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# Devon Calls

Oct/Nov 2018

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## Inside this issue

Roll of Honour	4
Editorial	6
Private Tom Eggs	7
Autumn Avery	8
Chardstock Invitation	8
Carol Service Announcement	8
Exeter Cathedral's Bells	9
2018 Results	10
Kingsteignton Teams	11
AGM Announcement	11

## Eggbuckland & Friends Ringing Tour to Ypres 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018

It was in the summer of 2017 that we first

learned of the bells of St. George's Memorial Church in Ypres, Belgium. The eight bells had been displayed on the back of two WW1 lorries at Dorset's annual Great Steam Fair as part of their 300 mile journey from Taylor's of Loughborough to the Anglican Church in the Flanders town of Ypres. Dave's interest was piqued and he began to investigate further.

The church of St. George's was built between 1927 and 1929 as a memorial to the many British and Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives on the Ypres Salient battlefields of the First World War. It served the British community that remained in Ypres after the war, many working for the War Graves Commission, and a school ran there between 1929 and 1940. The architect was Sir Reginald Bromfield, who also designed the Menin Gate

Memorial and the bell tower was funded by Sir

James Knott in memory of his two sons. The tower was originally designed to house bells for full circle ringing but it is believed there were insufficient funds for this at the time. The project to finally install a set of bells as a fitting memorial to the fallen of the Great War



Back row L-R:- David Trout, Andy Cleave, Tony Jeffrey, Linda Steer, Paul Hext, Rebecca Hext, Martin Sharland, Sue Ashton, Graham Pascoe, Hilary Trout

Front row L-R:- Jane Sample, James Steer

was initiated by Alan Regin, Steward of the Rolls of Honour of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. It is known that at least 1,400 bell ringers died during The First World War. The project received support nationally and internationally and raised more than £195,000 from public and charitable donations. The bells, each cast with a poppy motif around the shoulder and inscribed with the names of fallen soldiers, were dedicated on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

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

**Deadline for next edition - 20th January 2019**

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

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

## ***Eggbuckland & Friends Ringing Tour to Ypres—continued from page 1***

It seemed fitting to try and ring these bells during the centenary year of the end of WW1 and to remember the ringers from our own county who had died as a result of the conflict. With the help of Alan Regin we found the names of 63 Devon bell-ringers from the Roll of Honour, along with details of their home tower, age, regiment, date of death and where they are commemorated. After discussion with The Devon Association the committee kindly offered to pay for the wreath that we wished to lay on its behalf at the Menin Gate Memorial. Dave duly commissioned a wreath from the Lady Haig Poppy Factory, to incorporate the association logo at its centre, and made final arrangements with the ringing captain at St. George's.

And so it was that a group of twelve ringers from Devon set off on a foreign adventure on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018. To break up the long journey to Folkestone we were to ring at a few towers conveniently situated just off our route. The first of these was Goodworth Clatford in Hampshire, with a picturesque village centre and a pretty set of eight bells to match. After another hour on the road it was time for lunch at The King and Queen on Caterham's High Street before ringing at St. Marys. This 13cwt set were hung in 1994 and were delightful to ring. It was a shame that they could hardly be heard outside, being heavily baffled possibly to avoid putting off the croquet players in the club opposite. The final tower of the day was St. Martin's, Cheriton in Kent, another light eight that went well but were not the most tuneful of peals. The front bells were difficult to hear and the second had a tendency to jump its wheel. After checking in at our hotel close to the Channel Tunnel Terminal we ended the day with dinner at the nearby Britannia Inn.

On Tuesday morning our three cars set off for 'Le Shuttle', a new experience for many of us and one that proved to be a very straightforward and speedy way of crossing the Channel. Leaving the Calais terminal on the other side our little convoy became more spread out as we drove through a flat rural landscape of fields mostly of corn, maize and hops. Without a working 'Satnav' Martin inadvertently took a, literally, more scenic route to Ypres but we were all reunited at the hotel

where we left our cars and walked into the centre. We spent the afternoon exploring the town with its beautiful core of medieval and renaissance buildings. The most impressive of these was the magnificent Cloth Hall, actually a complex of buildings, now home to the 'In Flanders Field Museum'. The oldest part of the complex is The Belfry Tower, housing a carillon of 49 bells which sound out sweetly across the



*The Menin Gate Memorial*



*Laying our wreath at the Last Post ceremony*



*The Devon Association wreath*

market square. It is hard to believe that the whole town of Leper, to give it the correct Flemish name, was left totally devastated by the end of the war in 1918 and was incredibly rebuilt stone by stone during the 1920s and 30s, as close to the original architecture as possible. After a lot of walking and a little refreshment, beers all round and waffles and ice-cream for some, soup for others, we headed back to the hotel to get spruced up for the evening ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a huge concrete structure faced with red brick and stone panels engraved with the names of men from the UK and Commonwealth forces who died in the surrounding battlefields and have no known grave. The sheer volume of the columns of names, over 54,000, is a sobering sight when you think these are just the names of those without a proper resting place. The Last Post has been sounded at 8pm at the gate every evening since 1927, with the exception of the four year period of German occupation in the Second World War.

