



Founded 1925

President – Mr John Kelly BEM

Devon Calls

**May 2010
Vol 2 Issue 4**

Special points of interest

- Ringing for Heroes
- Poem of Northants trip
- Devon County Show

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**Report from
Association AGM**

At the AGM John Kelly BEM was elected President of the Devon Association. His first official function was to present the outgoing President, John Conibear with a Past President's badge. For more about John Kelly see the article on page 7. Further elections followed, President Elect was Mervyn Way. James Kerlake was elected to the new post of a Second Assistant Secretary and also elected to serve on the Committee. The outgoing Treasurer Janice Gist was succeeded by John Barnes. Chris Ley was elected to the Devon Ringers' Council. A copy of the Accounts is available on the website.

**Association Dinner and Dance
on Friday 10 September**

The Annual Dinner and Dance this year will be held on Friday 10th September 7pm for 7.30 at the Libbaton Golf Club, High Bickington. This is a very popular choice and there will be a three course carvery with coffee along with entertainment. Tickets are priced at £18 and are on sale now and available from Jereme Darke or Chris Ley. The proceeds from the raffle and any profit will go to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Please support this event and have a wonderful meal, excellent company and meanwhile supporting the work of the Association and the DCBRF.

**Association
Chairman resigns**

At the Devon Association 6 Bell South Qualifier the Secretary informed the people present that Ryan Trout, Chairman, had resigned due to personal reasons. Through the Secretary, Ryan stated that he was still highly supportive of the work of the Association and regretted, and wished to apologise, that he had missed a number of Association events.

**Exeter Cathedral qualify for
National 12 bell at Crediton**

The Cathedral team are one of the 9 teams to have qualified to ring at the National 12 bell final to be held at Crediton on Saturday 26 June. Ringing will take place from 11:30am through to 4:30pm. Hot food and refreshments will be available from 9am. For more detailed information of the event please see the article on page 6.

**Significant celebrations
for ringers**

Claude Nicholls who celebrated his 80th birthday on 28 March 2010 will now be celebrating his 60th Wedding Anniversary with Joyce on 29 May 2010. Ray and Joan Mugridge celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 7 March. Harry Bardens celebrates his 80th birthday on 25 July and Jean and Arthur Fidler will both be 80 this year. Arthur's birthday is on 24 April and Jean's is on 8 June. Bill Avery was 90 on 29 March and two peals and two quarter peals were rung in his honour.

**How did you mark
St George's Day?**

There was a national initiative to mark St George's day on 23 April by ringing church bells throughout the country and many towers in Devon took part. Bell ringing is universally identified as the quintessential 'Sound of England'. In 2011 St George's Day will fall on a Saturday and ringers may wish to consider how to mark the occasion. This is an attempt to raise awareness of our traditional English culture and heritage. It would be great to build on that initiative in 2011.

Obituaries

Ray Capps

Ray died on 3 December 2009 and the funeral was held at Ide on 14 December 2009.

Ray born in Kenilworth went to Warwick Boys Grammar School. He moved to Exeter in 1988 with his wife and 2 daughters however the marriage did not last and Ray remained single. His daughters now live in Manchester and Poole and have three children between them. Ray was a Chartered Accountant and at one point was with the Audit Commission auditing Parish Accounts throughout Devon and Cornwall.

When Ray first moved to Devon he rang at Alphington and St Petrock where he was an immense help to St Petrock as Treasurer and became Captain of Ide in 1999.

He was a founder member of the St. Petrock's Ringing Centre and treasurer of that until his death. He worked tirelessly and without any wish for recognition or reward towards running the Chamber Pot Competition and the Masterclasses. He then went on to become Captain of Ide Bellringers where he held the team together during the loss of key members and his solid, reliable style of leadership was a constant presence. When his health started to decline, he stood down as Captain but maintained an interest and participation to the end. He was a great character, a reliable and invaluable colleague, his ready smile, sense of humour and unflinching positivism will long be remembered and he is sorely missed.

Ray was quite reserved and had many interests, he belonged to many groups and societies, and he particularly enjoyed walking and classical music.

During his illness he continued to do as much as possible and had the kind assistance of Simon Tucker who took on all the responsibilities in 2005.

Roy Blight M.B.E. 1916 – 2010.

Roy was born and lived all his life in Buckland Brewer. When he left school he became the butcher's boy and delivered meat on his bike all over the parish. Everyone therefore knew him and became used to his cheeky smile and fun. He was to retain this sense of fun until his death; the current vicar recalled at his funeral, that at the last parish church Christmas Dinner, he was using a drinking straw to blow polystyrene beads at her.

Roy and his brother Leonard, coincidentally courted two sisters so when it came to planning the nuptials they decided to have a double wedding. Both couples continued to live and work in Buckland all their lives.

We are not sure when, but at some stage Roy learned to ring at Buckland and he eventually became Captain and held that post for some thirty years, teaching many others during that time.

Roy was also a great churchman and eventually he became a Churchwarden and served in that post for around the same period.

It was for the work in his church and for the whole village, that he was awarded the MBE in 1993. His only disappointment was that the Queen was not able to join him and his beloved Winnie, for tea on the day of presentation.

Buckland Brewer church is fairly large but it was full of mourners and Roy's family, wishing to pay their last respects to a very popular man. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jim Crabb

Jim's funeral took place on Thursday 28 January at 11.00am at Luppitt. He was a true gentleman and a loyal member of the Guild - he was also a Vice-President of the Guild.

Barbara Blight 1926 – 2010.

Barbara, who lived in Buckland Brewer for many years, and a Littleham bell ringer passed away suddenly at her home in Bideford on January 27th. Her funeral took place at St Mary & St Benedict, Buckland Brewer on February 8th attended by her family and many friends. Barbara requested in her will that Buckland Brewer bells were to be rung by the Littleham ringers at her funeral. Unfortunately Barbara's untimely death coincided with the bells being out of action. Instead, a guard of honour with pitchforks and bell ropes together with a recording of Buckland Brewer bells being rung by The Littleham Ringers.

Barbara was born at West Down. After leaving school she joined the Woman's Land Army when she met her future husband Martin and moved to Buckland Brewer where they farmed for the next 40 years. During her time at Buckland Brewer, raising three sons, helping in the dairy & other farm work, Barbara found time to support her church and started to learn to ring. It was a proud day for Barbara when she was presented with her 40 year certificate.

Barbara was Secretary of The Hartland Deanery Guild for many years which also had a ladies team for which she used to ring the Tenor. After moving to Bideford, when her husband died, she joined the team at Littleham and rang regularly for Sunday services and in competitions. She will be very much missed at The Littleham Festival each year as they could always rely on Barbara to sell their raffle tickets and raise a lot of money for their bell fund.

Barbara was also very well known on The Mid Devon Ringer's Tours in which she entertained us with her anecdotes, wit and charm, often into the early hours of the morning. May she rest in peace.

Phil Reddaway

Phil Reddaway, past Captain of Sampford Courtenay, who also rang for several years in the South Tawton Competition team and for North Tawton when they won the Devon 8 bell shield at Chumleigh, died on the 10th March aged 89 years.

See page 3 for the Ringing Reddaways.

Ben Isaac - EULOGY

Newton Benjamin (Ben) Isaac who died on 28 March 2010 at Harriet Nanscawen Nursing Home, Braunton and the funeral took place on Tuesday April 13th. Ben leaves his wife Nora and his daughter Audrey. Ben was born 1 February 1923 at Lily Farm, Goodleigh, Barnstaple. He had lived in Dean Farm (opposite what is now 'Hidden Valley Caravan Site' on the Braunton to Ilfracombe road) when he was a few months old, then to Crowborough Farm, Georgeham on 18 February 1932 when he was 9 years old – which is where he lived for 76 years until he had to go into hospital (and from there to the nursing home) at the end of November 2008.

He was the youngest of 3 children: older sister, Catherine, and older brother, Jim. Their mother died in 1940 when Ben was 17 years old.

He married Nora Cook in 1950 and they had one daughter, Audrey.

In those days, farmers' wives often took produce such as butter, cream and eggs to the local markets to sell. Ben's mother was no exception. Times were very different then. Ben and Jim used to take it in turns to carry their mother's basket of produce over to the bus stop in Georgeham on a Friday, then cycle into Barnstaple and meet her off the bus to carry the basket up to the Pannier market for her, and then cycle home.

They both belonged to the Young Farmers' Club in Braunton, and when Ben left school, he worked at home on the farm, and also at Pickwell Barton. He was 16 years old when war broke out. As a farmworker he couldn't 'join up', so was a member of the Home Guard – and many tales he would tell of those days. He was a good shot, and enjoyed shooting with a 12-bore shotgun for many years: out over the fields, keeping the rabbit population in check and putting food on the table and clay-pigeon shooting. At one time he tried making his own cartridges. On one memorable occasion, whilst shooting a few clay-pigeons with friends, he had put the "wad" in upside-down, and flames were seen coming from the end of the barrel – but no harm was done. When he was younger, he entered some of his lambs in the Devon County Show and won quite a few prizes. He was able to repair most things on the farm, and whilst he was very good at using binder twine and bits of galvanised iron, he could also do a good, tidy job when he wanted to – 'ditching' being a bit of a speciality for him. He was also very good at splicing rope – a talent that came in very useful when a bell rope broke.

