



Founded 1925

President – Mr John Conibear

Devon Calls

Appeals - is now the best time to help?

Nov 2009
Vol 2 Issue 3

Special points of interest

- Loughborough Bell Foundry
- Training Certificate

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Devon residents are living up to their reputation of valuing their heritage. All who have been involved in fund raising, realise it does seem a challenge and a delight when the project has been completed. Devon has been truly blest with so many churches and so many with a peal of bells, the number of appeals is always likely to be high. Please do not let this put you off offering assistance. Fortunately the generosity of people has been overwhelming so far and this is gratifying especially in these difficult times. There are still numerous bodies that will consider grants, including Devon's own Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. The churches still need to match funding or find extra for the unplanned work. Now is probably a good time to ask for donations. Money in the bank seems to earn so

little interest and it does seem better to spend the money and help businesses that may be facing hard times before we face the likelihood of a period of inflation in two or three years time when the projects are expected to cost a lot more.

Please give serious thought to how you, your church, your local area, your Deanery or your Group can help with any of the appeals in any way. With many churches in very rural locations with a small population, a few have to put in so much more effort and they do rely upon the support of others. The projects can be helped immensely by the giving of your money, time or talents. Let us ensure that our churches and bells remain in the best condition possible so that future generations may benefit from this. See article on page 5.

Weddings

Chairman of the Devon Association, Ryan Trout and Natasha were married at Eggbuckland church on Sunday 4th October at 1pm. Ryan's family rang Natasha in and rang both of them out. The wedding breakfast and evening reception was held at St Elizabeth's House in Plympton St Maurice not far from St Maurice church. The honeymoon was in the Maldives and Ryan is due back at work on 27th October.

An earlier wedding, on Saturday 25th July saw James Kerlake and Kathryn Ward marry, they both now live in Exminster.

James and Kathryn met each other whilst studying at Exeter University and they formed part of the Exeter University Society of Change Ringers and are now part of the very successful call change band at Exminster.

Congratulations to both couples and on behalf of all readers, I wish them every happiness.

Horace and Eileen's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Horace started bellringing at 8 years old and has barely missed any ringing opportunities. Horace and Eileen moved to Stoke Gabriel shortly after getting married on 6 July 1949. When Horace heard the village bells ringing without him he was told the church was celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Their family had planned a roast dinner meal for family and close friends in the Village Hall. It is difficult to surprise people who have been married for 60 years and yet the Stoke Gabriel Bell Ringers had yet another surprise for Horace when they presented him with a Shield in his name to be awarded to winners of the Developing Section of ringers at the Stoke Gabriel competition. The winners were Dartmouth, St Saviours. The trophy was a fitting tribute to Horace who throughout his long period of ringing has encouraged and taught numerous ringers many who have reached competition standard.

In remembrance of David Row the oldest Ringly Ringer

David Southey Elswood Row

On July 28th 2009 David Southey Elswood Row Lt. Cdr. RN (PSC), MRINA, MIMarEST, Ceng aged 87 years, of Topsham, Exeter died. A man who inspired us all. This is a copy of the eulogy read out by his son, Jeremy, at the funeral service.

David Row; seaman *"I'm just a simple sailor"*, Marine Engineer Officer *"I was a plumber"*, Naval Architect, photographer, pilot, inventor, diver, craftsman, businessman, recording engineer, computer programmer, radio ham, lifesaver, and bell ringer.

David Southey Elswood Row was born on the 21st of January 1922 in Randolls, Victoria Road - about 100 yards from St Margaret's Church, where he was baptised. Dad boarded at Ravenswood School where he contracted tuberculosis. He then spent months up at the holiday house in Lydford to recover from TB by doing chest exercises and sleeping out on the veranda. He was taken out of Ravenswood as the Great Depression hit the business hard. At the age of 13 during school holidays he struck up a friendship with the crew of the collier 'Arduity' that did regular trips from Newcastle with coal for the gas works at Exeter Basin. To the Captain's dismay Dad found the oily engine room more interesting than his bridge, and was even allowed to air start the mighty hot bulb German diesel engine. He would sail with them down the canal, wave goodbye at Turf and cycle home. Between trips on the Arduity he also found the Engineering side of the family business fascinating in Wippell Bros. & Row. Hands-on from an early age, Dad built a sailing canoe having learnt to sail with the Beech family from Topsham Sailing Club. Dad's father and the family doctor decided that given his interest in ships and the need for his unhealthy lungs to get plenty of fresh air; Dad should join HMS Worcester to train for service in the grain ships under sail to Australia.

So in May 1936 aged 14 Dad started 4 years training among the smells of hemp, tallow, oil and canvas within the wooden walls of HMS Worcester (3000 tons of oak, and like HMS Victory in appearance). Here he learned all the skills required to serve at sea; including rope work, boat handling in Thames barges, and sail handling for which they also used the 900 ton Cutty Sark moored "within the range of a cricket ball". He developed a keen interest in all the traffic on the busy 'London River'.

With academic studies completed, Dad left HMS Worcester in July 1940 aged 18 as Captain's Coxswain with the highest grade certificates. Given the naval build up, he was offered an RN direct entry into BRNC

Dartmouth. This was followed by an engineering degree from RNECs Keyham, and Manadon.

In 1943 at Clydebank he joined HMS Sheffield or "Shiny Sheff" and made for Scapa Flow and arctic convoy duties to Murmansk as Engineering Watch Officer or "junior two striper". As well as the enemy, the far North Atlantic weather was a challenge - particularly in winter. Ploughing into a heavy sea it managed to completely peel off the top of 'A' turret, and on another occasion it removed the pinnacles from their davits amidships.

About 6 years ago Dad received an arctic convoy medal from the Russian Embassy - better late than never!

Following bomb damage sustained in the Med, Sheffield was a few knots below her maximum speed. Although outgunned she engaged the Scharnhorst in the best traditions of the service during the Battle of North Cape ending in the sinking of the Scharnhorst on Boxing Day 1943. This action stripped one of her shaft gears further reducing her speed to 22 knots. The Admiralty knew that the Germans were aware of this, so she was then used as bait to try tempting the Tirpitz out of her fjord! One of the Navy's pluckiest ships she had also supported action in the sinking of the Bismark.

In July 1944, Sheffield was despatched to Boston Massachusetts for major repairs. Dad was one of the Engineer Officers that remained to supervise this work, and it is where he fell in love with Valerie who was serving in the Wrens. This started a love affair that lasted for over 60 years.

After the fitting of new "bull wheels", Sheffield returned to Portsmouth in May 1945. She then left for a flag waving trip around South America which was light relief after her war service! This voyage included a stop in Montevideo in March 1947 where Dad was given extended shore leave to see his fiancée Valerie.

Dad must have made quite an impression with Valerie - because soon afterwards, she left the balmy climate and a comfy lifestyle as the British consul's daughter to join him in ration-book-Britain, only to find that Dad, still serving in HMS Sheffield, was sunning himself in Bermuda at His Majesty's expense! However the accompanying frigate, HMS Padstow Bay, lost it's Chief Engineer and Dad replaced him returning home just in time for Christmas. With a gentle nudge from Valerie, Dad proposed and they were married by the Bishop of Exeter in December 1947.

Posted to the Engineer-in-Chief's Department in Bath, Dad secretly developed a vessel equipped to overcome waxing of the fuel systems in the world's second largest re-

serve fleet using mining pumps & Teepol. This was top secret work authorised at Cabinet level lest our Cold War adversaries realised that much of our fleet was immobile!