As our party met near the gate at 7.30pm the traffic had already been stopped and a crowd was building. Many schools and associations were represented at the ceremony and this evening there were

about a dozen groups in all, each consisting of up to three people. Jim, as the Association Chairman, was to lay our wreath with Tony Jeffrey and myself accompanying. As we were given our instructions the crowd grew larger and ahead of us members of the New Zealand Defence Force stood in full ceremonial regalia holding two huge wreaths of fresh flowers.



## ***Eggbuckland & Friends Ringing Tour to Ypres—continued from page 2***

As the hour approached the four buglers arrived and a sombre air fell on us all as we contemplated our task of remembrance. On the stroke of eight the buglers began to play *The Last Post* and surely no-one could fail to be moved by the plaintive sound which reverberated through that Hall of Memory. The New Zealanders were the first to cross The Hall and lay their flowers at the base of the short flight of steps leading to the ramparts, followed by many poppy wreaths. Soon it was our turn and I think the three of us all felt quite emotional as Jim laid the Devon Association wreath, with the attached list of names, in pride of place right in front of all the others!

After all the emotion we were ready for a drink and sampled some Trappist beer in the town before enjoying a delicious meal at a typically Flemish tavern to end a long and eventful day.

The next morning found us all excitedly gathered in St. George's Memorial Church, where every item from the stained glass windows to the kneelers is a memorial to an individual, a school, a regiment or some other group. The bell chamber is pretty compact at 11 feet square and lined with beautiful oak panelling. Although the bells are very light, with a tenor just over 6 cwt, they proved to be very manageable, delightful little bells which we all enjoyed very much. After our hour of ringing we had agreed to join a session with the local band as they rely heavily on visiting ringers to gain tuition and experience. They were a very friendly and enthusiastic bunch who had never heard our style of ringing before, one describing it as 'like clockwork'. They were very keen to give it a try however, which proved quite a challenge as many of the band have been ringing for less than six months and some speak very little English! After a quick lunch and some purchases of Belgian chocolates we hit the road once more. No visit to Flanders would be complete without visiting some of the War-Sites and military cemeteries which abound. We chose nearby Hill 62 where Sanctuary Wood, the scene of many bloody battles, has been left as it was in 1918 with barbed wire defences, tunnels, trenches and scarred trees. A wander around this now peaceful spot and its museum brought home the horrors of war, none more graphically than the horrendous images on display in the 3D stereoscopic photographs.

Our next stop was Tyne Cot Cemetery where over eleven thousand servicemen are buried, including one of the Devon ringers on our list. From the entrance the village of Passchendaele can be seen, in a few weeks it will be the 101st anniversary of the beginning of the notorious battle that was fought over this land. It was very fulfilling to be able to search out the grave of a named individual, Private Alfred Francis Dadds from Ilfracombe, and assure a fellow ringer, whose life was cut short aged just twenty, that he is not forgotten. We also found the name of another ringer, Private Charles Penwarden of Holsworthy, among the 35,000 names

displayed on the Memorial to the Missing. It was my first visit to one of the largest War Commission Cemeteries in the world and a very poignant experience to stand among the rows and rows of immaculately tended headstones and remember the young men beneath them, most unidentified.



*St. George's Memorial Church*

The roads back to Calais were very quiet and we were able to get an earlier shuttle train than planned and book into our hotel in Folkestone by early evening. We dined at The British Lion, the oldest pub in the town, followed by further drinks at The Harbour. We decided to take a different route back to our hotel which was on The Leas, but we found ourselves on an unlit path below the cliff and ended up overshooting the hotel by some way with a steep climb to boot before we found our beds.

The return journey home was again broken up with a few towers along the way, the first of these being the estate church of Lympe. The church stands beside an impressive 13<sup>th</sup> century castle and has wonderful views across Romney Marsh and the coast. The bells were augmented to eight in 2014 and although very nice to ring there was a lot of clapper noise, probably from the old five bells, and it was difficult to get any music out of them. After another hour on the road we arrived at Godstone in Surrey and enjoyed lunch in the historic White Hart pub. A short footpath led us to the church of St. Nicholas overlooking a row of beautiful timber-framed almshouses. This 12cwt peal of eight were cast by Gillett and Johnston and were beautiful bells, probably the best of the trip, and hard to believe that they are still on plain bearings. The church sitters kindly provided tea and some delicious left over wedding cake before we set off again for our last ring, at Thrupton in Hampshire. We have passed this village, best known for its racing circuit, a score of times travelling on the A303 without realising what an attractive village it is, complete with Manor House, thatched cottages and village green. The church of St Peter and St. Paul dates from the thirteenth century and contains the tombs of three knights. The only six bell ring of the trip, they went well but couldn't be rushed and were very loud inside. Our final stop was at The Bell Inn at Martock, Somerset where we enjoyed a good meal before saying farewells and going our separate ways.

A huge thank you must go to Dave for his immaculate organisation, to all the tower officials who allowed us to ring their bells, to Alan Regin and David Willis for their help with the Roll of Honour and to our fellow travellers, particularly the three drivers who took their cars. It was a long way to go but well worth the effort and without any of you the trip would not have been possible. All ringing tours are memorable but this one will stay with me for so much more than the locations, the bells and the enjoyment.

