



Founded 1925

President – Mr John Cole

# Devon Calls

**March  
2012  
Vol 2 Issue 7**

### Special points of interest

- See attached schedules
- James' 2011 in numbers
- DCBRF report

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## Jereme Darke

Jereme, who had just declined a further term as Secretary at the AGM, suffered a severe head injury as a result of a freak accident sustained on farm on Monday afternoon 9 January 2012. He was immediately airlifted to Frenchay Hospital Bristol which specialises in neurological cases and diagnosed with a fractured skull and a bleed at the rear of the brain as well as severe facial injuries. We all know how popular and active a character Jereme is in the ringing community and our thoughts are very much with him and his family at this very difficult time. Read more on page 7.

## Rules changes

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from the Assistant Secretaries along with schedules for the competitions and the revised format for this year. A roll call will be held at 2pm and teams not at the roll call will be disqualified. Additionally all teams must provide a list with the names of ringers in each team and deadlines are shown on the schedules. All participants will be assumed to require a tea unless the Assistant Secretary has been notified at least a week before the competition. The Secretaries have been asked to enforce the new rules, please read them carefully.

## New Officers

At the AGM in November the new President for this year is John Cole from Malborough. President Elect is Chris Clayton. The minute Secretary is Margaret White and Competition Secretaries will be Joan Clarke for the North and Dr James Kerslake for the South, James was also elected Webmaster upon the resignation of John Enderson.

## Archive your certificates

What do you want to do with your certificates? The Devon Record Office state: "We would encourage you to deposit your certificates and records with us, they can form part of your parish collection, or an independent collection depending upon your preferences. You can deposit the records by delivering them to our office during opening hours (10am-5pm Monday to Friday) or send them by recorded post, read more details inside, see page 3.

## Plympton to have a ringing experience

The parish church of St Mary's will be celebrating its 700 year anniversary during the 12 months, August 2011 to August 2012. There will be many events during the 12 months, which they hope to finish with a ringing marathon of 7 hours made up of at least 14 other towers. Please see page 6 for more details.

## Health and Safety

A church faces prosecution after four bell ringers almost died from carbon monoxide poisoning. Paramedics said they had cherry red faces, typical of a near fatal dose, after a boiler leak. All six ringers were discharged from hospital but safety officials are investigating and police police have not ruled out criminal proceedings. If your ringing chamber has a gas boiler, or it is nearby, please make checks for the safety of all.

## Obituary - Gerald Stevens - 2 Dec 1921 - 15 Nov 2011

West Down Parish Church was packed to capacity on Wednesday November 23 as family, ringers and many friends from all over Devon gathered for the thanksgiving service of Gerald Stevens. This followed a private cremation service that day. The service was conducted by The Revd Robert Harris. These words are taken from tributes given by his daughter Margaret, and granddaughter Claire Stevens. There were 2 more reading by granddaughter Heather Kingdon and grandson Peter Morrish.

"My father was born in Langtree on December 2nd 1923. He started to learn to ring when he was 10 years old, but I feel sure that he would have gone along with his father Charlie and sat in the belfry at a much earlier age. His first competition was at South Molton in 1935, and rang his first Devon Competition at Kings Nympton in 1936 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and his father ringing treble. They came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 20 odd teams!

The family moved to Brookham and dad rang with Fremington. In 1939 the Devon Final was held at West Alvington and he won his first Devon title. He was the youngest ringer at 17 years old to win the Six Bell Championship. I think I am right in saying that he held this record until 1996 when Andrew Phillips then 16 rang for Mortehoe winning the Devon Final at Bere Ferrer.

Mum and dad got married 12 February 1947, in this church; they had the bells, of course! There was plenty of snow about at that time. Ivor Hookway said it was the coldest day that he had ever rung. They blamed dad for picking this date!

Mum and Dad then moved to Delworthy. Dad and my grandfather rang with St Giles until 1956. He won his 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon shield with St Giles at Stoke Fleming in 1952. He followed this up by taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1953/54. Dad began his long association with West Down Ringers in 1956 when the family moved to Hewish Barton. He entered his first competition with West Down on 6 Oct 1956 ringing at Dolton.

My father went on to win the Devon Finals at Landkey in 1957. At 34 years old he was the **oldest** West Down's team! This meant that he had rung with 3 different teams that had won the Major Devon Final, Fremington, St Giles and West Down. From 1957 to 1975 dad helped West Down to win the Championship 10 times, runners up 7 times, and 3<sup>rd</sup> twice. West Down won the shield 3 years running 1962, 1963 and 64. They were the first team to score a hat trick! Ivor, the only one left of that team now, told me of the time they had been to a competition. Mervyn Phillips and Len Smale had dropped dad back home at Hewish, They then decided to have a game with him! They unhinged the gate down the lane and re-hung it upside down so that when dad went ringing the next morning he would have to re-hang the gate first! Well the joke backfired as it was my grandfather that was

the first one down the lane, when he took the milk churns out that morning!

Dad did get into a scrape or two when he was ringing. After he had rung at a competition at Yarnscombe, Dad and Len were messing around coming down the church path. Len playfully pushed dad, who fell down and ended up in hospital with a dislocated shoulder! Another time was when we were ringing at Mortehoe and the tenor man lost his trousers in the rise. My father was ringing treble and rang all the way through without noticing, even though Fred and I were laughing our heads off!

My father was delighted when I learnt to ring. I rang with him in a number of competitions. The last time West Down won the Devon Shield was at Kentisbeare in 1987, when dad, Fred and I were ringing.

My brother Bryan and my daughter Sue learnt to ring. This enabled four generations of the Stevens family to ring together, with mum also taking part. After a few years ringing with Mortehoe, my father returned to ring with West Down in 1999.

In 2002 Dad was elected President of The Devon Association of Bell Ringers. This was a position which he held for 1 year This was a real honour and really enjoyed his term in office attending various functions that were held around the county.