Their first house was in Wellow where Mike was born in January 1950. As tower captain, Dad supervised the re-hanging of the new bells from Mears & Stainbank. A posting to the Far East was changed at the last minute to RNAS Yeovilton where Mum gave birth to me in November 1953.

Originally taught to fly by the legendary Derek Piggott - at Yeovilton Dad was made up to CFI sailplanes (Chief Flying Instructor); his log book shows over 2000 flights including the gliding endurance record. Fortunately his spinal cord survived a broken back when his glider was caught in a wind shear on finals. I organised a reunion with Derek last summer when Dad took the controls again for the first time in over 50 years!

A keen photographer, Dad was quick to embrace 35mm colour slides in 1946 - 5000 of which he recently digitised, and some of his work was used in the Shell calendar. He was equally quick to adopt digital photography with the help of his computer skills some 50 years later.

Leaving Mum in Orchard Cottage with us boys, Dad served two successive commissions in HMS Newfoundland from about 1954 to '57 - a tough and lonely time for Mum. However in an overstuffed Navy Dad was delighted to join "Newfy" in Ceylon bound for the Far East and also the Suez Crisis.

As Senior Engineer with a staff of some 200 men, he was responsible for an engine room producing 80,000 horsepower at 48° centigrade - it certainly kept him fit!

Popular with his "chaps" he never asked them to do a job he couldn't, or wasn't prepared to do himself.

It was also noticed that his department had the best health record in the fleet after shore leave!

In 1957 Dad was put forward for and passed the Royal Naval Staff Course at Greenwich. He surprised the panel during a Q&A session by asking about the future use of space in warfare - unimpressed they moved swiftly on. Shortly afterwards the Soviets launched Sputnik! It was an early example of his forward thinking mind.

Faslane in Scotland was our next home. Here I remember us making the most of the Scottish winter by crashing through the hedge and over the road in Dad's improvised sledge that went rather faster than he anticipated!

We were next stationed in Plymouth in the early 60's where Dad ran the P.U.P. team (or Plymouth Upkeep Planning) in the C-in-C's Office applying aircraft maintenance and

David Row (contd from page 2)

quality systems to the fleet. He was trained with the navy for diving and his lung capacity was so good that they thought he was in trouble at the bottom of the pool - but he could simply last longer than the others! Obviously those chest exercises for TB had worked! At weekends we went sailing in Dad's beautifully crafted home-made dinghy, and being close to the Cornish beaches we went surfing with him on his homemade plywood surfboards and Angmagssalik kayak.

However Dad was horrified by the loss of life on our beaches in those pre-package holidays, so he co-founded the Advisory Committee for Beach Safety which went on to save many lives over the next four decades - a service now run by the RNLI, whose prototype Atlantic series inflatable boats Dad helped develop with his old boss Admiral Hoare (who patented the RIB design). During the last 50 years well over 20,000 rescues have been made on our beaches by lifeguards. Dad's contribution was later acknowledged personally by Prince Charles.

Under pressure from WB&R's bank, Dad was obliged to leave the Navy to run the firm. At least he managed to take advantage of the Navy's early leaving scheme, albeit on the last available day! The house in Topsham was bought with his 'Golden Bowler' in 1963. After years of very long hours and stress, which I remember well, he turned the company around and started to look for a new challenge.

Having built his own wireless set at an early age and hand building early examples of hi-fi, he started Exon Audio - selling the very best hi-fi, and recording music for pressing into vinyl LPs. The recording caravan was used at concerts with Sir David Wilcocks, and Yehudi Menuhin who asked Dad personally to record his work; even the BBC consulted Dad where best to suspend their mikes in various cathedrals!

His maritime experience was still put to good use by the Sail Training Association serving as Navigator and Watch Officer in the tall ship "Malcolm Miller" -which he took around Ushant in the fog on dead reckoning only.

In February 1975 a policeman came to the door with the news that Mike had been shipwrecked in Alaska. His king crab fishing boat had foundered at night in a blizzard. Incredibly Mike made it ashore where he was eventually found frozen half way up a steep cliff. The irony of losing a son in Alaska having worked so tirelessly to help save lives here was inescapable. I think of the three of us, Dad found Mike's loss hardest to come to terms with.

Back at work he was frustrated by the amount of paper needed to control thousands of stock lines; so Dad started writing computer programmes that resulted in SIRCS Ltd (or Small Independent Retailers Computer Systems). His Stockmaster System, started in the seventies, is still used by retailers today.

Around this time CB radio became fashionable and Dad was quick to identify its value when reporting accidents on the roads in the days before mobile phones. So he coordinated responsible users to monitor the airwaves on a shift system - his 'handle' was Monitor 1. This helped to reduce gossip that cluttered up the airwaves blocking more serious traffic. Following his retirement from the business, Dad re-acquainted himself with the Morse key and became a radio ham operator.

During the Armenian earthquake in December 1988 Dad was again appalled by the loss of life; many in this case caused by destroyed communications. Working with Admiral Sir Bill Pillar as a Trustee to help pull strings, and Engineer Mark Wood, he set up the DRCF (Disaster Relief Communications Foundation). Dad organised a team of rapid response professional radio operators for deploying in disaster zones to set up emergency radio stations and coordinate relief efforts.

More recently Dad returned to bell ringing for the new millennium. He also gave his IT skills to the Retired Chartered Engineers Club, and the Topsham Art Group helping them both with their presentations in between looking after Mum who died in March. Dad was positive, interested and supportive - whether with my business or my family, to whom he was a wonderful father-in-law to Miranda, and loving grandfather to Barney and Ellie.

His agile, inquiring mind and intellect held fast until the end - continuing to be as fascinated by others as they were by him.

Condolences have focused on his energy, enthusiasm, integrity and courtesy - always looking for the best in people without showing any side.

I remember a deep thinking man of faith, a devoted husband, and in every sense a brilliant Dad... Jeremy Row.

David's niece expressed that David was so happy and pleased with the warmth and support from the Ringkly ringers and that the outings gave him something really special to look forward to. She wishes to thank all the Ringkly Ringers who made David feel comfortable and welcome.

David will be fondly remembered. He was apologetic for his failing health and was always cheerful. He was polite and caring and made everyone feel very special.

Obituaries**Leslie (Les) West**

Les, died 21 June 2009 aged 94. He was born in Teignmouth and his family moved to Batisborough in the South Hams. He won a scholarship to Hoe Grammar School, Plymouth. On leaving school he worked for Plymouth Breweries and was then called up to serve in India in the Royal Corps of Signals. He returned to Plymouth Breweries and became the Transport Manager and retired at 60.

Les attended St Batholomew's in Yealmpton where his brother in law, Ernest, introduced him to bell ringing. He married Gertrude (Trudy) at Yealmpton in 1940 and they had two sons, Alan and Peter, the family moving to Elburton in 1954 where they became regular worshippers at St Mary, Plymstock and contributed greatly to the local community. Trudy died 18 months before Les.

Bell ringing had been a life long passion for Les and he supported the ringers at St Mary's. He would take part in competitions and was good at what he did. He became Secretary of the ringers and was a source of information on bells and ringers from all over Devon, recalling events and characters that had long been forgotten. Les greatly encouraged younger ringers and kept them motivated.

Anthony Banbury, acting Secretary of the St Mary and All Saints Church Bell Ringers Association Plymstock recalls that he was encouraged and Les kept him going when things were not going right in his early days of ringing in the 1970s. His younger son remembers how Les encouraged him to get right back on the rope after it caught around his elbow and gave him a nasty wrench when he was learning.

