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Devon Calls

Late 2020

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National Park grant for bellringers helps keep Devon tradition alive



The family team of bellringers who rang the bells for VJ day commemorations (l-r): Margaret Peirce, Amanda Peirce, Ruth Bint, Joe Bint, Gabe Bint, and Tower Captain Jon Bint

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

Deadline for next edition - 17th January 2021

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

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Chagford News - continued from page 1

The tradition of bell ringing Devon style looks set for a bright future thanks to Chagford Bellringers.

Dartmoor National Park Authority has given the bellringers of St Michael the Archangel, Chagford, £1,900 from its Parishscapes Grant Fund so volunteers can train ringers of the future and preserve a unique piece of our heritage.

Chagford's bell-ringing tradition dates from 1480 and the team specialises in the unique Devon 'call-change' style of ringing.

This tradition emphasises rhythmic ringing in simple musical sequences, with the changes being called by a conductor, and it also places great emphasis on rising and lowering the bells together in peal.

Because this knowledge is passed on verbally, it's vital to its continued survival that healthy numbers are maintained so people can pass expertise down through the generations.

The funding from Dartmoor National Park went towards a second, lighter, training bell so younger ringers can learn the ropes and experienced ringers can keep improving their skills.

In 2017, the Grade One listed church bells were rehung following a major refurbishment project which saw the bells removed from the church for the first time since the First World War.

Following the work, Chagford Bellringers launched its Ringing the Changes campaign to attract new ringers and continue the Devon call-change ringing tradition.

As a result, they've successfully installed one training bell, a ringing simulator and other equipment to help with training and practising.

Aside from service ringing Chagford Bellringers rings bells for weddings, funerals and national remembrance days honouring those who served in the Armed Forces to defend the nation's democratic freedoms. The group also holds popular tower open days and visits for local primary school children.

Chagford Bellringers Tower Captain Jon Bint said: "We're hugely grateful for Dartmoor National Park's assistance in helping us get this second training bell. It's already proving its worth.

"With the importance to our vernacular ringing tradition of

rising and lowering bells in peal, being able to learn to ring a bell up and down easily right from the early stages of training is a massive help.

"It's been good to spend time training with ringers individually, at their various levels of experience, and work on technique by learning to properly handle a light bell. This second training bell completes our 10-bell simulator set-up, which will enable more experienced ringers to practise 10-bell ringing in an 8-bell tower – social distancing permitting, of course!"

Just recently, the group recruited more local adults and children and it's hoped the extra training facilities will enable more to join its growing ranks.

Parishscapes grants from Dartmoor National Park Authority help local communities come together and develop community projects important to them.

Grants are awarded to projects that conserve, enhance or celebrate the cultural, natural and built landscape of a parish and help more people, learn about, understand and enjoy Dartmoor's heritage.

Dartmoor National Park's Community Engagement Officer Emma Stockley said: "Our hugely successful Parishscapes project, part of the recently-finished Moor than meets the eye scheme, demonstrated just how important it is to our local communities to have access to funding for heritage projects.

"This new Parishscapes grant fund is off to a great start and we're really pleased to have supported the Chagford Bellringers to enable their group to become more resilient into the future."

The scheme is also supported by South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon councils.

West Devon Borough Council ward member for Chagford Nicky Heyworth said: "Hearing the church bells in Chagford carries emotional significance for many local residents, especially on anniversaries such as VJ day.

"Projects like this are as important as they conserve traditional skills. A lighter bell will enable the Chagford Bell ringers to grow in number, meaning we can enjoy the bells ringing out for many more generations to come. I am delighted to have supported this endeavour."

Donate for Dartmoor supports a variety of projects across Dartmoor.

Donations of time and money are essential for us to be able to look after the heritage and wildlife of Dartmoor and to make it a place for everyone to enjoy today, tomorrow and for the future.

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A message from our President, Mrs. Sue Ashton

Due to this dreadful COVID19 pandemic the committee has bestowed on me, Sue Ashton, the honour of becoming the first President of the Association to continue for a second year. This second year will hopefully give me the opportunity to attend the many competitions and events unfortunately cancelled this year. I have experienced many highs and lows in ringing since learning at the age of 10 years, but this period during the pandemic has been the lowest having not been able to ring for several weeks, then only being able to ring bells at the required social distance, wearing a face mask and for a maximum of 15 minutes. For my team, Egguckland, this means only ringing 3 bells (not a pretty sound). I hope this spell of inactivity does not cause a disaster for ringing with many of our churches remaining silent post pandemic.