***Hilary Trout, Eggbuckland***

# 1914-1918 Devon Ringers Roll of Honour

**Private Joseph Bale**, Abbotsham, Devonshire. Died 14/11/1915 age 32. Devonshire Regiment 9th Bn. Service No. 15334. Commemorated at Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy, France, Grave III. C. 5.

**Private John Thomas Allen**, Aylesbeare, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 37. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10992. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Lieutenant Eric West Brutton MC**, Aylesbeare, Devonshire. Died 14/04/1918 age 22. Devonshire Regiment "D" Coy. 3rd Bn. attd. Machine Gun Corps. Commemorated at Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Panel 3.

**Corporal Albert George Ash**, Brendon, Devonshire. Died 01/10/1918 age Unknown. The King's (Liverpool Regiment) 1st/5th Bn. Service No. 51285. Commemorated at Fouquieres Churchyard Extension, France, Grave IV. H. 14.

**Private Albert John Barkell, Bridestow**, Devonshire. Died 17/12/1918 age 25. Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn Service No. 21130. Commemorated at Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, Grave Q. 190.

**Corporal Ernest Rippin**, Chawleigh, Devonshire. Died 19/01/1917 age 29. Devonshire Regiment 16th (Royal 1st Devon and Royal North Yeomanry) Bn. Service No. 346125. Commemorated at Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, Grave A. 120.

**Private Frederick William Lake**, Cheriton Bishop, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1916 age 27. Devonshire Regiment "C" Coy. 1st Bn. Service No. 11545. Commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier and Face 1 C.

**Private Frank Lethbridge**, Chittlehampton, Devonshire. Died 25/08/1914 age Unknown. Coldstream Guards 3rd Bn. Service No. 7163. Commemorated at Landrecies Communal Cemetery, France, Grave A. 16.

**Private William James May**, Chittlehampton, Devonshire. Died 31/07/1917 age Unknown. Gloucestershire Regiment 13th Bn. Service No. 30189. Commemorated at Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, Belgium, Grave I. A. 38.

**Private Edward James Pook**, Clyst Hydon, Devonshire. Died 27/01/1915 age 17. Army Service Corps M.T. Mobilization Depot (Bulford) Service No. M2/022239. Commemorated at Clyst Hydon (St. Andrew) Churchyard, England, Grave North of Church tower.

**Private George Frank Hitt**, Clyst Hydon, Devonshire. Died 23/10/1917 age 22. The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 10th Bn. Service No. 33847. Commemorated at Clyst Hydon (St. Andrew) Churchyard, England, Grave North-West corner of Churchyard.

**Corporal Ernest John Potter**, Clyst St George, Devonshire. Died 19/04/1917 age Unknown. Royal Field Artillery 66th Bty. Service No. 70785. Commemorated at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq, Grave IX. D. 10.

**Private William James Blight**, Cockington, Devonshire. Died 21/04/1918 age 19. Devonshire Regiment 2nd Bn. Service No. 71158. Commemorated at Torquay Cemetery and Extension, England, Grave F. 2. 259.

**Serjeant John Harry Aldridge Eales**, Cullompton, Devonshire. Died 03/02/1917 age 33. Devonshire Regiment 1st/4th Bn. Service No. 755. Commemorated at Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, Grave XVIII. F. 16.

**Lance Corporal Stanley James Crook**, Dawlish, Devonshire. Died 24/08/1915 age 20. Devonshire Regiment 1st Bn. Service No. 9636. Commemorated at Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, France, Grave II. M. 12.

**Private William John Tozer**, Denbury, Devonshire. Died 07/06/1917 age 28. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 7th Bn. Service No. 30322. Commemorated at La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Belgium, Grave XII. A. 20.

**Sapper William Robert Came**, Dittisham, Devonshire. Died 04/08/1916 age 27. Australian Engineers 5th Field Coy. Service No. 2114. Commemorated at Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

**Private William George Arcscott**, Drewsteignton, Devonshire. Died 29/01/1918 age 25. Devonshire Regiment 10th Bn. Service No. 11611. Commemorated at Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece, Grave C. 451.

**Lance Corporal Percival Fred Knapman**, Dunsford, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 18. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10892. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Private William George Knapman**, Dunsford, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 20. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10661. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Lance Corporal Percy Richards**, Dunsford, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 18. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10840. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Corporal Fred Hill**, Dunsford, Devonshire. Died 20/07/1916 age 24. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10862. Commemorated at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France, Grave IX. C. 32.

**Private Archibald Charles Francis Body**, Exeter, Devonshire. Died 03/05/1917 age 35. Royal Fusiliers 4th Bn. Service No. G/54845. Commemorated at Arras Memorial, France, Bay 3.

**Private Arthur Thomas Gooding**, Halberton, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 30. Devonshire Regiment "B" Coy. 8th Bn. Service No. 10395. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Lance Corporal Ernest John Ash**, Harpford, Devonshire. Died 26/09/1915 age 32. Royal Engineers 91st Field Coy. Service No. 44638. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 4 and 5.

## 1914-1918 Devon Ringers Roll of Honour—continued from page 4

**Private John Seager**, Heavitree, Devonshire. Died 02/02/1917 age 33. Devonshire Regiment 9th Bn. Service No. 26504. Commemorated at Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France, Grave II. F. 5.

