Bell Ringers' Q.I.



Four (Quite Interesting) Things about Tiverton, St Peter's

4 Things you may not know:

- 1. The Night the Sky Fell in, 20 Nov 1864
- 2. Colonel "Mustard" and the Rounds Ringers
- 3. Curious Case of the Missing Tiverton Two
- 4. "Here's to the Ladies God Bless'em!"

1. The Night the Sky Fell in, 20 Nov 1864

What happened?

TIVERTON

ALARMING ACCIDENT. -An accident of an alarmi haracter, though fortunately unattended with sen ous consequences, took place in the tower of St. Peter's parish church, on Sunday the 20th inst. It appears that as four of the ringers were engaged in the performance of their weekly duty of ringing the bells for the evening service, the fifth bell suddenly broke away, owing to the wretchedly insecure state of the fastenings, and in its fall happily alighted on one of the beams, where it remains in a secure position. Several persons who were entering the church at the time, were alarmed at the crash of the falling bell, and called to the clerk to ascertain the cause. The ringers had a miraculous escape, for had the bell fallen clear off the beam upon which it is now dged, one or more of the ringers must have bee ed on the spot.

Parlous state of St Peter's Bells

• Source (right):

Tiverton Gazette - 24 Jan 1865

• Source (Previous):

W. Somerset Free Press-3 Dec 1864 Saturday as the 12-15 luggage train from Exeter was passing the Warren three of the trucks got off the line, and one of them loaded with coal was smashed. The line was blocked, and on the arrival of the mail train from Exeter the passengers had to be transferred to a train which was fetched from Newton for the purpose. This caused a delay of about an hour and a-half. The line wes cleared by seven o'clock.

St. Peter's Bells.—The subscription set on foot for repairing these bells amounted yesterday to £39 16s. The Rev. William Rayer heads the list with £5, Viscount Palmerston and the Hon. George Denman give 3 guineas each, Messrs. Amory, Reginald, James, W. H. Dunsford, Thomas Carew, and the Right Worshipful the Mayor give 2 guineas

each, Mr. R. Henry Taylor, 1 guinea, Messrs. F. Hole S. Gath, T. Aldred, F. Dunsford, F. Mackenzie, H. S. Gill (churchwarden), A. C. Sharland, Daniel, Mrs Welch Owen, Mrs. John Barne, Mrs.

William Hole, Miss Dunsford, and the Misses Barne each give £1. The balance is made up by sums of

100 from various inhabitants.

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Parlous state of St Peter's Bells

- In 1867 the 7th bell cracked the rounds ringers blamed the method ringers and the method ringers claimed that the bells were over-clappered and they had warned of the consequences.
- In 1868 Enter Colonel "Mustard".

Colonel "Mustard" & the Rounds Ringers

Who was Colonel "Mustard"?

Colonel Charles Acland Williams Troyte



	Representative of	The Devorsahire Suild
		842. Dorckester: Trade or Profession Landowiser. 1. All Sainots, Huntsham. Devois. First Peal date 20th Feb 1845 Method Standoire Triples. Tower All Sainots. Huntsham.
	Other Towers to which subsequently att	acned
	7 14 15 15	Central Council Member from 1841 to 1844 from to from to
	1	Central Council Offices held
	13	Attended no neckings of the Council. Association Offices held
	1 TABLE	President. Devois Guild of Phrogers 1844-1883.
	The Control of the Co	
	6	Notable performances, etc.
		Notable performances, etc. His first peal was the first recorded as range by natives of Devois. Fablished his handbook "Change Pringing" in 1869.
		His first peal was the first recorded as rung by natives of Devoro.
		His first peal was the first recorded as rung by natives of Devoro.
		Total of Peals Rung. Tower bells conducted Handbells conducted
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		Total of Peals Rung. Tower bells conducted Handbells conducted
		Total of Peals Rung. Tower bells conducted Handbells conducted Total of Peals

Colonel Charles Troyte

- President of the St Peter's Society of C. R., established Nov. 1867
- First President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers 1874 1883
- Squire of Huntsham Court
- Author of "Change Ringing" which was published in 1869 and went to four editions, remaining in print until at least until 1938
- Paid to augment Huntsham bells to 6 in 1866 and to 8 in 1874
- Arranged to have the cracked 7th at St Peter's recast, the belfry put into good order and took charge of ringing at St Peter's

