



Founded 1925

President – Mr John Conibear

Devon Calls

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Special points of interest

- Interchange newsletter included
- Judges' Score Sheets

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Eggbuckland reclaim Shield

Eggbuckland reclaimed back the Devon County Shield by winning the most prestigious competition of the year by a convincing win at Lustleigh on 13 June 2009. This picturesque village, set in Dartmoor, was host to the Association's Major Final where the best five teams from the north and the best

five from the south, along with the best two from the Minor Final battled it out. Eggbuckland drew to ring first and still had a convincing win. All of the ringers were present as the draw took place at 2pm and hearing that Eggbuckland were drawn first the ringers were standing around listening to the wonderful display of Eggbuckland.

Thanks were given to Robert Brown in ensuring that everything ran smoothly and for the delicious and plentiful tea provided. The weather proved to be just as helpful with a bit of cloud cover and only a few drops of rain that lasted maybe two or three minutes at the most. See the results and the judges' scores inside from page 6.

24 hr sponsored ring at Chagford

Father and son, Laurence and Stuart Bennie would really appreciate your support in this arduous undertaking on 11 July 2009. To sponsor them, obtain raffle tickets or for more details, please contact Julia Endacott. Events will on on throughout the day to raise £4,000 for re-routing the ropes. For more details please see page 5.

Ringling Ladder

The purpose is to have regular competitions throughout the year with teams of a similar standard. Each group of four teams will ring against each other within a two month time frame. After the final results one team will go up and one will go down. The new groups will then have another opportunity to ring, and it is hoped that this will happen four times throughout the year. For the results so far see page 10.

Edgar Cole (89)

The Service of Thanksgiving for Edgar's life was held at Ashreigney Parish Church on Friday 20 February 2009. Edgar was appointed a Honorary Secretary to the Devon Association on 15th November 1958, a post he was to hold for the next 28 years. Edgar was appointed Honorary Life President at the 68th AGM on 9th November 2002. Colin Adams has written an eulogy starting on page 2.

Annual Dinner and Dance

The Association's Dinner and Dance will be held on Friday 17th July 2009 at Fingle Bridge, Drewsteignton, 7.30pm for 8pm. Tickets will be £19. The menu will be **STARTER:** MELON, SOUP, PRAWN COCKTAIL.

MAIN: ROAST TURKEY AND/OR ROAST BEEF OR VEGETARIAN OPTION.
SWEET FOLLOWED BY COFFEE. Dancing to music from Keith Marsden. *All profits will be donated to the Devon Church Bell*

Restoration Fund. This venue has been very popular and the location for the Dinner and Dance is worthy of a visit. Tickets from Jereme Darke [redacted] or Janice Gist [redacted]

Edgar Cole - Eulogy by Colin Adams

This eulogy was incorporated into the Service of Thanksgiving for Edgar's life and in particular his contribution to bellringing at Ashreigney Parish Church. Mid-day on Friday 20th February 2009.

Addressed to Sheila; Eleanor, Sue. David and Ian, Sarah and Lee, ladies and gentlemen, fellow ringers. It is an honour to be asked on behalf of the family and the Devon Association of Ringers to say a few words about Edgar and his contribution to bell-ringing.

Edgar's ringing career began at High Bickington in 1938. There he was taught to ring it seems by both his father and Mr. Pidler, the father of the late Herbert Pidler. Herbert was also a ringer and a cousin to Edgar. Ringing at High Bickington, like the rest of the country, was halted between 1939 and 1945 due to the Second World War. However, following the war ringing started once again and after a while High Bickington began to enter local competitions. Success came for the team when they rang in a competition and managed to beat the well know Down St. Mary team. So buoyed up were they with their success that they returned to High Bickington, albeit rather late in the day, and at mid-night entered the church and rang a celebratory peal! The sound of the bells woke the vicar who entered the church and told the ringers that he was not best pleased with the manner of their celebrations!

Twenty years later at the Association's AGM on 15th November 1958 Edgar was appointed Honorary Secretary, a post he was to hold for the next 28 years. The previous secretary was Mr. Yeo and before him the late Mr. Bill Miners no less, captain of Widcombe-in-the-Moor.

Edgar's launch into the role of Secretary was something of a "baptism of fire". In 1959 one of the Associations 6-bell competitions was held at Dittisham and as it happens a few teams were late, one of which was Widcombe-in-the-Moor! Edgar, obviously keen and fresh in his new role and desirous of upholding the rules found he had to disqualify some late-comers, which meant of course disqualifying Widcombe-in-the-Moor! In so doing he later felt the full weight of a certain Mr. Miners, previously the Association's Secretary, bearing down upon him.

The resonance from all this must have reached Colebrooke where one of the ringers, Mr. Fawden, was not slow to point out the new Secretary's shortcomings. However, little did he realise that he was short-

ly to become the Secretary's Father-in-law as Sheila married Edgar at St.Bartholomew's church, Bow in October 1963.

Their new home became "Hill View" Ashreigney, a familiar address to all who at the time received correspondence from Edgar and "Hill View" was to become their home for the next forty years. Eleanor and Sue were born and brought up there and he taught them both to ring; as he did many others from in and around the village. Practically the whole of Edgar's working life was spent as a book keeper for a local company of Agricultural Merchants. John Cole and Sons of Ashreigney.

On the 5th October 2002, with Sheila, he moved from Ashreigney to Dulverton to be nearer his daughter Eleanor and her family. Having spent such a long time at Ashreigney, where he was Tower Captain for 20 years and Sheila was Treasurer, it was no wonder that they both received a tremendous send off in recognition of all their hard work. They were presented by the P.C.C.with a painting of Ashreigney church and a Dartington glass ruby bowl from the ringers.

Returning to the Devon Association he not only organised all the competitions but also rang for both North Tawton in the eight-bell and Molland in the six-bell competitions. He was a member of the North Tawton team that won the Ross Shield six times in succession during the 1970's and there were numerous times when similar success was achieved with the Molland team. It surely speaks volumes for his composure and mental discipline to have the weight of responsibility for the smooth running of a competition on his mind, yet still be able to enter a Ringing Chamber and not allow any thoughts surrounding the event to intrude and effect his concentration. A remarkable achievement.

