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# Devon Calls

Nov 2016

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## FOCUS ON EGGBUCKLAND

- AN INTERVIEW WITH THE 6-BELL CHAMPIONS OF DEVON

**W**hat contributed towards Eggbuckland first becoming a team? Was there a legacy of ringing at the tower?

There is a photographic record of an Eggbuckland team ringing for the silver jubilee of King George V in 1935 and a 1929 copy of the Devon Association rules so we think there has been a long history of ringing at Eggbuckland. However, our earliest memories are of a small band of ringers who rang for services and perhaps at the deanery festival.

### Did the team which you lead all learn together?

The bells at Eggbuckland were rehung in 1961 and this seemed to inspire a recruitment drive from within the church and the youth club, where the Trout



Devon Major Final, Dunsford 1980

Left to right:

Gillian Glover (née) Trout), Graham Hubber, Hilary Trout  
Roger Trout, David Trout, Nick Trout

brothers could be found.

Dave started learning to ring in 1962, his older brothers Roger and Neil a few years later and Hilary was recruited from the choir in 1966. They were taught by the late Frank Lee and Percy Butland.

Since the early 70s Dave has taken the lead in teaching most of the Eggbuckland band, first his siblings Gill and Nick, Richard Westcott (Hilary's

brother) and Graham Hubber, then in the late seventies Bob Hackworthy (Roger's brother-in-law) and Angela Delbridge (Nick's future wife).

Sue Ashton (nee Trewin) started learning in 1966 at Lydford, where she was brought up, and joined Eggbuckland in

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**COPY for "DEVON CALLS" is always welcome and we rely on you to submit articles please**

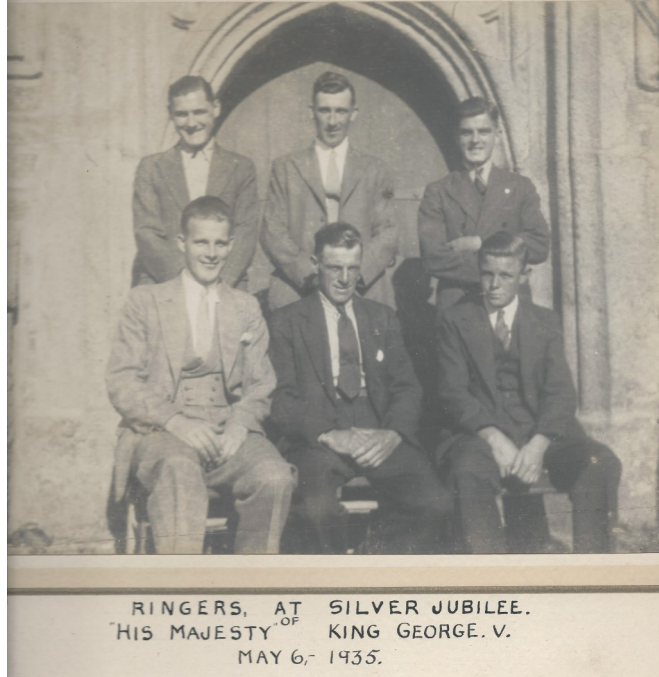
Deadline for next edition - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

We would be very interested in including "Letters to the Editor".

Articles and letters should be sent to the Editor: Colin ADAMS - [kentonian@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:kentonian@eclipse.co.uk)

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the early 80s after she had married and moved to Plymouth. Martin Crew learnt to ring at Tamerton Foliot and has been the captain there for many years. He has been a member of the Eggbuckland band since the 1980s. As time went by the next generation came of age and it seemed only natural that they were taught bellringing too. During the 90s the tower was full of youngsters learning to ring, including our own sons Ben and Dan, Roger's daughter Hannah and son Ryan, Bob's children Kevin and Chris, the Kerslake boys James and Ben and Nick & Angie's son Steven.



be enjoyed. In 1971 Dave & Hilary started 'going out' together and a shared love of ringing and desire for improvement led us to want to experience ringing wherever we could, at the same time encouraging our learners to strive for the same thing. As the team improved we began to enter more and more competitions.

**When did the team enter its first 'Devon' competition?**

From our records we think that Eggbuckland first entered a 'Devon' in 1974 when the qualifier was held at Lamerton. We qualified for the

Minor final at Morchard Bishop where we finished 7th with 75.75 faults! The team at that time was:

- Percy Butland (captain)
- Peter Beer
- Richard Westcott
- Gillian Trout
- Hilary Trout
- Dave Trout

By the following year Percy & Peter had retired from ringing and Dave had taken on the captaincy. Hilary became our treble ringer, Arthur Doughty took the second, John Walters the tenor and Dave moved to the fifth. This team qualified for the Minor finals in 1975 finishing 3rd.