In 2005 dad had the idea to get a team together of over 80 year olds to ring in a competition. It was not quite as easy as he thought to find 6 ringers over eighty so he had to come down in age, slightly though! He called the team "The 468ers" this was their combined ages. They were aged between 83 and 73. Dad was the eldest at 83! He thought about where they should ring and decided that perhaps the annual competition at Littleham would be a suitable place. He approached Claude Nicholls who agreed and after a practice, at Wearie Giffard they entered the competition and came 1<sup>st</sup> with 14 faults. He made sure that never forget that result!

He continued ringing with West Down ringing at practice nights, Sunday Services and Competitions until the end of 2007 when ill health forced him to hang up his rope!

His last competition was at Monkleigh in November, when both Fred and I rang with him and the rest of West Down team".

"Granddad was a hard working, fun loving and caring family man. He had many virtues, although patience was not one of them. If something needed doing, tomorrow was not soon enough. Today was good, but yesterday was better!

Granddad and Grandma started their married life together by buying a farm at Higher Delworthy, Yarnscombe. They lived there for 9 years, during which time their two daughters Margaret and Maureen were born. They made many friends there, but the urge to expand led them to Hewish Barton, a farm of 373 acres. With the help of loyal workers

Fred Thorne, Fred Quick and later Peter Shapland, a very busy life continued.

In 1960, to their delight, Bryan their son was born. Gerald was so proud of his family. Fortunately, good health and good fortune prevailed for many years, during which time he enjoyed hunting with the Dulverton West fox hounds. Gerald was a good horseman. He loved his horses, having from earlier in his life taken part in many gymkhanas and riding with the Torrington farmers hunt.

He took a keen interest and an active part in local politics, firstly with Marwood, and later becoming Chairman and president of the North Devon Conservative Association and the Conservative club at Barnstaple.

He enjoyed shooting and all country sports. Bell ringing was a huge pleasure to him, as auntie Margaret has said. The family was very important to him. He loved each and every one of them dearly, taking great pride in their achievements and lives.

In 1977, Grandma and Granddad moved into The Beeches, a bungalow which they had built on part of the farm. Sadly his health deteriorated as the years went by, but he was determined not to let it become too much of a problem. He would always say "I shall be alright" and believed he was able to do the things that needed doing, although his lack of mobility caused him much frustration. He would say "if you just bring a chair, I will cut the garden hedge, or mow the lawn. Or even take the tractor or ATV to Bryan and Lyn's for a haircut. We have all heard him shout "Eileen", to get her to hold the ladder while he checks that loose tile. Granddad never complained about taking his medication and was so happy with all the great care he had from all the family, the health service and his careers, all of whom looked after him so well and this allowed him to remain in his home. His most loving and loyal carer was of course Grandma.

Granddad's memory served him well and he would laugh about various happenings that he could recall over the years. His fun with Bryan's shoot at Spreacombe, including taking part as being dressed up as Farmer Ayseed for charity on a charity beaters day. He loved people coming to see him and to talk to him.

They were married for 64 years and to say they never had a cross word would be wrong, but they would always agree to differ.

He loved his dogs and the last year or two his cats, especially Pebbles, who would curl up on his lap and go to sleep.

A muffled peal was rung before the service by George Rogers, Tony Jeffrey, Tony Barrable, Nick Williams, John Barnes, and John Conibear.

An open peal at the end of the service was by Margaret and Fred, John Conibear, Tony Jeffrey, Tony Barrable, and John Barnes.

Margaret White.

## Obituaries (Contd)

The funeral of **Jack Sage** from Luppitt was held at Luppitt on Friday 2 December 2011 – he was 97! Jack was an active ringer and was a Guild Branch Chairman from 1962 until 1971 and also a Vice-President of the Guild. **Shirley Hocking** of Appledore died in her sleep on 8 November 2011. She had been recovering from a hip operation, making excellent progress, and getting back to work, even though she must have been in her late seventies. A lovely person, full of fun and ready to help anyone. May she rest in peace, and rise in glory. I have no doubt she will. Lester Yeo.

### Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Ringing

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers would particularly like to encourage as much ringing as possible over the long weekend of the Diamond Jubilee. Many communities will be organising different types of celebrations on different days and ringers should establish what is planned locally and ensure that ringing forms a key part of these events. If there are no local plans, ringers are urged to take the lead and arrange special ringing at a suitable time, and consider notifying local media of what is happening and why.

The authorities have suggested that the best time would be ringing on Tuesday June 5, to coincide with the service at St Paul's. We are therefore suggesting to ringers:

1. as much ringing as possible across the country on Tuesday 5 June, including in particular along the processional route from the Palace to St Paul's;
2. ringing at London towers along the river route to ring for the Thames Pageant on Sunday 3 June (Surrey, Middlesex, ASCY, SRCY);
3. local ringing for any Big Jubilee Lunches also on Sunday 3 June;
4. local ringing for visits by HM or other members of the Royal Family during the year;
5. local ringing for any other local church services or celebrations;
6. ringing for the lighting of the beacons on Monday 4 June.

### Olympic Ringing

The issue of ringing at 8 am on Friday 27 July has been the subject of further correspondence. There should be as much Olympic ringing as possible and ringers should aim for as much local publicity as possible so that the reason for ringing is known, whether on 27 July, during the earlier Torch Relay or for other special events or celebrations. July 27 will be a good day to ring for the opening of the Olympics, whether at 8 am or at another time that day, whatever suits local ringers and conditions.

## DCBRF Report for Devon Association AGM 12 Nov 2011

During 2011 the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund has been involved with 16 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. Fortunately the number of requests for assistance we have received during the year has tailed off somewhat, enabling us to take something of a breather following the demands of the previous year. During the year the usual two meetings were held; in Holy Week at Ian Campbell's home in Exeter, and this morning at the home of Brian Drake.