Les, at 72, had the lower part of his right leg amputated and still continued to climb the tower stairs, and ring, such was his commitment. Although he was prevented from ringing by a recent illness he always maintained a deep interest in the bells and ringers even when visited at home or in hospital. His intellect remained sharp and informed.

Les was always the perfect gentleman. Always putting his point of view quietly, politely but effectively and often tempered by humour. He will be deeply missed.

Joanthon Lear

Jonathan died on the 25th Jul, and his funeral took place on Tuesday 4th August at 12 noon at St Swithun's, Woodbury, where he had been tower captain for many years.

Basil White

Basil White died on 2nd October. Prior to moving to Hampshire, Basil rang hand and church bells at St Marychurch and bells at Stokeinteighhead where he was organist.

Ringklies

The Ringklies met at Uffculme for their October meeting. The day was unbroken sunshine will just a soft pleasant breeze.

Tea and coffee was served by the Churchwarden and Organist and his wife. The 7th and 8th ropes were a little worn although they did last and we taped them up as a precaution.

The bells sounded glorious outside, especially in the warm sunshine. Lunch was provided by the Ostler Inn that opened just for the ringers. A fine carvery, with two choices of meat with three different sizes to suit all. The afternoon was a little bit more rural with ringing at Uplowman. The sunshine and warmth continued and this was a place where the ringers could stand outside and enjoy the weather and the ringing.

Thanks to Michael and Janet Poole for making all the arrangements for the October meeting.

Customary speeches were given at lunch time with apologies from Pat and Bernard. The meeting was reminded of booking for the Christmas meal at the next event in November. There will be a change that month in that the morning tower will now be at Churchstow. Ringing will be from 10:30 until 10:50 and then from 11:15 until 13:00. Lunch will be at Churchstow with the afternoon ring at Loddiswell.

SERs

The Saturday Evening Ringers, now more appropriately named the Social Evening Ringers, as they meet on a Friday evening will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. This group started in December 1969 at Newton St Cyres. The SERs hope to mark this occasion with a special meeting at Newton St Cyres on 18 December 2009.

The founding members who still ring are Colin and Mike Adams and Mervyn Way. The other founding members were Ken Raddenbury, Jack Copley, Jack Neil, Stormy Adams, Ralph Wright, Harry Dockings, Maurice and Bill Western and Courtenay Thorn. The other members who joined soon after the group started were Edgar Cole, Brian Drake, Bob Lovell, Chris Clayton, Roy Strickland, Alan Beer and Scott Adams. Associate members were non ringers such as Bubbles Slade, Bruce Harris and Bill Way.

This group is still very active and usually meets on the first Friday of the month with a pub meal after ringing. Ringers generally come from the Tavistock, Exeter and Torbay areas. The group provides ringers with extra practise and allows socialising afterwards.

Ringklies holiday 2009 and 2010

The Ringkly Ringers holiday 2009 was different. John and Linda had certainly come up with something different. The full itinerary also included the changing of the guards and a quiz.

The holiday was 20 to 24 July and the Hookways coach left Meeth at 6.30 and somehow got later and later as it headed towards Exeter. This did not deter the high spirits. Stops were well planned and the first ring of the holiday was at Amesbury, a lock out from our previous holiday. Lunch had been thoughtfully planned and this was a splendid buffet where there was ample choice. Ringing continued in the afternoon at Netheravon and Thurxton. We eventually arrived at the Waterloo Hotel in Crowthorne where the Gideon's Bible provided a few answers to the quiz! The hotel was comfortable and clean and the staff welcoming and well organised in meeting us off the coach rather than us queuing in reception. Tuesday we were ringing at Bagshot, Camberley, Hawley, Farnborough and at two towers in Sandhurst. The last set was at the Roman Catholic Church where the tenor weighted 120 lbs. This was a new experience for most of the travellers. In the nearby hall, we could see the bells swinging through a well placed clear glass window.

Wednesday started with Winkfield and then to Windsor where we had to wait for the changing of the guard before ringing. John had thoughtfully provided a map to each of us and we had plenty of time to explore and even take in a sight seeing trip on an open top bus. Further ringing was at Slough and Warfield.

Thursday we rang at Easthampstead, Wokingham, Binfield and Hurst. After the evening meal at the Hotel we presented the staff with a cheque to go towards their tips in recognition of the way we had been superbly looked after during our

stay. Friday, after loading cases, we were well on our way and rang at Whitchurch, Hampshire and returned to the Stonehenge Inn for a carvery lunch as some ringers would be late arriving at their homes. The last tower of the holiday was then Durrington a short distance from our lunch stop.

A splendid holiday and thank you to Linda for navigating throughout the whole of the trip. Thank you to John for taking all the responsibilities on including the quiz which was won by Joan Clarke. I must apologise for marking John Moody's answers too strictly. There were 64 questions and the majority of the travellers got at least a third right. The quiz did provide discussions and interest in the area we were staying. One of the amusing question was what is the purpose of the black stripe on a school crossing warden's lollipop? Wiki.answers.com states: A good Crossing Warden (lollipop person) will carry a piece of chalk. The black stripe is to write the number plate of any vehicles the warden wishes to report for inappropriate conduct. Take note.

John Staddon gave further details for next year's holiday where 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 - Up to three towers and possibly Kington St Michael.

Tuesday - Renhold, Wilden, Gt Barford, 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 another.

The cost will be £240 per person, sharing and £264 for single occupancy. A deposit of £25 pp will be payable at the December meeting at Littleham or it can be sent direct to John Staddon. Any cheques should be made payable to Ringkly Ringers.

Ringkly Programme for 2009

Second Wednesday of each month

Month	Morning Tower	Afternoon Tower	Contact
November	Churchstow	Loddiswell	John C
December	Alwington then Littleham	Christmas lunch	Claude

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

Bell Appeals

Atherington

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Atherington have sent out a general appeal and state that they have started the bell restoration project back in 2000 and so far have raised over £56,000. This has enabled the bells to be renovated by Eayres & Smith (as it was then) and a new frame made ready to be restored as soon as the tower is strengthened. This work was planned to start on 26 July and it is hoped the rehang of the bells will be before Easter 2010. There is still £36,000 left after completing phase one but there is needed about £96,000 to complete phases 2 and 3 (tower strengthening and rehang). Promises of £20,000 have been made to help with the short fall of £60,000 and it is hoped that two charities can help. Any donations or loans from fellow ringers would be such an encouragement for the small rural community. A recent mail shot to towers has raised £1,300 so far. Please contact John Carvossa on 01271 343774 (revjcc@gmail.com) or via the informative and updated website at www.atheringtonfriends.org.uk which details the building works and planned events. The tenor remains in the frame in this interesting church. The other 5 bells are ready for the rehang. Are you able to help in anyway in getting the 6-bell peal ringing again?