Edgar's sense of composure was however really put to the test during the Devon Association's six-bell final competition at Meavy on Saturday 22nd May 1976 when the late Arthur Seymour, tenor man at Stoke Gabriel, sadly collapsed in the tower and died. A special Ringers Service had been arranged at which the Bishop of Plymouth was due to officiate. Here was a fine example of how to handle a crisis. Edgar kept his cool, gathered key people together and a decision was later made to proceed with the competition, a decision nonetheless not approved by everyone.

Nevertheless, Edgar as an officer of the Association acquitted himself very well conveying dignity, respect, loyalty, and quiet composure. No one could have handled such a tragic set of circumstances and represented the Devon Association of ringers in a more professional way.

In 1986 Edgar decided to relinquish the post of Secretary, a position he had held for twenty eight years. I was elected to succeed him and I could not have taken over from someone more organised. Not only was everything set out in meticulous detail but he had taken care to provide me with a time scale detailing the order in which things needed to be done. All of this helped to ensure that the transition period would run smoothly, which it did. Once in the role I began to realise the enormity of the task and just how involved the work was. At the same time I came to appreciate how large a county Devon is.

It is important to say just how helpful and encouraging Edgar was towards new and up and coming ringers. Ryan, our current Chairman asked me to say that as a junior ringer when with Ben and Daniel Trout, Edgar had provided valuable words of encouragement when they all rang with Egg-buckland 'B' team. This was no more so than during a competition at Down St.Mary where they came last. The following year though they came first! David Trist similarly spoke of the support given by Edgar when he was trying to get the St. Petrock's team up and running. Just two examples, but we can be sure there are many people who owe their ringing skills and enjoyment of ringing to the support which Edgar provided.

Of course it didn't stop there because as we all know he was also a well respected judge and would think nothing of travelling from Ashreigney to all manner of places across Devon to judge at a competition. Mr. Bill Avery of Kingsteignton recalls judging with Edgar. One of their annual engagements used to be the competition at West Alvington where Edgar would travel down from Ashreigney to meet Bill at Kingsteignton. Following a light lunch at Bill's it was on to West Alvington and the task of judging. The lunch was always light because at West Alvington they always knew they were in for a sumptuous tea! The job done it was back to Kingsteignton to drop off Bill and to ring Sheila to say that he was on his way home. A round trip of something like a hundred miles! (continued page 3)

Edgar Cole (from page 2)

In 1987/8 he was made President and in 2002 the Association made him an Honorary Life President. Testimony to a man who gave so much, both formally and informally to the Devon Association of Ringers and who was held in such high regard. Edgar was indeed an inspiration to us all.

During the late 1960's Mervyn Way established the S.E.R's. This was a group of ringers (and a few non ringers) who met monthly on a Friday evening. One month the meeting would take place in the north of the county and the following month in the south. Edgar was a member.

The standard of ringing expected and produced by each ringer was always high. After the ringing refreshments were sought and invariably obtained in a local hostelry. On these occasions it was always nice to see Edgar relaxed and "off duty". After a few pints in the local Public House some in the group would break into song and we were treated to a mixture ranging from opera to local folk songs right across to well known hymns. The care and support so affectionately provided by Sheila and his family enabled Edgar to reach his 89th year. There is no doubt they also provided support during his time as Secretary to the Devon Association of Ringers. Our thoughts are with them and we share in their loss. The temperament and characteristics which he displayed will remain with us all for a long time but it is good to see shades of these portrayed by Jereme, our current secretary.

Colin E. Adams.

Leslie Hamlyn

Les died 17 April aged, 92yrs.

His funeral was at Broadhempston on 25 April and ringing took place before and after the funeral. Les was a long standing member of Broadhempston's band over many years.

Even after the onset of age related illnesses he listened attentively from his cottage just across the church yard. He had been in and out of hospital in recent times. This genial man will be sorely missed by family, villagers, friends and of course the ringing fraternity.

Valerie Row

wife of David Row, passed away on 15 March 2009. The funeral was held at St Margaret's Church, Topsham at midday on Wednesday 25 March.

Berry Pomeroy**Celebrations were held at a 15th Century Devon church on 16 May 2009 to welcome a newly restored set of eight bells.**

St Mary's Church, Berry Pomeroy, was used as the setting for a wedding scene in the 1995 film adaptation of a Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility starring Hugh Grant, Kate Winslet, Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson. Since then couples from around the country, who spotted the idyllic church scene in the film, have been making inquiries about getting married there. Three weddings have now taken place with the real church bells ringing instead of a CD recording.

But the eight bells, some of which date from 1553, were banned from being rung during 2007 for being too dangerous. Work to restore them at a foundry in Leicester took six months and cost £60,000 from grants and donations.

They should have been ringing in time for Christmas 2008 but problems with the work to fit the frame into the tower meant that had to be put on hold.

The hitches, which involved work on steel beams and that stone channels had to be cut by hand because the use of machinery threatened to vibrate the tower so much there were fears £150,000 of new rendering might come crashing down, were even worse than expected.

The delays meant the church missed out on its bellhanging window of opportunity and the experts are heading off to Great St Mary's bells in Cambridge for their royal engagement

Getting the bell tower repaired along with the work on the bells has cost more than £60,000 and that is on top of the £150,000 to get the entire church tower re-rendered last year after chunks of old render kept falling off and parts of the church grounds roped off to stop the danger of anyone being hit by them.

A major 'ring-in' celebration took place on 16 May involving bell ringers from across Devon to mark the return of the bells. The Vicar, the Rev Peter Bellenes, said: "It's brilliant to have the bells back."

"All the bell ringers tell me they are ringing really well, they sound good and they are much easier to pull."

"All the ringers and other people said they were delighted to hear the bells again" said Mr Hawkings, Churchwarden. The ring-in also included a visit by bell ringers from Worcester Cathedral who were touring the area.

"The day was really successful and we raised more than £300 in donations which will be going towards the bell fund." Some ringers at Berry Pomeroy have appeared on the TV and radio shows.

Although the bells are back in action the village is on the hunt for a team to get them ringing again on a regular basis. During the 18 months the eight bells when the bells were silent, waiting for repairs to the frame, the village team effectively folded. Now the village is appealing for volunteers to reform the team.

Churchwarden Bernard Hawkings said that he had a team but after the lay off, one or two went away or moved out. He was now trying to put another team together. He said they had auditions and that they need at least eight bell ringers and they will also want some reserves.

Some services and weddings have been rung with ringers from neighbouring parishes attending to assist the local band. There have been a number of fund raising activities for the bells and tower including a garden fete, when the bells were rung on a Sunday afternoon.