Ben started ringing the church bells in 1945 and was made captain of the tower about 2 years later. He remained captain until 1995 when illness prevented him from ringing. Ben's life revolved around bell ringing, farming, and village activities. The main days out for the family were for bell-ringing competitions and Georgeham Ringers' Annual Outing (contd p3)

Ben Isaac (contd from page 2)

which was supported by many people in the village. In the winter months he would organise evenings of practice at other towers in the vicinity. The main purpose of these practice nights was to improve the standard of ringing, but it was also just for the pure enjoyment of ringing a good peal, and meeting with other bell ringers.

He had a good ear for bells. Georgeham Bell Ringers' proudest year was 1977 – the Queen's Jubilee Year – when the team won several Shields and Cups. Unfortunately, the "Devon" Shield always eluded them. That is one thing he would mention occasionally for the rest of his life: "I always wished we could've won the 'Devon' – we came pretty close a few times"

He was brought up within the Baptist Church – his father was a lay preacher – so he always went with his family to Sunday worship at 'Chapel'. When he started ringing the church bells this was frowned upon, and it was made clear that if he wanted to continue ringing the bells, he should go to 'Church'. He duly went to church, and was a regular attendee until illness stopped him from ringing.

During the 60's and 70's he seemed to belong to many committees in the village, and at one point was chairman of most of them it seemed.

He was on the Village Hall committee, the Parish Council, the Football Club, the Playing Field Trustees as well as being Captain of the Bell-ringers. He played a big part in acquiring the Playing Field for the village, and worked hard in helping with the fund-raising for it.

A Sport's Day was held every year in the Playing Field, on the middle Saturday of what was then known as "Factory Fort-night" when most factories in the country were closed for workers' holidays, and a lot of effort and time went into marking out the running track, organising stalls, prizes, programmes etc. It was a big effort by people who willingly gave their time year after year. Then there was Firework night. A huge bonfire in the Playing Field served two purposes – to burn the Guy and have a Firework Display, and to get rid of many villagers' rubbish. When Ben became ill and no longer able to do much physical work around the farm, he relied upon his nephews to come down and do it. Those days were highlights in his life. He got to "supervise" the work, to much joking and laughter, and also, to have fish and chips for lunch.

Nora and Audrey would like to say thank you to those who, over the last 15 or so years since Ben became less able, have helped the family so much in different ways. Ben was unprepared for having to leave Crowborough – he loved the place and had expected to remain there until he died. He was a proud and independent man, and it was difficult for him to be dependent on others, but he was well looked after at Harriet Nanscawen Nurs-

ing Home in Braunton, especially in his last days, and the family thanks all the staff for their care of him.

At his funeral service the church was full and ringers rang muffled peals before and after the service. They rang the peal on 8 which Ben used to love to call. The ringers were John Barnes, John Conibear, Fred White, Gerald Arscott, Gordon Norman, Tom Welch, Tony Barrable & David Barnes.

Derek Conway

Derek, a guild member and the Ringing Master of Ottery St. Mary Parish Church, died at the age of 66. His funeral was on Friday 16 April at Ottery St Mary. We remember Derek for his wonderful skills in ringing, dedication and loyalty. Also for looking after the bells and clock in the church, as well as looking after the churchyard to a very high standard.

May our thoughts and prayers be of him, his family and may he rest in peace.

The Ringing Reddaways

On Tuesday the 23rd of March 2010 in Sampford Courtenay Parish Church, the funeral took place of Phillip Henry Reddaway aged 89 years. A packed church heard a moving service conducted by the Rector, the Rev Brian Ardill, which was followed by internment in the Churchyard.

Phil's funeral bought to an end a remarkable era of bellringing by the Reddaway family. It started in 1884 when Phil's Grandfather, Harry Reddaway, learnt to ring at the age of 10. Harry was the first person to get married after the restoration of the Church and he also rang at his own wedding.

His first son Ernest (Ern) was born in 1900 followed by William (Will) two years later. Ern started to ring at the age of 10 in 1910 and when his cousin, John Reddaway, resigned as Captain in 1928 the six Reddaway's, brothers Harry, Jack and William, Harry's two sons, Ern and Will, and William's son, John, rang together for the last time. Ern, who at some time became Captain, handed over the Captaincy to Phil in 1961. He continued to ring until 1988 – some 78 years as a ringer. Ern's brother Will also rang Sampford Tenor for many years, until his late eighties.

Phil was born in 1920 at Church Cottage, North Tawton, although his home at the time was Rectory Cottage, Sampford Courtenay. He also learnt to ring at the age of 10 and continued until 1991 when health problems caused his retirement from bellringing after 61 years. Phil rang for many years with the South Tawton competition team and for North Tawton when they won the Devon Eight Bell Shield at Chumleigh. A true quiet Christian Gentleman he was Church Warden at Sampford Courtenay for nine years. We will all miss him very much.

Following the internment a half muffled peal was rung by friends and fellow ringers, Brian Drake, North Tawton. John Cooper and Nora Bertram, South Tawton. Joe Stoneman, Ray Squires and Chris Clayton, Sampford Courtenay.

Bovey Tracey

The Bells at Bovey Tracey Parish Church rang out over the town as a mark of respect for Cpl Stephen Thompson on 2 April as a tribute to the fallen hero.

A special peal of 120 unrepeated call changes was rung shortly after his funeral, which took place 100 miles away at Beachley Barracks, Chepstow.

It was the very least we could do, not only as a mark of respect for Stephen, but to let his family know that the thoughts of the whole community are with them said Robert Brown who called the peal. It is also a reminder of the bravery of our troops and the sacrifices that are being made.

One of the church bell ringers lived near to Stephens's family so we thought we should do something to mark his life. It was a public mark of respect.

Cpl Thompson's mother Carol has issued a heartfelt thank you to all the people of South Devon and beyond who showed the family great support at this difficult time. Speaking from her Bovey Tracey home, she said the family of Stephen had been 'overwhelmed' by the support of both the Army, the people of Bovey Tracey and strangers from far and wide who sent flowers and cards.

Mrs Thompson said she and her family had been especially moved by the ringing of the church bells in Bovey Tracey which coincided with Stephen's military funeral. Mrs Thompson said: "People have been brilliant. They have been truly great. They have given us the space we need but we know they're there. The local reverend has been here for us when we needed him. Neighbours have sent flowers and cards. We have had cards from local MPs, mayors and councillors. Everyone round here has showed us all great support. We want to thank them for that."

Mrs Thompson said dozens of flowers and more than 100 cards had been sent to the family home. She said she had been surprised when Stephen told her he was going to Afghanistan, especially after doing two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Northern Ireland. She added: "He told me it was his job and he knew the risks involved. He was 31. I could not really tell what to do. I had to respect his wishes."

Mrs Thompson said the family decided to have Stephen buried at the military cemetery at his regiment base so he could be near his mates. She said: "The Army was his home really. His funeral was absolutely beautiful. It was so lovely. The cemetery is a proper military grave and looks like it has been looked after forever. "The repatriation and drive through Wootton Bassett was extremely emotional. It was great to see so many people there pay their respect to the five lads who died.

"We're still grieving but everything is still a bit of a blur.

"When the rest of the Rifles regiment comes back home in April and we go to their medal parade, that's when it will really hit us."

Arthur and Jean's Mid Devon 36th Autumn Tour - Northants

At 6-30am. on Monday October 26th upwards of 47 ringers and friends assembled at the Mid-Devon Coach depot at Bow ready to board the coach departing on the 36th Mid-Devon Ringers Autumn Tour, the last one organised by Jean & Arthur Fidler. The area this year was Northants, and our H.Q. being the Whetstone Manor Hotel, Weston Flavell.

Long Buckby our first port of call was reached early and after an excellent lunch at The Old Kings Head the 8 bells were soon up and into changes. These were originally an old 5 but were made into 8 for the millennium. The next tower was Great Brington a nice sounding heavy 6.

This church is where the Spencer family worship and where Lady Diana used to come. There are lots of memorials to the Spencer family along with various flags and coats of Arms. Some of the party were given a guided tour of the church by the Church Warden who had met us. It was much appreciated.

Our hotel was reached by 6pm and we soon all settled in our rooms. Tuesday started with the delightful 6 at Harpole followed by the light 6 at Duston. Then into Northampton for lunch with ringing at three churches, the first being the fairly new 10 at All Saints which were soon into rounds and call changes. Bearing in mind that most of the ringers are 6 and 8 bell ringers, the ringing was on the whole very good, one of our young members had not rung on 10 bells before. The remaining two towers were put to good use. We were very impressed by the very ornate carving of the many Norman arches in St Peters church and for a church that is apparently semi-redundant is very well kept.

Wednesday was a short journey, the first two towers being Mears Ashby and Wilby two delightful 6s and then onto Earls Barton for a buffet lunch at The Old Swan and what a spread absolutely sumptuous and which the party did full justice to.