**Private Joseph Henry Hall**, Hemyock, Devonshire. Died 26/05/1918 age 34. Devonshire Regiment 2nd Bn. Service No. 37141. Commemorated at Soissons Memorial, France.

**Sapper Alfred George Milton**, Hennock, Devonshire. Died 26/06/1918 age 29. Royal Engineers 73rd Field Coy. Service No. 154086. Commemorated at Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France, Grave VI. G. 39.

**Private James Parker**, High Bickington, Devonshire. Died 08/05/1917 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 1st Bn. Service No. 30340. Commemorated at Niedierzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany, Grave VI. A. 2.

**2nd Corporal Cecil Coleman Vanstone**, Holbeton, Devonshire. Died 28/03/1918 age 22. Royal Engineers 56th Field Coy. Service No. 140433. Commemorated at Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery, France, Grave III. C. 1.

**Corporal Walter John Williams**, Holbeton, Devonshire. Died 10/08/1918 age 23. Royal Engineers 233rd Field Coy. Service No. 140432. Commemorated at Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, France, Grave II. F. 15.

**Private Charles Penwarden**, Holsworthy, Devonshire. Died 28/08/1917 age Unknown. Worcestershire Regiment 2nd/7th Bn. Service No. 202121. Commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 75 to 77.

**Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Leonard Acland-Troyte**, Huntsham, Devonshire. Died 17/04/1918 age 47. Devonshire Regiment 4th Bn. Service No. None Shown. Commemorated at Berguette Churchyard, France, Grave D2

**Private Richard Knight Brook**, Iddesleigh, Devonshire. Died 18/08/1917 age 28. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1st/5th Bn. Service No. 29045. Commemorated at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No.3, Belgium, Grave II. G. 9.

**Pioneer Jack Bate Jewell**, Ide, Devonshire. Died 21/03/1917 age 18. Royal Engineers Signals Depot (Fenny Stratford) Service No. 255392. Commemorated at Ide (St. Ida) Churchyard, United Kingdom, Grave East of Church.

**Second Lieutenant** Reginald Charles Chapple, Ilfracombe, Holy Trinity, Devonshire. Died 12/04/1918 age 30. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 4th Bn. but died whilst serving with the 5th Bn. Commemorated at Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Panel 6.

**Private Alfred Francis Dadds**, Ilfracombe, Holy Trinity, Devonshire. Died 04/10/1917 age 20. Devonshire Regiment 1st Bn. Service No. 30380. Commemorated at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium, Grave XLII. D. 16.

**Private George Howard Martin Richards**, Ilfracombe, Holy Trinity, Devonshire. Died 31/05/1918 age 19. Royal Berkshire Regiment 5th Bn. Service No. 45048. Commemorated at Ilfracombe (Holy Trinity) Churchyard, United Kingdom, Grave In north-west part.

**Private Ernest Frederick Bowden**, Ipplepen, Devonshire. Died 16/09/1917 age Unknown. Gloucestershire Regiment 14th Bn. Service No. 27402. Commemorated at Ipplepen (St. Andrew) Churchyard, United Kingdom, Grave South of Church tower.

**Lieutenant Robert Maitland Kelly**, Kelly, Devonshire. Died 11/01/1917 age 35. Royal North Devon Hussars. Commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier and Face 1 A.

**Private William Woollacott**, Kennford, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age 28. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10346. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Lance Corporal John Thomas Burrows**, Langtree, Devonshire. Died 03/12/1917 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 16th (Royal Devon and R. North Devon Yeomanry) Bn. Service No. 345668. Commemorated at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza), Grave A. 74.

**Private Tom Eggins**, Marystowe, Devonshire. Died 23/08/1918 age 19. Royal Fusiliers None Shown Service No. G/76107. Commemorated at Boyelles Communal Cemetery Extension, France, Grave II. E. 10.

**Private William Nott**, Meshaw, Devonshire. Died 03/12/1917 age 22. Devonshire Regiment 16th (Royal Devon and R. North Devon Yeomanry) Bn. Service No. 345593. Commemorated at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza), Grave J. 37.

**Driver Thomas Henry Nicholls**, Mortehoe, Devonshire. Died 23/07/1917 age Unknown. Royal Field Artillery 7th Mountain Bde. Small Arms Ammunition Col. Service No. 178192. Commemorated at Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece, Grave 65

**Serjeant Alfred William Cearley**, Musbury, Devonshire. Died 23/05/1918 age 25. Dorsetshire Regiment 5th Bn. Service No. 9952. Commemorated at Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France, Grave V. B. 38.

**Lieutenant William Douglass James**, Plymouth, Charles Church, Devonshire. Died 24/09/1915 age 23. Royal Garrison Artillery Trench Mortar Bty Service No. None Shown. Commemorated at Chocques Military Cemetery, France, Grave I. B. 29.

**Private Frederick Lovis**, Plymouth, St Andrews, Devonshire. Died 14/04/1918 age 37. Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport Service No. M2/184500. Commemorated at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium, Grave XXVII. G. 10.