**Who or what inspired the team in the direction of competition ringing?**

During the 60s our late captain, Percy Butland, was always very keen to encourage youngsters to learn and he would always try and enter teams at all levels in the deanery competition. However it was Roy Varcoe, who rang at Lydford but lived in Plymouth who really introduced Dave to the cut and thrust of competitive ringing. Recognising young talent and enthusiasm Roy encouraged Dave to join him at Lydford on Sundays and they would drive up together, often pausing at the



**Devon Major Final at Bampton, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**  
Left to right. Angela Trout. Sue Ashton. Steven Trout.  
David Trout. Martin Crew. Hilary Trout.

Halfway House at Grenofen on the way home. This brought Dave into contact with teams in the Tavistock Deanery, where there was some fierce competitive rivalry and at the time some very good ringing to

By 1976 Richard had left home to go to university and two more 'Trouts' came into the competition team, Nick (aged 15) on the third bell and Roger (slightly older!) took over the tenor. With this line-up the team

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were runners up in the 1976 Minor final and went on to win it the following year at Lydford with 27.25 faults.

The following year the team qualified for the Devon Major final for the first time.

***What was the date and where was the competition held when the team first won the Ross shield? (Ed - at a guess I would say this was at Dunsford in circa. 1978).***

The Eggbuckland team were absolutely thrilled to win the Ross shield for the first time, with a peal of 6.5 faults, when the Major final was held at Dunsford on 24th May 1980.

The average age of the team was 24, Nick being the youngest at 18, and the ringers were:

Hilary Trout  
Gillian Glover (née Trout)  
Graham Hubber  
Nick Trout  
Dave Trout  
Roger Trout

***How many times has Eggbuckland won the Ross shield?***

At Bampton in 2016, Eggbuckland won the Ross shield for the 25th time. The team members at this time were:

Hilary Trout  
Angela Trout  
Sue Ashton  
Martin Crew  
Dave Trout  
Steve Trout

As you can see, the A team's personnel has changed and evolved over the years and about a dozen ringers have been involved in the teams Devon successes, including Bob Hackworthy and Ryan Trout. However, the only person to have rung in all 25 wins is Dave (Hilary only being forced to miss one following the birth of our second child by Caesarean section!)

***Are there any occasions that you remember particular well whilst competing in a Devon final?***

Obviously our very first win was one of the most special Devon finals for us but another unforgettable occasion was in 1978 when after ringing in our first major final at Newton Ferrers, the judges announced that there was a tie and a ring off was required between Eggbuckland and Down St. Mary. We naturally thought this was for first place and nervously gathered with Down St. Mary to decide who would ring off first. Tom Wright, Captain of Down St. Mary,

suggested we both have a "rise, in and out of queens and lower" to decide the places. However, having been on the losing end of this tactic at a previous competition Dave requested that we ring full peals and this was agreed. Happily Eggbuckland had the better peal, only to discover that the ring off was actually for second place! The winners were Plymstock, with 17.5 faults, in their final year as a 6 bell tower.

But the proudest moment of all for the tower was at the major final at Staverton in 2003 when Eggbuckland A & B finished 1st and 2nd respectively, something we believe to be unique in the history of the Devon competition.

A	Hilary Trout	B	Dan Trout
	Sue Ashton		Angie Trout
	Martin Crew		James Kerslake
	Bob Hackworthy		Jereme Darke
	Dave Trout		Ryan Trout
	Roger Trout		Neil Trout

***Devon is rich in peals both six and eight. Do you have a favourite peal?***

There are lots of great bells in Devon but probably Sampford Spiney, South Brent and Broadclyst are among our favourites.

***How do you see the future of call-change ringing here in Devon?***

Call-change ringing has played a huge part in our lives over the last 50 years and has given us both an enormous amount of pleasure. We could not have achieved so much without the loyalty and commitment of our ringers to services, practice nights and competitions.

As the last bastion of call-change ringing in the country we can only hope that it continues to thrive in this county for many years to come. The bond of camaraderie is great amongst all bell ringers but probably nowhere is it better than in Devon.

***Dave & Hilary Trout***

*Congratulations to Dave on leading the team on the 25 occasions that Eggbuckland has won the Ross shield. Congratulations also to Dave's wife, Hilary, who has rung the treble in 24 of the 25 competitions. What an outstanding husband and wife partnership. Finally, congratulations to the whole team on reaching their 25<sup>th</sup> victory at Bampton during this year's major final. Eggbuckland who will beat you?*

***Editor***

# Devon Calls

I want to start by congratulating two teams. First of all Exeter Cathedral. The cathedral ringers won the Devon 8-bell competition at St. Saviours', Dartmouth on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September being awarded the Ross shield for the very first time. Secondly to Ide ringers who won at the annual Kenn Deanery Festival held at Bishopsteignton on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. For Ide it was at Whitestone back in 1974 when the team were last awarded the Deanery shield; at a guess I would say this was during the time when either the late Fred Delve or George Stevens was the Tower Captain. So well done to both teams; one a long standing method team ringing at a call-change competition and the other a call-change side working hard to regain the reputation which the former team had for quality striking.