The 8 bells in the Saxon Tower were soon into changes, our last tower of the day was at Ecton a 15cwt 6 which the writer rehung some 50 years ago!!!

Thursday we were off to the other side of Northampton the first tower being Gayton where two of the people that met us at the church used to live at Lapford and knew Janet & Michael Poole. The 6 bells were enjoyed.

The next tower was at Easton Neston and this church is in the middle of the Hesketh Estate. A Gillet 8 dating from 1911. These nice bells were soon up and ringing and our members enjoyed these bells immensely for their tone and 'go'. At one time it was difficult to get these bells if Lord Hesketh was in residence and coaches were definitely not allowed.

At Towcester an extremely light lunch of soup and sandwiches was taken, nowhere near the lunch we had the day before. Due to Towcester church being treated for death-watch beetle we were unable to ring there but instead went to Paulesbury a

good going heavy 6 and then the two 6s at Cold Higham and Patteshall were rung. Cold Higham are a similar ring to Littleham, but not as good. Friday our first tower was Flore a medium weight ring, again rehung by the writer some 45 years previously. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances we were not able to ring there. After a very good lunch at The Countryman at Staverton, this nice 6 was soon into changes and this was where four members of our party had to leave us. The last tower of the day was the glorious 10 at Daventry, these must have been the best bells of the tour.

Saturday dawned very wet, the only wet period we had as up until then the weather had been perfect, however by the time we had reached Moulton the rain stopped and the rest of the day was good.

This was a very light 12 and we were a little worried as to whether our members would cope but on the whole they did well with rounds and call changes. The last tower of the tour was the delightful 6 at Pitsford where some excellent striking rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable tour. Prior to departing our various ways a roast lunch was partaken, a good way to end the week.

Thanks were given on Thursday after our evening meal. Special thanks to Joan Clarke and Claude Nicholls who arranged the various teams for ringing, this ensured we wasted no time. To Steve our excellent coach driver and John Staddon for the navigation which meant we were always on time at the towers. Thanks were also expressed to the staff at The Whetstone Manor Hotel for looking after us so well. Grateful thanks must also go to the various incumbents for allowing us to ring at their churches, to the tower correspondents who arranged for us to ring and last but not least the ladies and gents who provided us with tea, coffee and biscuits. It was I can assure you very much appreciated by our members. I cannot finish before thanking the staff and management at Mid-Devon Coaches for providing us with good and comfortable coaches over the last 36 years. It was generally agreed that the churches in Northants, at least the ones we visited, are well maintained and well supported. We will remember our last tour with fond memories.

It is hoped that the Mid-Devon ringers Autumn Tours will continue as one of our members indicated that he would be willing to take the running of it, we will have to wait and hope.

As we have found out over the years of arranging these tours, all you need is good bells, good company, good food and accommodation and good beer. What more could you wish for.

Cheers one and all. Jean and Arthur Fidler. Anyone who has been on one of Arthur and Jean's trips will know how well organised they are and we are all indebted to be so well cared for, for the 36 trips. See the poem dedicated to Arthur and Jean on page 5.

John Staddon has agreed to continue the Autumn trip started by Arthur and Jean for the Mid Devon Ringers.

For more details of this year's trip please see the article that follows below.

A & J Autumn Trip for 2010

This will be to the Stratford upon Avon area from Monday 18th October to Friday the 22nd. The hotel will be Charlecote Pheasant Hotel in Stratford upon Avon. More details of the hotel see the website <http://www.foliohotels.com/charlecotepheasant/> The itinerary is provisional and the towers on Monday and Friday will depend upon the route taken. Tuesday we are planning on Newbold Pacey, Lighthorne, Wellesbourne, Sherbourne and Alveston. Wednesday, Warwick St Mary & St Nicholas, Leamington Spa, St Peter and Whitnash. Thursday will be considering Snitterfield, Clifford Chambers, Stratford upon Avon and Welford on Avon. The expected cost is £250 per person sharing or £274 single occupancy. Deposits of £25 pp will be required at the June meeting or send direct to John Staddon. Cheques payable to Ringkly Ringers.

Ringkly Holiday 2010

This year's holiday we will be staying at the Barnes Hotel, Bedford from 5th to 9th July. A provisional itinerary has been arranged as follows subject to confirmation. Monday - Malmesbury, Brinkworth & Woburn Tuesday - Renhold, Wilden, Gt Barford, Cople, Cardington, Willington and Goldington. Wednesday - Bedford, St Andrew, St Peter de Merton, St Paul and Elstow. Thursday - Kempston, Biddenham, Bromham, Oakley, Clapham Friday - Faringdon, Coleshill and Shillingford. Contact John Staddon for more details.

Ringkly Programme for 2010

Second Wednesday of each month

Month	Morning Tower	Afternoon Tower	Contact
June	Bridgerule	Marhamchurch	John O
July	Sampford Courtenay	Bow	Chris
August	Clovelly	Woolfardisworthy West	Claude
September	South Tawton	Belstone	Bob
October	TBA	TBA	Michael P
November	Salcombe	Malborough	John C
December	TBA	Christmas lunch	Ken

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 Association's website.

Mike Webster - 01803 782591.

West Buckland

On Friday August 7th 6 members of the Devon Association were proud to ring a muffled peal at West Buckland Parish Church at the funeral service of a 20 year old soldier, Christopher King, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. He had been killed by an explosive device on July 22nd and served with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. Outside work, he had a passion for his game keeping which helped in his Army field craft and he loved hardcore rave music, bikes and to go fishing. Secretary of State for Defence, Bob Ainsworth said: "In his short length of time in the Army, Guardsman Chris King proved himself to be a popular and very capable soldier with a bright career ahead of him. I was very saddened to hear of his death and my thoughts are with the family, friends and colleagues whom he leaves behind."

We rang a peal of sixty on thirds before and after the service

The team was: Treble Margaret White (Mortehoe), 2nd Peter Crook (West Buckland) 3rd Alfie Stevens (Bishops Tawton) 4th Fred White (Mortehoe) 5th Colin Dudley (Marwood) and Tenor Rupert Hartley (West Buckland)

He was given a full Military Funeral Service which was moving. Outside the church there were crowds of people who had come to pay their last respects to Christopher who had grown up in West Buckland. Margaret White.

Tribute at Blackawton

BLACKAWTON farmer Wilf Rowdon has been recognised for his amazing dedication to campanology – he has just celebrated 70 years of bell ringing.

Wilf was presented with a certificate to show the parish appreciation for his commitment to the church and its bells over the past seven decades by, appropriately enough, the Rev John Bell.

Beginning in April 1939 when he was just 13, Wilf was just into the swing of bell ringing when he had to stop – with the advent of the second world war.

'I remember ringing and being told to stop there and then,' he said. 'This man came up and told us "you can't ring when there's a war on" and we didn't. We rang the bells to celebrate its end more than five years later.

'I've loved ringing and getting better at all the different skills, like getting the tone of the bell absolutely right. The best days are when you are ringing for a special occasion, like a wedding. I've rung at the weddings of a few friends and that is very different – you are just determined to do a better job for them. I still love it now.'

The Rev Bell said: 'It's a vital art of village life and is wonderful for the church – it lets everyone know its there.

'We are delighted to recognise Wilf's wonderful achievement – the only bell he hasn't rung in Blackawton is me.'

Northampton trip in a poem

Arthur & Jean Fidler's Mid-Devon Ringers Outing

Northampton: 26 – 31 October 2009

A poem by Pat Whyatt

Summer over, weather dreary

Folks spirits dull and weary

When suddenly amongst the post

Arrives the letter we love most.

Aye, good news from Arthur and Jean

Northampton, this year, will be the scene.

But once more we've got the blues

As we read the extra news:

It's their final trip, so we're told

Cause Arthur & Jean are gettin' old.

Soon numbers going began to swell

Whether or not you could ring a bell;

Friends from long time ago

Promised they would join this show.

Thus ringers old, and ringers new

Joined with Arthur's motley crew.

So early morn, out in the sticks

Began this trip – No 36.

As usual, and with little fuss

Steve got folk aboard his bus.

Tom-Tom set, instructions imparted

The journey from Bow had now started.

At the lunchtime pub, the group did meet

With Arthur and Jean, me and Pete.

Tho' round Althorp we couldn't roam

We rang near the Spencer's home.

Aye, yon church bells sounded sweet

To ring there often would be a treat.

Things didn't go right at the hotel

As Harry and Ellen can surely tell:

They inserted their key - they didn't

knock!

Inside the room . . . what a shock!

The room a-mess, maybe burgled?

Bed unmade, their stomachs curdled.

Back at reception, a new room was given

One wardrobe door's missing,

so still isn't heaven!

Christine and Bill tho' were filled with

delight

As they cuddled up that very night.

But instead of fun and hugs and kisses

On the floor fell Bill and missus!

The mattress was lumpy, the bed was

broken

The facts of this matter remain unspoken.

But . . .

Did he take Viagra? Did she pop a pill?

Such secrets they just refuse to spill.

Harpole Church brought James to his

knees,

Inspecting the intricacies of trees.

At Earls Barton, Jeyes was THE store

Pharmacy, museum and gifts galore.