**Private Arthur Turner**, Poltimore, Devonshire. Died 25/09/1915 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 10242. Commemorated at Loos Memorial, France, Panel 35 to 37.

**Lance Corporal Dennis William Fred Crispin**, Sandford, Devonshire. Died 08/03/1916 age 19. Devonshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn. Service No. 2571. Commemorated at Basra Memorial, Iraq, Panel 11.

## 1914-1918 Devon Ringers Roll of Honour—continued from page 5

**Private Thomas Edward Horwell**, Shobrooke, Devonshire. Died 18/10/1918 age Unknown. Labour Corps None Shown Service No. 509827. Commemorated at Shobrooke (St. Swithin) Churchyard, United Kingdom, Grave West of the church.

**Lance Corporal Robert George Rowsell**, Sowton, Devonshire. Died 01/11/1917 age 20. Devonshire Regiment 9th Bn. Service No. 23421. Commemorated at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium, Grave XXI. C.C. 7A.

**Private Harry Edworthy, Teignmouth**, St James Less, Devonshire. Died 22/03/1918 age 37. Worcestershire Regiment 10th Bn. Service No. 203335. Commemorated at Arras Memorial, France, Bay 6.

**Private Herbert Rowland**, Thrushelton, Devonshire. Died 01/07/1916 age 20. Devonshire Regiment 8th Bn. Service No. 20610. Commemorated at Devonshire Cemetery, Mametz, France, Grave B. 1.

**Lance Corporal Ernest Wood**, Thrushelton, Devonshire. Died 03/12/1917 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 16th (Royal Devon and R. North Devon Yeomanry) Bn. Service No. 345692. Commemorated at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza), Grave E. 88.

**Gunner John Trood**, Uffculme, Devonshire. Died 22/08/1917 age 40. Royal Garrison Artillery 275th Siege Bty. Service No. 110449. Commemorated at The Huts Cemetery, Belgium, Grave III. D. 13.

**Private Fred Luxon**, Washfield, Devonshire. Died 09/04/1917 age 24. Canadian Infantry 75th Bn. Service No. 163387. Commemorated at Givenchy Road Canadian Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast, France, Grave B. 11.

**Private Walter Edward Phillips**, West Down, Devonshire. Died 24/07/1916 age 21. Devonshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn. Service No. 1681. Commemorated at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq, Grave XXI. F. 18.

**Private James Harris**, West Down, Devonshire. Died 10/11/1917 age 22. Devonshire Regiment 2nd Bn. Service No. 203270. Commemorated at Pont-D'Achelles Military Cemetery, Nieppe, France, Grave II. F. 11.

**Lance Corporal William Henry Pedlar**, Westleigh, Devonshire. Died 25/07/1917 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn. Service No. 265744. Commemorated at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq, Grave III. P. 12.

**Private Herbert William Lugg**, Winkleigh, Devonshire. Died 15/04/1918 age 39. Somerset Light Infantry 1st Bn. Service No. 235141. Commemorated at Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Panel 3.

**Rifleman Julius Algernon Snow**, Withycombe Raleigh, Devonshire. Died 26/03/1917 age 35. Rifle Brigade 22nd Bn. Service No. 205119. Commemorated at Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece, Grave C. 451.

**Private Thomas Johns**, Woolfardisworthy West or Woolserly, Devonshire. Died 03/12/1917 age Unknown. Devonshire Regiment 16th (Royal Devon and R. North Devon Yeomanry) Bn. Service No. 345911. Commemorated at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza), Grave F. 13.

*Alan Regin*

## Editorial

I want to start by thanking all those who have taken the trouble to provide material for this edition, especially Autumn. By Autumn I mean young Autumn Avery from Kingsteignton who has provided an interesting account on her introduction to bellringing. By people taking the trouble to write and submit articles we are able to make the magazine what it is i.e. a newsworthy and valuable record of what has, or is about to take place, in the world of call-change ringing here in Devon.

If we cast an eye over the number of projects that have been embarked upon in order to keep Devon's bells ringing we soon discover that Devon is far from being the sleepy backwater that some would assume. The strength of local enthusiasm has meant substantial work being undertaken on the bells at: Alphington, Cornworthy, Bishopsteignton, Combe Raleigh, Chagford, Colebrook, Exeter Cathedral, High Bickington, Revelstoke, Plympton St. Mary's, Plymouth St. Budeaux, Stoke Fleming, Ugborough (where a complete re-cast of its eight bells took place) and Moretonhampstead. Although ironically it seems that at Mortonhampstead there are no ringers at present! All these projects involved the need to raise very large sums of money in order to secure the future of church bells. Amazingly this has been achieved in spite of

the fact that only ten years ago, in September 2008 the financial crisis, the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression of 1929, imploded upon us.

The question we must now ask ourselves is - will there be sufficient ringers in future to take advantage of the huge investments which have been made today? An attempt to recruit more ringers was made at the time of the millennium and a further attempt is being made now and appropriately at the time of the Centenary Anniversary marking the end of World War 1. Can we at the very least recruit 63 ringers over the next year?