The present editorial team have been producing Devon Calls now for almost three years. Throughout this time we have tried to retain some of the features contained in previous issues whilst at the same time trying to make the magazine a little more appealing. The new appearance and layout of the magazine would not have been possible without the expertise of Colin Barnes, from Chagford, our Technical Editor. He has helped to raise the profile of the magazine by the way in which he sets out the text and arranges the photographs. He also has a very keen eye for detail and quickly spots errors that I overlook. None of us are perfect and the errors which appeared in the last edition are entirely mine. You will have noticed that the date on the last edition was given as February which should have been July. Not only this but against the report of the competition at St. Giles, Kilmington on 28<sup>th</sup> May a photograph of St. Peter's, Zeal Monachorum crept in by mistake. The final draft was left for me to proof read so there really is no excuse. Thank you to those people who so tactfully pointed this out.

In thanking Colin I also want to thank Julia, Julia Endacott I mean. It was Julia who put me in touch with Colin when I indicated at the AGM in November 2013 that I would be prepared to give Devon Calls a try. From which point introductions were made and a production team began to emerge. Elinor D'Albaic, also from Chagford, came on

board as proof reader. She has worked quietly and efficiently alerting us to any typos and grammatical errors. Not only this but she also helps with the packaging and distribution of the magazine. Our secretary Margaret frequently ventures down from North Devon to Chagford to also help with the task of packaging and distribution. It is a task which normally takes between 2 – 3 hours (depending whether inserts have to be included or not). This task is performed 3 times a year and is done in the Gabriel Room at St. Michael's Church, Chagford. Maurice, Daphne and Graham Sharland, Ian Avery, Julia Endacott and Victoria our PR Officer also help as and when they can and I am grateful to them all.

The quality of the magazine depends upon the articles we receive. I want to thank all those who have taken the trouble to gather their thoughts, write them down and produce an article. Gradually the number of articles received has increased helping to make the magazine lively, newsworthy and, I hope, reflective of the world of call-change ringing here in the West Country. My task is to ensure the magazine remains open to contributors, is informative, lively and, dare I say, even a little provocative (errors aside of course). Most of all I want to feel that the content is valid and relevant to the needs of ringers and that each copy is eagerly awaited. No, the magazine cannot compete with social media for immediacy but what it does ensure is that our history, which at last is being written down, is now recorded and archived. Future historians enquiring into bellringing may well find they have a valuable source to delve into. I hope so.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition and that you will feel inclined to submit something for the next. We would like always to achieve 16 pages, but only 12 in this edition. Let us know not only what is happening at your tower but even anything ringing-wise that may be discussed down at the pub following practice. Help us to build on the excellent work of our predecessors. In doing so you will be playing a part in the ongoing task of recording the history of call-change ringing as it is practiced here in this wonderful county of ours.

Best wishes,

**Colin Adams**

# CHAGFORD BELLS REFURBISHMENT - PROGRESS REPORT

The bells are now at Taylor's of Loughborough. According to plan the work to lower the bells started on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. Andrew Ogden, bell hanger from Taylors, was assisted by five local volunteer labourers of whom four worked throughout the week augmented to five for the last day.

By the time Andrew was able to arrive from Loughborough, the traffic having been very heavy, the local team had already opened two trap doors, removed the ropes and clappers, and split four of the wheels. After all the preparatory work the tenor was lowered to the ground floor on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and all were down by the end of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August was a big day for us. From 7.0am the area was cordoned off and bells were taken out of the West door and wheeled on a trolley round to the South Porch.

There, at 9.15am a photocall was held with the bells standing in order as had happened in 1914 when the old bells were then



hoisted by crane onto the lorry. After all was secure the lorry left for Loughborough at about noon.

After clearing up all then went off, after a strenuous week's work, for the Bank Holiday weekend leaving the frame to be removed the following week. This was a much greater task than anticipated - the bellhanger from Taylors and 4 - 6 volunteers worked throughout Tuesday to Friday finishing at 7.0pm. It was also found that the rot in the old wooden frame was much more extensive than had been thought so there would have been no option but to replace it. The right decision had been taken.

So now we await the installation of the new cast-iron frame and the rehangng of the bells from their new shiny red headstocks in January 2017. Until then no bells for services and no hourly striking of the clock!! Rededication of the bells by the Bishop of Exeter is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – please put the date in your diary as there will be "Open Tower" ringing in the afternoon.

An archive of this project is being prepared to include an account of the history of the bells, photos and drawings of the old oak frame, photos of the work in progress and acknowledgement of all the generous help and support we have received.

**Julia Endacott**  
Tower Captain

**Colin Barnes**  
Appeal Chairman



26th August 2016

© Chris Chapman

taken to Loughborough for recasting. This was all watched by a large number of local residents and visitors and many, many photos were taken.