But Deathwatch Beetle in Towcester's

wood

Prevented ringing where we should.

An infestation really strong

So some Jeyes fluid wouldn't go wrong.

Paulerspury, our ladies were put to test

Could their team REALLY ring best?

Each stepped up, and clasped her rope,

Hearts a-beating, full of hope.

Some men looked on with serious frown,

Could the women be the best in town?

Well, ladies - you can heave a sigh:

Ringing skills reached standards high!

Some men have hinted 'twas pure luck

Ach! Some folk just won't give up!

At Weedon Bec, no bells did sound

No key-holder or key was found;

Chatting was the main distraction

But the canal proved a huge attraction.

To one barge owner some of us chatted

My eyelashes I fluttered and batted;

I guess I had no pride

But I only wanted a peep inside.

Well, he resisted this lassie's charm

But - Teresa's dad spun him a yarn!

Aboard John stepped - with a nod and a

wink

Oh! How I wish'd that barge would sink!

Steve, once more you've proved the best

Each day you've fully passed the test.

Some guys at the back just never listen

To departure times – so – they go missin'

But as a driver you're too kind

Hence none of them got left behind.

Well, this last trip won't be forgotten

Arthur and Jean you've spoiled us rotten

Ground floor ringing, with coffees and

tea

(And no need to hide behind a tree!).

Now words come with heavy heart

As once again we must depart;

To Arthur and Jean our thanks we convey

For a debt we can ne'er repay.

Each trip's memories we treasure,

Friendships made, ringing a pleasure.

I guess we'll all shed a tear

Knowing it's your final year.

So we hope it won't be too long

Before the Queen gives you a gong.

An **OBE** would only be fair

Organisers Bellringing Extraordinaire!

North Molton

FOR half a century Sid Rashley has been calling the changes as tower captain of the ringers at All Saints Church in North Molton.

Now at the age of 86, he has decided it is time "somebody younger took over".

His fellow ringers presented him with a silver salver to mark his retirement as tower captain.

But he will still remain a part of the bell ringing team.

Sid started ringing at All Saints Church at the age of 19, towards the end of the Second World War.

It was something of a family tradition as his father was a ringer for more than 60 years and captain as well in the latter years.

Sid said: "You don't get to be a good ringer for a couple of years and I think you are always learning after that."

The new captain of the team is Steve Facey and we wish him well.

North Molton has 6 bells and the tenor weighs 19 cwt.

National 12 Bell Contest, Crediton, June 26

Saturday June 26 promises to be a very special day in Devon ringing circles. Following on from such prestigious venues as St. Paul's Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral the 2010 final of the National Twelve Bell contest for the Taylor Trophy will take place on the lovely new twelve at Holy Cross, Crediton.

This annual Festival of ringing promises ringing of the highest standard and a great social occasion. Crediton ringers, along with members of Exeter Cathedral Company of ringers are preparing for an expected attendance of some 400 people and detailed planning has been in hand for several months. The nine top teams in the country, having triumphed in the eliminator competitions in London at the end of March, will be heading for Devon along with their supporters and many other interested spectators. It is hoped, and expected, that many Devon ringers will want to take the opportunity to come along and socialise and hear some top class ringing on this fine peal of bells.

The test piece this year is 264 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. The draw takes place in church at 11 a.m. and the first team start ringing at 11.30a.m.

15 minutes are allowed for practice and the judged piece starts at 15 minutes to the hour. Teams will then continue at 30 minute intervals until 4 p.m.

With some 400 visitors to accommodate considerable thought has been put into the provision of refreshment! All produce used will be local. The Beer Engine at Newton St. Cyres is to supply two real ales, one specific to the contest, and Devon scrumpy will be supplied from orchards at Sandford. These will be served from two separate outlets, a bar in the Boniface Centre adjacent to the church and in a beer tent, to be set up in the lower vicarage garden, adjacent to the car park, an excellent vantage point from where to hear the bells. Food will be supplied throughout the day. From 9 a.m. bacon butties, coffee etc will be available from the Boniface centre and the bars will open at 11.30 a.m. Lunch and snacks will be served in the Boniface centre and from a catering tent in the lower Vicarage garden. This will consist of local pasties, rolls and sandwiches with a variety of fillings

plus cakes, tea and coffee etc. Cream teas will be served in the Boniface Centre from 3 p.m.

At 5 p.m. the renowned Holy Cross choir will be singing evensong in the church and the judges should be ready to pronounce their judgements, followed by the trophy presentation at around 5.45 p.m. The bars will remain open until 7 p.m.

I hope I have whetted your appetite to come along and enjoy the atmosphere of what promises to be a very special ringing Festival. Car parking is limited to 70 cars in the church car park although there are plenty of other car parking spaces available within 10 minutes walk of the church. Public transport from Exeter is well served with buses every half an hour with a bus stop outside the church. There is also a less frequent train service from Exeter St. David's. See you there! HWE.

Congratulations to the Exeter Cathedral team who this year qualified to ring in the National 12 Bell Final Striking Competition. It has been 13 years since the Cathedral have qualified for the final and is an excellent achievement after several months of hard work and practice from the selected squad of 14.

The eliminators were held at three venues in London, with only the top three teams from each eliminator qualifying for the final.

The final has not been seen locally since it was held at Exeter Cathedral in 1994 and will be an excellent day out - a unique chance to hear the top 9 teams in the country producing some very high quality ringing throughout the day on this fine 26cwt ring of 12.

Full details of the arrangements of the day can be found on the 12 Bell web site <http://www.12bell.org.uk/> and be assured there will be plenty of good company, food and even a brand new real ale (as well as other favourites) to sample on the day - previous finals have consumed more than 1200 pints of ale on the day!!!!

The contest will be between the following nine teams who qualified at the eliminators - Ancient Society of College Youths, Birmingham, Cambridge, Exeter, Leeds, Melbourne, St Martin-in-the-Fields (London), Society of Royal Cumberland Youths & York.

Plymouth & Ivybridge

New year new start for Plymouth & Ivybridge Deanery!

The AGM was held in December 2009 at the Parish church of All Saints, Plymstock. One of the best attendances for a long time seeing no fewer than 16 out of 18 towers being represented! In recent years our Deanery has seen a downfall in towers being represented. We hope that the enthusiasm continues.

The members present at the AGM voted for a change of stewardship. Our past secretary Liz Price, who became ill, stood down and Neil Trout captain at Shaugh Prior and Bickleigh was appointed as secretary.

The new Chairman, Paul Treby of Plymstock succeeded Calvin Roberts of Wembury. We wish them both good luck for the future.

It was the turn of the Plymouth & Ivybridge Deanery to host the South Devon Ringers Association Inter Deanery competition for 2010 and two towers came forward. The first being Ermington and the reserve tower being Wembury. Ermington are very keen as a band and we wish them the best of luck in holding this event.

At the AGM Laura was proposed to host our deanery event to be held on the 1st Saturday in June. This will be the first time for St Mary the Virgin, Laura.

The church previously had a single bell by Llewellyns & James of Bristol which was sold to Kirkby Malham in Yorkshire to become part of a new ring of six. A completely new Whitechapel eight was supplied and installed by Nicholson Engineering. The peal of 8 bells were dedicated in 2001. The deanery will be using the back 6 bells on the day, the tenor weighs 11-0-6 in G.

Other news is that the beautiful Taylor Octave at Plympton St Maurice were out of action due to an accident from a visiting band that had forgotten to pull the clock hammers off.

This caused severe damage to the clock hammers and to one part of the frame, the project to restore and repair the above has been undertaken by Andrew Nicholson and the bells should be available for ringing again soon.

Atherington set to ring

Atherington were challenged to raise £90,000 to get their peal of bells ringing again. Nearly 10 years and having raised more than £100,000 the six bells are ready for St Mary's Church.

The aim was to restore the bells, after five bells were removed in the mid-1980s because of the strain on the tower. The tenor remained in the tower.

Rev John Carvosso, said: "Something was missing without the bells, and so the project was started. It seemed an impossible task at the start, with such a daunting amount of money to raise. But we kept up our enthusiasm and are now just months away from completion."

The highlight for the team has been the past year, with the tower now fully restored and the five bells hung back in place in December 2009.

Mr Carvosso said: "It now seems my wish to see the bells ringing next summer, when I retire, is going to happen. I'm so lucky to have seen it through. The bells must stand for six months before any ringing can restart. So many people who live here have never heard the bells before. It will be quite an historical moment, after 30 years of silence."

Chris Hart, who runs the Village Shoppe and Post Office, said: "It is a very exciting time for us. There has been a lot of sup-

port for this, and the fundraising efforts by everyone involved have been amazing. It was always going to be tough raising the money but we knew it would happen eventually."

The final target is £116,000, with only £10,000 left to secure. More than £30,000 has been raised through personal donations, as well as £2,500 contributed from 35 bell towers across Devon.

Mr Carvosso said: "I am confident we will get there in the end. We will have a big thanksgiving mass, and invite all those who have helped us in our project."

To make donations please phone John Carvosso on 01271 343774.