In this edition you will see reference made to Private Tom Eggins, a young ringer from Marystowe who, like so many young men, lost his life in France during World War 1. Also included is a list of the names of 63 Devon ringers who lost their lives in World War 1. Fittingly a party of ringers recently visited Ypres and laid a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the Devon Association of Ringers. Thanks to Hilary and David Trout for the care which they have taken in recording such an historic event. Thanks also to the chairman and members of the association who took part in the ceremony.

*Colin Adams*

# Private Tom Eggins of Marystowe

When I first visited St Mary's Marystowe more than 50 years ago I was shown a memorial to Tom Eggins in the ringing chamber. He had died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918 at Flanders during the last hundred days of The First World War. Tom was a ringer and chorister and was held in high regard and his tragic loss at the young age of 19 prompted his fellow ringers to erect this memorial.

One hundred years later, to the day, eleven ringers gathered together at St Mary's to honour his memory by ringing four special peals. Four long length peals were chosen to signify the four years of the First World War. The changes involved in the sequence included "The King's Change", this signified the fact King George V was our sovereign during the war and "The Reverse." The reverse is always associated with the passing of someone special. Tom Eggins was certainly one of them.

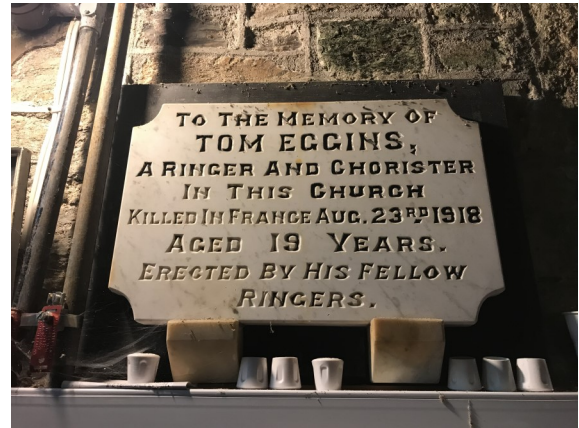


*Ringers L-R:- Luke Mitchell, Barry Osborne, Geoffrey Hill, Philip Morse, Helen Williams, Kathy Hayes, Bill Blowey, Mark Lovell, Sam Massey, Jade Gall*

My wife, Valerie, has done a great deal of research and together with Deidre Hayward, a former ringer at Kelly and Great Niece of Tom, put together an exhibition of his family history and war record. On display were The King's Citation together with his Death Plaque and war medals. Valerie also read out a very moving poem written by Alan Hayden many years ago, about the loss of such a young life.

My grateful thanks to Deborah, Marystowe Churchwarden for laying on such a welcome cup of tea and to Deidre and her family for coming along and for allowing us to honour Tom's death in this way. Of the millions that lost their lives during the 1914 – 1918 war, 1400 of them were bellringers. Of that number 68 were ringers within The Diocese of Exeter and 5 were bellringers in The Deanery of Tavistock.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers holds a Roll of Honour of all those brave men who lost their lives during The First World War and, as bellringers, I feel we have a moral obligation to remember them. My thanks to my fellow ringers for ringing at Marystowe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018, to David Willis of Barnstaple for all his information and to Valerie for without her help this event would not have taken place.



## *A Poem inspired by a young soldier*

Alan Hayden wrote the following poem, inspired by a plaque at St Mary's Church, Marystowe, near Lewdown, in memory of a local man Tom Eggins, killed in action on August 23, 1918, aged 19.

### **TOM EGGINS**

I visited a country church one bright October day,  
The only sound the song of birds and nearby children's play.  
The warmth of the autumnal sun was pleasant on my face,  
Eight hundred years of history are embodied in this place.  
Tom Eggins was a local lad, lived here in Marystowe,  
Born as Victoria's reign approached its after-glow.  
A quieter time, a slower time, than we endure today.  
When young Tom sang here in the choir, and earnestly would pray.

Two services on Sunday and a practice in the week,  
With weddings or a funeral a bonus boys would seek.  
In Matins and in Evensong he found that he could share,  
In renewal of his spirit with the Book of Common prayer.  
And then his singing in the choir he could no more sustain.  
He joined the church bellringers to play a new refrain,  
And learn the age-old mysteries of campanology,  
With all the ringing changes that can set the spirit free.

But then in 1917, the call to service came,  
Young Tom went in the army and there he would remain  
Until three months before the date hostilities would cease,  
Young Tom, in France, by cruellest chance, achieved his final peace.

A marble plaque on the belfry wall records his brief young life,  
Tom Eggins - chorister and bellringer, in France in bitter strife.  
Laid down his life, like thousands more, left behind his name.  
On a wall in the church he loved and served. Who has a better claim?

No choir sings now in Marystowe. The congregation's small,  
But festive bells ring out each year  
Does Tom Eggins hear their call?  
From his lonely grave somewhere in France that our eyes can never see  
Does the still, small voice of the choirboy cry – Marystowe,  
remember me

**Geoff Hill**



# Young Devon Ringer No. 2. Miss Autumn Avery

Hello, my name is Autumn Avery and I've just turned 11 years old.

Bell Ringing is a hobby that I really enjoy, along with playing the violin. I have just passed my grade two exam and will start grade three this term.

I love to ring! I started ringing in August 2017, being taught by my Uncle Ian at Kingsteignton. Sometimes my Dad helps me too!