Brentor

Harvest at Brentor saw ringers coming for the last ring before the restoration starts. The church was full to the brim for the service. James Clarke had been to St Michael de Rupe, Brentor and recommended that no more ringing takes place until the four main RSJs have been replaced. The bells are likely to be out of action for 2010 and possibly 2011. One side of the tower has just been repointed and that bill of £40,000 for such a small parish with two churches will be a lot of money to find. Brentor Church, one of the country's most striking churches on the tor is desperate for repair cash. It faces an uncertain future if it cannot raise the £50,000 it needs to pay for vital repairs. The Church of St Michael in Brentor, near Tavistock, is a Grade I-listed building that sits isolated 1,100ft (330m) above sea level on the western edge of Dartmoor. Considered one of the most romantic locations in England, the church's sweeping setting makes it hugely popular with tourists and wedding parties, attracting thousands of people each year to the church on top of the tor. However, if money cannot be found to restore the 12th-century building, the most exposed inland church in the country, there is a danger it might not survive. The church, which goes by the full title of St Michael de Rupe Church, has been putting off repairs for the

last three years. Re pointing, repairs to the bell's framework and addressing water leakage into the building will prove costly because of its listed status and the fact there is no road or services to the building. Churchwarden Sheila Downs said: "It's such a wonderful place which has a unique atmosphere and we believe there must be huge sources of funding out there. The whole logistics of getting scaffolding and material up here is challenging enough, but it's so open to the elements that it can't be done in the winter. "Even this summer, there has been horrendous wind and rain." The Rev Michael Brierly, priest-in-charge of Tavistock and Gulworthy, said: "St Michael's Church is an absolute gem, as all local people will know. "The number of visitors who go up there is extraordinary," he said. "Being where it is, the church gets quite a battering from the wind and rain."

Dodbrooke

A familiar Sunday morning sound will be missing in Kingsbridge — but only until Christmas. For centuries the bells of the church of St Thomas of Canterbury at Dodbrooke, near Kingsbridge, have been calling the faithful to prayer, but they are to be dismantled so repairs and refurbishment can be carried out at a cost of about £35,000. Tower captain David Gidley, who has been ringing the bells since he was a schoolboy, explained that bearings and other parts of the mechanism are in danger of collapse and unless repairs are carried out the bells themselves might suffer serious damage. Generations of ringers have enjoyed the special sound at Dodbrooke and one of them returns twice a year from Lincolnshire to join the team. Norman Palmer is now tower captain at a church in Market Rasen, and although he enjoys ringing there he says it does not compare with what he calls 'the Devon sound'.

"The Devon call changes are very special," he said after joining his friend David as part of the team recently, it is the most beautiful sound you can hear."

Kingsbridge rector Prebendary Tony Kyriakides-Yeldham says Dodbrooke is fortunate in having its own dedicated team, unlike many churches where bell ringing is carried out by visiting ringers. "So often the bell ringers leave before the service begins, but at Dodbrooke they are all very much part of the faith community." An appeal has been launched to raise money for the bell refurbishment. Anyone wishing to contribute or who would like further information can contact the rector on 01548 856231.

St. Leonard's Sheepstor

Sheepstor is a small rural community and they have taken the challenge on of mainte-

nance to the bells and fittings. A recent survey by Nicholson Engineering had given an estimate to rehang the bells with new headstocks and refurbishment of all fittings for £27,000. This proposal has been supported by the DAC in Exeter and permission is now being sought to proceed.

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

Sampford Courtenay

Chris Clayton reports that fund raising is continuing and he was confident enough to have placed an order with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Work started in July and the intention is to have the project completed and the bells ringing again hopefully in time for Christmas 2009.

There have been many generous donations, however they are still a long way from raising the £45,000 needed to do all of the works required. Fund raising has been stepped up following the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund being rejected. All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Cheques should be made payable to St Andrews PCC. (Bell Fund) and can be sent to, C. Clayton.

Stoke Canon

John Woods and Bill Blake have reported that the fund raising is coming along steadily and so far they have raised nearly £20,000 and they still have to pay out some expenses. They have to raise £66,000. This will take time and they anticipate that they have until the end of 2010 at least to get the bells repaired and rehung. John and Bill would like to say thank you very much to all who have helped in any way and have already made donations. They look forward to providing better news in the future.

Sourton

Sourton is still out of action and will be for most of 2010, the tower repairs are not scheduled to start until next spring.

Membury, Stoodleigh and others

Membury and Stoodleigh are continuing with their fund raising and doubtless there are others that have not been mentioned. Any person who has been involved in fund raising knows the immense help when extra support and assistance is given. All who can help, in just in a small way, can make life so much easier by moving the project forward.

24-HOUR SPONSORED SILENT BELL RING

Record breakers

Well they did it!!!! Many, many congratulations to father-and-son team of Laurence and Stuart Bennie who rang the tenor bell at Chagford (with the clapper tied) for 24 hours from 9.15 am on Saturday 11th to 9.15 am on Sunday 12th July. A rota of bell-ringers kept Laurence and Stuart company, fed and watered them, for the full 24 hours. They were thanked by Noel Walter and applauded by the congregation at the beginning of the morning service.

A great time was had by all on Saturday 11th July – peals on six bells three times, a coffee morning, afternoon teas and a bellringers' supper, a very successful bumper raffle, a raffle of a painting by local artist / bellringer Mike Webber, tours up the tower and a competition to guess how many times the tenor bell would have struck had the clapper not been tied. Answer - from averaged counts on several occasions – 34,560 times!!!! At least we did not drive the town mad by constant ringing of the bell.

As mentioned in the last magazine the purpose was to raise funds to fit a new rope guide and re-route the ropes at a cost of £4,000 (plus VAT). The ringers had received donations of about £300 and the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund kindly promised £450 before this 24-hour ring was proposed. Sponsorship of the 24-hour ring, raffles, donations and coffees and teas on 11th July have added approximately a further £2,750 and more is awaited from promises. Grateful thanks are due to all those who supported this venture.

Thanks to the support of the PCC the work is to be started on 19th October and will take about a week.

Laurence said, "I just want to let people know how the 24 hour ring went for Stuart and myself. Before starting we had decided that we would do an hours ring each, giving us then an hours break.

Once we had started, at 9:15 Sat. morning, the day past quite quickly with a whole host of people coming up to the ringing chamber to watch us ring, learn about the history of the bells, and to take a tour of the tower to see the Tenor in action. We also had ringing throughout the day to let people know what was happening.

In the evening we had supper in church, with the ringers, wardens, and Rector and wife etc. Then into the long hours of the night. This wasn't too much of a problem, as we had the ringers taking it in turn at two hourly stints to stay up with us. This was greatly helped by my wife Shirley and made the whole thing light hearted. At 3 o'clock, I said to Stuart that I was finding it hard to keep on ringing for the full hour at a time (the bell now felt like 36 cwt. not 18), so we decided to now ring for half an hour at a time. We were feeling fine at this point with no real physical problems.

Then I hit the wall (5 o'clock -7 o'clock) upset stomach, feeling sick, frequent trips to the loo,.....

Then poor Stuart had the same at about 7am. This was after he managed his only sleep of the entire event.

The rest of the bell ringers turned up for regular Sunday ringing, to give a final peal before Stuart finished at 9:15, watched by all the congregation. This certainly encourage us to keep to our target of ringing for 24 hours." Would they do it again?

Paul Pascoe along with four other method ringers were keen in attempting a new record of a band ringing 10 peals within 24 hours. They then had to recruit (!) 3 other ringers. This new record was set at the 8 bell tower of Pig-le-Tower, Marston Bigot, Somerset, where the tenor weighs 20 lbs. Each Peal, which is a minimum of 5,000 changes, took about 1¼ hours. Ringing started on Saturday 27 June at 10am and finished at 8.23am on Sunday. Nearly an hour had been lost before Peal 7 as the tenor needed a rehang at 11pm. Paul, amongst others, also circled the tower within 24 hours. Congratulations to the band.

Paul, no stranger to records stated that he rang his first Peal on 24 December 1998, and rang his 1,000th on the 8 December 2007 - this was completed in only 3271 days and remains the record for the fastest person to get to 1,000. As at 10 October, Paul has rung 1,476 Peals and the forecast is for him to ring his 2,000th Peal in August 2011.