DCBRF Report for Association AGM

During 2009 the Fund has been involved with 17 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. Several of these have been quite major schemes, such that in order to make meaningful grants the Fund's resources are now at quite a low ebb. Clearly we cannot offer more funds than we have at our disposal, and in some instances we have been unable to offer as much help as we would have liked. 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. There has been one change in personnel this year with John Barnes joining us as trustee following the resignation of Mervyn Phillips. Mervyn had served as trustee for 28 years, attending 30 meetings. At the beginning of the year the Fund stood at **£27,433**. Since that time two grants totalling **£6,300** have been paid. These were **£300** to Berrynarbor for the repair of a broken gudgeon on the tenor headstock, and **£6,000** to Berry Pomeroy for retuning and rehangng with new fittings in the existing frame, the oak sub-frame being replaced with one of steel. Income during the year has amounted to **£9,268**, including **£1,000** from the Guild as agreed at their AGM in June, a further **£1,000** from **Peal and Quarter Peal ringers** and **personal donations**, **£4,200** from the **Association** following the **Annual Draw**, **£500** from sales of **Devon Directories**, **£312** from the **Guild Branches**, **£330** from the **competition in July** organized by Graham Sharland in aid of the BRF, **£300** from the **Troyte Ringing Centre**, **£300** from the **Ottery St Mary ringers**, **£200** from the **St Brannock's Society**, and **£100** each from the **St Marychurch ringers** and the **NAIT Bellringers Association**, tax refunds following gift-aided donations and investment income making up the balance. At present the Fund stands at **£30,817**. Grants agreed this year include **£450** to **Chagford** towards alterations to the rope-circle, including a new rope guide and the insertion of new pulleys in the intermediate chamber; **£6,500** to **Stoke Canon** towards recasting the treble, 2nd and 3rd bells, replacing the 5th, and rehangng in a new frame with all new fittings; and **£4,000** to **Atherington** towards the rehangng of the six bells in a new frame with all new fittings. At this morning's meeting the following grants were agreed:

Stoodleigh £5,000.
Kilmington £850.
Sheepstor £2,800.
Dodbrooke £3,200.
Meavy £280.

Approaches for assistance have also been received from Hawkchurch, Brentor and Coffinswell, though as yet no formal grant applications have been received. Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the Fund is currently over committed by the sum of **£443**.

IVJS November 2009

President - John Kelly BEM

John Kelly was born 18 September 1935 at Devon Constabulary HQ, New North Road, Exeter son of PC Kelly who in 1937 became the first Civil Defence Sergeant in the Devon Constabulary at its Headquarters.

John was at Honiton from 1938 to 1946 when the family moved to Moretonhampstead. John missed the 11+ and went to Chagford Secondary Modern School for the remainder of his schooling. His father was then posted to Torquay and John worked for Eric Perry, a Rootes Distributor in Torwood Street from April 1951. John had National Service from 1954 to 1956. He was in the REME and attached to the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment as a recovery mechanic driving Centurion Armoured recovery vehicles in Germany. John was recalled from August 1956 to December 1956 because of the Suez crisis and was in Mill Hill as a Recovery Mechanic.

It was John's skills working in the garage and in the Army that prompted a ringer to suggest to John that he considers working for the Gas Board as a driver. John started working for the Gas Board in August 1959 and retired in October 1993 as a gas distribution supervisor.

John was taught to ring at Moretonhampstead in 1948 and when his father was posted to Torquay he visited Upton and Cockington where he met some Paignton ringers who encouraged him to continue with his ringing and he joined Paignton in 1952 and has been Captain at Paignton since 1958.

John started handbell ringing raising money for Dame Hannah Rogers Trust in 1956. This was started by John Lippiett in 1955 and John has supported Dame Hannah Rogers Trust in hand bell ringing as well as other charities since then.

John was also a Special Constable from 1959 to 1991 and retired as a Sergeant. John married Jenny in September 1967 who started ringing at Paignton in 1957. Jenny died in May 2003 having had two daughters and a son. John Richard is now a Manager at Kevin Cooper and is currently at the new Brixham store. Tracey is a Science Teacher at Westlands and has two children and Louise is in New Zealand where she is a manager.

In 1991 John was presented with the British Empire Medal for services to the Community. John had long service with the Gas Board, had been raising money for charities continually from 1956. Had been a regular ringer and a special constable and a volunteer with the Paignton to Dartmouth Steam Railway since 1968 where he is still a guard and signaller at Brittainia Crossing and had been regularly inspecting the line up to 2009.

John still finds time for special interests and one of these is Paddle Steamers of the Bristol Channel. John is also well travelled and trains and bells figure in all of these. His travels have been to Canada where he travelled across from West to East and in USA East Coast to West Coast.

He has been to Australia, Perth to Sydney, also New Zealand and to Europe where he has numerous footplate experiences and has driven Steam and Diesel Engines.

John has rung the Swan Bells of Perth a set of eighteen bells hanging in a specially built 82.5 metres (271 ft)-high copper and glass campanile in Perth, Western Australia. Taking their name from the Swan River, which their tower overlooks, and forming a sixteen-bell peal with two extra chromatic notes, they are one of the largest sets of change ringing bells in the world. Ringing exhibitions are given daily so visiting ringers are always welcome.

It was in New Zealand that John was made to feel very comfortable by the method ringers whilst ringing at Christchurch Cathedral and at Auckland.

A memorable occasion for John is winning the Devon Association 6 Bell Minor Competition held at Littleham in May 2003. The significance is that this was three days before his wife's funeral and it was a fitting tribute to his wife.

A pleasant occasion was at Langtree when John rang with Stoke Gabriel and the team came fourth in Devon Association 6 bell Major Competition. John's grandfather had been a school master at the Primary School there during the First World War and he later was headmaster at Exminster until his retirement in 1947. John thanks all of his friends in bell ringing and the Dartmouth Steam railway. It has been a blessing that they have all been good and kind to him and kept him very busy since he lost Jenny. He realises that he cannot do everything but thanks everyone who has been thoughtful and asked. John has packed a lot into his life and despite illnesses and getting older, he says that he may be slowing up a bit but has a lot more to do. He has regular striking competitions to look forward, new recruits to encourage and feels privileged that he is the President of the Association. The only disappointment is that he was unable to make the Devon 8 Bell competition due to a pre booked Steam Railway Holiday in North Wales that weekend. John takes his role very seriously and intends to attend as many events as is possible.

Kenton Open Day on BBC Devon Website

Kenton has secured a mention on the BBC Devon web site and held an open morning in the tower at the end of November to encourage more people to learn. Someone came to make a recording and to be added to the article. It is as we know a cultural activity in Devon and should, I think, feature more prominently. Following the radio broadcast on Radio Devon and our open morning, we have had 3 new people come to the tower and expressed an interest. It would be good to know over time if it has had an effect on recruitment elsewhere. Mike Adams.

Results

NAIT Ringing Festival held at Brixham on 24 October 2009

1. Ipplepen	27 ¾
2. Paignton A	29 ¼
3. Upton	35 ½
4. Paignton B	66

Judge: John Kelly BEM

The first two teams qualify for the Inter Deanery Competition 2010.

Congratulations to Vashti Wilks and her son, Sam, who rang for Paignton B and won the Frank Cribbitt cup.

This was the first competition peal for both Vashti and Sam.

St. Giles In The Wood Competition Saturday, October 31. 2009

A Section

Zeal Monachorum	12½
Egg Buckland	14½
South Brent	20½
Burrington	42½
Iddesleigh	8½

B Section

Monkleigh B	30½
Monkleigh A	46½
Dolton	65
East Anstey	66½
Dowland	88
Sampford Courtenay	96½
Mariansleigh	NR

Tawstock 7th November 2009.

1st Kingsteignton	41	(20) Top
2nd Exeter Cathedral	53	(29)
3rd High Bickington	62	(34)
4th Chittlehampton	70	(45)
5th Paignton	77	(47)
6th Exeter St Petrock	87	(46)
7th Kingsteignton B	108	(65)
8th West Alvington	157	(68)

Judges: Mary Mears, Cedric Hocking & Maurice Sharland.

Monkleigh on 7th November 2009

Open Section

1. Morteohoe	29
2. Burrington	32
3. Lamerton	37
4. Down St.Mary	41
5. South Brent	55
6. Kingsteignton	55 ½
7. Zeal Monachorum	56
8. Holbeton	64
9. East Anstey	73 ½
10. Bow	152
11. Mariansleigh	153

Local Section

1. Littleham	24 ½
2. Monkleigh	54 ¼
3. Little Torrington	66 ¾
4. Monkleigh	70
5. Iddesleigh	100 ½
6. Monkleigh	124 ½

Judges : Helen Robinson & J. Wickett

Thank you to all seventeen teams that entered. It was great to have four teams who entered our competition for the first time. Thanks to everyone who played a key part towards making it a successful day, particularly our judges plus Lewis, Heather, Kathy, Barbara, Brian, Ivan, Jonathan, James and John, a great team effort. The money raised will be placed in the ringers account to purchase new ropes etc. when they are required.