At the beginning of the year the Fund stood at **£26,021**. Since that time seven grants totalling **£15,040** have been paid. These were:

**£3,000** to **Sheepstor** for tuning the six bells and rehang on new headstocks with part new fittings in the existing frame;

**£1,400** to **Plymtree** towards the provision of new bearings, one new headstock, and refurbishing clappers and wheels;

**£5,000** to **Stoodleigh** towards a complete rehang of the six bells in a new steel frame with all new fittings;

**£400** to **Chittlehampton** towards the cost of painting the bell-frame;

**£2,800** to **High Bray** towards rehang of the bells in a repaired frame with new or refurbished fittings and new foundation beams;

**£440** to **Uffculme** for overhauling the bearings and clappers; and

**£2,000** to **Brentor** towards replacing the severely corroded sub-frame, dismantling, cleaning down and painting the bell-frame, refurbishing clappers and bearings, and replacing wheels, pulleys and bell bolts.

Additionally, between the Association's 2010 AGM and the end of the year, three further grants had been paid. These were:

**£350** to **Sourton** towards repairs to the corroded sub-frame;

**£420** to **Brixton** towards refurbishing clappers and bearings, replacing pulley sheaves, and generally cleaning down and painting; and **£550** to **Chittlehampton** towards refurbishing wheels and bearings, rebushing clappers and replacing pulleys.

Income during the year has amounted to **£10,363**, including **£1,000** from the **Guild** as agreed at their Annual General Meeting in June, a further **£2,377** from **Peal and Quarter Peal ringers** and **personal donations**, **£5,000** from the **Association** following the **Annual Draw**, **£272** from the **Guild Branches**, **£263** from the **competition in July** organised by Graham Sharland in aid of the DCBRF, **£110** from other competitions, **£700** from the **Ottery St Mary ringers**, **£200** from the **Troyte Ringing Centre** and **£110** from other individual towers, tax refunds following gift-aided donations and investment income making up the balance. At present the Fund stands at **£21,027**.

Grants agreed this year include a further **£1,000** to **Stoke Canon**, making their total grant offer up to **£7,500** against a total bill of some £93,000. At this morning's meeting the following grants were agreed:

**Shirwell** - **£1,800**, towards replacing rotted sections of the bell-frame with new galvanised steel sections, and inserting additional steel beams under the existing sub-frame.

**Cullompton** - **£300**, towards the painting of the bell-frame.

**Thorverton** - **£400**, towards rebushing the clappers and replacing worn pulley sheaves.

Assistance has also been received from Hawkechurch, East Ogwell and Cruwys Morchard.

If the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted balance of the Fund stands at **£11,027**. IVJS. November 2011

### Ropes by Malcolm Brown

Malcolm Brown is ready to supply bell ropes to Devon. Malcolm started ringing in Kent and then moved to Nottingham where he got involved in Belfry maintenance. About ten years ago he started making bell wheels and other fittings and dealt with everything wooden including wheels, stays, sliders and pulleys.

A few years ago he started making bellropes and this is now his main business. Malcolm can make and repair ropes for ringing, he also makes ropes with little sallies for chiming bells. Sallies can be any colour and the most popular ones are red white and blue.

Most his work has been in the Midlands and near his home in Gloucestershire although he has had some work in Devon such as ropes for Salcombe and Slapton.

Malcolm has had strong links with Devon over the years and has rung in call change competitions.

Malcolm is now keen to supply ropes to Devon towers and is happy to be contacted for a quotation. Please telephone 01285 720757 or email [Malcolm@MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk](mailto:Malcolm@MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk)

### Archive your certificates and records

Many towers have some very historic certificates, some are being damaged by the damp conditions and the sunlight. The certificates show a snapshot of history at that particular time and are of great interest to a large number of people. I have always been amazed at the sheer number of certificates on display and I am grateful that they are there, however leaving the originals in the tower may not be the best option. What we value now, may not be valued by the next generation.

Renée Jackaman, Collections Development Manager encourages us to deposit ringing records at the Record Office, to ensure their preservation and availability for research. She says that they are more than happy to receive them. Deliveries can be by hand, or by recorded delivery and once received, they will be added to the collection and a formal receipt will be issued. Please contact Renée Jackaman, Collections Development Manager, Devon County Council, Devon Record Office, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter EX2 7NL. Tel: 01392 384253.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Wednesday Evening Ringers Association 2001 – 2011 “Celebration trip to York Minster”

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001 under the leadership of Scott Adams, a group of call-change ringers met at St Pauls Church, Tiverton, for what was to turn out and be the first meeting of The Wednesday Evening Ringers Association. The aim was to get to some like-minded friends together for an evening of good ringing, good company and good drinking! Over the years the group has steadily grown and flourished. Members come from all over Devon and meet at least once per month. The Wednesday Evening Ringers Association have now visited over 100 different towers in Devon; have had several enjoyable tours to various parts of England; hold an annual Christmas dinner; and compete regularly in the newly created Devon 10-Bell competition. To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association, we embarked on our most ambitious winter tour yet: to ring the bells at York Minster as well as several prominent Cathedrals in England.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.15am, 14 ringers and two mini-buses left the car park of The Nags Head Inn just outside of Taunton to travel to York to ring the Minster bells. The ringers were Scott Adams, Sue Ashton, Stuart Bennie, Steven Came, Jerome Darke, Suzanne Driscoll, Stephen Herniman, Christine Ley, Louise Hornabrook, Paul Wright, Graham Sharland plus a few older ringers to give experience and “gravitas” to the tour namely, Colin Adams, Tony Jeffery and myself, Chris Clayton. Unfortunately, Lee Avery, James & Kathryn Kerlake and Fred & Margaret White were unable to join us on this occasion. Sadly, at the last minute, both Mervyn Langdon and Sam Massey were not well enough to attend. As we had an early start from Taunton, seven of the party stayed the previous night at the Taunton Travelodge. Everyone was on time for the start and a swift exit was made to travel to Strensham Services (M5) for breakfast. After a good breakfast we travelled to Lincoln. Arriving at Lincoln, lunch was had in The Magna Carta Inn. At 1.45pm we assembled by the west door of Lincoln Cathedral and were met by the tower captain who took us up the 110 odd steps to the ringing chamber. We rang these lovely bells for an hour and a quarter. Afterwards we were allowed out onto the Cathedral roof to see the superb views over Lincoln city and the surrounding countryside. Once on the bus again we travelled north, over the Humber Bridge, to our final tower of the day, Kingston-upon-Hull. Kingston bells were very good but not quite in the same class as Lincoln Cathedral. However, we must have rung the 8, 10 and 12 bells quite well as the locals who came along to listen were very complimentary. We then left Kingston and headed to our accommodation for the first evening which was to be The Ferguson Fawcitt Arms at Walkington near Beverley. A very good choice: good food, good beer and we were well looked after by Yasmin, a local farmer’s daughter! Some of the party also had several nightcaps of whiskey at The Barrels pub just down the road to round off the evening.