Congratulations also to Ian Avery who on 9 September rang his 1,000th peal. He is now the 7th born and bred Devonian to achieve this milestone and it was rung at his home tower of Kingsteignton.

Kingsteignton, St Michael, on Wednesday, 9 September 2009 in 2 hours 59 min (16cwt) **5088 Bristol S Major**

- 1 Lee D Avery
- 2 Paul J Pascoe
- 3 Peter L Bill
- 4 Elaine Grant
- 5 Ian W Avery
- 6 Matthew J Hilling
- 7 James Grant
- 8 Michael E C Mears (Conductor)

Composite clapper for Dartington

The ladder competition between Stoke Gabriel and Burrington at Dartington resulted in the tenor clapper shaft breaking. It had been previously repaired. The competition took place again on the front five bells with Burrington winning. Nicholson Engineering have undertaken the work to provide a composite clapper retaining the ball, flight and top fittings. The early success of these clappers has been proven with several being fitted around the country and locally the tenors of Tiverton and Heavitree. Andrew Nicholson states that he does not advocate wooden shafts due to the long term potential for problems in keeping all the components really tight. This new material, a suitable alternative to iron, has the addition benefit is that with a lighter shaft it will be easier to ring the bell up the right way, as shown by the tenor at Heavitree.

Number of teams entering each season

James Kerslake has kindly provided different statistics on his website and the table below is just one example and shows that the number of teams entering five more competitions since 2003 has dramatically increase. The figures for 2009* are for part year only. From the figures it shows that competitions are becoming more popular.

Year	No of teams 5 or more	Total No of teams
2003	14	76
2004	21	91
2005	22	67
2006	20	74
2007	27	97
2008	33	95
2009*	28	79

Record Breaker Matthew Hilling

A further record breaker, Matthew Hilling of Exeter Cathedral assisted Towcester's Parish Church St Lawrence host the world record breaking peal of bells on Saturday 19th September 2009. The record peal attempt started at 1101 hours and was accomplished in fine style by 1739 hours, 6 hours and 38 minutes of total non-stop concentration and physical effort by all twelve bell ringers in ringing 10,000 changes of Stedman Cinques. The sponsorship raised just over £1,100 towards the roof appeal fund. CCTV will relayed views of the bells and ringers into the church and to the Bus. The "Youth Bus" had a mobile Internet facility so that members of the community could drop by and see what was going on. Rev. Tony Bryer, Rector said, "Our target is £15,000 and this big contribution from the ringers will help us on the way".

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 - How up to date are you?

The above Act places a legal responsibility upon organisations using volunteers where there is a requirement for volunteers to be CRB checked. New requirements were effective from 12 October.

Timescales and phasing of legal requirements under the above Act.

12th October 2009 From this date, it will be illegal to use barred persons on regulated work (initially existing CRB checked persons fulfil need to check).

Persons **newly** taking up regulated work must be checked.

There will be a duty to refer to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) persons perceived as a risk to vulnerable groups.

July 2010 Phased applications for ISA Registration will start.

On line electronic checks of Registration status become available to worker employers and organisers (subject to individual's consent).

November 2010 *All new workers on regulated activities must be ISA Registered.* **This is short outline of the Provisions of the 2006 Act.**

Where an activity involving young persons requires CRB checked and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registered adults, then there will also be a **legal duty** for those employing or, in the case of volunteers, using such adults to report to the ISA any worker who has, because of incident or behaviour, been taken off duties with young people or who are seen to pose a risk.

Bellringing activities requiring CRB check /Registration

The legal requirement for such checks is limited to those adults undertaking **regular face to face teaching** of young people which applies both to local church and organised activity. The definition of "regular" is on **3 or more days in 30**. Adults **transporting children to and from**

a teaching activity will also require drivers to be so checked. As a special case juniors 16 or 17 years of age who are themselves carrying out teaching **will need to be checked.**

Unless undertaking face to face physical teaching as outlined above the following adults will **not legally require to be checked**:- Helpers, those standing by or giving informal advice, those taking part in general ringing or ringing meetings and outings (even where juniors are present), teaching own children, visitors.

What should now happen?

Individual towers, respective Parochial Church Councils and others involved need to be prepared, to comply with the legal requirements starting from October, 2009. If in doubt you should contact the PCC's Child Protection Office.

See the guidance on the CCCBR website: http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/notes/GN3_CP_Summary.pdf

A Few Monkleigh Competition Facts

Monkleigh competition was started in 1992, this was just under twelve months after the refurbishment of the frame, floors and rope replacement, we are still using the same ropes. Ringing was stopped between 1989 to 1991 while fund raising events were held and approximately £15,000 raised.

The form of the two shields were designed by myself, Clive Ward, and they were expertly manufactured by Andrew Gist. Judges that have presided are John Wickett, John Ward, Arthur Hobbs, Ralf Chapman, Helen Robinson, Ivor Hookway and Brian Drake. If I remember correctly our competition was the first to be held following the period of Foot & Mouth in 2001. Most years the standard of ringing has been very good, the history of winners is shown below. Clive Ward.

	<i>Open Section</i>		<i>Local Section</i>		<i>Novice Section</i>	
1992	South Petherwin	5.5	South Petherwin	24.5		
1993	Eggbuckland	7.25	Kilkhampton	37.5		
1994	West Down	10	Littleham	24		
1995	Mortehoe	10.25	Littleham	14		
1996	Eggbuckland	11.50	Welcombe	37.5		
1997	Eggbuckland	6.5	Welcombe	41.5		
1998	Morethoe	7	Littleham	15.5		
1999	Molland	7	Littleham	10		
2000	Eggbuckland	4	Littleham	22.5		
2001	Dunsford	8.5	Littleham	31.5		
2002	Mortehoe	8.5	Great Torrington	10.5		
2003	Mortehoe	15.5	Iddesleigh	35		
2004	Mortehoe	5.5	Littleham	25	Monkleigh	41
2005	Mortehoe	5	Iddesleigh	32.5	Little Torrington	50
2006	No Competition		No Competition		No Competition	
2007	No Competition		No Competition		No Competition	
2008	Zeal Monachorum	30	Iddesleigh	25	Dowland	65

Results

South Devon Ringers' Association Competition at Staverton for the George Middleton Shield on 27 June 2009

1. Stoke Gabriel 15 ½
2. Eggbuckland 20
3. Exminster B 36
4. South Brent 51
5. Exminster A 65 ½
6. Holbeton 70
7. West Alvington 71

Judges: John Coulthirst and Percy Pester
Competition organised by Colin Adams in aid of the Devon Churches Historic Trust.

Results from the Competition held at South Brent on 4th July 2009

1. Eggbuckland 9 ¾
2. Kingsteignton 20
3. Burrington 25
4. Dunsford 25 ½
5. Stoke Gabriel 38 ½ rang for 16:35
6. West Alvington 38 ½ rang for 16:30
7. Lamerton 49 ¾
8. Plymstock 52 ¾
9. Holbeton 70 ¾
10. Monkleigh 76 ¾

Judges. Jereme Darke and Neil Holloway.