It is planned to give the church clock mechanism a once over so at least the clock bell will be able to ring out the time in the meanwhile.

Berrynarbor

A generous village is ensuring that the bells can ring out again.

The bell ringers of Berrynarbor were back in action in March 2009 after the broken tenor bell has been restored.

The bell, which is the largest in the tower at St Peter's Church, broke during a practice session last autumn.

Villager Peter Pell said: "On examination, it was found that the gudgeon pin, which supports the bell's headstock, had

sheared off and the bell was jammed at a crazy angle in the tower."

Estimates for the repair came in at £2,500, so the bell-ringers decided to organise a series of fund-raising events to come up with the funds. Luckily the support from the village was available.

Captain of the bells Mickey Bowden, 72, said: "It ended up costing around £3,000, and Matthew Higby and Company from Bath did the repair work.

Ringklies

For 2009 the Ringkly's holiday will be at the Waterloo Hotel, Crowthorne on the outskirts of Windsor. This has proved 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. Any last minute booking requests should now be made 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. Ringing will take place while we are travelling up on Monday, and as the towers are close together five are planned Tuesday to Thursday with three for the return on Friday.

June meeting

The Ringklies meeting at Holsworthy proved very popular and saw some fresh faces and people of all ages, including one ringer who was 2 days past their 18th birthday. This warm day with brilliant sunshine saw Holsworthy at its best. The ground floor ring of eight was rung continuously until 12.30 when the party of 44 went off to lunch at the Village Inn at Ashwater. The large pub car park was a blessing and ringers and supporters entering the pub from the rear passing the 250 year old grape vine growing in the pub conservatory.

This deceptively large pub had four real ales and served a wonderful roast. Speeches and thanks were given and notice that the July meeting would go ahead as normal, on the second Wednesday of July, the 8th in addition to the coaching holiday in the Windsor area taking place on 20th July.

Ringing started in the afternoon, with a short walk across the green to the church. The ground floor six were eagerly rung. We were met by the Vicar who stayed for the duration and talked to the guests.

Norman and Sylvia Mortimore did not attend as Norman had torn a ligament and was having a rare opportunity in putting his feet up.

If you would like to join us, you can contact Michael Webster on 01803 782591, or just turn up on the day.

Plans for a Phone Mast at Highweek

Plans for a phone mast disguised as a flagpole on a 15th century church tower have been approved. Vodafone has been given planning permission to swap the existing 5.2m flagpole for a 6.2m phone mast with three antenna inside it on the Grade I listed church tower at All Saint's Church, Highweek.

The Rev Michael Thayer, of All Saints Parish Church, Highweek, in Newton Abbot, said the church could 'not ignore' the rent offered by Vodafone. The fresh plan was lodged after Vodafone's previous application was thrown out by planners. Although Vodafone has not disclosed the rent figure it is believed to be in the region of £6,000 per annum.

The parochial church council, made up of 15 members of the church congregation, unanimously voted to support the proposal earlier this year. Mr Thayer said: "We were told there would be no visual impact at all. The mast will look like a flagpole and we will be able to use it as a flagpole. Anyone who is worried should not be because it will not have an impact on the church, nor will it create any visual impact. No one would know any change has been made. He said phone mast applications had to go through stringent planning channels laid down by the Diocese as well as local planning authority procedures. Everyone wants to see the church kept safe in the future and the parish would be grateful for the rent."

Vodafone is also asking for an equipment cabinet to be installed in the church tower. Agents Savills say the site is the preferred option for the new plan because of its location. In a letter to planners Savills' Julian Barter said: "This design is exactly the same as a flagpole in shape and colour with no external antennas. For these

reasons we feel the pole will have no impact on the visual amenity of this location."

Letters of complaint were generated from residents but the church's vicar, the Rev Michael Thayer, has previously said the church 'could not ignore' the rent offered. In her report Teignbridge Council planning officer Carol Walter said: "I consider that the installation of a replacement flagpole incorporating the antennae is an acceptable way of dealing with the requirement to improve telecoms coverage in this area."

One resident said the plan, which is to provide 3G coverage, is unwanted. Bob Smith, who lives in the nearby Churchills estate, said: "They rejected a consideration in their last application to put a mast on top of the tower and now they have lodged this plan. It's just absurd. People really are against this. It's a lot higher than the existing pole and would have a detrimental visual impact on the church and surrounding area." At least five other people living nearby have objected.

Last November Vodafone lodged a proposal for a mast next to the church but that plan was refused under officers' delegated powers. A spokeswoman for Vodafone said: "This location was chosen in consultation with officers from the local planning authority as the proposed flagpole design provides a visually less intrusive installation than a stand-alone mast. All of our base stations are designed, built and operated in accordance with stringent international guidelines laid down by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection. The adoption of these guidelines has the formal backing of independent bodies such as the World Health Organisation."

Ringkly Programme for 2009

Second Wednesday of each month

Month	Morning Tower	Afternoon Tower	Contact
July	Broadhempston	Berry Pomeroy	Mike W
July 20 - 24	Ringing holiday to the Windsor area		John S
August	Great Torrington	Monkleigh	Claude
September	Sheepstor	Sampford Spiney	Bob P
October	Uffculme	Uplowman	Michael P
November	Loddiswell	Churchstow	John C
December	Alwington then Littleham	Christmas lunch	Claude

Some venues may vary, please check with me, or the contact before setting out. Every effort will be made to keep the details up to date on the Devon Association's website. If you wish to organise an event or have a particular request for next year please let me know. Mike Webster - 01803 782591.

A Message from "Aunty"

RE - ROUTING THE ROPES OF CHAGFORD BELLS

With so much emphasis today being on Health and Safety we are, in Chagford, aiming to improve the handling of our bell ropes. This will involve re-routing the ropes in the clock chamber of the tower (above the ringing chamber) where at present the ropes are pulled across at quite acute angles. This will require adding some new pulleys and a new rope guide in the ringing chamber. The estimate for this work is £4,000 + VAT.

