

### **RINGERS TO HAVE STAND AT COUNTY SHOW MAY 2011**

After last year's success the Devon Churches have asked the Ringers' Council if they would like to join them on their stand for May 2011. The display of ringing in 2010 attracted crowds to the Churches stand. If you do wish to take part or have any queries please contact Ian Avery who has been asked to co-ordinate the event again. The Show is hard work however there is something for everyone to enjoy. There are plenty of farm animals, fantastic local food and drink, great entertainment all day long. The dates will be 19, 20 & 21 May 2011.

The 2010 Show will be a tough act to follow. Over 91,000 people attended with plenty of children arriving on Saturday, where they all had free entry.

In 2010 the bellringers rang each morning to announce the 9 am service and gave ringing demonstrations throughout the day. Visitors were able to watch and learn about bellringing in Devon and talk about the development and heritage of bell ringing. This was a marvellous opportunity for people to discover the fascinating history and unique music of this ancient British art.

### **Bells mark century at Holbeton**

An historic church which was the first in Devon to use a famous bell-ringing method 100 years ago is to celebrate the centenary with a special three-hour peal. In 1910, All Saints Church in Holbeton, near Plymouth, became the first in the county to use the "Plain Bob Minor" method.

The Church is hoping that the event held on November 5 would also highlight the plight of the bells and tower, which are badly in need of repair.

All Saints Church was built in the late 14th century and was extensively restored in the 1880s. The church tower boasts a peal of six bells and in the church itself there is a tracery of carving said to be made from wood salvaged from the Spanish Armada in 1588. In 1997 the Friends of All Saints was registered as a charity for the purpose of maintaining and preserving the church building. It is estimated as much as £50,000 will need to be raised over the next couple of years for restoration.

### **Reclaiming VAT on bells and ropes will finish on 4 January 2011.**

From April 2006 you were able to reclaim VAT on repairs to bells, organ, clocks and pews including professional fees and this covered replacement bell ropes however this will cease on 4 January 2011. The advice is to submit claims on or before 20 December 2010. For more information check the website [www.lpwscheme.org.uk/](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/)

### **Devon Ringers' Council at Exeter Autumn Festival**

Devon Ringers Council presented to the public a rare opportunity to hear quality bell ringing in Exeter City Centre as part of the Exeter Autumn Festival on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. This performance of "Music in Bells" was an evening of exploration in the uniquely British tradition of bell ringing as a musical art form. There was a charge for the event with method and call change ringing on the towers bells at St Petrock's and a performance on the hand bells.

### **Royal Wedding on 29 April 2011**

The wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton will take place on Friday 29 April 2011 at Westminster Abbey and the day will be a bank holiday. It will mean two long weekends in a row for many, with the Easter break and the Monday after the wedding for May bank holiday. The day is marked as one of national celebration and a public holiday will ensure that as most people as possible will have a chance to celebrate on the day.

## CCCBR WEBSITE – Ringing Down 'Ere

This book from the Whiting Society is a comprehensive treatise on the ringing of call changes in the West Country style, covering bell handling, raising and lowering, organisations, competitions, and including lots of compositions for call change peals on both 6 and 8 bells.

The foreword by Philip Morse states:-

At last, here is a book giving all the information needed to understand how we do Call Changes in the South West of England (specifically Cornwall & Devon). Usually this special style is passed on through contact with older/experienced ringers, so for those who do not have those "experts" around, here is a good starting point. The content is original and very thorough, starting with how we attempt to make rising and falling as good as possible, how round ringing is valued and, together with Call Changes, how this leads on to competition ringing.

This book, at £4 is in A5 format and 72 pages, they say, is aimed at both the beginner based in the West Country who wants a good textbook, and the method ringer who wants to give proper call changes a try, instead of regarding it just as a training exercise.

### The Craft of Bellringing

This 2007 PAL or NTSC DVD of 48 minutes by George Perrin has now been listed as AVAILABILITY UNKNOWN.

From the origin of bells to modern day ringing, from small-town parishes to some of the most famous cathedrals, the film covers virtually all aspects of the world of ringing. Featuring the first edition of Tintinnologia, the very first book to be written about bellringing, and exclusive interviews with leading experts of the field, the film also takes us on an intellectual journey that explores the craft's rich cultural heritage.

This DVD builds upon the earlier work by the CCCBR Education Committee "Bellhandling – a tutor's companion". The latest DVD is very entertaining and of high quality. Even the leaflet inside depicting shots from the DVD is of good quality.

### Virtual Belfry

At the 2008 Roadshow the Virtual Belfry was on display on a stand by Doug Nichols. The program has advanced in many ways since then. Virtual Belfry attempts to recreate the experience of the bells swinging and the clappers in motion, all coming together to produce that great sound. Real photography is used and animation is by the software. Virtual Belfry is available on CD for £35. Visit the website [www.belfryware.com](http://www.belfryware.com) for more details including extra screen shots.