Friday saw us heading eastwards into Beverley to ring at Beverley Minster. A peal of 10 reputed to be the best peal of 10 bells in Britain. The 41.5 cwt tenor is a superb bell with a wonderful tone, but inside very noisy

and not easy to hear the front bells. I believe sound control is on their list of priorities. Once back on the mini-buses we headed cross-country to Selby Abbey. These were an outstanding peal of 10 bells with two trebles added to make a peal of 12 bells, which I didn't feel added much to the peal except numbers. Several of their local ringers came along to listen and film our rises and lowers and we acquitted ourselves very well! Lunch was at the Weatherspoons pub in Ripon. After a nice few pints and a good meal we were ready to ring Ripon Cathedral. These for me were the outstanding peal of the weekend; a peal of 12 bells, with a tenor of 23cwt. I think the thing that stands out in my mind besides the lovely tone, was the clarity of every bell strike. It made to my mind for some superb striking. We then left Ripon and headed off to the Premier Inn at York which would be our base for the next two nights. This was a very comfortable base situated just outside one of the city gates and conveniently opposite a Weatherspoons! Dinner that night was at The Royal Oak Inn at Goodramgate. An upstairs room was all ready for us and an excellent meal was provided. After dinner it was a walk back through the “Shambles” which was full of city night life. One or two even managed a few sneaky ports en-route back to the Weatherspoons pub.

All were up on the Saturday morning for breakfast looking fairly well “rested”. We then headed eastwards back to Beverley for the 34cwt ring at St Mary's. These we all thought were better than the Minster and were lovely to ring. Quite a few locals came to hear us (had our fame spread?). The hour passed much too quickly and then it was off to Howden Minster. Howden was our only peal of 8 bells of the tour. They have been likened to Chewton Mendip in Somerset. Half the Minster is a ruin but the bells went very well indeed. We then journeyed back to York for a late lunch on the hoof as we walked through the city centre towards the Minster. This was going to be the highlight of the tour. By this time my legs were getting tired from all the steps we had climbed. We started off at York Minster with a couple of rises, changes and lowers on the middle 8 which had a tenor weight of 30cwt, before the back 10 and full 12 were rung. The tenor is 59cwt and is the fourth heaviest ringing bell in the World. It was a real privilege to be able to ring here; we must have put up a credible performance since the tower captain said we could come any time. At this point I would like to congratulate the heavy bell ringers, especially in the strapping up. Being Devon ringers we tended to raise and lower each peal.



Wednesday Evening Ringers at York

The strapping at Beverley St Mary with a tenor of 34cwt was especially good. From where I stood on treble bell it looked effortless. On leaving the Minster and walking back to the hotel several of the party made various detours into the many ale houses en-route. One of them was The Star Inn, a famous watering hole situated in the heart of the old quarter. Dinner was back at The Royal Oak Inn, Goodramgate. This time we were served by Alex with the usual good attention. Afterwards we made a slow walk back through the throngs of people in the city centre to our hotel. One stop on the way back that some of us made was to a church which had been converted into a nightclub. Sure enough, as we had been told, bell ropes were hanging above the bar! You can get permission to ring the bells but only early mornings when the nightclub is empty. Most eventually returned to the Weatherspoons before sloping off to bed at various times.

Sunday dawned all too soon with an 8.45am departure from the hotel. Our first tower on the way back to Devon was Coventry Cathedral to ring after the morning service. I remember Coventry Cathedral as being superb. Perhaps I was getting a little tired or maybe a bit jaded, but I didn't think my ringing was up to the usual standard! The tower captain did tell us that he wished his ringers would ring their bells as well as we had done. Some of the group made their way up to the top of the tower where there was a fabulous view over the Coventry skyline to be seen. Lunch was had in one of the many eateries in Birmingham city centre after which we assembled for our last tower of the tour, St. Martin-in-the-Bullring, Birmingham. Dwarfed by the ultra modern Selfridges and Next shopping centres you cannot see the church until you are very close. Here I think, sore hands and legs were telling. We didn't rise or lower the 39cwt tenor in peal. We did however make a good job of the back 8 and 10 bells before finishing off on rounds on the back 14 bells. There were not enough of us to ring the full diatonic ring of 16; maybe just as well..... We then made our way through the evening traffic of Birmingham, down the M5 to The Nags Head at Taunton where we had an evening meal all together to round off the trip.

This was a real outing to remember; superbly organised with glorious bells. There was plenty of time for refreshments (alcoholic or otherwise!), good accommodation and an excellent souvenir programme. My thanks go to the drivers and to the younger ringers for inviting me; I was by far the oldest member of the party. It was a pleasure to be in your company. Chris Clayton.