The PCC has agreed that this work should go ahead and the Chagford Bell-ringers have committed themselves to raising some (? most !!) of the money. To this end, our Father and Son team of Laurence and Stuart BENNIE will attempt a 24 hour sponsored silent ring on the 18 cwt tenor bell (with the clapper tied) from 9.15 am Saturday 11th July to 9.15 am Sunday 12th July 2009. We plan to make quite a day of it on

Saturday 11th July with:

- 6 bell peals at 9.15 am and 6.0 pm
- A coffee morning in church from 10.00 am – 12 noon,
- A 6 bell peal by visiting ringers at 1.30 pm
- Tower tours at various times, and
- Afternoon teas also in church from 4.00 pm
- A splendid raffle (tickets available in advance) to be drawn at 5.0 pm

Laurence and Stuart would really appreciate your support in this arduous undertaking. To sponsor them, obtain raffle tickets or for more details, please contact me (Julia Endacott) [redacted] [redacted] Colin Barnes [redacted] or Laurence and Stuart themselves [redacted]

Do join us on the day for coffee or tea, and please sponsor Laurence and Stuart.

(Should we exceed our target any surplus will be transferred to the church Organ Fund)

Thank you all in anticipation.

Julia Endacott (aka Aunty)



Father and son team of Laurence and Stuart Bennie who will be attempting a 24 hour sponsored silent ring at Chagford from 9.15am Saturday 11 July to Sunday 9.15am

Atherington

Can you please help us get our 6-bell peal ringing again?

We started the Friends of St Mary's Atherington back in 2000 and they have helped us raise over £56,000 so far. The bells have been repaired, the frame renovated and they are ready to be rehung as soon as the necessary strengthening work to the Tower has been completed.

We still have £36,000 left, after phase 1, but need £96,000 to complete phase 2 (tower and rehanging). To date we have promises of nearly £12,000 toward the £60,000 required and are still waiting to hear from 10 of the 20 or so charities that we have asked for help.

Any donations or loans from fellow ringers would be such an encouragement. Georgeham and Tawstock ringers have already helped and I do hope you can too.

Please do contact John Carvosso on [redacted] and have a look at our website(www.atheringtonfriends.org.uk)

St. Leonard's Sheepstor

Sheepstor is a small rural community and they have taken the challenge on of maintenance to the bells and fittings. A recent survey by Nicholson Engineering had given an estimate to rehang the bells with new headstocks and refurbishment of all fittings for £27,000. This proposal has been supported by the DAC in Exeter and permission is now being sought to proceed.

Sheepstor has an enthusiastic team of ringers who live in a very small community and are therefore seeking financial assistance from other ringing teams and from charitable organisations and trusts. Any assistance that could be given, please do not hesitate to contact the Captain of the Ringers, Peter Legassick [redacted]

[redacted] Any cheques should be made payable to Sheepstor PCC.

Sampford Courtenay

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 can be sent to me, C. Clayton, [redacted]

Judges' Scores - 6 Bell Qualifiers

Six Bell South Qualifier at Whimple on May 9th 2009

Peal	TIME	A		B		C		D		Top Average	Full Average	TEAM
		Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full			
1		27	50	16.5	35	19	38	29.5	53.5	23	44.25	Lamerton
2		42	67	33.5	60	35	75	42	64	38.25	66.5	Holbeton
3		41.5	60	13.5	21	29.5	56	30	43	28.75	45	West Alvington
4		14	23	10.5	20.75	12.5	23.5	26	39.5	15.75	26.75	South Brent A
5		13.5	27.5	11.5	21.5	11	27	15.5	26	13	25.5	Stoke Gabriel
6		10	17	7	16	9	20	22.5	36	12.25	22.25	Dunsford
7		15.5	25	3	12.5	12	24	11	20	10.5	20.5	Eggbuckland
8		28	49	35	55	28.5	55.5	35	60	31.75	55	North Bovey
9		18	29.5	10	25.5	14	27.5	26	46	17	32.5	Exeter St Petrock
10		47	96	38.5	80	39	94.5	54	88	44.75	89.75	South Brent B
11		51	82	42.5	73	37	73	50	84	45.25	78	South Pool

Judge A
I AveryJudge B
J ColeJudge C
P PascoeJudge D
P PesterScrutineer
Sue HusbandSix Bell North Qualifier Yarnscombe May 9th 2009

Result	TIME	A		B		C		D		Top Average	Full Average	TEAM
		Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full			
1	15-19		18		23		19		22		20.5	Burrington A
2	16-30		35		38		33		15		30.25	Littleham
3	15-56		24		26		27		45		30.5	Iddesleigh
4	17-58		26		34		28		35		30.75	S Tawton
5	17-57		32		36		34		52		38.5	Zeal Monachorum
6	16-31		36		37		38		54		41.25	Morthoe
7	15-43		45.5		44		47		29		41.5	Down St Mary
8	15-49		37		37		38		60		43	Burrington B
9	16-39		66		62		62		110		75	East Anstey
10	14-44	NR	98		122		120		103		110.75	West Down (No Result)

Judge A
C HockinJudge B
I HookwayJudge C
M WayJudge D
J WickettScrutineer
G Arscott

Lack of progress

It was interesting to read about the "lack of progress" in the majority of learners from another area. I like to think that the Call Change ringing in Devon is very defined in that ringers are taught to ring a bell up and down and to perfect reasonable striking in rounds before moving on to changes. The concentration at that level will become very intense and the beginner starts to understand that a rhythm is required with regular spaces between the bells. We are so fortunate in having competitions. These enable ringers of all levels to practise their skills. Many Deaneries have their own events. These are usually social occasions and are aimed at supporting the teams within the Deanery. This level of communication is very important as if help is required, there will usually be someone who knows of the right person to help.

The Association runs a Novice event as do some towers. The Novice events may well stand on its own or form part of the wider invitation competition where there will be different sections so that teams can compete within their own competencies. It is important that competitions are supported. Not only does it give the struggling team an opportunity to get together, to ring somewhere other than their own tower and to see how they are performing against other teams and comparing their previous results. Who knows what standard your team will be at in 10 years time? It has always been a pleasure to listen to novice teams, the up and coming teams, the teams of the future. I hope that the novice teams keep supporting events and do not become disillusioned if there is a poor result. We have all had

poor results. With the different level of expertise of the teams and the number of ringers attending the competitions these are a wonderful social event. The competitions do give teams an opportunity to ring at other towers and this in itself is a worthwhile experience. The bells are heavier or lighter than they are use to, the ropes might be different lengths, all of these differences helps any ringer.

Not only do the newer teams learn from new experiences and have an opportunity to have an extra ring, they also make up a vital element of the competition. The more novice teams that attend, the better. We can be reassured that in Devon there is progress and that novice teams are encouraged to attend, they after all, will make up the bell ringers and standard of the future.

