

**Editor: Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QG. [mt-webster@btinternet.com](mailto:mt-webster@btinternet.com).** The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

## Bells of Devon Directory

The second edition of "The Bells of Devon", the directory of contacts and details for all towers in Devon, will be available in the next few weeks. Order your copy now from: Tim Bayton, 64 Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter, Devon. EX4 7AH. Cheques should be made payable to "The Bells of Devon" and remember to include your address and details of how many copies you require.

"The Bells of Devon" is on sale at £5.00 per copy plus £1.00 per copy for postage and packing. If you prefer to save on the cost of postage, Tim will have copies with him at most times over the coming months, so please see him for your copy. All proceeds from the sale of "The Bells of Devon" will be donated to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Please tell your friends and ensure that as many copies as possible are sold in aid of this very worthy cause.

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