After ringing the 14 bells at Bullring

## Results

Results from Bridgerule on 15 Oct 2011

Junior Novice:

1st Bradford 72

Novice:

1st Monkleigh 58

2nd Petersmarland 59

3rd Bradford 194

A Section:

1st Monkleigh 37

2nd Littleham 39

3rd Lamerton 74

B Section

1st Bridgerule 53

2nd Morwenstow 79

3rd Pyworthy 122

4th Petersmarland 130

5th Frithelstock 202

Open - Ralph Chapman Perpetual Cup

1st Shaugh Prior 19

2nd Holbeton 40

3rd Lamerton 58

4th Holne 127

Judge: Steve Herniman

Results first round of the Mid Devon Winter League - North Tawton on 18th Oct 2011.

Top ringing only.

1. Sampford Courtenay "A" 6

2. Chagford "A" 9

3. Chagford "B" 12

4. Lydford "A" 16

5. Chagford "C" 19

6. Sampford Courtenay "B" 22

7. Lydford "B" 30

8. Sampford Courtenay "C" 32

Judge, Brian Drake. Next round November 8th at Drewsteignton.

St Giles in the Wood Annual Ringing Festival held on 29 Oct 2011

"A" Section Results.

1. Burrington "A" 10 ½

2. Egg Buckland. 15 ½

3. Kingsteignton 20 ½

4. South Tawton. 28 ½

5. Morthoe. 36 ½

6. Down St Mary. 39

7. Monkleigh. "A" 41 ½

"B" Section Results.

1. South Petherwin 34 ½

2. East Anstey. 36

3. Sampford Courtenay 36 ½

4. Monkleigh "B" 61 ½

5. Alphington. 63

6. Dolton. 79 ½

7. Mariansleigh. 86

8. Chagford "B" 109

Judges Mervin Way and Brian Drake

Results from Tawstock - 5 Nov 2011

1st. High Bickington 'A' 35 ½

2nd. Kingsteignton 37 ½

3rd. Exeter Cathedral 43 ½

4th. Exminster 49

5th. Tavistock 67

6th. Chittlehampton 70

7th. Exeter St Petrocks 72 ½

8th. High Bickington 'B' 76

9th. Paignton 91

10th. Moorland Ringers 95

11th. Chagford 108 ½

12th. Widecombe in the Moor 118

13th. Monkleigh 130

Results Totnes Deanery Winter League competition Dittisham on 19 Nov 2011

Top ringing Section

Dean Prior

Totnes

Competition peal with rise and lower

1. South Brent A 40 ½

2. South Brent B 66 ¾

3. Stoke Gabriel 76 ¼

4. Broadhempston A 82 ¾

5. Dean Prior 114 ½

6. Broadhempston C 130 ½

7. Broadhempston B 138 ¾

Judges: Colin Avery and James Grant

St Petrox Dartmouth on 19 November 2011

Rounds Section

Dartmouth 63 faults

Kenton 68 faults

Competition peal with rise and fall

1. Paignton 46 faults

2. Dartmouth Ladies 48 ¾

3. Dartmouth - St Petrox 51 ¼

4. Stoke Fleming 52 ½

5. Stoke Gabriel 58

6. Dartmouth - St Saviour's 76 ¾

7. Exminster 220

Judges: Lisa and Steven Came

The Fred Edwards Shield Competition held at Uffculme 19 November 2011.

All the teams rang Queens Changes on 8.

1st. Silverton 50

2nd. Tiverton St Peter 53

3rd. Cullompton 58

4th. Uffculme 63

The judges: Mike and Jill Hansford of the Taunton Branch, Bath & Wells Association.

The Fred Edwards Shield is an invitation competition open to all towers affiliated to the North East Branch of the Guild. Bands may ring Queens Changes or any method touch of Triples lasting between 10 and 15 minutes.

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 2

First round at Monkleigh - 22nd Nov 2011

Monkleigh "A" 28 ½

Morwenstow 67

Bradford 162

Judge : Raymond Clements

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 4

First round at Monkleigh - 7th Dec 2011

1. Monkleigh "B" 43

2. Lamerton 48 ½

3. Petersmarland 81 ½

Judge : John Wickett & Helen Robinson

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 2

Second round at Bradford - 14th Dec 2011

1. Monkleigh "A" 38 ½

2. Morwenstow 87

3. Bradford 200

Judge : Raymond Clements

Mid Devon Winter league. Bridestow 20 December 2011 for the third round.

1. Chagford "A" 5

2. Sampford Courtenay "A" 7

3. Chagford "B" 16

4. Sampford Courtenay "B" 18

5. Bridestow "B" 24

6. Bridestow "A" 25

7. Sampford Courtenay "C" 37

8. Chagford "C" 42

Top ringing only. Judge: Brian Drake.

Next round Chagford on Tuesday Jan 10th.

Mid Devon Winter league - 4th round held at Chagford 10 Jan 2012

1. Chagford "A" 3

2. Sampford Courtenay "A" 4

3. Chagford "C" 16

4. Chagford "B" 18

5. Bridestow/Lydford "B" 19

6. Sampford Courtenay "B" 22

7. Bridestow/Lydford "A" 26

8. Sampford Courtenay "C" 35

Top ringing only. Judge: Brian Drake.

Next Sampford Courtenay on 21st Feb.

Totnes Deanery Winter League

Broadhempston on 14 January 2012.

1. South Brent 36 ½

2. Broadhempston A 65

3. Stoke Gabriel 72 ½

4. Broadhempston B 82 ½

5. Dean Prior 112

6. Broadhempston C 152

Judges: Colin Avery and Sue Husband

Broadhempston B were singled out by the Judges stating that, during this event, they had the best round ringing at the top of the rise. Well done!