Competitions held at Collaton St Mary and Stoke Gabriel on 11 July 2009

Results from Collaton St Mary on 11 July

1. Stoke Gabriel 37 ½
2. Exeter St Petrock 41 ¼
3. Burrington 42 ½
4. Exminster 46 ½
5. South Brent 54
6. Holbeton 68 ½
7. Alphington 76
8. Ide 93 ¾
9. Exeter St Davids 110
10. Lamerton 118 ¼
11. Salcombe 165 ¼
12. South Pool 179

Judges: John and Robert Dietz

Results from Stoke Gabriel on 11 July

1. South Brent 43 ½
2. Exeter St Petrock 57 ¾
3. Burrington 57 ¾
4. Exminster 66
5. Holbeton 92
6. Alphington 96
7. Ide 97
8. Broadhempston 105
9. Exeter St Davids 118
10. Lamerton 123
11. Salcombe 153
12. South Pool 163

Judges: Mary Mears and Lee Avery

Competition held at Doddiscombsleigh on 18 July 2009

1. Eggbuckland 28 ¾
2. South Brent 34 ¾
3. Morteheo 37
4. Burrington 37 ½
5. Kingsteignton A 49 ½
6. Kingsteignton B 65 ½
7. Lamerton 67
8. Exminster 69
9. South Tawton 72 ½
10. Stoke Gabriel 82 ½
11. Exeter St Petrock 83
12. Holbeton 90
13. Widecombe in the Moor 106

Judges: Mary Mears and Maurice Sharland

Competition at Dunsford on 18 July

1. Eggbuckland 13
2. South Brent 17 ¼
3. Kingsteignton B 21
4. Morteheo 22 ½
5. Burrington 24 ½
6. Lamerton 30 ¾
7. Exminster 34
8. Exeter St Petrock 36 ¾
9. South Tawton 41
10. Stoke Gabriel 45
11. Widecombe in the Moor 52 ½
12. Kingsteignton A 56
13. Holbeton 57 ½

Judges: Percy Pester and Martin Sharland

In aid of Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Thank you to all the teams that competed in the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund competition at Doddiscombsleigh and the invitation competition at Dunsford on 18th July. We are pleased to be able to report that a profit of £330.10 was made and has been forwarded to the DCBRF.

The results of the competition held at Burrington on 25th July

"A" Section.

1. Eggbuckland. 36 ¾
 2. South Brent. 56 ½
 3. Dunsford. 58 ½
 4. Chittlehampton. 73
- "B" Section.
1. Morthoe. 73 ¾
 2. Littleham. 74 ¾
 3. High Bickington. 78 ¼
 4. Sampford Courtenay. 79 ¾
 5. Down St Mary. 91 ½
 6. East Anstey. 95
 7. West Down. 95 ¼

8. Mariansleigh. 113 ¾

9. Ide. 162 ¾

Judges: Paul Wright and Steve Facey.
Many thanks to the ladies for providing a lovely tea and first class bean chutney.

Results of Torridge Valley Festival held at Great Torrington on Saturday 25 July

OPEN

1. East Anstey 31 ½
2. Morteheo 34
3. West Down 40 ½
4. South Tawton 47
5. Mariansleigh 65

TORRIDGE

1. Littleham 17 ¾
2. Gt Torrington 31
3. Monkleigh 55
4. Lt Torrington 82

NOVICE

1. Shebbear 73
2. Frithelstock 96 ½
3. Dowland 103 ½
4. Bradford 109

JUNIOR NOVICE

1. Bradford 38
2. Frithelstock 64

Thanks to everyone who entered

Results from Widecombe in the Moor on Saturday 1 August 2009

1. Eggbuckland 13
2. South Brent 14 ¾
3. Exeter St Petrock 19
4. Stoke Gabriel 19 ¾
5. South Tawton 23
6. Exminster 24 ½
7. Burrington 24 ¾
8. West Alvington 25
9. Soc. of Royal Cumberland Youths 26
10. North Bovey 31
11. Kingsteignton 32 ½
12. Holbeton 42
13. Widecombe in the Moor 50 ¾
14. Ide 78

Judges: John Cole, Percy Pester, Ruth Tuckett and Mervyn Way

The results of the Shebbear Competition held on August the 8th 2009.

Open Section "A"

1. Eggbuckland 5
2. Dunsford 9 ½
3. South Brent."B" 12 ½
4. Morteheo 13
5. Littleham 14 ½
6. Devon Belles 15
7. Black Torrington 23
8. Alphington 33
9. Monkleigh. "A" 38
10. East Anstey 52

Shebbear August 8th (from page 8)
"B" Section

1. West Down 25 ½
2. Zeal Monachorum 29
3. South Tawton 36 ½
4. Burrington "B" 38 ½
5. Mariansleigh 48 ½
6. Torrington 55
7. Monkleigh "B" 57
8. Little Torrington 73 ½

Junior Novice Top ringing

1. Frithelstock "A" 45 ½
2. Frithelstock "B" 49

Full Peal

1. Sampford Courtenay 73
- Local. Best Top Ringing,
Littleham 8

Judges, Brian Drake and Michael Poole.

Bridestowe on 15 August 2009

1. Egguckland 13 ¼
2. St Petrock 29
3. South Brent 31 ½
4. Littleham 34
5. Stoke Gabriel 43 ½
6. Dunsford 44
7. Exminster 45 ½
8. Down St Mary 46 ½
9. Morteohoe 52
10. Lamerton 55
11. Holbeton 65 ½
12. East Anstey 74
13. Alphington 74 ½
14. Ide 130

Judges: Clive Ward and John Wickett

Results from Lydford on 15 August 2009

1. Egguckland 10 ½
2. South Brent 12 ½
3. Morteohoe 14
4. Stoke Gabriel 23
5. St Petrock 24
6. Dunsford 26 ½
7. Alphington 29
8. Holbeton 36
9. Lamerton 41
10. Down St Mary 42
11. Littleham 43 ½
12. Exminster 45 ½
13. East Anstey 48
14. Ide 68

Judges: Harry Bardens & Robin Burnham

Zeal Monachorum on 31st August 2009

- Egguckland 4
- South Brent A – 12 ½
- Kingsteignton – 19 ½
- South Tawton – 22 ½
- North Bovey - 23
- Littleham – 23 ½
- B Section
- Monleigh B - 35
- East Anstey - 37

- Monkleigh A – 37 ½
- South Brent B – 43 ½
- Spreyton A – 57 ½
- Spreyton B - 66

Judges: Brian Drake & Mervyn Way

We would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting our first competition. Zeal Monachorum Bellringers are hoping to hold their Competition next year on Saturday 28th August 2010. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Results of South Tawton on 5 Sep 2009.

Open class for the "Tawton Trophy"

1. Burrington 35 "Tawton Trophy"
2. South Brent 36 ½
3. Stoke Gabriel 49
4. Egg Buckland 54
5. Zeal Monachorum 63 ½
6. Monkleigh (A) 73 ½
7. Exminster 86 ½
8. East Anstey 142 ½

Junior class for the "Kingsford Lethbridge" Shield and "Perce Aggett" Cup.

1. Down St Mary 59 "K-L Shield"
2. Mariansleigh 64 ½ "P A Cup"
3. North Bovey 85 ½
4. Ide 102 ½
5. Monkleigh (B) 111 ½
6. Bow 118 ½
7. Widcombe- in - the- Moor 126.