I have always wanted to bell ring because I thought it would be nice to carry on the family tradition. My Great Grandad, Bill Avery, was the Tower Captain at Kingsteignton for sixty years and I watched him ring with other family members. My Great Grandad, Bryan Tuckett, rings regularly at Ipplepen and Upton, Torquay, where I like to join him whenever I can. I have always wanted to ring with my Mum and Dad and have been watching them ring since I was really small!

I have been to some top ringing competitions; the Devon Association Novice Competition held at Black Torrington (where we came second) and the NAIT Deanery Competition at Stokeinteignhead (where we came first).

Highlights so far have included ringing at outings with Broadhempston and Upton ringers and going to Ogwell on a Sunday morning with my Dad. I have also enjoyed ringing at Combeinteignhead with James and Elaine Grant. I also enjoy ringing for weddings as I am saving for our family holiday to New Zealand in December!

I would soon like to be able to rise and lower in peal, and call



*Autumn Avery with Lee Avery and Ian Avery at Combeinteignhead*

changes. Hopefully I will be allowed to ring in Devon Competitions soon!

*Autumn Avery*

## An Invitation from the Chardstock Ringers



*Back Row L-R Stephen Goff, Kevin Newbery, Richard Scott, Alan Heath  
Front Row L-R Sue Bray, Angela Drake, Derrick Goff (Tower Captain)  
Lucy Herrod and Derek Chisholm were unable to be in the photo*

Chardstock St Andrew's Bell Ringers will be hosting a return visit to Remember and Commemorate the Centenary of The First World War by The Three Counties Swing Band, which was very well supported and enjoyed by all in 2014 and will again consist of music and songs from the war time eras, at Chardstock Community Hall on Saturday 10th November 2018 at 7.30pm, in aid of St Andrew's Church Fabrication Fund for New Bell Ropes.

Admission is £8.50 and tickets are available from Chardstock Post Office, Archway Book Shop (Axminster) and Top Togs, (Chard). Tickets can also be reserved by contacting Susan Bray on 01460 220503.

Light Refreshments available, bring your own drink.

We hope that you will come along and support us.

*Sue Bray*

## A Date for Your Diary

**Devon Ringers' Carol Service. Buckfast Abbey. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 3.00 p.m.**



# Exeter Cathedral's Bells

It has been a busy summer for those of us who ring within the area of Cathedral Close.

The new Dean, The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, was inducted before Advent last year, and is a strong supporter of bells and bellringing. He encouraged the ringers at his previous Cathedral of Wakefield to ring up to four times on a Sunday. He was very disappointed then, to learn that maintenance work would need to be carried out on the Exeter Cathedral bells that would prevent them from being rung for several months. However, just across the close, help was at hand.

At the Cathedral the two smallest bells Thomas 1 and Thomas 2 were removed by Taylors of Loughborough on Saturday 7th July, so that maintenance on them could be carried out. A crane lowered them onto a flatbed truck, and they were driven off to the foundry. This allowed essential maintenance and cleaning of the bell frame in the South tower to be carried out.

In the meantime, the Dean approached the Cathedral bell ringers about how disappointed he was that there would be no ringing for services for several months. Claire Griffiths, the secretary of the cathedral bell ringers, approached St Petrocks to see if ringing there would be feasible, as the bells would still be heard across the Close, and the centre of the City. With the kind permission of Sheila Swarbrick, the Vicar of St Petrocks, arrangements were made for the cathedral ringers to ring St. Petrock's bells for service ringing whilst the cathedral bells were out of action.



There has been call change ringing at the Cathedral on the second Sunday of the month for the past 3 years, with an invited band of ringers from across the county taking part. This has helped to create closer ties between the Cathedral and the call change community and this has been maintained over the summer.

On Saturday 4th August, Thomas 1 and Thomas 2 returned to the Cathedral, along with new clappers of composite wood and metal which will improve the balance of these bells and make them easier to rise. Taylors also brought with them all the metal work needed to create a metal cage around the bells, which will mean the larger back bells, particularly Grandison can stay up, making them easier to ring. At 72cwt, it takes 3 people to raise Grandison, which reduces the number of times it is rung. The cage will mean access will still be possible for maintenance, and that tours of the belfry can be carried out more safely.

Cleaning of the frame, painting, constructing the cage, and hanging the new clappers will continue this autumn, in the hope that the Cathedral bells will be ringing out once again for a quarter peal on September 29th, if all goes according to plan. In the meantime, St Petrock's bells will be ringing out across the close for Sunday services, and we would like to thank The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, Rev. Sheila Swarbrick and Claire Griffiths for making this possible.