I have had many high points since pulling my first rope at Bridestowe under the watchful eye of Ernie Chapman, the then Tower Captain. I rang my first competitions with Lydford in the early 1970s before moving to Plymouth to start a career in nursing, which I am still doing today.

After becoming a Mum of two sons I joined Egguckland church and was given the opportunity by Dave Trout to join their competition team in 1987. I rang my first Devon Major 6



Bell competition at Kentisbeare where, despite being the favourites, we came second to West Down (I was sure it was my fault). Since then I have been lucky enough to win the major trophy on 20 occasions with the Egguckland team.

My love of ringing has passed on to my family with both my sons learning to ring at a young age, although Ben gave up, James, my eldest son and his wife, Kathryn, both ring and are now teaching their daughter Esme the skill.

During my years of ringing I have had the privilege to meet and ring with many people. The camaraderie and friendship I have received from the ringing fraternity has been exceptional with some of my closest friendships being formed with fellow ringers.

The ringing trips I have been invited on have all been incredible with many memorable moments, from ringing at St Pauls, Westminster Abbey, Ypres, to 9 of us getting stuck in a lift in a hotel at St. Aubyns, Sussex. I would not have missed a minute of it all.

As our towers gradually return to ringing, hopefully I will get to meet and ring with many of you during my Presidency.

Best wishes. Stay safe.

Sue Ashton

Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the magazine. In spite of the corona virus pandemic disrupting so many social events; including ringing competitions, we have received enough material to fill twelve pages. Thanks to all those who have taken the trouble to submit articles and obituaries.

Three obituaries feature this time, plus one notice of a death. All were loyal and faithful ringers who served their local church over several decades. It is so important that their loyal and faithful service has been recorded in the form of an Obituary; otherwise it is lost for ever. Trying to condense into a few paragraphs a life's ringing is quite a challenge and we are indebted to those who have attempted to do so. We send our condolences to the families of all those who have lost loved ones.

It would be so good to receive accounts of new recruits into ringing and that these far exceeded the number of obituaries. Meanwhile let's hope that everyone remains safe and when the pandemic ends greater attention can be given to

education, recruitment and retention.

According to Chris our Treasurer there are currently 122 towers affiliated to the Devon Association. Given that the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund annual draw did not take place this year would it be asking too much for each tower to make a donation of £10.00 to the fund? Even £10.00 would certainly help.

In this edition you will see a new page with the title "Treble Gone". If you feel you have a similar story to tell please get in touch. In so doing you will be contributing to the history of The Devon Association of Ringers".

My grateful thanks to Colin and Elinor, our two faithful proof readers, and to James our Technical Editor for all his hard work.

Best wishes and stay safe during this crucial period in the pandemic.

Colin Adams

Treble's Gone!

The ringing memories of Mr. Bert Conibear

Just before the onset of Covid 19, and whilst on a visit to North Devon, I met Mr. Bert Conibear. I have known Bert for a very long time. He is a lively person with a wonderful sense of humour and he is always willing to share his experiences of ringing and the situations he has witnessed; something which he does with great enthusiasm. Thinking these would make interesting reading if they were to appear in Devon Calls I invited Bert to write them down and I'm pleased to say he didn't hesitate to oblige.

I was about 16 years old when I started ringing in the early 1950s at St. Peter's Church, Shirwell in North Devon. The ringers then were Bill Parker (the old village stonemason), my brother John, George Scott, Maurice Reed and Bill Shackson (all worked in agriculture), Harry Ralph (an ex Burma Star veteran, was a chauffeur) and George Tossell (who worked for the Water Board). Remarkably George lived until he was 104! From what I recall the oldest ringer was Bill Barrow, known as "Tailor" Barrow because he was a tailor by trade. He used to cycle six miles each way every Sunday to ring at Barnstaple Parish Church.

My brother was my main teacher. When I learnt to ring learners were not allowed to ring on Sundays, only on practice nights, unless a regular team member didn't turn up. When Bill Parker dropped out, I joined the regular team. I was always delighted to be invited to join in and secretly hoped that a regular ringer would be absent so that I could step in.