The flat bed lorry had arrived and the bells were pushed, one by one on the trolley up the slope to Cross Tree by a team of men where they were

Tenor Bell



## For comparison 1914

The bells being removed for transportation to Loughborough then for recasting. The number 8 bell bears the inscription

*This peal was being recast when the Great European War broke out—1914  
C. G. Hayter-Hames, T. Amery  
Churchwardens*

## A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

When you asked me to write a letter from Australia I thought, 'A letter. Crikey. I didn't write a letter since e-mail came on the scene.' It was a kind invitation though. I'm lucky to return to the U.K. once a year and when I come home I'm always made very welcome. So it's nice to be offered the opportunity to say hello to far away friends.

Friends always ask me about living here in Australia. Some things are similar, some different. But I think the thing that continues to impress me most of all are the distances. If you want to go visiting a few towers out here, then you've got to be ready to travel a few miles. A month ago I took that opportunity. I left my home on the coast of Victoria - the bottom right hand corner of the country - in the morning. At 7pm I arrived in Orange, New South Wales. After 9 hours driving I was still in the bottom right hand corner. Even so, I'd covered more than 500 miles in a north-easterly direction!

It's good to take in the changing scenery on a drive like that. From coastal Victoria where I live, up into the higher ground of New South Wales you can see wine-growing country giving way to cow and then sheep land. The vegetation turns from grey to lush green and then the dry yellows of the low mountain ranges. These are old mountains, great rocky tables that sit heavy and dark under massive skies.

Despite the scenery, the last hour of my journey was a bit nail-biting. When the sun sets, animals the size of 6-month-old calves tend to start bounding across the road. Kangaroos! They look friendly enough until you hit one. Imagine a little herd of Ruby Reds hopping over the fence onto the A30, and then bouncing alongside your car... that's what roos do.

The 18-wheel trucks are another issue altogether. If driving out here is a new experience, then towers are a bit different also. 'Old' is 1900, 'really old' is 1850. Nevertheless, what might be missing in terms of history is made up for in terms of vision and enthusiasm. In recent years, the Aussies have kept installing new sets of bells in their little brick churches. New installations are normally light - 6 or 7cwt at most - but they're hanging them with a bit of finesse, and they sound and go very well indeed.

The Aussies like to keep it social as well. You have to when your nearest neighbours are over an hour away. So when you turn up at a new tower the question is - as ever - 'where are you from then?' Here distance comes to the fore again. Sometimes people will have turned up from a tower 2000 miles away!

I've been here 6 years now, but still no Aussie accent. So when I show up for a practice and people ask where I've come from they normally say, 'Yea mate, but where are you really from?' So I'll tell them, and then they begin to tell their own stories.

'Oh do you ring with a coiled rope?' asks someone.

'And with your wrist through a loop in the rope?' somebody else chimes in. 'And ringing half-way down?'... "You've visited Devon then?" I'll say. 'I rang at Bovey Tracey and Widdecombe in the Moor' one lady tells me. "Did you enjoy it?" I asked her. 'Oh NO, I was terrified! There were trophies everywhere, from wall to wall.' she exclaimed.

We all know *that* feeling don't we?

When people tell me their stories, it seems to me that even here, on the other side of the world, there's bit of a special mythology around *Devon Ringing*. When I arrived for a job some years back, ringing was certainly an 'in'. Yes, I've had to get to grips with the scientific stuff. But by and large, despite towers all being 'method' oriented, I've found people are very keen to give our old ways a go.

What strikes me is once people have had a go, they tell someone else about it. They tend to come back for more as well. 'Call us some more of those *spaghetti changes* will you', one elderly gent said to me at a branch practice. He was talking about the 8-bell peal. More recently I heard the president of the *Australia & New Zealand Ringing Association* say he thought that it would be 'good if more people were to try closed hand-stroke ringing'. I nearly fell over.

Personally, I think Devon ringing makes sense to people out here. I say this because of something that unites many call change ringers and the Aussies in general. I'm talking about the value of competition. If there were a blue arsed fly and a green arsed fly climbing up a window in a pub, the Aussies could get excited about it. There's a fair few who'd put some money on the event.

I'm gradually going around, trying to build more enthusiasm for *proper call changes*. But I reckon it could be this competitive side that offers a real draw card for people here. We'll see.

I'll write again. It's not so hard once you've started is it? I'm off to ring the Swan Bells in a few weeks, the ring of 16 that I'm sure you know as the bells that used to hang at Saint Martin in the Fields. I'll let you know how that goes.

All the best,  
**Robin Canniford**

### ***A potted version of Robin's ringing career.***

My Dad took me ringing when I was about eight years old. I gave up as a teenager but started ringing again ten or so years ago with Monkleigh, Frithelstock and Torrington, where John Down stood with me and put me right. I moved to Australia for work, but ringing remains my link with home and I enjoy visiting whenever I can.

*Thank you Robin for providing us with such a fascinating glimpse of what life is like living down under.*

**Editor**

# AN EXILE RETURNS!

I learned to ring in Wiltshire as a young teenager and have continued to ring ever since. But what gives me the most satisfaction has always been to achieve the best possible striking, however apparently simple the changes.