## Teaching and Ringing Standards

Performance is the essence of ringing and although the best ringing is performed to an excellent standard, much would scarcely be acceptable from performers of other types of music. But ringers put up with it. The way we train ringers has a huge impact on their ability to perform well. Good training helps them to develop the requisite skills, while poor or indifferent training limits their potential by failing to develop those skills and allowing, or even encouraging, the formation of habits that undermine their capability. By failing to train ringers well we condemn them to a life of under-performance.

### Memorial peal of 720 unrepeated changes for Bill Campion

Bill Campion immediate past captain of Broadhempston died suddenly at his home on the 1st November at the age of 81. Bill was captain at Broadhempston for 12 years before his retirement standing down in 2004. Bill was one of those larger than life characters who had an opinion about most things. He was dealt a severe blow when his wife Ella died suddenly some years ago while completing her regular crossword puzzle, leaving Bill without a soul mate in his remote cottage at Woodland. Attempts to get him to come down to Broadhempston and socialise with his former team mates were resisted by Bill. Instead he preferred regular schedules by telephone with Horace Clements (Stoke Gabriel) and Edward Pidwell (Hallwell), Harry Bardens (Bigbury) and rely on local ringers to call when passing. It was clear from those visits Bill was struggling to look after himself. He remained staunchly independent to the end. The funeral service was held at Woodland, half the congregation comprised of ringing friends from across South Devon, from Exminster in the East to Egg Buckland in the West. Woodland, having only three bells which are not able to be rung full circle, it was decided to ring a memorial peal at Broadhempston on Monday the 13th November. A continuous peal lasting 81 minutes of 720 unrepeated call changes were rung in his memory. All ringers attending from many local towers took part, no matter their skill level, changing the ringers as the peal progressed every 15 minutes or so. The tenor was 'turned in' with calls at a sedate pace by Graham Pascoe who rang the treble throughout.

Following the peal, glasses were raised in the Monks Retreat in honour of Bill who had been a loyal member of the local band of Broadhempston ringers for many years.

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## High Bray sets itself £30k target

A determined group of volunteers have launched a bid to raise more than £30,000 to restore a set of bells, some of which are more than 500 years old.

Jane Jeyes, the group's secretary, said Brayford had an active community and the parish council supported the bell restoration plan at All Saints Church at High Bray, a hamlet just outside Brayford.

The church is a grade one listed building which was probably established by the Normans although it is thought a church has been on the hill since Saxon times. The present building was built in the late 12th or early 13th centuries and the first rector, William Fitz Rogo, was appointed in 1267. The church as it stands today dates largely from a reconstruction in the 1500s, and it was significantly altered in 1878.

There are six bells hanging in the church, and two of them are among the oldest of their type anywhere. These were cast and placed in the church in 1499 and 1450 and have been identified as having historic significance by the Council for the Care of Churches.

Of the other four bells, one was cast in 1807, and three were cast in the 1890s, when the newest bell frame was installed.

Jane said: "These are ancient and beautiful bells and should be restored and put back in working order as part of our historical and local heritage."

Following a thorough site visit by two firms, the lower quotation of £23,000 (+ VAT) from the John Taylor Bell Foundry of Loughborough was chosen. The work involved requires the removal of the bells from the tower, transporting them to Taylor's works for all fittings to be refurbished; renewing the existing oak frame and the placing of a steel foundation under the frame for more long lasting support so that the bells can be re-placed in the tower.

In addition to this work, the lighting in both the bell and ringing chambers and in the circular stairs will be replaced and exterior lighting will be fitted. It is also proposed to fix a camera in the bell and ringing chambers to connect to a screen below, so people who can't climb stairs can see the bells.

The project added £2,200 to its fund thanks to a Strictly Come Dancing and auction evening in the village hall. The fundraisers have generated £7,300 locally and the Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to give a grant of £20,500 for the £30,000 scheme. Work is due to start on the second week of December and fundraisers hoped the bells would be ringing again by Easter.

Find out more about the bell restoration project at [www.brayford.org/bells.html](http://www.brayford.org/bells.html)

## Ringling Holidays

A group of Devon Change Ringers have an annual bell ringing holiday by coach and in 2011 they will be going to Bournemouth. The Ringing Ringers coach holiday will be 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May (Monday to Friday) staying at the Savoy Hotel, Bournemouth. Ringing will take place every day and this includes on the journey up and on the way back. The cost will be £250 per person sharing or £260 single occupancy. For more information or to pay a deposit please contact John Staddon as soon as possible.

A further holiday is available later in 2011. This will be the A & J Autumn Tour for Mid Devon Ringers that has been traditionally held in October and has now been going 37 years. Arthur and Jean have stood down as organisers however I believe they will be eager to join in, health permitting.

## Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

The following grants have been agreed for 2011:

**Brentor £3,000**

**High Bray £2,800**

**Chittlehampton £550**

**Brixton £420**

**Uffculme £440**

Approaches for assistance have also been received from Hawkchurch and Weare Giffard, though as yet no formal grant applications have been received.