On Tuesdays I went to Pilton to join them on their practice nights. There were certain ringers that rang there that I loved to watch because of the way in which they handled their ropes. One was Bill Gill, who was the Tower Captain. He would gather in coils so neatly it was fascinating to watch, but as far as tower captains go I remember him being very strict. Another was Frank Yeo (Reggie's father), he was a blacksmith who rang at Loxhore. His rope would go up and down straight as a rod.

Every ringer has his or her quirks, never two the same. The late Tommy Darch, Captain at Torrington was one; he kept



time by repeating the word "cu". He would call a change, say 6-7 and then continue repeating the word "cu, cu."

Though to be invited to join his team was a real honour. Another great character was the late Charlie Stevens (Gerald's father) who rang at Fremington and St. Giles-in-the-Wood. Charlie would call the first change, e.g. 4th to 5th, out loud and the next change, 2nd to 3rd, he would almost call in a whisper, as if to say "It's just between you and me". Morley Williams (Mandy's father), who rang at Braunton, was interesting to watch as his body moved rhythmically up and down as he rang and in time with the bells. Morely was a wonderful man who was always willing to help and encourage learners. The late Mervyn Phillips, who was the captain at West Down, whilst ringing and

concentrating, would display facial expressions that were second to none. Then there was Sheila Cole, who rang with Burrington, who always called the changes in a high-pitched voice.

Later I joined the ringers at Barnstaple Parish Church with Bill Howard on the treble, my brother John, Perce Lavercombe, Ivan Harris, Charlie Liverton, Bill Latham and George Tribe. George had an encyclopaedic knowledge of bells; mention a tower to George and he would immediately tell you everything about it. At Barnstaple we did quite well when we competed in ringing competitions and won the Devon Association 8-bell festival at Upton, Torquay in 1962

In the early 1960s we were ringing against some very good teams - Bideford, High Bickington, Kingsteignton, South Molton, North Tawton and Torrington. I also rang for Swimbridge who had a very good 6-bell team under the captaincy of Bert Bartlett. Wally Snell was a ringer with Swimbridge and I remember how good he was at encouraging ringers. The team won the Devon Association 6-bell festival, but I wasn't lucky enough to be ringing with them then. I remember on one occasion ringing with Swimbridge when the Devon 6-bell final was held at East Portlemouth in South Devon. At the time teams were drawn to ring in pairs. The

Treble's Gone! - continued from page 4

two teams would enter the church and draw again inside for ringing order. The rule was that no one would leave the church until after the second team had rung. Swimbridge was drawn to ring first. Bert Jones, known affectionately as Joner, was unhappy about the way in which we had rung. Despite the rules he picked up his coat and walked out of the church. No one challenged him. I wonder why? (Probably because he was an ex-Rugby player who once played for England. Ed.)

When Swimbridge disbanded I rang with Morteheo and enjoyed some very good ringing with them under their captain Trevor Sellick. I always looked up to Fred White who was a member of the team because he could ring any bell from treble to tenor with no trouble at all. We enjoyed competing in ringing festivals and the competitive spirit amongst the teams at the time was extremely keen. We rang against teams such as Burrington, Down St.Mary, Dunsford, Eggbuckland, Littleham in North Devon, Molland, Plymtree and South Brent to name but a few. There was always plenty of criticism amongst the teams about the judges, especially if the results were not in your favour, but all ended happily in the local pub afterwards. Ralph Wright who rang the tenor for Down St.Mary always gave teams encouragement. Ralph was not only a good tenor ringer, but also had a natural singing voice. His brother Tom, who rang the treble for Down St.Mary, was noted for his long speeches.

Other things that spring to mind in relation to competitions are the excellent teas that were always provided and the exceptional team that Eggbuckland was, consisting mostly of

the Trout family and captained by David Trout. I think the team first won the Devon 6-bell final when the event was held at Dunsford in 1980, but correct me if I'm wrong. (Yes, Bert you are correct. Ed.)

A few more ringers that readily come to mind are Sam Down and Herbie Pidler who rang for High Bickington. Sam Parker who rang with Burrington and Edgar Cole from Ashreigny. Edgar was secretary of the Devon Association of Ringers for a very long time. And there was my old friend Roy Cleal from Plymtree. Roy was always ready for a laugh. Sadly he is no longer with us.