So when I got a job in Devon it was natural to link up with the call change fraternity – at Dawlish briefly, then Whitestone and Alphington in the late 1970s, and Plymtree and Cullompton in the 1980s. This was when the late David Trist and I became great friends; he was teaching a young team at Uffculme while I was doing the same at Cullompton.

Because of ringing at Cullompton, Margaret and I got fully involved in the excellent church there, and it was then that I felt called to ordination. Without bellringing I fear that my Christian faith and calling may have got submerged by all the other pleasures and cares of life!

So began my long period of exile from 'proper' ringing... but I did ring wherever I was in ministry – curate in Sussex for five years, country vicar in Herefordshire for fifteen (where we got a new ring of 6 installed at one church), then my present job as vicar of St James, Taunton for the last ten years.

Really good method ringing is fantastic – but so rare!! It takes a really competent team such as you only really get in the big cities; so my own experience has been of very indifferent quality of ringing, though performed by lovely and sincere people.

Then David Trist died... and through being given the sad privilege of conducting his funeral last year I was reintroduced to the lovely Devon call change ringers. Thank you David! It is only a pity I didn't do it earlier...

Anyway I am so pleased that I have been welcomed by the Exminster team, and I try to join their Thursday practice whenever church commitments allow. It feels like a return 'home'. Thank you Colin and all the team – and to all others I have met. I hope I don't mess up too many competitions. God bless you all.

(Revd.) **Tim Jones**  
Vicar of St. James, Taunton



Tim ringing at Carhampton



St. John the Baptist, Carhampton, Somerset



St. James, Taunton

## OBITUARY

We are sorry to hear that **Gilbert White** (brother of Fred from West Down) passed away last August. Cremation took place in Sussex. A short service followed by interment of ashes is to be held at St. Calixtus Church, West Down on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (time to be announced). Gilbert learnt to ring at West Down and rang there regularly until moving to Sussex. He remained an enthusiastic supporter of Devon call-change ringing and frequently came to Devon in support of the Association's competitions. We send our condolences to Fred and his family.

# CHAGFORD RINGERS ON TOUR 2016: A TRIBUTE TO 25 YEARS OF AUNTIE'S (JULIA ENDACOTT'S) ARMY

'Tis twenty five years since our story began,  
When Auntie and Paul hatched a true cunning plan,  
We'll take all our ringers away on a tour,  
We'll do it, says Auntie, we'll ring some, and more!  
So off to the Isle of Wight we all did go,  
Our Devon style ringing we made sure to show,  
We raised them, we lowered them, we made those bells chime,  
We loved it, said Auntie, we had a great time.

So where are we going to next, we all said,  
We looked at the maps, and we scratched of our heads,  
But soon we were travelling, near far and wide,  
If there's bells there, says Auntie, there's nowhere to hide!  
And this year we reached to the heights of our fame,  
Hereford Cathedral, 200 steps to its name,  
We wanted to go there, so off we did set,  
We'll ring there, says Auntie, I'll climb those steps yet!

Our coach arrived early, at Chagford by six,  
Picked up all our friends, and soon got up to tricks,  
With laughing and teasing, we're off on our way,  
What's that noise? says Auntie, it's Janet, we say!  
We cross o'er the river, and head into Wales,  
And chat over breakfast, exchanging our tales,  
Then Magor is calling, first tower of the day,  
Get ringing, says Auntie, now's no time to play.

A light little six 'neath the chancel were set,  
We rang of our best and the challenge was met,  
By now we were hungry, or p'raps thirsty for some,  
Don't tarry, says Auntie, there's more ringing to come.

Abergavenny was rainy and wet,  
The pub was inviting, our fate it was set,  
The steps seemed much higher, the climb it was long,  
I told you, says Auntie, that beer was too strong.

The ten bells were glorious, hummed with renown,  
We set them a-calling far over the town,  
And when we were finished, back into the rain,  
I loved those, said Auntie, we'll come here again!  
With hills all around us, and orchards and trees,  
We drove to the next tower, relaxed and at ease,  
The place, Ewyas Harold, and out came the sun,  
A nice six, says Auntie, we're bound to have fun.

Next it was Peterchurch waiting for us,  
We're greeted with tea and cake straight off the bus,  
The church was remodelled, with arches and light,  
I'll stay here, says Auntie, these Welsh cakes – just right  
By now we were flagging, the days end was near,  
We headed to Hereford, and our hotel here,  
We checked in, we unpacked, we all had a shower,  
I'll see you, says Auntie. down here in an hour.

For all hungry ringers, the meal was a treat,  
A buffet was laid out, as much as you'd eat,  
With wining and dining, the night soon wore on,  
Be careful, says Auntie, tomorrow is long.  
We all meet at breakfast, and still it does rain,  
I'm running the morning tower, Stuart complains,  
But no-one believes him, the bells will be fine,  
Come on now, says Auntie, we're leaving at nine.