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 4 First Rd at Bradford - 11th Nov 2009

Monkleigh "B"	54
Bridgerule	78
Monkleigh "C"	107
Bradford	155

Judge : Raymond Clements

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 3 First Rd at Pyworthy - 25th Nov 2009

Monkleigh "A"	51
Pyworthy	103
Morwenstow	120

Judge : Raymond Clements

Stratton on 28 November 2009

8 Bell

1. Chittlehampton	29 ½
2. Paignton	31
3. St Columb Major A	34 ½
4. Exminster	38 ½
5. Broadhempston	55
6. South Brent	55 ½
7. St Columb Major B	57 ½

6 Bell – A Section

1. St Petrock	24
2. Broadhempston	31 ½
3. Lamerton	35 ½
4. Holbeton	43
5. Chittlehampton	46
6. South Brent	69

6 Bell – B Section

1. Black Torrington	39 ½
2. Bridgerule	85
3. Monkleigh	103

Judges: Brian Drake and Mervyn Way

Kilkhampton on 28 November 2009

8 Bell

1. St Columb Major A	45 ½
2. Paignton	53 ¾
3. Chittlehampton	56
4. St Columb Major B	72 ½
5. Exminster	74
6. Broadhempston	89 ½
7. South Brent	98 ½

Judge: James Clarke

6 Bell – A Section

1. Chittlehampton	30 ½
2. Lamerton	30 ¾
3. St Petrock	34
4. Broadhempston	42 ½
5. Holbeton	51
6. Alphington	56 ¼
7. South Brent	61 ½

6 Bell – B Section

1. Monkleigh	58 ¾
2. Black Torrington	83 ¼
3. Bridgerule	83 ½

Judges: Helen Robinson & J Wickett

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 4 Second Rd at Bridgerule 2 Dec 2009

Monkleigh "B"	55 ½
Bridgerule	74
Monkleigh "C"	102
Bradford	196

Judge : Raymond Clements

Totnes Deanery Winter League held at Marldon on 5 Dec 09

1. Stoke Gabriel	54 ½
2. South Brent A	56 ½
3. Broadhempston A	62
4. South Brent B	67 ½

5. South Brent C	86 ½
6. Broadhempston B	107
7. Broadhempston C	123

Top Ringing Section

1. Marldon	58 ½
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Judges: John Dietz and Sue Husband

John Cornish Memorial Competition - Kilkhampton, 16th January 2010

"A" Section

Burrington	23
Exeter St.Petrock	40 ¾
Morteohoe	45

"B" Section

Monkleigh	66 ½
Bridgerule	78
Monkleigh	96 ¼
Kilkhampton	113
Morwenstow	139

Judges : Helen Robinson & J Wickett

Cadbury Deanery Festival held at Sandford on 21st January 2010

Down St Mary	29 ½
Zeal Monachorum	40 ½
Sandford	42 ½
Bow	53
Lapford	55

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 4

Third Rd at Monkleigh 29 January 2010

Monkleigh "B"	70
Bridgerule	81
Bradford	120

Judge : Clive R. Ward

Totnes Winter League held at South Brent on 6 February 2010.

1. Broadhempston A	25 ½
2. South Brent A	29
3. South Brent B	35
4. Stoke Gabriel	40
5. South Brent C	44
6. Broadhempston C	82
7. Broadhempston B	94

Judges: Harry Bardens and John Dietz.

NAIT top ringing at Babbacombe, Cof-finswell and Upton on 12 Feb 2010

1. Paignton B	121 ½
2. Upton	126
3. Kingskerwell	131 ½
4. Ipplepen	135 ½
5. Paignton A	198

Results of the Devon Ringers' Council 10 Bell Competition held at St Mary-church on 20 February 2010

1. Exeter Cathedral	30 ½
2. Wednesday Team 1	32
3. Quarter Peal Ringers	33
4. Wednesday Team 2	37
5. Exeter Branch	41 ½

Judges: Mary Mears and Mervyn Way.

The Devon Ringers' Council are happy to run this as an annual competition in memory of John Scott and Frank Mack.

The date of the next competition will be Saturday 19 February 2011 starting at 10:30. Venue to be decided.

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 3
Second Rd at Morwenstow 2 Mar 2010
Morwenstow 80
Monkleigh "A" 85
Pyworthy 134 ½
Judge : Lester Quance

Results from the Devon Association
Novice Competitions held at Sandford
on 13 March 2010

Round Ringing Section

1. Chagford	21 ½
2. Exminster	27 ½
3. Dartmouth B	29 ¾
4. Dartmouth A	31 ¼

Half a competition peal (60 on 3rds).

1. Upton	21
2. Sandford	35
3. Salcombe	35
4. Chagford B	35 ½
5. South Tawton	36 ½
6. Broadhempston	38 ¼
7. Dartmouth	38 ¾
8. South Pool	39 ¾
9. Chagford A	40 ½
10. Exeter St David	42 ½
11. Lynton	45
12. Chivelstone	46 ¼

Judges: Scott Adams, Chris Clayton,
Steven Herniman and James Kerslake

Cadbury Deanery Winter League held
at Bow & final results. March 18. 2010

Down St. Mary
Zeal Monachorum
Bow
Sandford
Lapford

Final Winter League Results:

Main Section

Down St. Mary	34
Zeal Monachorum	28
Bow	19
Sandford	18
Lapford	17

Intermediate Section

Zeal Monachorum
Sandford A
Bow
Sandford B

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Group 3
Third Rd at Monkleigh 22 March 2010
Monkleigh 68
Morwenstow 122
Pyworthy 128
Judge : Lester Quance

Ring off at Monkleigh 22 March 2010
Monkleigh "B" 67
Monkleigh "A" 68
Judge : Lester Quance

Totnes Deanery Winter League held at
Stoke Gabriel on 27 March 2010

1. Stoke Gabriel	30 1/2
2. Broadhempston	39
3. South Brent A	45
4. South Brent B	75
5. Broadhempston C	90
6. Broadhempston B	104

Judges: Colin and Lee Avery

Overall results of the Totnes Deanery
Winter League.

Higher the points the better.

1. South Brent	30
2. Broadhempston A	27
3. Stoke Gabriel	25
4. South Brent B	21
5. South Brent C	13
6. Broadhempston C	9
7. Broadhempston B	8

Tamar Valley Winter Knockout - Final at
Poughill - 10th April 2010

"A" Section

1. Littleham	32 ¼
2. Bridgerule	62 ¼
3. Lamerton	72 ½
4. Monkleigh	88

"B" Section

1. Black Torrington	34 ½
2. Monkleigh	50 ½
3. Petersmarland	87 ¾
4. Morwenstow	145

Open Section

1. Burrington	42 ½
2. Littleham	54 ¾
3. Pick up Team	68 ¾
4. Lamerton	81 ¼

Judge : Steve Facey

Competition at Ide on 10 April 2010

A Section

1. Kingsteignton	24 ½
2. Exminster	28
3. South Brent A	29 ½
4. Egguckland	36
5. Burrington	41 ½
6. Stoke Gabriel	50
7. Holbeton	53
8. North Bovey	55 ½

B Section

1. West Down	62
2. Down St Mary	64 ½
3. Alphington	73 ½
4. Spreyton	85 ½
5. Widecombe in the Moor	93
6. Sampford Courtenay	117
7. St David's Exeter	148

Judges: John Coulthirst & Percy Pester

Interdeanery Competition held at
Ermington on 17 April 2010

1. Egguckland	29
2. South Brent	33
3. Dunsford	38
4. Exminster	46
5. Plymstock	48 ½
6. Modbury	62
7. West Alvington	67 ½
8. Stoke Gabriel	69
9. Widecombe in the Moor	87
10. North Bovey	94

Best Deanery - Plymouth and Ivybridge

Judges: Mary Mears and Ian Avery

Devon 8 Bell Competition held at Great
Torrington on 24 April 2010

1. Kingsteignton	13
2. Exminster	26 ½
3. Chittlehampton	28
4. Exeter Cathedral	31 ¾
5. High Bickington A	37 ¾
6. Plymstock	42
7. High Bickington B	43 ¾
8. Tavistock	45
9. Paignton	57 ½

10. South Molton NR
Top Ringing winners Kingsteignton 6 ¾
Judges: Ian Avery, Brian Drake, Neil
Holloway and Barry Osborne
Scrutineer: Janice Gist.

Charles Moss Memorial Trophy held at
Throwleigh on 24th April

1. Down St Mary	47 ½
2. South Tawton A	49 ½
3. North Bovey	58 ½
4. East Anstey	59 ½
5. Sandford	67 ½
6. Bow	68
7. Zeal Monachorum	72
8. Chagford	78 ½
9. South Tawton B	83 ½

Judges: P Pester, J Coulthirst

Woodleigh Deanery Annual Competi-
tion held at Dodbrooke on 1 May 2010

JUNIOR SECTION

1st Malborough	47
2nd South Milton A	55 ½
3rd South Pool	61
4th South Milton B	69
5th Dodbrooke	73
6th Galmpton	82
7th Sherford	84 ½
8th Chivelstone	85
9th Stokenham	127
Ladies Team	86

SENIOR SECTION

1st West Alvington	50
2nd Modbury B	61
3rd Loddiswell	70
4th Churchstow	96
5th Modbury A	104
6th Salcombe	131

Woodleigh Deanery Bellringers held
their annual Competition on the recent-
ly refurbished bells of Dodbrooke on
Saturday 1st May. After the service 16
teams rang and kept the judges Colin &
Lee Avery gainfully employed. Thanks to
everyone at Dodbrooke for a really en-
joyable day.