Unfortunately my ringing came to an end because of shoulder problems. Sometime later I tried to ring again, on my own at Shirwell where I had first learnt to ring. I tried on the second bell which normally I would have risen after 3 or 4 rounds, but it took me ages and eventually I set the bell in. It was a good thing that I was on my own because the rope flew all round the tower. You would have thought I had never rung before!

Bert Conibear

(Thank you Bert for sharing some of your fascinating ringing memories with us. Thanks also to Julie your "secretary", for painstakingly recording your thoughts and sending them to us. Editor.)

Reminiscences of an Elderly Learner

Before retiring to Devon, to my wife's roots, I had had no contact with bellringing at all. I am a Londoner by birth and upbringing with subsequent education, including university studies, professional career and family home all also in Greater London. The churches I attended did not have proper bells. Emmanuel, Northwood, built in 1905, had a single processional bell. St. John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill, a typical Victorian church started in 1837 with a tower and spire, where both my wife and I had been Church Wardens, had a terrible carillon of what looked like bicycle bells screwed to the wall, which was sometimes rung by choir boys, and also a single processional bell. Nearby parishes, St. Mary's, South Woodford and St. John's, Loughton did have bells but in suburbia one rarely strayed out of one's home Parish. At this time I was Consultant Rheumatologist at The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel. Yes, about ½ mile east of Whitechapel Bell Foundry and I treasure a small Whitechapel hand bell which was cast



The London Hospital Bell.

*The inscription is: **The London Hospital (with crest) 1740 – 1990***

The top shows the three bells logo of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry

as a memento of the 250th anniversary of the hospital.

We retired to Chagford in 1997 although I commuted to London most weeks until 2001. This was always, and still is, a favourite village where my mother-in-law had lived as a child as her father farmed in Chagford and was miller at Sandy Park Mill. At that time the bells at Gidleigh, the adjacent sister parish, were being refurbished after being unringable for over 30 years and were rededicated in June 1998. Julia Endacott, Tower Captain at Chagford, organised the ringing at Gidleigh and the Gidleigh and Chagford teams have always worked together. She appealed for more ringers. I asked her if I was too old to learn, being 62 at the time, and she bravely took me on initially at Gidleigh. Progress was very slow partly as I could not regularly attend weekly practices as I was in London most weeks. I was (still am!!) a very slow learner finding rope control unpredictable and difficult, and assessment of the weight of an unfamiliar bell difficult, but she was

Reminiscences - continued from page 5

very patient. Gradually I progressed to being allowed to ring at Chagford. I have never conquered rising in peal and lowering is also unpredictable, so unless taken by surprise or being tested by a brave Tower Captain, I leave that to better ringers!!

Eventually I progressed to number 6 at Chagford although more recently have been encouraged to move to no. 4 by our current Tower Captain, Jon Bint. I think that, now after 20+ years I am controlling the rope somewhat better – somewhat being the operative word.

Change ringing – Devon Calls of course – has proved to be very enjoyable and personally I find it “easier” (perhaps less difficult would be better wording) when ringing 8 bells than 6. Pit falls await us and I recall being invited to ring at a very old friend’s Memorial Service. He was a retired clergyman and his widow had contacted us to suggest that I should join the ringers before the service. They had been ringing “Method” for about 45 minutes when another guest ringer and I turned up. We were asked how we rang at home – we both replied, “change ringing”. “Fine – we will continue with call changes”. At that time I had not realised that there was more than one scheme of call change ringing – of course theirs was different from Devon and the result was, well, interesting!! At least our friend’s widow said how good it was to have the bells before the service.

I was invited to join the annual Chagford Bellringers’ weekend away, 3rd weekend in August, in 2001 to the Isle of Wight. That was a real experience having only been let loose on a few Devon towers by then. The weekend is always a great event and I had the privilege of helping to organise the 20th anniversary trip to south Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire in 2011. This year was the first to have had to be cancelled since the tradition was started in 1992 also then to the Isle of Wight.