Judges' Scores - 6 Bell Minor, Major and 8 bell

Six Bell MINOR WEST DOWN May 23 2009

Result	TIME	A		B		C		D		Top Average	Full Average	TEAM
		Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full			
1			24		45		51		48		42	Burrington B
2			32		62		49		41		46	Morthoe
3			22		51		64		58		48	West Alvington
4			44		78		88		72		70.5	Down St Mary
5			39		86.5		97		68		72.5	East Anstey
6			45		63		98		89		73.75	N Bovey
7			46		79.5		93		82		75	Holbeton
8			55		80		104		83		80.5	S Brent B
9			54		102		98		79		83.25	Lamerton
10			100		119		155		140		128.5	S Pool
			67		55		60		45.5		56.75	DOLTON
			62		70		88		79.5		75	CHIVELSTONE

Judge A
R Burnham

Judge B
J Darke

Judge C
S Hemiman

Judge D
S Facey

Scrutineer
I Hookway

Six Bell Major Final at Lustleigh on June 13th 2009

Result	TIME	A		B		C		D		Top Average	Full Average	TEAM
		Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full			
1		5.5	8.75	8	13	4	8	5.5	11	5.75	10	Egguckland
2		19	30.5	24	43	10	16	9.25	16	15.5	26.5	Exeter St Petrock
3		34	51	47.5	62.5	23	35	21.5	31	31.5	44.75	Iddeseleigh
4		30	57	47	71	29	44	26	39	33	52.75	Zeal Monachorum
5		15	24	21	36.5	5	10	7	13	12	20.75	Burrington A
6		25	47	38.5	58.5	19	28	16	30	24.5	40.75	Stoke Gabriel
7		36	59	38	61.5	22	35	21	33	29.25	47	Burrington B
8		41	61	48	69	25	37	22.25	24	34	50.25	South Tawton
9		18	53	16.5	42	18	27	10.25	28	15.75	37.5	Dunsford
10		18	42	25	40.5	7	15	7.25	15	14.25	28	Montehoe
11		19.5	43.5	24	41	14	25	15	26	18	33.75	Littleham
12		17	26	24	40	3	7	12.5	20	14	23.25	South Brent

Judge A
I Avery

Judge B
J Dietz

Judge C
B Drake

Judge D
M Way

Scrutineer
J Cole

Devon Association Score Sheets

Eight Bell IPPLEPEN April 25th 2009

PEAL	TIME	A		B		C		D		Top Average	Full Average	TEAM
		Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full	Top	Full			
1	20-15	31	69	69	158	74	123	37	101	51½	112¾	IPPLEPEN
2	21-03	14	24	35	85	15	29	14	30	19½	42	TAVISTOCK
3	17-42	25	39	44	72	26	53	27½	51	30½	53¾	PAIGNTON
4	23-17	13	24	27	60	18	40	12½	31½	17½	38¾	CATHEDRAL
5	23-00	54	85	78	166	61	103	48½	111	65½	116½	EXETER ST DAVID
6	20-25	12	21	21	33	12	22	16½	29½	15½	26½	HIGH BICKINGTON A
7	21-38	17	32	16	28	20	37	14½	32½	17½	32½	PLYMSTOCK
8	24-33	17	40	15	25	16	38	21½	46	17½	37½	EXMINSTER
9	21-49	33	66	32	62	34	65	30½	68	32½	65½	HIGH BICKINGTON B
10	20-21	10	25	6	21	6½	19	11½	30	8½	23¾	KINGSTON
11	21-06	26	53	32	59	24	57	27	64	27½	58½	CHITLEHAMPTON