We were sorry that our Hon. Sec., Jack
Rhymes was absent owing to illness and
we send him our best wishes!

Totnes Deanery Competition held at
Diptford on 1 May 2010.

1. South Brent A	27 ¾
2. Stoke Gabriel A	38 ¼
3. Stoke Gabriel B	53 ¼
4. South Brent B	70 ½
5. South Brent C	75 ½
6. Broadhempston A	97 ¾
7. Broadhempston B	111 ¾

Judges: M Sharland and Roger Trout
The first two teams go forward for the
Interdeanery Competition 2011.

Devon Association 6 Bell South Qualifi-
er held at Slapton on 8 May 2010

1. Egguckland	19 ½
2. Exeter St Petrock	24 ½
3. South Brent A	32
4. Stoke Gabriel	38 ¾
5. West Alvington	39
6. Lamerton	44 ½
7. Holbeton	78 ¼
8. Ide	115
9. South Brent B	116 ½

Results - continued

10. Chivelstone 156
Judges: Ian Avery, Sue Husband, Mary Mears and Martin Sharland
Scrutineer: John Cole

Results from the Devon Association 6 Bell North Qualifier held at Bow on 8 May 2010

1. Burrington 20
2. Down St Mary 23
3. Mortehoe 25 ½
4. Littleham 26 ¼
5. South Tawton 28 ¾
6. West Down 29 ¼
7. Iddesleigh 37 ½
8. Drewsteignton 50 ¼
9. Zeal Monachorum 61
10. East Anstey 64 ½

Judges: Brian Drake Ivor Hookway, Michael Poole and Mervyn Way
Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott

Ladder – Courtesy of James Kerslake
The final results 30 Mar 2010
9.0 pts - South Brent
6.0 pts - Exminster
5.5 pts - Dunsford*
5.5 pts - Burrington A*

* The tie breaker for the equal points is first the result between the two teams (in this case it was a draw), followed by the total number of faults scored, the lower fault total placing higher (Dunsford - 116.5, Burrington - 160.5). If there is still a tie the final places are decided by the drawing of lots. The results were as follows (points gained shown in brackets):

South Brent	52 (3)	v	Exminster	74 (2)
Burrington A	38 (2.5)	v	Dunsford	38 (2.5)
South Brent	14.75 (3)	v	Dunsford	36.50 (0)
Exminster	66.5 (3)	v	Burrington A	70.5 (2)
South Brent	31 (3)	v	Burrington A	52 (1)
Dunsford	42 (3)	v	Exminster	74 (1)

Result from Group 2 of the Ringing Ladder rung at Dunsford on 24 Nov 2009.
Kingsteignton 26 (3)
Zeal Monachorum 43 ½ (1)
Judges; Michael Poole & M Sharland
Ringing Ladder group 3 result held at Zeal Monachorum on 29th March 2010
Exeter St David 110 (2)
Burrington B 84 (3)
Judge: Scott Adams
Ringing Ladder Group 4 : North
Inwardleigh, 16th November 2009
Lamerton 44 ¼ Monkleigh 51 ¼
Judges John Wickett & Helen Robinson
Ringing Ladder - Group 4 : North
Broadwoodkelly - 15th March 2010
Monkleigh 46 ½ Sampford Courtenay 65 ½
Judge : Raymond Clements

Ringling Ladder Update-March 2010

Twelve months ago the first round of the Ringing Ladder started, so this is probably a good time to bring you up to date with proceedings and plans for the future. There was a good response from 16 towers wishing to participate ringing the full

peal with rise and fall, 8 ringing the full peal off the stays and 6 opting for the round ringing section.

Many teams seemed to have great difficulty in getting together to ring their fixtures and many were unfinished by the end of June many. The deadline was extended to the end of August but only Group 1 completed their fixtures with Burrington coming out on top.

An e-mail was sent to all the towers asking for feedback and interest in joining in the next round but there was only one reply! In September 2009 the second round was started with 18 teams involved ringing the full peal. The plan was to have all fixtures rung by Christmas but by February there were still plenty to be rung!

I guess it is a sign of the times that it is so difficult to get 12 ringers together on one night in the month. Those that have managed to ring say they enjoy the format and the opportunity to ring against another team of a similar standard and they wish more teams would give it a go.

With regards to the future of the Ringing Ladder, it will continue as long as there teams to participate. It doesn't really matter if it takes six weeks or six months to complete a round, but it would be nice to keep it rolling and complete three round each year.

So the next round will start at the beginning of May with fixtures to be completed by the end of August and this time any results that are not in by then will be subject to a pools panel type decision and points awarded accordingly. This way we will be able to start the following promptly in September.

If you wish to catch up with results and the standings in the group tables please look at James Kerslake's excellent website at [[www](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[dot](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[myconid](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[dot](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[co](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[dot](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] [[uk](http://www.myconid.co.uk)] and click on 'Ladder'.

Any tower interested in joining the Ringing Ladder or requiring more information regarding the format please e-mail on [ringingladder\[at\]devonbells\[dot\]co\[dot\]uk](mailto:ringingladder@devonbells.co.uk) or phone Graham Sharland.

Devon County Show 2010

After last year's success the Devon Churches have asked the Ringers' Council if they would like to join them on their stand for 2010. The display last year of ringing attracted many more people to the Churches stand. If you do wish to take part or have any queries please contact Ian Avery who has been asked to co-ordinate the event again. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the public what happens in a ringing chamber and belfry. The Devon County Show this year will run from 20 to 22 May. There will be more than 7,000 animals, 200 stables, 572 cattle stalls, 200 pig pens and 817 sheep pens (2,018 hurdles and pins). There are lots of new attractions this year to ensure visitors find plenty of interest.

Crumbling Tower at Totnes

So far only small sections of masonry have broken free from the tracery below the window, high up in the tower causing a danger to people walking by the tower. But Totnes Rector, the Rev Julian Ould, said even a small piece could be a hazard so we have locked the gate and sealed off that area. St Mary's Church was built in 1450 and is known for its distinctive red sandstone tower.

The church is planning to spend some £11,000 on making sure all the statues etc around the tower are safe and the tower would have been shrouded by scaffolding in the very near future while that work is carried out.

Mr Ould said he knew the tracery around the window was getting into a dangerous state. He had it assessed and at that time there was no danger of it falling. He thinks the recent bad weather with the severe frosts may have added to the erosion. The Totnes crumbling church bell tower has been made safer thanks to a team of abseiling experts. A team of conservators abseiled down the tower to check the extent of the damage. They have put up nearly invisible netting around a window, to stop more pieces falling to the ground. The work means that the churchyard can now be reopened and the church's bell ringers can return as there was a fear that ringing would cause more masonry to fall.

Lynton now ringing

Right up on the north coast is the little town of Lynton with the church of St Mary, probably commanding one of the best views from any churchyard in Devon. In September 2008 we had a call from Trish Morgan, the captain of the Lynton Ringers, saying that they were struggling with their ringing and could we possibly give them a hand?

We went and helped them - they are such a nice crowd that we are travelling over there quite regularly!

The six ringers are Anne and Tony Piper, Dave Austin, Ian Reynolds, Trish Morgan and Frances. Due to other commitments Trish and Frances have difficulty attending often. The team is doing very well and are now ringing for Sunday services and weddings. They also entered the novice competition at Sandford this March and on the day they did not perform as well as we know they can do.

Although Fred and I have been going out there regularly to give them a hand, we have also called upon the help of David Trist, the Association Training Officer and also Tony Jeffery, and John Conibear who have kindly offered to help with this new team.

Lynton practice regularly on a Monday night from 7pm to around 8:30. If anyone is in the area, you would be assured of a very warm welcome. Please telephone to check that ringing will take place. Margaret and Fred White.