Colonel "Mustard" & the Rounds Ringers

ST. PETER'S SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

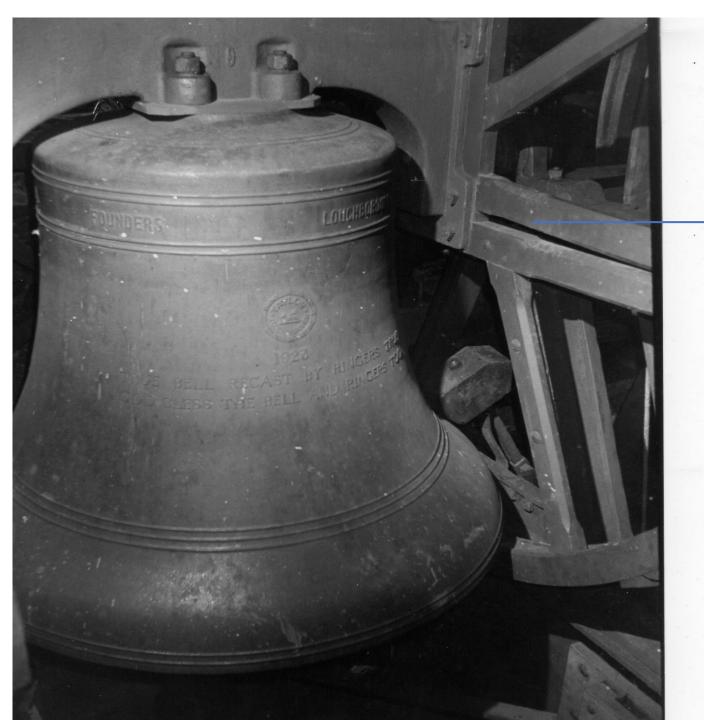
Notice is hereby given, that whereas, the Rectors and Churchwardens of Tiverton have, under certain conditions, given the whole and sole charge of, and power over, the Bells and Bell-chambers of St. Peter's Church, to the above society, all Ringing done in St. Peter's Tower is now under the direction and control of the St. Peter's Society of Change Ringers, and its officers ONLY are authorised to receive the fees payable. No one is entitled to ask for, or accept any gratuity on account of Ringing. [Scale of fees follows]

Advert in Tiverton Gazette 17 Nov 1868

See Ringing Round Devon Dec 2017

Curious Case of the Missing Tiverton Two

Who or what were the "Missing Two"?



The Present 7th at St Peter's

The rehanging of St Peter's in 1923 was not straight forward – as the volume of letters in the Taylor's archive shows!

Taylor's suggested making provision in the frame for 10 (Tiverton should be as good as Cullompton John Taylor claimed), but the Rector rejected the idea.

Missing Two – the Bellhanger panics!

COPY.

St. Peter's Church, TIVERTON.

June 24th. 1923.

Dear Sirs.

Either Mr. Pryce or Mr. Denison had better come down here and look at this job when I have got all the bells out as the main beams are rotten. The one under 6 - 7 - and 8 bells is the worst as I can see at present that is on the East side of the tower I am getting the bells through the South window as there is no road through the clock stands on the trap door and the frame would want cutting away before any bells would get through. Mr. Crater told me that they would not have an iron and steel frame at any cost, he says the frame is good so they say they will have the frame pulled apart and some new beams put under and a pretty job it will be, and what timbers are bad to take out and put new in, it has been patched and corner brackets and bolts, now its about all over with them, it all wants clearing out. I can pull pieces of rotten out of the beams as big as my head. I have been between the ceiling and the floor with a light and brought pieces out and gave to them to look at but they will not give way so I think it would be the best for someone to come over. When I get the bells out about Friday. They have not done taking the window out yet, its a rum job right through. They are going to have all

Missing Two – the Bellhanger panics!

someone to come over. When I get the bells out about Friday. They have not done taking the window out yet, its a rum job right through. They are going to have all the bells weighed here before they go away. They are a funny lot I can tell you, one makes bullets and another fires them or trys to any way. When they had their leeting on Wednesday night about the floors, Crater told them that Doble of Taunton told them there was nothing the matter within the frame at all and that the bells only wanted rehanging. It would have been another job like Westbury was when I went to take them out.

It is the opening at St. Stephens, Launceston on the 28th. of June, next Thursday. Let me know if any of you will come over here as when I get all the bells out they are going to have another meeting.

The Rector says "No"!

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council, den Seis- Jam annes oblige for your letter. you have per to Inscription country. The class on the 200. 18EM is 1815-19. Date 7th. Bell the ISt. Evors is TRUE" hat this. The Couples i written by a Erry Olhore person + the play is on the loved We do woh wish & have ten balls, + by Count Entertain the tracases Coat of \$ 55 for a Suitable frank work. Soil

One mystery solved. How they got them out!