John Cornish Competition held at

Kilhampton - 14th January 2012

"A" Section

1. Egg Buckland 12

2. Burrington 25

3. South Petherwin 40 ½

4. Morthoe 48

5. Alphington 62 ½

"B" Section

1. South Tawton 48

2. Monkleigh "A" 51 ½

3. Kilhampton 56

4. Bridgerule 66 ½

5. Monkleigh "B" 82 ½

6. Morwenstow 91

Judge : John Wickett & Helen Robinson

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 4

Second round at Petersmarland on

17th January 2012

1. Lamerton 55 ½

2. Monkleigh "B" 88 ½

3. Petersmarland 114 ½

Judge: John Wickett & Helen Robinson

### Results (Continued)

Results from the Totnes Deanery Winter League - South Brent on 28 January 2012

1. South Brent A	27
2. South Brent B	36 ½
3. Stoke Gabriel	62 ¾
4. Broadhempston A	72
5. Dean Prior B	104
6. Dean Prior A	118
7. Broadhempston B	135
8. Broadhempston C	154

Judges: James and Elaine Grant.

Results from the Totnes Deanery Winter League - Stoke Gabriel on 11 February 2012  
Also ringing for the Stan Martin Shield

1. South Brent	58 ½
2. Stoke Gabriel	70 ¾
3. Broadhempston A	78 ½
4. South Brent B	108 ½
5. Broadhempston B	139
6. Dean Prior	156

Judges: John and Robert Dietz.

### 700 years at Plympton St Mary's

The 7 hour ringing marathon at St Mary's Plympton has been devised by using the dates 1311 and 2011 (the 700 years) and adding the dates together to make 3322 changes. If 14 teams wish to take part, ringing will be for 25 minutes for each tower with 5 minutes for a change over. If more than 14 towers show an interest, the ringing times per tower will be less. Information packs are now available please contact the tower captain, Mrs Mary Nicholls, on 01752 200053 or alternatively by email: [cyrilnicholls44@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cyrilnicholls44@hotmail.co.uk).

This occasion is in the early stages of planning and until they know the level of responses in the coming months, no final details can be confirmed. This 8 bell tower has a tenor of 25-1-11.

A certificate will be presented to each team member and a team certificate also given for their church. A plaque with all the names, teams, and their respective churches will be produced and to be kept in St Mary's Tower. A peal will be devised for this occasion, and each team will ring the same peal with a conductor being provided, if required. Mary Nicholls.

### Bellringers' Carol Service

Many thanks to all who supported the Devon Ringers Carol Service today at Cullompton. It was great to see a church of 200 at the Carol Service.

The collection in church came to **£318.09** and the profit on the tea came to **£115.13** = **Total £433.22**

So a cheque for **Children's Hospice South-west for £216.61** and a cheque for **£216.61 towards the £1.55M cost of building Cullompton Community Centre** will be made.

I am so pleased everyone who attended or took part enjoyed it and that they were not put off attending by the road works in Fore Street.

Anyone wishing to use the Cullompton Community Centre, which is available to all, please do contact the Community Centre on 01884-33265, write to Cullompton Community Centre, Pye Corner, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1JX.

Details are on the website page <http://standrewscullompton.com/community-centre> Richard Shere, Cullompton Tower Captain.

## 2011 in numbers by James Kerlake

As many of you will know, since 2003 I have been collecting results of all the competitions held in Devon and compiling them into a league table to show which teams are most consistent over the course of the year. The basic idea is to count up how many other teams a particular team has beaten over the course of a season and then average it out over the number of competitions that particular team has entered, the best team being the one that on average beats the most teams. In order to see who is 'best' I produce two tables – one for teams that have rung in five or more competitions and another for any teams that have entered at least one event – of these I consider the top team of the restricted table to be the league winner and 'best team in Devon' with a honourable mention to the team that finishes top of the 'all comers' table, as very often this is a side that has won the only competition it has entered. The only competitions I use in the league are those events held between April and November, and only those where teams rise, ring either of the competition peals (6 or 8 bell) and then lower.

During the last 12 months ringers around the county have started to send me results from past competitions and currently my results archive goes back to 1972 (although it is far from complete between 1972 and 1986) and consequently I, or at least the computer code I've written, can produce league tables throughout that era so we can see which teams were strong in the past. Both the results archive and the past tables are searchable from my website: [www.myconid.co.uk](http://www.myconid.co.uk). As with any endeavour like this, the more results that go into the archive the more accurate the league tables will be and the more little 'factoids' can be produced – and everyone likes a good statistic!

This year I have also managed to obtain, for the first time, the names of the ringers that were in the teams which won all of the main Devon Association competitions, which I think we should commemorate in a similar way in which method ringers keep records of who has rung in every full peal ever rung. To this end, Ian Avery and David Trout have been kind enough to send me the names of the ringers who have been in each of the winning Kingsteignton and Eggbuckland teams in their respective finals, which have produced some interesting facts. I've given the names of all the ringers in the winning teams at the 2 qualifiers and 3 finals below and also the facts uncovered.

#### The statistics:

All the statistics I've given in this article pertain only to the competitions used in compiling the league. So what of 2011?

Last year saw 70 teams compete in 50 events, of which 36 teams competed in more than five events. This is a drop of 21 teams from last year and also 2 fewer competitions than last year, however the number of teams entering multiple events has remained stable for the last two or three years.