Sampford Courtenay Bells

Towards the end of 2007 the idea of re-hanging the peal of six bells was discussed and became something which must be done. The bells had had their last major overhaul, with a new frame by "Stokes of Woodbury" in 1905, when the tenor was recast by Taylor's. In 1970 Arthur Fidler had replaced the old plain bearings with new ball bearings, with the addition of new rope pulleys. Other than that the bells were much the same as when rehung in 1905. In 1970, Arthur had written in his report, that as and when money became available, the bells needed a complete overhaul as much more needed to be done. This was then the situation in 2007 with the bells becoming harder to ring and not easy to teach on, due to the position of some of the ropes. Inspection reports and quotes were sought from bell hangers and the advice of the Diocesan Bell Advisor James Clarke was sought. James was very sympathetic towards our aims and his advice and help throughout was much appreciated. In April 2008 a report was submitted to St Andrews PCC and permission to proceed was requested. This was wholeheartedly given, with the proviso that no cost should fall on the Church Authorities unless absolutely necessary. This had been anticipated so was not unexpected. A fund raising sub committee was immediately formed. It comprised of four members who were to give wholehearted support to the project. Myself, Chris Clayton, Bell Captain and Chairman, Terry Bullworthy, bell ringer and Chairman of an engineering company, Malcolm Craig, Church Warden and bell ringer and Chris Owen, Church Treasurer. At our first meeting we decided to name the project after Kate Dean, daughter of Bishop Mortimer a former Bishop of Exeter, who had agreed to be our fund raiser, but sadly died of cancer after our inaugural meeting. To decide on the preferred contractor a comparison was done by the engineer Terry Bullworthy of the technical merits and costs of the quotes. We agreed that, although not the cheapest, Whitechapel Bell foundry was the contractor which would supply all our needs and that together with all the associated works which needed doing, a budget of £45,000 was approved. Besides a Church Faculty which is of course essential, an application pack was needed to send to all sources of funding. The pack consisted of a project justification sheet, a description of the church and its activities, details and a history of the bells kindly written by James Clarke, a financial statement which was updated as necessary, sometimes photographs of the old bells where requested and an individual letter for each application. Funds were sought and raised from every source, with each member of the committee having different areas of responsibility. Some £6,000 was raised from village events, £4,000 from individuals and Devon Bell Towers. Charitable organisations found on the internet raised much more and the Devon Bell Restoration Fund was very generous. Every possible source of funding was approached. A "Heritage Lottery Fund" grant was applied for. We found this to be very bureaucratic and time consuming. It is probable, that given

time and much more work, a grant would have been forthcoming. The money is there, you just need patience and plenty of time to obtain it. In the end we gave up on it and raised the money by other means. A decision we have not regretted! Regular bi-monthly meetings of the committee were held and each member gave an update as to the progress on their areas of responsibility. The PCC was informed of the progress of the fund and approval sought for each aspect of the work involved. In July of 2009 the bells were removed from the tower and taken to Whitechapel. The original quote was for the bells to be ringing again by Christmas of that year, but due to unforeseen circumstances and with our approval, the return date was fixed for January 2010. The bells are now back and we are very pleased with the result. In the ringing chamber we have new ropes and a correct rope circle. There is also a replacement case for the chiming apparatus. On the next floor the ropes drop down straight from the floor above. The old trap door which was always raised to allow for sound is now shut. Above, in the clock chamber, three ropes drop straight from the bells above. The other three are slightly pulled into position but have new ground pulleys and chutes as a guide. Half the old floor has been taken up and replaced by a new heavy duty galvanised grid. This allows much more sound down and allows for better sound control. In the Belfry, the old bells and frame remain but with all new fixtures and fittings. The tenor has a cast iron headstock, this was cast with no canons. The other five have new canon retaining headstocks of galvanised steel construction, there being an almost blanket ban on the removal of canons in Devon. All the other fittings are new, the bells swing on maintenance free bearings which are bolted on to heavy duty steel bed plates which in turn are cut into and bolted dead level on the frame. All new chiming apparatus and new a clock hammer complete a first class undertaking and our thanks must go to the bell foundry and the two bell hangers who have completed the work. The final sum for the project is £52,000 and all but a few hundred has been raised in the two years from the initial meeting. The Bishop of Exeter has agreed to rededicate the bells on Sunday 13th June at an 11am service. This will be followed by refreshments in the Church Rooms. We would like as many of our contributors as possible to attend. More information will be available on the Devon web site in due course. Chris Clayton

Novice Competition at Sandford

The weather could not have been better for early March for our novice competition this year held at Sandford on Saturday March 13th. We were lucky to have both our president and treasurer with us John Kelly and John Barnes. We had 4 teams entered for the round ringing and 12 teams for the change ringing. We started the afternoon at 1pm with the draw for the round ringing – pulling them out from stay and ringing rounds for 5 minutes. Our judges were Chris Clayton, Steve Herniman, Scott Adams and our other assistant secretary from the South James Kerlake. At approx 2 pm we had the Service which was really good with most teams coming along, and I thought the singing was extremely good as it always is at our Association Services. We then had the results for the T H Priddle Shield (the round ringing). The results were 1st Chagford 21 ½, 2nd Exminster 27 ½, 3rd Dartmouth B 29 ¾, 4th Dartmouth A 31¼. We then made the draw for the change ringing where the teams pulled them out from the stay and rang either the first or second half of 60 on thirds for 10 mins or less. The ladies of Sandford provided us with a lovely tea which was "rolling along" all afternoon from 3pm. The weather was beautiful for early March and teams could be found sat in the church yard listening to the ringing and taking advantage of the warm sunshine. There was a wonderful atmosphere for the whole event. We had a very brief stop for the judges to enable them to have a 10 min break to refresh their pencils. By about 6pm teams were gathered for the results in the church. After a few thanks to the Rector for taking the service, the Sandford ringers for inviting us to hold our competition on their bells, the tea ladies for the wonderful spread and for our four judges for giving up so much time. I gave a special mention to Richard and Catherine, two young helpers from Sandford, who had been busy selling draw tickets all afternoon. Chris Clayton then gave the results. In first place and winning the P Rice Shield was Upton with 21 faults, 2nd Sandford 35 faults, 3rd Salcombe 35 faults. 4th Chagford B 35 ½, 5th South Tawton 36 ½, 6th Broadhempston A 38 ½, 7th Dartmouth 38 ¾, 8th South Pool 39 ¾, 9th Chagford A 40 ½, 10th Exeter St David 32 ¼, 11th Lynton 45, 12th Chivelstone 46 ¼. Upton and Sandford will now go on to the minor final at Ilsington on Sat May 22nd. In conclusion I thought the standard of the ringing this afternoon was very good. And thought it was an excellent afternoon. It was great to see so many new teams and faces around. Congratulations to the winners and all teams that took part. Keep it up. Other ringers are warmly invited to attend this competition and the church service. See you next year!
Margaret White

AGM Notice

The AGM will be held on Saturday 13 November 2010 at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm. The annual affiliation fees for 2010/11 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.

Thurlestone Open Day

Janet Osler has stated that Thurlestone will have an open day on Saturday 5 June and ringers are warmly invited. There will be open ringing from 3pm until 5pm. Thurlestone bells have not been rung on a regular basis recently and the opportunity has been taken to refurbish the ringing chamber where Julian Tregellis has taken a leading role. It is hoped that the Open Day will be supported and especially by ringers.

Devon Ringers' Carol Service

The Carol Service will be organised by Ian Avery and is likely to be held on 18 December 2010 at 3pm. Further details will be provided when the venue has been confirmed.

Bells on BBC Radio Devon

The Devon Ringers Council recently received a letter informing them that Bells were now Broadcast on Radio Cornwall on Sunday Mornings and asked if we could look into the possibility of BBC Radio Devon doing the same. An approach was made to Pippa Quelch in Plymouth who presents Good Morning Devon on Sundays and she very quickly replied to say that they would be delighted to do likewise. So now you can tune in to BBC Radio Devon between 6.30 and 8.30 on a Sunday Morning and hear a clip of different Bells from around Devon each week at about 7.53.

Proposed Bell

Maintenance Advice Session.

An invitation from James Clarke, Bells Advisor to The Exeter Diocesan Advisory Committee.

It is my intention to arrange a Saturday morning instruction session for those who think that they may benefit from it, in the East Devon area. October 23rd is the chosen date and it is intended to meet at 10.00 for coffee/tea, and to complete by 13.00. The venue is not yet confirmed and so anyone wishing to register their interest should contact me on 01237 451667 or email jclarke1947 [at] btinternet [dot] com, and further details will be made available when they are finalised.

It is my intention to extend this offer to Guild members as well as Association members and I will take the first dozen or so persons to "sign up". If there is enough interest and this session is oversubscribed, I will run another in 2011.

The Bells of Devon – 2nd 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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The Bells of Devon is available including updates at £5.00 (plus £1.00 p&p) per copy or updates only at 50p per copy from: Tim Bayton, 64 Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter, Devon. EX4 7AH.

Please make cheques payable to 'The Bells of Devon'

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Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QG. Mtwebster[at]btinternet[dot]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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Devon Association Raffle

It is time once again for the Devon Association Raffle. This is an important fund raiser for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

I ask if you would help me by selling draw tickets. Last year we raised £4,079.50 and I hope that this year we can exceed that total.

If you have had tickets to sell please send the money and counterfoils to me by 29 May 2010, or bring them (already folded) to the Final at Littleham on 12 June 2010.

If you require more tickets, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Christine Ley, Flat 2, 2 Bedford Street, Barnstaple, EX32 8JR.

The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund report to the AGM is shown on page 7.

Beric Bartlett at Charleton

Provisional arrangements have been made to hold the annual "Beric Bartlett Festival" for Devon Historic Churches Trust at West Charleton, Nr.Kingsbridge on Saturday 3rd July. This year the event will consist of three sections.

Section One will be open to "round ringing" teams. This will involve ringing off the stay for a period of ten minutes, eight will be judged.

Section Two will involve ringing half a peal of "sixty on thirds" in which there will be no rise or fall. **Section Three** will be for the more advanced ringers who will ring a full peal of "sixty on thirds" including the rise and fall. More details will be included on the invitations, any enquiries please contact Colin Adams.