Ross on Wye bells were the best of the tour,  
A beautiful heavy eight we did adore,  
We rang them, and rang them, and ran out of steam,  
I love these, says Auntie, they go like a dream.

The next bells at Newent were less good we found,  
The ceilings were low, made our troubles abound,  
We rang them, and rang them, till we're fit to drop,  
It's lunch now, says Auntie, Who seemed glad to stop.

Lugwardine bells were the next of the day,  
An eight that were better, so here we did stay,  
The door was unusual, guillotine style,  
It's hot here, says Auntie, makes ringing a trial.  
Then back into Hereford, looking up high,  
Cathedral towers seem to stretch into the sky,  
Met at the bottom, we looked up the stairs,  
I'm worried, says Auntie, 'bout going up there.

First it was fifty, one hundred came next,  
The steps seemed to multiply, we were perplexed,  
Two hundred surmounted, our breath it came fast,  
I've made it, says Auntie, I've made it at last!  
Ten bells here to ring, and a challenge indeed,  
We knew they would test us, our skills we would need,  
We pulled off, quite anxious, but soon we were there,  
We've done it! says Auntie, a privilege rare.

Saturday night was a time to unwind,  
To eating and drinking we all set our minds,  
A dinner together, then singing we led,  
It's late now, says Auntie, and time for my bed.  
It was up again early on Sunday for all,  
Bags packed on the coach, and then ringing did call,  
We hoped for an easy tower, hopes were in vain,  
A struggle, said Auntie, don't come here again.

Hampton Bishop had new ropes, but no band to ring,  
So we fought with the stretch, and the draft, and the spring,  
Group photos were taken, we smiled in the sun,  
These bells, grimaced Auntie, were really no fun.  
We needed our lunch, so a pub we did try,  
A beautiful setting, down close to the Wye,  
We ate and we chatted, and speeches were made,  
Thank you! said Auntie, her medal displayed.

St Mary de Crypt was our last chance to chime,  
We made it to Gloucester in plenty of time,  
The bells here were lovely, we rang a fine peal,  
Success here, says Auntie, and now home I feel

Our thanks went to Karen, for all she had done,  
And also to Merv – they were second to none,  
All had gone smoothly, with never a doubt,  
Teamwork, says Auntie, is what it's about.  
Home now at Chagford, the friends did depart,  
Sad all was over, but full of good heart,  
And now we're a'planning, oh never you fear,  
We'll do it, says Auntie, we'll do it next year!

**Clare Griffiths**





## NEWS FROM WHIMPLE

Whimple did ring for the Queen's 90th on Saturday 11 June at noon. I artfully extended the Queens Peal by 30 changes to make 90 in all, which I thought appropriate. The band was - Liz Silk (treble), Lis Roberts, Jill Horsman, Dy Beedell, Christopher Brown, and me (tenor, cond). I think it took us 35-40 minutes. It was also the day of our church fete and so there were many villagers out and about who would have been more aware of the bells than usual. It was gratifying that I received several favourable comments and enquiries about "Were we ringing for the Queen?" and "...nice bells today.." I think it generally contributed to a convivial day of enjoyment and 'specialness' altogether.

### How the Queen's Peal became 90

When I first came to ring at Whimple, Call Changes were a relaxing way of ringing. Someone else does all the hard work and I just fall into place. Of course that doesn't take into account precision striking nor the novelty of closed leads! As time has rolled on I find myself in the position of having to do the calling. In the ringing chamber there was a hardback folder with sequences of calls printed on cards in large and emboldened print protected under laminate film. So I had plenty of material to work with. However, this created two questions immediately. Did they go from top to bottom or left to right? Starting from Rounds, that answered itself immediately. The second question was more teasing - how could I check everyone was in the right place? I decided I needed to learn something of how these rows were put together. Quite by coincidence, while browsing Bellringing web sites on a different matter, I stumbled upon the Whiting Society and their output of booklets about Bellringing. One that caught my eye was 'Ringing Down 'ere'. When it arrived it was immediately a solution, with chapters setting out clearly the different ways one might structure a call change peal and how the length might be varied. It touched on musical rows, true and false sequences and the popular compositions on six and eight bells. It became my homework for the next few months. Being now a bearer of somewhat aged brain, it takes me a while to grasp these things and I am prone to forget where I'm going, and which bits I've done. However it does provide me with another dimension to my ringing. So how does this impact on the Queen's 90th birthday? Well it was a question of what to ring? Clearly we all wanted to mark the event. The immediate thought was the queens peal, but this is 60 changes isn't it? Should we not attempt 90 changes (or rows)? Are any of my cards 90 changes long? I didn't know. I am still somewhat confused between the Devon peal, the Queens peal and 60 on thirds! My Whiting Society tutor would suggest there is a difference between at least two of them. In the end I decided to compromise and concoct a mixture of the queens peal, which is on a card and so made calling secure because we ring it for weddings and everybody knows it, and an extension by way of a 'back through' set to add another thirty changes. That way we achieved the queens peal and 90 all in one go. You know that 'queens' refers to a sequence of bells but our villagers don't! So its really good when I tell our folk that their village marked the day with the 90 changes of the Queen's peal. Technically I digressed from the card a row before it comes back to queens,



swapped the back pair and then hunted the treble for three leads while half hunting the fifth then the third...I think. That was the plan anyway! But notwithstanding, the striking was good and the rhythm satisfying so it sounded good and we all enjoyed it. At just over 40 minutes it was the longest duration any of our ringers have done at one stretch so commendations to them.