Judge A
B Drake

Judge B
N Holloway

Judge C
B Osborne

Judge D
M Way

Scrutineer
J Cole

H-BARDWIS

FOR DISPLAY

Results		
<p>Totnes Deanery Winter League held at South Brent on 31 Jan 09</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Brent A 20 3/4 2. Stoke Gabriel A 40 1/4 3. Broadhempston 46 3/4 4. South Brent B 86 1/4 5. Stoke Gabriel B 99 1/2 6. Dean Prior 129 1/2 <p>Ringing off the stay</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadhempston C 23 2. Broadhempston B 35 <p>Judges: Maurice and Graham Sharland</p> <p>Totnes Deanery Competition held at Broadhempston on 21 February 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadhempston 73 2. South Brent A 89 3. Stoke Gabriel A 90 4. South Brent B 127 5. Stoke Gabriel B 135 6. Dean Prior 171 <p>Top Ringing only</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadhempston C 59 2. Broadhempston B 71 <p>Judge: John Dietz</p> <p>NAIT Deanery Competition on 21 Feb 2009. Ringing at three towers</p> <p>Ringing off the stay</p> <p>Total faults and final places</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upton 79 1/2 2. Kingsteignton 87 3/4 3. Paignton A 118 4. Kingskerswell 127 3/4 5. Paignton B 136 <p>Kingskerswell</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingsteignton 30 3/4 2. Upton 32 1/2 3. Kingskerswell 34 3/4 4. Paignton A 52 5. Paignton B 58 1/2 <p>Judge: N Mortimore</p> <p>Wolborough</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingsteignton 10 2. Upton 12 3. Paignton A 15 4. Paignton B 28 5. Kingskerswell 33 <p>Judge: H Bardens</p> <p>Stokeinteignhead</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upton 35 2. Kingsteignton 47 3. Paignton B 49 1/2 4. Paignton A 51 5. Kingskerswell 60 <p>Judge: J Dietz</p> <p>Totnes Deanery Competition at Stoke Gabriel on 28 February 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stoke Gabriel A 27 2. South Brent A 32 3. Broadhempston 40 4. Stoke Gabriel B 49 5. South Brent B 81 	<p>Top Ringing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadhempston B 47 2. Broadhempston C 71 <p>Judges: Colin and Lee Avery</p> <p>Devon Association Novice held at Lydford on 14 March 2009</p> <p>Results of Round Ringing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chagford 24.5 2. Little Torrington 26 3. Dartmouth 29.5 4. Exminster 32 <p>Call Change Ringing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TORQUAY UPTON 20.75 2. LAMERTON 22.75 3. BROADHEMPSTON B 30.5 4. EXETER ST DAVID A 36.25 5. DOLTON 36.5 6. CHIVELSTONE 37 7. SOUTH POOL 39.75 8. DARTMOUTH A 40 9. DARTMOUTH B 51.75 10. SALCOMBE 53.5 11. FRITHELSTOCK 55 12. EXETER ST DAVID B 58.25 13. BROADHEMPSTON A 59.25 14. WHIMPLE 83.75 15. SAMPFORD COURTENAY – DID NOT COMPLETE (41.25 UP TO ERROR) <p>Judged by Scott Adams, Chris Clayton, Steve Herniman and Mervyn Langdon. Presided by John Conibear, President. Thanks to Lydford for their hospitality. JJ Darke Hon Sec</p> <p>Totnes Deanery Competition at Diptford on 28 March 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Brent A 15 3/4 2. Stoke Gabriel A 20 3/4 3. Broadhempston 24 3/4 4. Stoke Gabriel B 78 5. South Brent B 80 6. Diptford 90 7. Dean Prior 106 <p>Ringing off the stay</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadhempston B 49 2. Broadhempston C 52 <p>Judges: Colin and Lee Avery</p> <p>Overall results of the Totnes Deanery Winter League</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1= South Brent A 33 points 1= Stoke Gabriel A 33 3. Broadhempston 26 4. Stoke Gabriel B 16 5. South Brent B 12 6. Dean Prior 7 7. Collaton St Mary 5 8. Diptford 2 <p>Ide on 4 April 2009</p> <p>Section A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egguckland 16 2. St Petrock 34 1/2 3. South Brent A 40 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Stoke Gabriel 47 5. Dunsford 48 1/2 <p>Section B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burrington 73 1/2 2. Exeter St Davids 84 1/2 3. Ide 85 4. Down St Mary 102 5. Spreyton 111 1/2 6. South Brent B 121 7. Widecombe in the Moor 121 1/2 8. South Tawton 128 <p>Broadhempston no result.</p> <p>Judges: J Coulthirst and Percy Pester.</p> <p>Interdeanery Competition held at Chudleigh on 18 April 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egguckland 28 1/2 2. Stoke Gabriel 37 1/2 3. Dunsford 48 4. Kingsteignton 50 5. West Alvington 64 1/2 6. Exminster 65 1/2 7. South Brent 71 8. Widecombe in the Moor 77 1/2 9. Paignton 79 10. Modbury 84 11. North Bovey 91 <p>Plymstock. No result undertime (39)</p> <p>Best Deanery - Totnes Deanery.</p> <p>Judges: Stephanie Brown and Mary Mears.</p> <p>Throwleigh on 25 April 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Tawton "A" - 17½ 2. Zeal Monachorum - 26 3. Sandford - 33½ 4. Dunsford - 40½ 5. Chagford - 46½ 6. Spreyton - 78½ 7. Ide - 91 8. Gidleigh - 100 9. South Tawton "B" - 121½ <p>Judges: Percy Pester & John Coulthirst</p> <p>Devon Association 8 Bell Competition held at Ipplepen on 25 April 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingsteignton 23 ¾ 2. High Bickington A 26 1/2 3. Plymstock 32 1/2 4. Exminster 37 1/4 5. Exeter Cathedral 38 3/4 6. Tavistock 42 7. Chittlehampton 58 1/4 8. High Bickington B 65 1/4 9. Exeter St Davids B 116 1/4 <p>Ipplepen 112 3/4 (no placement)</p> <p>Paignton (53 3/4) (no result undertime)</p> <p>Kingsteignton won the top ringing with 8 ½ faults</p> <p>Judges: B Drake, N Holloway, B Osborne and M Way. Scrutineer: H Bardens.</p>

Totnes Deanery Competition held at Dean Prior on 2 May 2009

1. South Brent A 45
2. Stoke Gabriel 47 1/4
3. South Brent B 55
4. Diptford 77 1/2
5. South Brent C 85
6. Broadhempston A 88 1/2
7. Dean Prior 110
8. Broadhempston 133

Judges: N Mortimore and Roger Trout.
Teams placed 1st and 2nd qualify for the Interdeanery Competition 2010.

Woodleigh Deanery annual competition held on May 2nd at Chivelstone.

Junior Section;

- 1 Salcombe 55 ½
- 2 South Milton A 59
- 3 Chivelstone 60
- 4 South Milton B 70
- 5 South Pool A 72
- 6 South Pool B 85
- 7 Sherford 89 ½
- 8 Stokenham 103

Senior Section;

- 1 West Alvington 44 ½
- 2 Modbury B 64 ½
- 3 Churchstow 77
- 4 Modbury A 90 ½
- 5 Loddiswell 105
- 6 Malborough 129

Judges: Colin and Lee Avery

Devon Association North Qualifier Held At Yarnscombe on 9th May 2009

1. Burrington A - 20½
2. Littleham - 30¼
3. Iddesleigh - 30½
4. South Tawton - 30¾
5. Zeal Monachorum - 38½
6. Morthoe - 41¼
7. Down St. Mary - 41½
8. Burrington B - 43
9. East Anstey - 75
10. West Down - No Result

Devon Association 6 Bell Qualifier South held at Whimble on 9 May

1. Eggbuckland 20 1/2
2. Dunsford 22 1/4
3. Stoke Gabriel 25 1/4
4. South Brent A 26 3/4
5. Exeter St Petrock 32 1/2
6. Lamerton 44 1/2
7. West Alvington 45
8. North Bovey 55
9. Holbeton 66 1/2
10. South Pool 78
11. South Brent B 89 3/4

Judges: I Avery, J Cole, P Pascoe, P Pes-ter and scrutineer Sue Husband.

Down St Mary on 16 May 2009

1. Stoke Gabriel 16
2. Burrington 16 ¾
3. Kingsteignton 24 ½
4. South Tawton 32
5. Dunsford 32 ½
6. Sandford 37
7. Spreyton 42
8. Zeal Monachorum 43 ¼
9. Lapford 57
10. Mariansleigh 75
11. Ide 92

Judge: Mervyn Way.

Bow on 16 May 2009

1. Stoke Gabriel 34 ¼
2. Kingsteignton 38
3. Burrington 43
4. Dunsford 50
5. Sandford 65
6. South Tawton 84 ¾
7. Zeal Monachorum 101
8. Lapford 107
9. Mariansleigh 145 ½
10. Ide 194

Judges: John Coulthirst and John Steer.

Bovey Tracey on 16 May 2009

1. Alphington 13 ¼
2. Paignton 15
3. Upton 37 ½
4. Exminster 43 ½
5. Widcombe A 50 ½
6. Widcombe B 51 ½
7. Holne 60
8. Ashburton 95 ½
9. Bovey Tracey 114

Judges: Sandra Coombes and Bill Avery.