There were a total 499 competition entries averaging 57.03 faults per team; giving a total of 28,456 faults scored at an average of 569.12 per competition. The lowest total fault score for a competition was 114 (at an average of 28.50) at the Plymouth and Ivybridge Deaneries competition held at Stoke Damerel, whilst the lowest average score was achieved at the Iddesleigh competition where 367 faults were scored at an average of 26.21. The highest total and average fault scores of 1432¾ and 119.40 respectively were scored at Stoke Gabriel's annual event. Eggbuckland achieved the lowest fault score of the year, 4 at Iddesleigh, and the lowest average fault score, 18.18 faults per competition, while Salcombe gained the most number of faults in one competition, 328½, and Frithelstock had the highest average, 155.54 faults per competition. Brand new competitions for last year were the events held at Frithelstock and Great Torrington as part of a three tower festival with Monkleigh, and those we welcomed back after an absence were the Nationals on 6 and 8 bells and the twin tower event of Lydford and Bridestowe. Competitions sadly missing from last year that happened in 2010 were those at Eggbuckland, Bishops Nympton, Mariansleigh, Chawleigh, Beaford and Littleham as well as the Hartland Deanery and Newton Abbot, Ipplepen and Torbay Deanery festivals.

The main table had Kingsteignton at the top of the league for the first time, their ranking being 1.4 ahead of Eggbuckland in second place. The same two teams also occupied the top two places of the all-comers table. The final 10 places for 2011 in the main table were:

Team	C	Rank	+/-
1 Kingsteignton	17	<b>21.53</b>	6,682.56
2 Eggbuckland	32	<b>20.13</b>	12,785.45
3 Burrington	24	<b>17.67</b>	5,712.41
4 South Brent	24	<b>16.33</b>	7,156.66
5 Shaugh Prior	22	<b>15.55</b>	5,026.66

Team	C	Rank	+/-
6 West Down	6	<b>14.33</b>	677.25
7 Stoke Gabriel	18	<b>13.89</b>	2,954.08
8 Exminster	11	<b>12.91</b>	1,126.00
9 Monkleigh	23	<b>12.57</b>	1,841.41
10 Down St Mary	11	<b>12.36</b>	989.20

Continued on page 7



# Jereme in Frenchay Hospital

Ringling for England Campaign  
St George's Day

Jereme's recovery from the accident on 9 January 2012 is being followed on the Association's website which also has a link to his Veterinary Practice where it was reported that there had been over 6,000 viewings, just in a 3 day period. There is also provision for people to leave comments on the website. These are being read to Jereme daily. Sally, Robert, Lou and their families greatly appreciate the good wishes being sent.

Following the accident Jereme was immediately airlifted to Frenchay Hospital Bristol which specialises in neurological cases. He was diagnosed with a fractured skull and a bleed at the rear of the brain as well as severe facial injuries. This brain haemorrhage was obviously closely monitored and various procedures and monitors were put in place to reduce pressure and the risks of further complications. Surgery was performed in the early hours of the Tuesday morning to remove the blood clot, reduce brain pressure and assess the damage.

Jereme had been in an induced coma following the operations and the sedative dose was required to help reduce any pressure to the brain. After a week the dose was reduced and there was no increase in pressure in the brain. Jereme's breathing had been assisted in the early stages and this prevented him from talking. After just over a fortnight he was communicating well. Jereme still has a long way to go and still has not been fully assessed. He is unable to support himself without assistance.

There had been a set back though on 4 February. Jereme had the catheter removed and had the urge to get up at night time to go to the toilet without asking for help. Remembering that he had been bed ridden since 9 January, he fell straight out of his bed and his bump was a cartoon-like egg on his forehead. This resulted in a further drain into his head. Since this he was transferred from the intensive care unit to the high dependency unit where they focus on rehabilitation. Jereme has made excellent progress since the accident however small setbacks along the way should be expected.

Some people have asked if they are able to get a card to Jereme. His work is happy for you to send these to the Practice and they will make sure that he gets them as he is visited daily. Jereme's works address is Synergy Farm Health, West Hill Barns, Evershot, DT2 0LD. Tel: 01935 83682.

Both Louise and Sally have been overwhelmed by the support they have received and have been inundated with people who are keen to go and see him. They have asked if people could possibly give more time and then to contact his work place first. They thank everybody for the huge support being given as this is a great comfort.

A message from Libby Alexander

In 2010 the first year of this campaign we managed to get the BBC on board and I also tried to engage with The Archers. In my ignorance I did not realise they required at least a 6 month lead in for any inclusions. As a result we missed out. However, I contacted them again and hip hip hooray, they ARE interested. As a result before they commit themselves to us they have to know that you are going to commit to the campaign and ring out across the land on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. So - are you willing to join in? Of course I understand it is not possible for everyone to say yes but if we could get a good majority signed up and who knows more might be able to come on board nearer the time.

Would you concur with a communal 6 o'clock in the evening ring? This was put forward by me initially because I felt it was the best time to catch as many people as possible who would be out and about and so more exposed to your wonderful work. Again not everyone will be able to but if we could get a good majority then this could be put out as part of the campaign. April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a Monday, so a week day will catch all the commuters etc. If you do intend to ring, this could be put up on your website, or you can contact your Editor. This is an opportunity to show our loyalty to England by ringing for St George's Day.

## 2011 in numbers by James Kerlake - continued from p.6

The full table and all-comers table can be found on my website. Note that this may change if I am given any of the results from the competitions I don't already have results for.

### **New records set for 2011:**

Eggbuckland took part in the most number of competitions last year, setting a new record of 32 events - 5 competitions more than the previous record - of which they won 21, also a new record. Their win percentage of 65.63% was, however, some way below their best of 93.33% which they set in 2004.

Salcombe's 328½ at Stoke Gabriel set a new record for the highest number of faults by a team at a competition, but this event saw lots of high scores and consequently the 1432¾ faults scored meant that the competition became the single event with the highest total fault score. The average of 119.40 faults per team is third on the all-time highest average list behind the 2009 National 8 Bell at Chagford (146.94) and the 2002 Minor Final at Chardstock (142.67).

### **Other statistics of note:**

Four teams were unable to complete their peals successfully, one fewer than the previous year. These were Burrington B at the Minor Final, East Anstey at Frithelstock, Exeter Cathedral at the Devon 8 Bell and Holbeton at South Brent.