## Ringling World Centenary Day

The Ringing World's centenary celebrations on Saturday 26 March 2011 will include an attempt at some very special ringing never before seen or heard, change ringing on 24 bells. A touch on 24 handbells will take place in the afternoon at the Grand Ringers' Gathering in Central Hall, Westminster, following the Abbey service. The touch is fittingly 100 changes long and will take about 7 minutes to ringing.

On 12 bells and above, very different types of music can come into play. The sound of groups of bells moving around together, hunting as a pack, becomes much more apparent. The more bells the more pronounced the effect.

Whilst there have previously been impressive hand bell peals in traditional methods on 18, 20 and 22 bells, they are into uncharted territory with 24 bells. By increasing the number of bells to 24, next March's performance promises to be the best yet. Ringing on such a high number of bells poses significant mental, technical and even physical challenges and a top band drawn from around the country has been assembled. For the RW Centenary Day and a youth competition go to [ringingworld.co.uk](http://ringingworld.co.uk)

## Devon Ringers' Carol Service

The carol service this year will be held at Heavitree on 11 December at 3pm along with the Handbell Ringers. There will be open ringing from 2pm and after the service.

## New President for Association

At the Association's AGM in November Mervyn Way succeeded John Kelly BEM as President, a role that lasts until the next AGM. Mervyn is well known to the Association and also to the Guild.

## ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS FOR 2011

Novice	- Holne	12 March
8 Bell	Buckland in the Moor	23 April
6 Bell Qual South	- Dunsford	7 May
6 Bell Qual North	- Shirwell	7 May
Minor Final	- Morteohoe	21 May
Major Final	- West Alvington	11 June

## DONATION TO RESTORATION FUND

The Association, at the AGM, elected to donate £5,000 to the DCBRF. The raffle raised £4,200, up on the previous year.

## OFFICERS OF DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

President – Mervyn Way  
President Elect – John Cole  
Chairman – Claude Nicholls  
Secretary – Jereme Dart  
Assistant Secretary (N) – Margaret White  
Assistant Secretary (S) – James Kerslake  
Treasurer – John Barnes

## TOWER EMAIL CONTACT LIST BUILDING

The website of the Association to be found at [www.devonbells.co.uk](http://www.devonbells.co.uk) is setting up a tower email contact list. Please submit your tower's details to enable this list to be completed as fully as possible.

## Whitechapel Silver Wedding

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 Alan and Kathryn Hughes, joint owners and director of Whitechapel Bell Foundry celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary by taking a "real" holiday, from the foundry and all things to do with bells, on an island off the West Coast of Scotland. The foundry band attempted a quarter peal of Stedman Triples on the bells installed last year at St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge. This failed just before the end however the good wishes from the company were much appreciated.

Alan and Kathryn returned on Friday 22 when glasses of bubbly were shared at the end of the day with colleagues along with a celebratory cake.

## Who keeps details? – A plea

Many have said that it would be nice to find have a book on the historical aspects of call change ringing in Devon, as this is an area of ringing not very well known particularly outside of our own area. With this in mind, James Kerslake would like to compile a list of the ringers who were in the winning teams of the following competitions since the first year the respective competitions were held:

- 8 bell Final
- 6 bell Major and Minor Finals
- 6 bell qualifiers North and South

with the possible later additions of the South Devon 8 bell competition, the South Devon Interdeanery competition and any north Devon equivalents. Once the data is collected James hopes to be able to make it both browsable and searchable, so you should be able to find out who was in the team that won the 1937 6 bell final or how many times a given ringer has won the North Devon qualifier. Contact James Kerslake with any help or suggestions, see [devonringing.co.uk](http://devonringing.co.uk) or James' own link, [www.myconid.co.uk](http://www.myconid.co.uk) where you will find plenty of other information, especially statistical and even compositions for call changes.

## Securing Muffles

One solution to secure muffles that have a cord is to replace the cord with a plastic self locking cable tie. This is much easier to fit and totally secure whereas loose cord has caught on hammers causing damage. The ties do have to be cut to be removed but at only a few pence, the number of occasions you ring muffled this should not be a problem. Leather does need to be looked after and not allowed to go hard, crack when it will eventually break. The subtle echoing sound and beautiful overtones of the muffled stroke will be lost as the leather degenerates. Muffles, properly looked after will serve many generations. Velcro fitting muffles have now been perfected, they are quick to fit and remove, with no tape or ties. Muffles by Big Wilf are tailored and numbered and are proving very popular.

## Have you made a will?

Most charities get substantial amounts of their income from bequests. Very little is left to bellringing causes, and this should change. Find out how you can contribute, contact Peter Wilkinson, 01606 853643 or Email [brcsecretary@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:brcsecretary@cccbr.org.uk)

*Interchange is published as part of both Guild and Association newsletters. Any opinions expressed in Interchange do not necessarily represent those of the Guild, the Association or the Devon Ringer's Council. Please send items for the next issue to Roger King 215 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3DZ.*

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