Devon Association Minor Final held at West Down on 23 May 2009

TOP RINGING (two teams from Lydford ringing off the stay)

1. Dolton 56.75
 2. Chivelstone 75
- Full peal
1. Burrington B 42
 2. Morthoe 46
 3. West Alvington 48.75
 4. Down St Mary 70.5
 5. East Anstey 72.5
 6. North Bovey 73.5
 7. Holbeton 75
 8. South Brent B 80.25
 9. Lamerton 83.25
 10. South Pool 128.5

Littleham on 6 June 2009

OPEN

- 1 Burrington A 15
- 2 Down St Mary 19
- 3 Georgeham 21.5
- 4 Burrington B 31
- 5 Zeal Monachorum 32

- 6 West Down 36
- 7 Alphington 37.2
- 8 East Anstey 40
- 9 Mariansleigh 47

LOCAL

- 1 Iddesleigh 17
- 2 Monkleigh A 24
- 3 Monkleigh B 39
- 4 Alwington 51
- 5 Appledore 55.5
- 6 Pyworthy 70
- 7 Dolton 87

NOVICE

- 1 Shebbear 54.5
- 2 Bradford A 57.5
- 3 Frithelstock 60.25
- 4 Bradford B 67.75
- 5 Hartland 86.75

Okehampton Deanery Festival held at All Saints Okehampton on 6 June 2009

Novice Section.

1. Chagford 34 faults
2. Sampford Courtenay 35
3. Spreyton A 39½
4. Spreyton B 59½

Intermediate Section.

1. Hatherleigh 34½ faults
2. Chagford 35½
3. South Tawton 36
4. Spreyton 37

Main Section.

1. NorthTawton 35½ faults
2. Chagford 41
3. South Tawton 45
4. Sampford Courtenay A 53½
5. Sampford Courtenay B 80
6. Bridestowe 101½
7. Sampford Courtenay C 107½

Devon Association 6 Bell Major Final held at Lustleigh on 13 June 2009

1. Eggbuckland 10
2. Burrington A 20 3/4
3. South Brent 23 1/4
4. Exeter St Petrock 26 1/2
5. Morthoe 28
6. Littleham 33 3/4
7. Dunsford 37 1/2
8. Stoke Gabriel 40 3/4
9. Iddesleigh 44 3/4
10. Burrington B 47
11. South Tawton 50
12. Zeal Monachorum 52 3/4

Top ringing winners were Eggbuckland on 5 3/4

Judges: I Avery, J Dietz, B Drake & M Way. Scrutineer: J Cole

Ringing Ladder update

A section (full peal with rise and lower)**Group 1**

South Brent A	3	8
Burrington A	2	5
Dunsford	2	4
Stoke Gabriel	1	2

Group 2

Exminster	3	9
Kingsteignton A	2	3
Zeal Monachorum	2	3
Exeter, St Petrock*	3	0

Group 4

Exeter, St David A	3	9
South Brent B	2	5
Holne	2	3
Plympton, St Maurice*	3	0

B section (full peal from the stay)**Group 1**

Exeter, St David B	3	8
Colaton Raleigh	2	6
Friithelstock A	2	3
Whimble*	3	0

Ringing Ladder Results so far

Burrington A v Dunsford

at Zeal Monachorum on 26th May 2009.

Dunsford 56. Burrington A 59 ½.

Judges Dave Trist & Gill Herniman

Burrington A v South Brent A

at Dunsford on 4th April 2009
Burrington A 33.5 South Brent A 49

Judges R Mugridge & S Adams

Dunsford v South Brent A

at Trusham on 9th June 2009

South Brent 19 Dunsford 36.

Judges Ray Mugridge & Colin Avery.

South Brent A v Stoke Gabriel

at Bickington on 20 March 2009.

South Brent 46. Stoke Gabriel 51.

Judges: R Mugridge and N Mortimore.

Group 2**Exminster v Zeal Monachorum**

at Dunsford on Saturday 28th March.

Zeal Monachorum 78 faults. Exminster

33 faults. Judge: Mervyn Langdon.

Group 4**Exeter St David v Holne**

at Trusham on 18th May 2009

Exeter St David A: 51. Holne: No result,

Judge: Cliff Wilson

Exeter St David v South Brent B

held at Ilsington on 21 April 2009.

South Brent B 88 v Exeter St David A 84.

Judges: J Dietz and G Sharland

From the stay**Colaton Raleigh v Exeter St David**

at Clyst St George on 18th March 2009.

Colaton Raleigh 45 - Exeter St David 51.

Judges, James Kerslake and Percy Pester.

Thanks to James Kerslake for compiling the results. See Association website and click on Ringing Ladder

Buckland in the Moor Event

Both of Buckland-in-the-Moor's set of bells will be available during the afternoon of Saturday 25 July 2009 in aid of an ongoing church refurbishment project.

The church bells (8, tenor 7cwt) from 2pm to 4pm and the set of twelve handbells in A from 4pm until 5.30pm. The four trebles are new and the original eight refurbished. The famous and legendary Buckland-in-the-Moor Cream Teas will be served from 4.30 to 5.30pm.

Tower Maintenance Day

James Clarke, the Diocesan Bell Adviser, ran a very informative tower maintenance day at Ipplepen and Ashburton on 13 June 2009. The day started at Ipplepen at 10.30 with a cup of coffee and followed by a handout and talk. The group of eight participants followed a checklist running through items of safety and then of maintenance for a timber frame and for a steel frame. Detailed information was given about the bells, the headstocks, bearings, wheels etc. The talk was followed by an inspection of the iron frame.

The group met again at Ashburton after stopping for lunch. There was an inspection of the wooden frame and also the floors. This very useful meeting finished a little later than planned due to the number of questions. The group were felt far more knowledgeable and James was thanked for giving up so much time and for travelling from North Devon.

James will be planning further maintenance days and if you are interested in joining him, please do not hesitate to contact him direct. No particular venue has yet been decided.

Kingskerswell

The Mini-ring was at the Kingskerswell Summer Moon Festival on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June, from 10am-6pm. This was a beer, cider and music festival held at the Parish Centre along with various stalls, cookery demonstrations and family entertainment. The festival also ran on Friday and Saturday evenings. There is even a website providing further details:- www.summermoon.co.uk

Like most events, the more people that arrive, especially ringers, the more fun there is! The usual material and also details of the tower and ringers was on display.