### Whimple in a rolling ring - Ringing for England

Perhaps you've heard of the Rolling Stones? Well, I can reassure you that a Rolling Ring bears no resemblance! I first heard of it in an e-mail forwarded to me by a branch secretary who thought I might be interested. Apparently it was an idea that emerged in Bristol - a city with a good number of ringable towers, and many in close proximity. Several towers rang throughout the day, one after the other to mark St George's Day. Following that beginning, another year Colchester got all the city towers ringing on the day. It was fun and a tremendous achievement. This year the idea was put out that perhaps an entire District or Guild might try it, and that is where our story starts. I talked it over with our ringers to see what they thought and receiving a positive response discussed preferred times. The local proposal was that we should claim half - hour slots. Whimple found midday most convenient and put in our bid, with a second option for later in the day. So it was that eventually I received a running order showing Whimple to ring from 1.00 - 1.30pm.

Many of the towers in East Devon took part, but of course because the geography is so great it would not be possible for people listening to hear the bells ringing round as it would be in a city, but still good to have been part of the great effort.

The morning kicked off with the bells of Combe Raleigh at 9 o'clock in the morning and ended with Awliscombe from 7.30 till 8 o'clock in the evening. I know that some sixteen towers took part, each commencing when their immediate forerunner ended. I understand that some towers rang twice and bands formed and reformed to fill as much of the time as possible, but however the arithmetic of time works out twenty three towers were requested and none declined. Can one hear Lypston's bells at Topsham or Exmouth, and vice-verse; or what about Exmouth's at Kenton or Exminster? Can you think of any nub of villages or towers where something of the like might work?

**Roger Algate,**  
Tower Captain, Whimple.

## JACK'S NAME RINGS ON !!!

A few years ago I was approached by Jack Rhymes about a set of handbells that he wanted to sell. None of Jack's family were interested in them and as the set were in a poor state of repair he thought it best to turn them into cash. I say poor state of repair lightly, they had hung on the outside of the porch in Jack's home at Cresswell, West Alvington for many years and it was only when one had dropped to the ground after the leather handle had rotted away that he decided to do something about them. I remember buying the bells over the phone after the usual lovely long conversation with Jack and Harry Bardens, from Bigbury very kindly delivered them up to our Handbell Festival that year – Harry and Ellen being regular visitors.

As I said the bells were in a sorry state, two had cracks and one had a hole in the waist. All the fittings were either worn or missing and major refurbishment was necessary. However, the set were an interesting one. They were an octave of 8 bells in the key of C Major cast by John Warner and Sons of Cripplegate, London during the Mid Victorian period. Nothing unusual about that – Warners cast thousands of sets during their period at their Crescent Foundry. What perhaps is unusual is that they were tuned to modern international pitch. Quite standard today but perhaps different in those days. That is to say that their strike notes and overtones would match a new set today. The three broken castings were replaced by Warner

duplicates, one of which, and I am very grateful, came from Harry Bardens and two that I already had in store. New leather handles and caps, together with replacement internal fittings, including clappers etc., were all supplied by The Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London. Modern Whitechapel handbells have the same profiles as the earlier Warner bells and their parts match perfectly. The set took some time to restore, many hours were spent, particularly in cleaning and polishing the castings. One has to be careful as too much polishing can affect the actual note of the bell. However, after getting rid of the grime that had accumulated after years outside in the porch!!! Their true bellmetal finish came through together with their rich tone.

After restoration we used the set ourselves at Lamerton for Change Ringing but my real intention was to move them on to someone else who was also interested in change ringing. This came out of the blue in the summer of 2016 when Delphine Gould and her Handbell Team at Plympton wanted a separate set of bells for change ringing. Delphine, husband Pat and grandson Ryan paid us a visit and after a couple of peals and instruction on our style of ringing, this lovely little octave went off to their new home. What is nice is that the Plympton Team are regular visitors to our Annual Handbell Festival at Lamerton and we will certainly be hearing the set again. The bells are also staying in South Devon which is something that Jack would have been pleased about as well.

So Jack's name still rings on in South Devon Ringing circles!!!!

*Geoffrey C. Hill (Lamerton)*

## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KENN DEANERY COMPETITION

Yet another milestone in the history of the Kenn Deanery. The 75th annual Competition was held on Saturday 24th September at Bishopsteignton. The first competition after the restoration work by Nicholson's on their bells. The ringers and their helpers provided an excellent venue and teas during the competition.