In 2015 it was decided to have the Chagford bells refurbished, a century after they had been recast, with new headstocks, repaired and/or refurbished wheels, pulleys, ropes and rope shutes, sliders and stays and the clappers remetalled. I was honoured to be asked to lead the Appeal Committee and the bells were lowered and taken to Taylors of Loughborough in

August 2016. Then it was discovered that the old wooden frame had rotted over winter having been declared sound a few months earlier. More Appeals and the frame was replaced, the work completed and bells rededicated by the Bishop of Exeter on 1st April 2017. This was a splendid project in that it demonstrated the mutual support of ringers, the support of the congregation, the generosity of so many people and the support of grant giving bodies (DCBRF, DNP, Chagford Show, etc.). It is good that we have also been able to fund, purchase and have installed two Training Bells and an electronic simulator. I might have found it easier, and quicker to learn had these been available some years ago!!

Yes, I do enjoy ringing. Why? Well - good company, good exercise, a fascinating hobby, a county wide and national fraternity. Apart from ringing in Devon and during the Chagford weekends away I have had the privilege and enjoyment of being invited to ring at St. John the Baptist, Loughton, Essex at a friend’s Memorial service and at SS Peter & Paul, Aldeburgh, Suffolk at a morning service and then at a service commemorating the centenary of the death of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836 – 1917). Elizabeth Garrett was the first woman to qualify in medicine in Britain from Page 4 through the Society of Apothecaries and subsequently achieved MD Paris. She was also the first woman Mayor in England, of her home town Aldeburgh, and in 1866



Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

opened the St Mary’s Dispensary for Women and Children in Marylebone, which developed into a hospital solely for, and staffed, by women. After her death this was renamed the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (she had married James Anderson head of a shipping firm) now part of University College Hospital, London. She, with her sister Millicent Fawcett, was also a Suffragist (non-belligerent suffragette). Why were we at this event in Aldeburgh? My wife, who had been on the medical staff of EGA Hospital and is an Anglican Reader, had been invited to preach at the centenary service.

I hope that we will soon get back to near normal activities although I guess that after being prevented from ringing by Covid-19 for the last six months, there will have to be some catching up.

Colin Barnes



DEVON ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION FEE

Hello everyone. I hope you are safe and well.

Thank you so much to everyone who paid their tower affiliation fee for 2019 - 2020, and to those of you who paid to receive individual copies of Devon Calls.

This year has been hard going with no ringing. Unfortunately the association has not been able to support you as we would like to have with training workshops, maintenance workshops, splicing workshops etc. However, thanks to the Devon Calls team and to all of you who have submitted articles, Devon Calls has been able to carry on as normal. We hope you all received your copies if you paid your tower affiliation fee or for an individual subscription - if you didn't please let me know.

Anyone can contact a committee member and ask for help, or share ideas that may help others, that's what being a member of the association is about, to get help and support and to be a part of something special. You can also write an article for Devon Calls, which will always be gratefully received.

The £15 affiliation fee for 2020 -2021 is due to be paid no later than the AGM on 14th November 2020.

As this year's AGM will be online, please could you post your fee to me, cheques should be payable to DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS. Please also confirm your name, address and tower name so that I can ensure I have the correct details for Devon Calls distribution.

Your cheque and details should be sent to

Mrs C Ley
Fort house,
Alexandra road,
Barnstaple,
DEVON
EX32 8FD

I didn't know until last year that I can pay £10 a year to receive my own copy of Devon calls! If you would like to subscribe then please send a cheque plus your name and address and I'll post you an up to date copy.

Thank you for reading this.

Best wishes Chris Ley, treasurer and past president.

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

(Charity Number 276490)

During 2019 the Fund has been actively involved with 13 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. In addition to these, seven further towers have requested a grant application form, though have not as yet completed and submitted them.

We have again, through the Diocese, been carrying out bell inspections alongside churches' routine quinquennial inspections. This year we have carried out inspections at Swimbridge, Plymstock, Shaugh Prior, Thurlestone, Winkleigh and Broadwoodkelly. Though not carried out specifically as a fund-raising measure, most churches receiving our reports have nevertheless made significant donations to the Fund.