Devon County Show

The Devon Ringers Council decided to have a ringing display at the County Show and joined in with the Churches Together in Devon stand. Ian Avery organised the three day event where the Frank Mack mini-ring was rung for church services and for displays during each of the three days. A set of hand bells was also available and rung to provide the many visitors with a performance.

Queues formed not only of children that were interested but also of older people as well as lapsed ringers who were eagerly informed of their nearest tower.

Injury to John Coulthirst

John has a warning to ringers. On a tour to Cornwall he was ringing with a spliced rope. It had a loop and as he was ringing his hand went through the loop and his arm was caught and he was pulled up twice, by his arm.

John did not think much of it at the time, just one of those unlucky incidents, however, a few days later his arm, from his wrist to his shoulder was black, then his knee stiffened. He had to go to hospital and it was discovered that he had smashed his knee cap.

The moral of the story. When you ring anywhere, always check the ropes. Keep some tape handy in case the ropes needed to be tidied up and more importantly, only ring if you think it is safe.

Unringable Sourton

Ringing has been halted at Sourton as the main roof beam above the bells could collapse. It seems that the bells are in good order although the frame is a bit rusty and needs a coat of paint.

The tower does need repointing as it is letting the wet in.

Ottery St Mary

More than 70 children from the town's Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers and Cubs dressed as colourful pixies and swarmed through the town dragging the bell-ringers, including Bishop of Crediton, Bob Evens, to the main square.

The event is based on a legend that the town's church bells were introduced to scare away pixies, so every year on the summer solstice the pixies return to kidnap the bell-ringers.

Tower Round Up

Stoke Canon could be finished by end 09 Membury are having headstocks replaced by Nicholson Engineering and could be completed by end of 09.

Sampford Courtenay is being undertaken by Whitechapel and expected to be finished by end of 09.

Atherington. Works are likely to be completed by June 2010. Further funding is sought as the tower costs exceed £100,000. The tenor remains in the frame in this interesting church. The other 5 bells are ready to be rehung.

Sourton. Some works required on the roof timbers and bells not being rung.

Sheepstor are starting a new project to have the bells rehung by Nicholson Engineering.

Training Certificate

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.

An invitation from St Saviour's

"The guns of the Royal Dart Yacht Club will be fired at 0800 hours and this will be the signal for all vessels to 'dress ship' and for the bells of St Saviour's to ring out".

It has always been a custom that the bells of St Saviour's echo over the town of Dartmouth during the Royal Regatta. Each morning, at 8am on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, a band of ringers assemble in St Saviour's church ready to welcome the start of another day of festivities in the town. But it is not just the ringers of Dartmouth who assemble. We welcome our friends from Stoke Gabriel, Slapton, Torbay, Broadhempston, Tavistock, Stoke Fleming, King-skerswell, Exminster and Bristol.

Each year we welcome new friends, who seem to travel long distances to be with us, from Dorset, Wiltshire, Cambridge, Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Surrey, Herefordshire, Amsterdam and Los Angeles. We can definitely say that the Regatta ringing is an international event!

Each year we have a reunion of old friends who are happy to tell tales of past Regattas. Our tower President and the Vice President, Brian Ridalls and Clive Pearson, are never short of a story, or two. But it is not just ringers that we welcome to our tower. Cyril King, that 'Old Dartmothian' who

lives over the border in Cornwall, is our most regular 'honorary ringer'. You know the Regatta has truly started when Cyril appears in the tower doorway.

One memorable Regatta was the 150th in 1994 when the bells were not only rung in the morning, but also at 9.30pm on the occasion of the Grand Firework Display. This also included a performance of the 1812 Overture by the Royal Marine band, who were positioned on a barge in the middle of the boat float. The organisers were concerned that the bells wouldn't be loud enough (!) so they set up microphones in the tower and four speakers on top of the tower. After the event we were told it was as if there were four very loud peals of bells ringing in the town as the sound bounced off the sides of the valley! And who was ringing on that day . . . Tracey Heath, Christine Heath, Tim Chapman, Robin Burnham, Brian Ridalls, Mike Webster, John Dietz and Colin Heath. A few familiar names there.

This year's Regatta will be at the end of August. The dates and ringing times are : Thursday 27th 8-9am and 10.30-11.30am

Friday 28th 8-9am and 10-11am

Saturday 29th 8-9am and 10-11am

If you enjoy good ringing, good company and a relaxed and fun atmosphere, come and join us.

Everyone is welcome!

For details contact me.

Tim Chapman [redacted]

Bovey Tracey

An article appeared in the Herald Express and highlighted a reporter taking up bell ringing and the perception of bell ringers. The article is intended to be light hearted and hopefully dispels any fears that prospective ringers may have. It would be interesting to know whether the article did attract any new recruits. It is pleasing that an article had appeared that covered ringing as many towers have ringers who ring away in a room shut away from everywhere else, such as Bovey Tracey. Where there is a ground floor ring, or a ringing chamber that is clearly visible there is always a lot of interest. In one instance the pupils from the local primary school came in to watch ringers after hearing them.

Novice Teams Needed

The novice competition is to be held at St Mary's West Charleton on Saturday 24th October (clock change day) the competition is about NOVICE ringing we run two sections section 1 round ringing for five minutes section 2 ringing off the stays half of the peal known as 60 on thirds max of ten minutes ringing return to stand on the stays (no rising no lowering). We have run this competition for 5 years now and it would be nice to see some different teams. Any help that anyone can give will be fully appreciated.

It is still only £2 per section we have held this price since we started this competition and this is to cover the cost of certificates etc.

Contact details (for rules etc)

Brian Meel [redacted] or

Mike Gray [redacted]

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 01805 624690.

Devon Ringers' Carol Service

The Carol Service to be organised by Ian Avery will be held at Buckfast Abbey on 12 December 2009 at 3pm.

Devon Association Dinner and Dance

Friday 17th July 2009 at Fingle Bridge, Drewsteignton, 7.30pm for 8pm.
Tickets will be £19.

Editor:

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

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Association. Items for inclusion may be sent to the Editor, as above.

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1100th 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 1100th Celebration Communion starting at 11.30am followed by events throughout the day at various venues finishing at 10.30pm.

Use the website

Be the first to get the news by checking the Association's website daily for news and results on www.devonbells.co.uk.

This is an Association resource and you may enter your own results or tower appeals or any newsworthy items. Many ringers view the website daily. Please make good use of the website by keeping information up to date.

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.

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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