Judges: John Coulthirst and Percy Pester

Results from Mariansleigh on 12 Sep 09

- St. Petrocks – 24 ½
- South Tawton – 25 ½
- Morteohoe A - 32
- Morteohoe B – 32 ½
- Burrington – 34 ½
- Monkleigh – 54 ½
- West Down – 63 ½
- Zeal Monachorum – 85 ½
- East Anstey – 96 ½

Bishop's Nympton on 12 Sept 2009

- St. Petrocks – 23 ¼
- South Tawton – 35 ½
- Burrington – 41 ¼
- Morteohoe - 45 ¼
- West Down – 57 ¾
- Monkleigh – 64 ¾
- Zeal Monachorum - 73
- East Anstey - 75

Devon National Call Change Competition held on 19 September 2009

6 Bell Section held at Drewsteignton

1. Egguckland 37
2. Soc. of Royal Cumberland Youths 40
3. Exeter St Petrock 43 ½
4. South Brent 44 ½
5. Exeter Cathedral 49 ¼
6. Burrington 49 ½

7. Stoke Gabriel 54 ¼
8. Hampshire W 54 ½
9. Moorland Ringers 73 ½

Judges: Martin and Maurice Sharland

8 Bell Section held at Chagford

1. Egguckland 52 ½
2. Soc of Royal Cumberland Youths 107 ½
3. Exeter Cathedral 113 ½
4. Stoke Gabriel 142 ½
5. Exeter St Petrock 155 ½
6. Burrington 156
7. Hampshire W 162
8. South Brent 178
9. Moorland Ringers 255

Judges: Mary Mears and Ruth Tuckett

Overall results.

1. Egguckland 89 ½
2. Soc of Royal Cumberland Youths 147 ½
3. Exeter Cathedral 162 ¾
4. Stoke Gabriel 196 ¾
5. Exeter St Petrock 199
6. Burrington 205 ½
7. Hampshire W 216 ½
8. South Brent 222 ½
9. Moorland Ringers 328 ½

Iddesleigh on the 26th September 2009

"A" Section.

1. Egg Buckland 6.5
2. Morthoe 28
- 3 Burrington 34
4. South Brent 44
5. West Down 46
6. Littleham 46.5

"B" Section.

- 1 Sampford Courtenay 38 ½
- 2 Down St Mary 54
- 3 Zeal Monachorum 56 ½
- 4 Dolton 63 ½
5. East Anstey 67
- 6 Dowland. 91

68th Kenn Deanery Ringing Festival held at Ideford on 26th September 2009.

'A' Section-Full peal

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1st Exminster 'A' | 25 ½ |
| 2nd Dunsford | 27 ½ |
| 3rd Alphington | 50 |
| 4th Exminster 'B' | 54 |

'B' Section - 66 changes off the stay

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| 1st Dawlish | 46 ½ |
| 2nd Ide | 77 |
| 3rd Teignmouth | 79 |

Novice section - 'Queens' off the stay

- | | |
|-------------|----|
| 1st Ideford | 53 |
|-------------|----|

Novice section - Round ringing off the stay

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| 1st Exminster | 14 ½ |
| 2nd Kenton | 15 |

Judges Percy Pester & Colin Avery

Results - continued

Tamar Valley Guild Competition at Monkleigh : 26th September 2009

"A" Section

1. Littleham 19 ¼
2. Monkleigh A 19 ¾
3. Bridgerule 47 ½

"B" Section

1. Monkleigh B 29 ¾
2. Pyworthy 41 ½
3. Monkleigh Novice 59

Novice Section

Frithelstock 82 ½

Junior Novice Section

1. Frithelstock 36
2. Bradford 44 ½

Judge: Mike Rose

Results of Dolton on October 3rd 2009

"A" section.

1. West Down 23 ¼
2. Burrington 26 ½
3. Morthoe 27
4. Littleham 27 ¼
5. East Anstey 31 ½
6. Mariansleigh 34 ½
7. Down St Mary 39 ¾
8. Dolton 45 ½
9. Iddesleigh 50 ¼

"B" section

1. Monkleigh "A" 47 ½
2. Monkleigh "B" 68
3. Dowland 86 ¾
4. Sampford Courtenay 92

Judges Michael Pool and Reed Partridge.

South Devon 8 Bell competition held at Berry Pomeroy on 3 October 2009

1. Eggbuckland 29 ½ Top ringing (16 ½)
2. Exeter Cathedral 52 (29 ½)
3. Kingsteignton 54 (34 ½)
4. Exminster 62 (35)
5. South Brent 64 (46)
6. Stoke Gabriel 82 (59)
7. Lamerton 91 ½ (45 ½)
8. Plymstock 115 (62)

Judges: Brian Drake and Mary Mears.

Chawleigh on October 10. 2009

A Section

1. Burrington 19.5
2. St. Petrocks 32.5
3. South Tawton 36.25
4. Down St. Mary 37.5
5. Exminster 38
6. Zeal Monachorum 49.5

B Section

1. Bow 50
2. Mariansleigh 55
3. Lapford 67.5
4. East Anstey 68.25

5. Alphington 93.5
 6. West Down NR
- Judges: P. Percy & W. Tremain

Tedburn St Mary on 17 October 2009

A Section

1. Eggbuckland 21 3/4
2. Kingsteignton 31
3. South Tawton 33
4. Stoke Gabriel 39 1/2
5. Zeal Monachoram 53 1/2
6. Down St Mary 56
7. Monkleigh 65 1/2
8. Widecombe in the Moor 75
9. Bow 78
10. East Anstey 80

B Section

1. North Bovey 41 1/2
 2. Spreyton 59 1/2
 3. Mariansleigh 97
 4. Broadhempston (B) 128 1/2
 5. Broadhempston (C) 161
- Judges: Colin Adams and Percy Pester.

Devon National Call Change Challenge

Now with the Challenge completed and the Trophies awarded, Ryan Trout, who had been responsible for organising the event can relax on his honeymoon. The competition was well attended by teams from Devon however there were two teams from outside the County which was down on previous competitions. It may be that it will take time for the teams outside the County to respond to the challenge and we sincerely hope that they do.

Plenty of surrounding towers were open for ringers who wished to have a further ring, or a practise before the competition. With the format of having a number of towers open for ringing as well as a 6 and an 8 bell competition it should be an attractive event. If you have any suggestions please let Ryan Trout know.

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. It seems that the display 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.

10 Bell Call Change Competition

The Devon Ringers' Council is proposing a 10 bell call change competition for 20 February 2010 to be held at St Mary-church, Torquay from 10:30am. The competition is likely to be open to any towers or groups, whether affiliated to the Association or Guild or not. Teams will be allowed a 5 minute practise before starting calls and judging will start from the first change. Teams will be able to chose between an open or closed handstroke lead. For more information please contact Ian Avery or your DRC representative.

Exminster Win at Ideford

The Kenn Deanery Ringing Festival has been going since 1935 and this Devon deanery's bell-ringing competition was still keenly contested as I suspect most other Deanery Competitions are especially when you are able to qualify for the Inter Deanery Competition.

The Kenn Deanery Ringing Festival, held at Ideford on Saturday 26 September, saw Exminster narrowly beat Dunsford in the A section by two faults to secure the shield for first place. The Ideford bells are lighter than both teams' own bells and the Ideford 3rd rope can be a little unpredictable.

The shield was presented to the winning team, Exminster, by Reverend Bernard Bennett, of Alphington, the first president of the Kenn Deanery Ringers Association. The Kenn Deanery Ringing Festival was established in 1935 and with the exception of the war years has been held ever since. This year was the 68th that teams of ringers from churches within the Deanery of Kenn have competed for a shield. The home team, Ideford, a developing team also took part in the competition.

Increase in number of competitions

The table, courtesy of James Kerslake, shows the competitions run each year.

2003	- 24
2004	- 26
2005	- 22
2006	- 27
2007	- 38
2008	- 46
2009*	- 34 (Part year only)

RW on line

With another national postal strike looming, and having been putting up with regional strikes for over a month now, the Ringing World is continuing to explore options for making the publication available through the web, to reduce their reliance on Royal Mail.