During the year the usual two meetings were held, in April and November. We have not had a face to face meeting with our financial advisors this year, though have corresponded with them by letter and email. In spite of the uncertainty caused by "Brexit" we have been advised to sit tight with our investments and, so far, this advice has paid off, our quarterly dividends from the investment portfolio having been significantly higher than last year.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The aim of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund remains to provide financial assistance to churches in the County of Devon and Diocese of Exeter for the purpose of restoring, maintaining and improving their bell installations, so as to ensure their continuing use both for religious purposes and for the ongoing development of the cultural art of English church bell ringing. Though bells are housed predominantly in premises of the Church of England the practice of church bell ringing is open to all regardless of age, creed or culture; and being a very public instrument may be heard by all.

The bulk of our financial assets remain in the form of the investment portfolio purchased from the William Smale Bequest, and continue to be managed through the Discretionary Portfolio Service of Cathedral Financial Management Ltd of Exeter, the value of the portfolio as at 31st December 2019 standing at £362,033, some £29,324 above its original purchase price. The continuing benefit of the investment portfolio is in the dividends received which have amounted to £13,556 for the year. Our other income has been slightly down on last year, though would have been significantly higher had the proceeds of the Devon Association's Annual Draw been received in time to have been included in the 2019 accounts.

At the beginning of 2019 the liquid assets of the Fund stood at £43,190. Since that time six grants totalling £20,980 have been paid. £280 went to Farway towards the repair of cracked headstocks on the fourth and fifth bells, and re-bushing the tenor clapper; £4,500 to Beaford towards re-hanging the bells with part new fittings; £1,000 to Brentor towards partially dismantling the installation, sending some of the steels back to the works for galvanising, and then rubbing down and painting the frame and support grillage; £2,200 to Northam towards servicing the bearings, re-bushing clappers

and painting the bell-frame; £7,500 to Kingskerswell towards totally restoring the six bells, hanging in a new steel frame, augmenting to eight and constructing a new ringing room lower in the tower (the cost of the new bells and ringing room was not considered in the grant offer); and £5,500 to Woodbury for replacing the former over-sized cannon-retaining headstocks with headstocks of much lower profile, replacing and re-siting the pulleys and generally improving the ring.

Income during the year (excluding that from the investment portfolio) has amounted to £9,208, including £3,099 from the Guild and its Branches, £517 from peal and quarter peal ringers, £814 from personal and miscellaneous donations, £25 from the Devon Association following the Annual Draw (the remaining £3,050 was received too late to be included in the 2019 accounts and will be included next year), £200 from Cornworthy, £1,500 from Withycombe Raleigh, £400 from Ottery St Mary, £108 from the towers hosting the Devon Association 6-bell eliminators, £155 from various other individual towers, and £400 following tower inspections and talks. £500 was received from Tim Bayton from sales of the latest edition of the Devon Tower Directory. Thanks are due to all those from both Devon ringing societies who contributed to the enormous success of the National 12-Bell Contest at Exeter in June which resulted in £1,000 from the profits made being donated to the DCBRF. Tax refunds following gift-aided donations and bank interest make up the balance.

At present the liquid assets of the Fund stand at £44,928.

Grants agreed this year include the £280 to Farway and the £1,000 to Brentor which have already been paid; also £3,000 to Pilton towards cleaning down and re-painting the bell-frame and support grillage, repairs to the treble, seventh and tenor clappers, removal of the old crown staple stumps, servicing of bearings, sliders and runner boards, and turning the second and fourth bells; £1,200 to Ermington towards investigating the sub-frame and repairing where necessary, cleaning down, de-scaling and painting all ironwork of the frame and fittings; and £6,000 to Cadbury towards re-hanging the six bells in the existing frame with all new fittings, and tuning all but the mediaeval fourth and tenor bells. A further £500 (already paid) was awarded to Kingskerswell towards recasting the third bell (now the fifth) which, during tuning, was found to be a very porous casting with holes in it the size of a £1 coin.

Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted liquid balance of the Fund stands at £16,078.

Committee Members and Trustees for 2019-2020

Secretary: Ian Smith, Church Cottage, Mary Tavy, Tavistock, PL19 9PR (01822 811071; dcbfr72@gmail.com).

James Clarke (Chairman), Janet Deem, Elaine Grant, Mary Mears (Treasurer), Graham Sharland, James Steer.