By winning the 8 bell final, Kingsteignton have become the first team to win 10 finals in a row on either 6 or 8 bells and have increased their record for most 8 bell final wins to 22. Ian Avery has rung in all of these winning teams and so can be considered the most successful 8 bell ringer; he has also nearly 'circled the tower' in doing so and only needs to ring the treble in a winning team to complete this remarkable achievement!

Meanwhile, in six bell ringing Eggbuckland extended their record to 21 Major Final wins with David Trout the only person to have rung in all of these wins, making him the most successful 6 bell ringer by this measure. His wife, Hilary, and older brother, Roger, are in joint second on this list with 20 wins each.

The winning teams:

### *2011 Devon 8 Bell Final at Buckland in the Moor*

**Won by: Kingsteignton, 32¾ faults**

- 1 Graham Sharland
- 2 Mike Mears
- 3 Tom Grant
- 4 Ian Avery
- 5 Elaine Grant
- 6 Lee Avery
- 7 James Grant
- 8 Colin Avery

### *2011 Major Final at West Alvington*

**Won by: Eggbuckland, 13 faults**

- 1 Hilary Trout
- 2 Angela Trout
- 3 Susan Ashton
- 4 Martin Crew
- 5 David Trout
- 6 Stephen Trout

### *2011 South Devon Qualifier at Dunsford*

**Won by: South Brent, 14 faults**

- 1 Suzanne Driscoll
- 2 Louise Hornabrook
- 3 Emma McCulloch
- 4 Graham Sharland
- 5 Alan Brown
- 6 Jereme Darke

### *2011 Minor Final held at Morteohoe*

**Won by: Down St Mary, 55 faults**

- 1 Linda Steer
- 2 Gary Quicke
- 3 James Steer
- 4 Denis Cann
- 5 Bob Robinson
- 6 Hugh Taylor

### *2011 N Devon Qualifier held at Shirwell*

**Won by: Burrington, 20¾ faults**

- 1 Derek Jones
- 2 Christine Ley
- 3 Paul Wright
- 4 Gerald Herniman
- 5 Steven Facey
- 6 Stephen Herniman

Final thoughts:

In addition to the competitions used above, this year I have also started a separate archive of results from events that do not fulfil the requirements to be included in the league, such as 'overall' scores, handicap scores, novice events and winter leagues, which I hope to publish on the web in the not too distant future. Currently this holds results going back to the winter of 2008-09, so if anyone has any results of any competition that they'd like to send me I will add them in to whichever archive is appropriate.

I'd finally like to thank the following people who have helped provide results and team lists (with apologies to anyone I've missed): Scott Adams, Ian Avery, Stuart Bennie, Chris Clayton, Jereme Darke, John Enderson, Steve Herniman, Graham Pascoe, Bob Pengelly, Graham Sharland, David Trout, Ryan Trout, Clive Ward, Mervyn Way and Mike Webster.

# AGM Notice

The AGM will be held on Saturday 10 November 2012 at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm. The annual affiliation fees for 2011/12 were 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.

## THE TOWERS & BELLS OF DEVON

Those of you who have purchased a copy of this magnificent tome, may not realise that I am continually updating the material and correcting any mistakes where these have come to light since publication.

These corrections and additions are available on the Website of the Guild ([http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/pdf/Devon\\_Errata.pdf](http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/pdf/Devon_Errata.pdf)), and on the website of the bell historian, George Dawson ([www.georgedawson.homestead.com/files/Devon\\_Errata.doc](http://www.georgedawson.homestead.com/files/Devon_Errata.doc)).

I update the entries on a six monthly basis, so you may want to keep a copy inside the cover of your books, rather than deface them in any way.

James M. Clarke.

A Facebook group for all young ringers in Devon, and their supporters, up to 25 ish, has been set up. Search on Facebook for 'Devon Young Ringers' and apply to join. Lynne Hughes will approve legitimate applicants. If she does not know you, please provide details as to who you are. It is hoped that this group will grow and become a forum for young ringers.

## Ringly Ringers

The holiday this year will be to the Eastbourne area from 14 - 18 May 2012. If you have not booked and wish to go, please contact John Staddon, Alphington.

The mid week ringing has been organised for 2012 and is on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The first tower is at 10:30am with light refreshments. An optional meal at 1pm with another tower in the afternoon. For more details please contact the Secretary, Michael Webster - 01803 782591.

## The Bells of Devon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Now With Updates

The comprehensive contacts directory for all Devon towers with 3 or more bells also includes details of 'lost rings' of the past 150 years, chimes of 3 or more bells, and 1-bell towers. **A MUST HAVE for any ringer exploring Devon!**

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Please make cheques payable to 'The Bells of Devon'

## Widcombe and Buckland in the Moor

A new 8 bell invitation competition is being proposed by Widcombe in the Moor. The intention is to have the faults from the two towers, Widcombe in the Moor and Buckland in the Moor, added together to find the final result. The team with the least overall faults wins the Pascoe Memorial Cup for that year.

Some rules below are being proposed and Mike Pascoe is open to ideas and asks for suggestions.

This will be an invitation competition and time slots will be allocated.

The teams must represent a ringing tower. There is no restriction on the number of bells in the tower that is to be represented. For example, teams from towers with 5 or 6 bells or 8 or more will be eligible to enter.

Ringers will only be able to ring once, at each tower. This is to encourage as many ringers as is possible to have the opportunity to ring in the competition.

The peal to be rung, will be as rung for the Devon Association 8 Bell competition, including a rise and fall and ringing shall last for at least 20 minutes.

The competition is to be held annually and for 2012 the proposal is 24 March. The competition is to be held in the afternoon and not expected to last into the evening. Refreshments will be available.

The above rules are proposals at this stage, and any teams interested and any comments, please contact Mike Pascoe by email or telephone.

You can also contact him using the website [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk).

You can send an email by going to the Website Homepage>Tower Information.

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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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