For a number of weeks there has been available online publication trials.

To see the full online version follow the link from www.ringingworld.co.uk. The Ringing World would be interested in receiving feedback on this facility - please send comments to online@ringingworld.co.uk.

The Ringing World web site can also be used to keep up to date with the latest news as well as purchasing diaries, calendars, pens, mugs as well as Christmas Cards.

Training Certificate

Awarding Your Teacher a Training Certificate

Cast your mind back to when you first learnt to ring. Do you remember the excitement of discovering this other world with its strange terms, strange mix of physical and mental demands and, if you were really lucky, strange people!

Somewhere, there would have been a group or an individual who taught and inspired you. They quietly put the time and considerable effort and patience that it takes to bring a ringer on.

I remember David Hobbs and Jackie who taught me to ring with great fondness to this day. These people are the unsung heroes of ringing and I would like to see their efforts marked.

If you have someone who you think deserves recognition for the effort they have put in to training it is now possible contact the Secretary or Training Officer to request that your trainer is awarded a certificate from the Association and your team.

What you have to do is write a letter, signed by as many members of your team as possible, giving details of the person or persons deserving recognition. This will form the basis for the formal presentation of the certificate, probably at the AGM, and will be kept as a record of achievement for future generations to look back on and as a record of what is going on to keep this great tradition of ours alive. This is your chance to recognise those that have given you so much.

I look forward to hearing your stories.

David Trist.

Training Officer.

Judging Workshop

Judging discussion/workshop

As you are aware, being a judge for the Devon Association is both an honour and a responsibility. We have a panel of approved judges who have served us well over the years. Some have decided to hang up their pencils and retire and this has left us with a smaller pool of people to call upon. We are looking to recruit some more people to be on the judges list.

Traditionally, you graduate to the list by virtue of long service or great experience and that will still be the case. On January 30th we will be holding a discussion/workshop about judging with as many of the experienced judges there as possible. There will be a limited number of spaces available to anyone with a reasonable level of experience who would be interested in learning how to judge or just to find out how judges work. The aim of this is twofold.

Firstly for the experienced judges to get together and thrash out issues that arise in peals and secondly to encourage more people to become judges. We need to have more people we can call upon and this is an excellent opportunity to benefit from the experience of our long serving members. Some of you will have attended the Judging Workshops run by the St. Petrock's Ringing Centre.

This will follow a similar pattern but will be based more around actual examples of judging situations rather than direct training. If you have often wanted to judge but did not want to put yourself forward then this is your chance.

If you thought you could do it better than the judges, again, this is your chance. We want you to come along and become one of the judges.

This is not about changing anything we do but about broadening the number of people who do it and helping new people to continue our existing high standards.

This event will take place in Dunsford Village Hall on Saturday 30th January starting at 10.00 and finishing when everyone has had enough to say.

If you want to attend, please book a place with David Trist David Trist
Training Officer

South Devon 8 Bell

Barry Osborne ran a successful competition at Berry Pomeroy and kept the judges busy with a succession of teams. There was one break but that was to allow for the judges to have their tea.

Norman Mortimore had organised the local arrangements on behalf of Barry despite Norman's wife, Sylvia, recovering from a knee replacement. Norman had some last minute changes with a suitable billet being eventually found for the discerning judges.

The helpers from Berry Pomeroy were enthusiastic and made the planning for Norman a pleasant task. A further pleasant task for Norman was to attend the ordination of Jane Lankester in Totnes on Sunday 27 September 2009 and ask if she would take the South Devon Ringers' service at the end of the competition. Jane's husband, Tim, a bell ringer, had sadly died in 2006. Her parents, who had supported her so well in training, both also died within a short period of one another. The 8 participating teams provided draw prizes and kept these bells, a recent rehang by Taylors, ringing well.

After the service the results were given, with Eggbuckland having a clear lead of 22 ½ points. Barry thanked all who helped to make this day a success. He also gave a reminder that the South Devon Ringers' Association held their AGM on the last Saturday in February each year at Upton and that the tea provided by helpers from the local church cater for far more than attend. Barry is hoping that next year's AGM will see an increase in the numbers attending.

Novice Competition at West Charleton Cancelled

The novice competition that was to be held at St Mary's West Charleton on Saturday 24th October (clock change day) has been cancelled because of lack of support. The competition was to be about NOVICE ringing with two sections. Section 1 round ringing for five minutes and section 2 ringing off the stays half of the peal known as 60 on thirds max of ten minutes ringing return to stand on the stays (no rising no lowering). This competition has been rung for the last 5 years and it was hoped that this year teams from different areas would enter.

Contact details

Brian Meek or

Mike Gray

AGM Notice

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

Ringling Ladder

The Ringing ladder is progressing well and readers can keep up to date by using James Kerslake's excellent and informative web site at www.myconid.co.uk. There is a new round for the Ladder which is to be completed by December. And anyone who is interested in joining the Ringing Ladder, or requires further information can contact Graham Sharland.

Editor:

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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.

John Taylor & Co.

We are pleased to announce that as from Monday 19th October 2009 we shall recommence trading in our historic name from our premises in Freehold Street, Loughborough, Leics.

John Taylor & Co is committed to offering the highest standards of bell and iron founding and engineering excellence associated with the names Taylor and Loughborough around the world for 150 years.

We are delighted to have saved the Museum and important records at Loughborough which we intend to see placed in a Charitable Heritage Trust and developed as part of the national archive which is intended to be accessible to all. A consortium of well known ringers, senior members of the bell industry and investors has been formed as UK Bellfoundries Ltd. and has been successful in its bid for the former operating entity at Loughborough. We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Merle Taylor has agreed to be President of the company.

We are looking forward to continuing working with the other members of the trade as well as individual churches. We would like to thank all those who have given us their support in recent months – it has been greatly appreciated.

Andrew WR Wilby. On behalf of the Directors of UK Bellfoundries Ltd and John Taylor & Co, The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough, Leics LE11 1AR. Telephone: 01509 212241. Fax: 01509 263305 Web: www.taylorbells.co.uk. Email office@taylorbells.co.uk Friday 16th October 2009.

Devon Ringers' Carol Service

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

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!**

All proceeds in aid of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

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.

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The Loughborough Bell Foundry

Administrators achieve going concern sale of historic bell foundry

225 year-old business - one of only two remaining bell foundries in the UK - will continue to trade 16 October 2009

Simon Chandler, partner at accountancy firm Mazars and joint administrator of Taylors Eayre & Smith, the world's largest bell foundry, this afternoon announces the completion of a going concern sale of the business and its assets to UK Bell Foundries Limited for an undisclosed sum.

The sale preserves the jobs of the 11 remaining employees at the Loughborough-based foundry. The new owners will continue to trade and expand the customer base, protecting the inherent skills and value of the business, which has been in existence since 1784.

Simon Chandler comments: "We are absolutely delighted that such a specialist manufacturing business has been bought as a going concern - especially in the current climate - and that the tradition of bell founding in Loughborough can continue."

The business has been operating at its current site, the Taylor Bell Foundry, on Freehold Street in Loughborough, since 1840. The largest bell in Britain, the "Great Paul" of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, was cast at the foundry in 1881. It has also cast numerous bells for international customers including Washington Cathedral and Yale University in the USA, and the Canberra monument in Australia.

The famous premises have also lent themselves to the cinema, featuring in the upcoming Ricky Gervais film Cemetery Junction.

The company had experienced financial difficulties due to cash flow problems following a reduction in turnover and an increase in expenditure on the trading premises. It went into administration on 18 September 2009.