Ian Smith

Obituary - Michael George Hallett

Michael George Hallett was born at Ethridge Farm, Diptford, South Devon, on 11th August 1939 and was the third born of ten children to Robert and Dorothy Hallett. Michael attended Loddiswell, East Allington Schools and then Kingsbridge. At the age of 13 Michael went to live with an uncle where he did farm work, before and after school, learning how to plough, which put him in good stead for ploughing matches he attended later in life at which he excelled by winning many trophies. He was a contractor until he married Elizabeth in 1964. From then he managed a pig farm for two years with lorry driving in between and pursuing his career in sheep shearing. After that time, he went self employed and moved to Avon View, Diptford, having two sons, Simon, born in 1972 and Nicholas in 1974.

His sheep shearing career took him to New Zealand and then to Norway, spending two months away every autumn for 14 years.

Michael's hobbies included being a very keen footballer playing for Avonwick and East Allington. He was also a very keen Dart player. Bellringing too, was a big part of Michael's life. He learnt to ring at Diptford and was taught by the late



Les Stone. Liz was already a bellringer from the age of 11 along with her brother Michael Watts and sister, Susan Husband.

The Diptford and Halwell teams were involved with many competitions. Michael was captain at Diptford for 20 years. He was also Chairman of the Totnes Deanery Bellringers. He had to stop ringing about four years ago when his illness got much worse.

In 1993 Michael was fortunate to purchase a field and barn at Ethridge Farm, the place where he was born, and over two years he built up his collection of vintage tractors and machinery. He was Chairman of the South Hams Vintage Machinery Club and the Devon Ploughing Association.

Alzheimer's disease had affected Michael's life for the past ten years and over the past three years he was not able to speak; being cared for by his wife Elizabeth and the family, coupled with support from carers. He was able to remain at home where he sadly passed away peacefully on 19th August 2020. He will be missed by Elizabeth, the family, grandchildren and great grandson Albert.

Rest in peace Michael.

God Bless.

Sue Husband

Jonathon Douglas Cock (Known as 'Douglas')

20 August 1927 - 15 July 2020

Douglas died a few weeks short of his 93rd birthday at home with his family beside him. He had been struggling with ill health for the past couple of years.

Douglas had been a loyal member of the ringing band at Broadhempston for 57 years including a long stint as Tower Captain from the 60s and into the 80s. He had not rung for 17 years due a neck/shoulder problem. Very much a call change ringer he was an avid supporter of the Devon Association, ringing in many competitions organised by them and at other invitation events. The Beric Bartlet 6 - bell was very important to him, as it raised funds for the repair and maintenance of church buildings across the county.

Douglas was not only a ringer but a very active village man. At various times he was a member of the PCC, Church choir, Village fete and Village Hall committees. He had a very active social life, was a keen walker by day and did square dancing by night, plus he was an avid gardener. His ashes have been scattered at one of his favourite spots on Dartmoor.



L-R Spencer Keys, Chris Pascoe holding baby son Jake, Christine Pascoe, Graham Pascoe, Julia Jarvis, Douglas Cock

His background was in agriculture. He was born a farmer's son and continued working the land until he retired. He had a big reputation as a ploughman using horses to work the fields. Later, using a David Brown tractor in the same expert way, he ploughed some of the steepest fields around Broadhempston. Another role, which has long since ceased, was as an animal drover. The family had fields at Sigford near Widecombe. Driving the cattle more than 10 miles through country lanes and crossing the A38 before it was upgraded to a dual carriageway, was a pretty hazardous journey.

Douglas leaves a widow, Mary, daughter Elizabeth, son Kevin and numerous grandchildren. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, only 20 people were permitted to attend his funeral at St Andrew's Ipplepen. Brian Tuckett, one of Ipplepen's ringers, tolled the bell for the service.

There will be a memorial event later.

Gone but not forgotten.

Graham Pascoe

Julienne Mary Goff

26TH November 1944 – 28TH June 2020

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Julienne, after a long illness with Parkinson's disease.

Julienne was known as Julie, a ringer from Chardstock, and the wife of the present Tower Captain, Derrick.

Julie was born at Axminster and left school at 15 years old to work for J H Shand Ltd, Axminster, which made typewriter keys.

While Julie was celebrating her 16th birthday with her parents and friends, at a dance in Uplyme village hall, she met Derrick. They were married on 10th August 1963 at St Andrew's Church, Chardstock.