The competition was held in 3 sections;

- **Novices** [ 5 minutes of judged ringing, both rounds and the Queens peal ]
- **B Section** [ 60 on thirds of the stay ]
- **A Section** [ full 60 on thirds peal ]

### Results:

**Novices** Alphington won both Sections.

**B Section** Doddiscombsleigh won the B Section. An

excellent effort from a team that has only been regularly ringing together in the last 3 or 4 years and not entered any other competitions.

**A Section** Ide won the A Section. Again an excellent effort and result from a team that has not won a competition for many years. Simon Tucker and his two sons form part of this aspiring team.

The Kenn Deanery holds regular Evening Ringing events each month visiting all the towers in the Deanery on their own practice night over a 18 month period. There are over 150 ringers ringing regularly across the Deanery's 18 towers. Unfortunately Bridford still has no team.

During the past year the Deanery has made grants from its funds to Bridford for 3 new bell ropes [3 others were given by their PCC members], and Powderham 2 ropes.

*John Staddon*

## Belated Birthday Greetings to Barry Osborne of Lamerton.

Barry celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016. 76 people attended his party which was held at the West Devon Club, Tavistock. Barry announced that he did not want to receive gifts but any donations received were to be split between Diabetes UK and Lamerton church. A total of £450 was raised and divided between the two organisations.

## Congratulations

- to our PR Officer Victoria and her husband Simon Tucker on the birth of their son Jeremy James Simon. Jeremy was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 at Derriford Hospital weighing 8lb2oz. Mother and baby are doing well. Little Ellie now has a baby brother to care for.



## Congratulations

to Stuart and Nicola (née Stoneman) Bennie on their marriage on

1st October 2016 at Sampford Courtenay



# THE ART OF DEVON CALL CHANGE RINGING

Ottery St Mary, 24th Sept 2016

It may not have been an obvious topic for the Devonshire Association Music Section to embrace but, by the end of the afternoon, these Devon musicians, singers and ringers realised they shared more of a common heritage than they had imagined. This joint event with the Devon Association of Ringers had the perfect venue, in front of the bells in the large open heart of St Mary's Church, Ottery St Mary. It began with old friends united – one-time-ringer become singer Paul Wilson introduced Jon Bint one time singer become ringer.

Jon laid the foundation for the afternoon by describing the origins of the Southwest form of ringing, the divergence of the now more common Method or Scientific ringing, and the social history that surrounded these events. He characterized the Change Ringing of Devon and Round Ringing of Cornwall as a folk art, passed on by aural tradition and practical experience, contrasting it with the book-learned Method ringing as rung in the rest of the country. He explained the simple changes of the Devon ringers where 3 adjacent bells change places, contrasting it with the complexity of changes that can be achieved in Method ringing. He traced the history of the diverging traditions, particularly the period when church reformers sought to expel unwelcome "socializing" from the privacy of the bell loft. With this came the moves to stop competitive bellringing (with rewards of beer) and the undercurrent of snobbery that ridiculed rural ringers. Then, more recently, the period of reconciliation and convergence in which he (Jon) shared ringing techniques with friends in the Midlands. Finally, he characterized the present styles as being like two streams of music, such as classical and jazz, each having great merit, one formal the other more improvised.

Graham Sharland, Chairman of the Devon Association of Ringers, followed with a technical description of the bells and the musical patterns. Helped by Jon, a projector and a very impressive visual aid bell, Graham took us through the stages of ringing a peal and the changes that alter the order in which the bells ring. Then the real fun, a team of 6 of the most skilled ringers from various Devon towers, rang a "60 on thirds" competition peal, as Graham projected the tune onto the screen and highlighted the call changes as the bells changed position. The significance of the tenor bell always being steady at the back and, in this case, the treble moving up and down along the line was well demonstrated and the audience was left mesmerized by the event.

The third component of the afternoon, Paul Wilson and Marilyn Tucker singing songs inspired by bellringing tradition, was now even more intriguing. Paul pointed to the way the arrangement of the Devon Bellringing song mimicked the call changes, with a tenor note steady at the end; how the voices in "The Torrington Ringers" followed descending scales; how the Egloshayle ringers reflected the traditions of prize ringing, about which we had heard earlier from Jon; and, among the harmonies, there were choruses to join in with.

Then the finale: a Devon Cream Tea (and tasty extras) provided by members of St Mary's Mothers' Union. Here the Devon audience, singers and musicians could relax and enjoy discovering there really was a lot they had in common.

*Alan Rosevear*

Secretary, Music Section of the Devonshire Association

*Kathy Wyke*



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## DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

at 2.15pm

Town Hall, North Tawton

### DEVON RINGERS' CAROL SERVICE

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

at 3.00pm

Buckfast Abbey

### DEVON CALLS

**Article & letters should be sent to the Editor:**  
**Colin ADAMS - [kentonian@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:kentonian@eclipse.co.uk)**



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