*Stephanie Brown*

# 2018 Association Competition Results

## Novice competition held at Black Torrington on 10th March

### Rounds

1. Kingsteignton '2' 11 ¼
2. Kingsteignton '3' 12 ¾
3. Monkleigh 16
4. Lamerton 17 ¾
5. Kingsteignton '1' 19
6. Sampford Courtenay 30 ¾
7. Chagford 'Red' 33 ¼
8. Chagford 'Yellow' 37 ½
9. Bishops Tawton 40
10. Chagford 'Green' 41 ¼
11. Kingsteignton '4' 63 ¼
12. Chagford 'Blue' 71 ¼

### Call changes

1. Kingsteignton 'A' 9
2. Berrynarbour 17 ½
3. Lamerton 29
4. Kingsteignton 'B' 30 ¾
5. Berrynarbour 'A' 31 ¾
6. Monkleigh 35 ½
7. Bishops Tawton 'A' 60 ¾
8. Bishops Tawton 'B' 66 ½
9. Chagford 91 ¼

Judges: James Steer, Mervyn Way, Neil Holloway & Stephanie Brown

## South Devon Qualifier held at Manaton on 12th May

1. Shaugh Prior 23 ½ – George Facey Shield
2. Combeinteignhead 27 ¼ – Archie Furzeland Trophy
3. Ideford 31 ½
4. South Brent A 35 ¼
5. Stoke Gabriel 44 ¼
6. Broadhempston 52 ¼
7. Holbeton 53 ¾
8. South Brent B 63 ¼
9. Lamerton 70 ¾
10. Dunsford 72
11. Kenton 110 ¼

Judges: John Dietz, Mark Lovell, Victoria Tucker & Ruth Tuckett

## North Devon Qualifier held at St Giles in the Wood on 12th May

1. Burrington 20 – George Facey Shield
2. West Down 28 ¼ – Arnold Cup
3. Down St Mary 32
4. Sampford Courtenay A 41 ¾
5. Clawton 46 ¼
6. South Tawton 54 ¾
7. Monkleigh 57
8. East Anstey 74 ½
9. Sampford Courtenay B 78
10. Warkleigh 78 ¾

Judges: James Clarke, Ken Down, Andrew Vincent & Mervyn Way.  
Scrutineer: Margaret Down

## Minor Final held at Bishopsteignton on the 26th May

1. Holbeton 36 – Thomas Oatway Shield
2. South Brent B 37 – John Fidler Cup
3. Broadhempston 37 ½
4. Monkleigh 42 ¼
5. Lamerton 42 ¾
6. Sampford Courtenay B 44 ¼
7. Dunsford 44 ½
8. East Anstey 45 ¾
9. South Tawton 48
10. Warkleigh 53 ¾

### Novice Teams Top Ringing

1. Kingsteignton 27 ¾ – Hooper Cup
2. Berrynarbor 28 ¾

Judges: Harry Bardens, John Dietz, James Steer & Mervyn Way

## Major Final held at Ashreigney on 9th June

1. Ideford 17 ½ – Ross Shield
  2. Shaugh Prior 18 1/2½ – Shelley Cup
  3. South Brent A 22
  4. West Down 25 ½
  5. Down St Mary 26
  6. Combeinteignhead 27 ¾
  7. Sampford Courtenay A 33
  8. Burrington 34
  9. Stoke Gabriel 36
  10. Holbeton 52
  11. South Brent B 52 ¼
- Clawton rang under time 36 ¾

Jack Hine Perpetual Trophy for Top Ringing won by Ideford with 7 ¼

Judges: James Clarke, John Dietz, Mark Lovell & Mervyn Way  
Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott

## 8 Bell Final held at Stoke Fleming on 15th September

1. Kingsteignton A 23 ¼ – Ross Shield & Passmore Cup
2. Exeter Cathedral 36 – George Campbell Grills Cup
3. Kingsteignton B 59 ¼ – William Barlow Cup
4. High Bickington 74 ¼
5. Buckfastleigh 124
6. Georgeham 128 ¾
7. Paignton 134

Walter Mortimore Trophy for Top ringing won by Kingsteignton A with 10 ½

Judges: James Clarke, Mary Mears, Ryan Trout & Mervyn Way  
Scrutineer: Natasha Trout



# Kingsteignton 8 Bell Teams



L-R: Ian Avery, Suzanne Driscoll, Colin Avery, Elaine Grant, Nigel Birt (front), David Burgoyne (back), John Dietz, Will Carew (front), Alistair Whybrow (back), James Grant, Kate Carew, Graham Sharland, Luke Mitchell, Andy Teed. Missing from the photo are Sam Massey and Mike Mears.

This year, for the first time, Ian Avery decided that we had enough ringers to enter two teams into the 8 bell competition at Stoke Fleming. Congratulations, in particular, to the B team who came an excellent third overall and to the members who were entering the competition for the first time - David Burgoyne, Nigel Birt, Luke Mitchell, Andy

Teed and Alistair Whybrow. Thanks also to John Dietz, Suzanne Driscoll and Sam Massey for helping us out so ably.

*James Grant*



## Devon Association of Ringers 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday 10th November 2018

**St Peter's Church, North Tawton**

**2.15pm start**

**followed by refreshments**

**We look forward to welcoming  
all**

**Documentation to follow**



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The Association will continue to send a printed copy to affiliated towers, but personal copies will only be provided at the request of individuals willing to pay a £10 annual subscription, which will be reviewed annually.

Should you wish to receive a paper copy, please fill out the slip below and return to Mr Clive Ward, Bramblings, Monkleigh, Bideford, EX39 5JT OR contact him by email at [hon-treasurer@devonbells.co.uk](mailto:hon-treasurer@devonbells.co.uk)

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