Julie was now working for Jack Lanes Poultry Processing Plant, at Claysteps, Chardstock, and after a few years their first child was born. Julie eventually became a full - time mother of four. In November 1982 Julie and Derrick took over a processing plant at Hook Mills, Chardstock and this became a family business for 27 years. It was then decided to sell the business as Julie's health was beginning to deteriorate.

In the early 1970s, Julie became interested in wanting to learn to ring. Her late father – in – law, Donald Goff, taught her to ring at Chardstock; she enjoyed it, and visited local towers in the area. Julie's favourite tower was Ottery St Mary; her last visit to Ottery was on the afternoon of Saturday 24th September 2016, supporting The Devon Association of Ringers, with an afternoon tea, music, songs and ringing. Even though she was now in a wheelchair, Julie enjoyed the afternoon.

Julie supported village activities, fund raising events, the church, Parkinson's UK – the national medical charity for



Parkinson's disease, and bell ringers. She encouraged one of her sons, Stephen, to take up ringing a few years ago, and he was taught by his father, Derrick.

On Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 2pm, a cool and changeable day, a restricted service and internment took place at Chardstock Church.

Special permission was granted to ring the church bells two hours prior to the service for a short time, in tribute to Julie, observing all the restrictions that had been requested, due to Covid 19.

The family gathered at Julie's home, from where the funeral cortege started and then walked through the village to the church. Susan Bray rang the chimes, followed by the tolling of the Bourdon bell until the beginning of the service. This bell hangs above the main ring of bells and gives a lovely mellow tone.

Julie used to be so full of life before her illness. She will be missed by all that knew her, especially Derrick, her family and Chardstock bell ringers.

It is hoped that a memorial service can be arranged later when it becomes safe to do so.

Susan Bray

Chardstock Remembers

Chardstock ringers rang for a church service on Sunday 16th August 2020, and incorporated the ringing to remember the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day. Those not ringing at the church service played a pe recording of the bells on the evening of Saturday the 15th August in the garden.

It is hoped to ring for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain to coincide with a church service.

All ringing had to have permission and was subject to strict restrictions.

Susan Bray

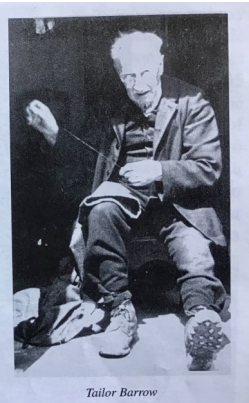
Roy William Berry

We are sorry to hear that Roy Berry who was the Tower Captain at St. Margaret's Church, Topsham, passed away at the R D & E Hospital, Wonford, on Friday 3rd September, aged 94. He had been Tower Captain at St. Margaret's for over 60

years. Roy, a baker by trade, taught countless people how to ring and he was a person who mixed freely with both method and call-change ringers. We extend our sympathy to Roy's family and all who knew him.

Colin Adams

Old Loxhore Photos

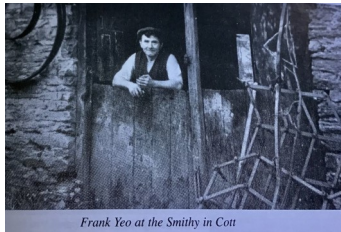


Tailor Barrow

Many thanks to Diana Newland of Loxhore, who has kindly given us permission to reproduce these photos.

Can anyone provide any information on Tailor Barrow? I gather this was not someone with a doubled barrelled name, but could this be William Barrow who donated the cup which is rung for in the 8-bell competition?

Apparently he was a very keen ringer who used to cycle regularly from the village of Loxhore to Barnstaple to ring.



Frank Yeo at the Smithy in Cott



*Bell Ringers outing
Left to right Back row
Charlie Delve, Frank Yeo, Tailor Barrow, Charlie Gould, George Gould.
Front row Jim Tossell, Jack Delve*

The band of bell ringers whose ringing brought the parishioners to their prayers on Sundays had a yearly outing. Charlie Delve, Frank Yeo, Tailor Barrow, Charlie Gould, George Gould, Jack Delve, Jim Tossell, Bill Read, Reg Yeo and Ron Gould were some of the regular ringers. Their outing consisted of a trip to other towers and churches in order to ring the bells with drinks and a picnic or a meal out. They also held ringing festivals at the church. The different bands of ringers in the competition rang while the judges sat in North Town Farmhouse to listen and make their decision.

Colin Adams



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