A Ten for Tiverton?

John/aylor
BELLFOUNDERS

Our Ref: ACB/MLS/25/1

22 Jan 1993

Mr J Weighell 44 Branscombe Road Tiverton Devon EX16 4AB

FILE COPY

Dear Mr Weighell

CHURCH OF ST PETER, TIVERTON

I am in receipt of your letter dated 15 January 1993 regarding your Graphic Communication Project for GCSE. We are interested to note that you plan to design a frame to augment the bells at St Peter's Church from eight to ten by the addition of two new treble (smaller) bells

I have looked through our extensive records on the bells of St Peter's Church and these show that the two additional bells would require to be of diamters 2' 2 1/2" and 2' 4" respectively and with finished weights of approximately 4-2-7 and 5-0-7 respectively. Ideally, the new bells would require wheels having diameters of approximately 5' 0" and 5' 1". The cost of a new treble bell would currently be £2950.00 at our Works and the cost of a new second bell would be £3255.00 at our Works. The cost of a complete set of ringing fittings for each of these bells which includes headstock fitted with turned steel gudgeons, bearings and housings, clapper, crownstaple, bell securing bolts, hardwood wheel and securing irons, hardwood rope rollers, stay, slider and running gear, the necessary cast iron floor bosses, floor rollers, rope chutes and best quality flax bell rope complete with close woven wool salley and includes the assembly and testing of the bell and its fittings on a ringing-up stand. A set of fittings for each of these bells would currently cost £1995.00 per bell at our Works.

In addition, of course, there would be the cost of the additional framework which, if: we were to design and construct this in our Works (as is our normal practice) we would estimate would cost in the region of £3650.00. In additon, there would also be the cost of delivery and installation of the additional framework, bells and fittings and we would estimate that at a minimum this would be in the region of £1550.00. This figure for installation is based on the Church providing able-bodied handymen to work with our Bellhanger instead of our sending an additional man to site.

25 Church Bells · Clock Bells · Carillons · Peals · Chimes · Handbells

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John Taylor Bellfounders Ltd
The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1AR
Tel: (0509) 212241 · Fax: (0509) 263305
Reg. in England No. 1352309

A Ten for Tiverton?

CHURCH OF ST PETER, TIVERTON

Turning now to the frame design, I enclose a photocopy of the present frame arrangement at St Peter's Church. As you will see, the present bell frame occupies most of the Tower and, except on the east side of the Tower, where it abouts the wall, it is fairly this arrangement does not easily lend itself to augmentation without considerable re-arrangement of the existing framework which the makes such a scheme relatively expensive. The arrangement of the eight bell frame at St Peter's Church is allong conventional lines although, I am sure that you will appreciate that every bell frame is individually designed to suit the particular Tower for which it is intended.

Bearing this in mind, I have extracted from our records three ten bell frame designs which you may care to study These are all drawn to the same scale at the Tiverton arrangement namely 1/2" to Drawing 'A represents a ringing peal of very similar proportions to Tiverton but with the addition of the two trebles and the Tower dimensions are also very similar. This is broadly a conventional arrangement for a ringing peal of ten bells wherever space permits. The two other arrangements enclosed are also for ringing peals of the bells but where circumstances have necessitated a rather different arrangement in order to accommodate them within the confines of the respective Towers. Naturally, we do have many other drawings in our records but I trust that these will be of some assistance to you, we would particularly ask that you note the Copyright notice stamped onto each of these copies and would respect that these are submitted to you in all good faith as we should appreciate your treating them with confidentiality.

I also have pleasure in enclosing a photocard showing a low side framework for a ring of eight bells which was taken in our Works in 1924 and is actually of the Tiverton bells and bell frame. You may, of course, have come across one of these before but, if not, you may find this useful for inclusion in your Project.

I do hope that you will find the foregoing information useful and helpful and that your project will be successful. Thank you for the courtesy of enclosing a SAE which we are returning as the documents enclosed require a larger envelope.

Hours sincerely

Business Development Manager

Encs.

Here's to the Ladies - God Bless'em!"

Guild Report, 1903:

TIVERTON.—Our practices have been well and regularly attended throughout the year, also ringing for morning and evening service. A class of ladies was started who have got on well, and rang the treble in some touches of Grandsire Triples with our President, on the occasion of his visit, who we are always very pleased to see among us. During the year a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples and a great many 504's of both Stedman and Grandsire Triples have been rung in which some of the Ladies of our Band have taken part, and muffled touches of Stedman and Grandsire were rung on the occasion of the death of the late Archbishop. Some of our members have visited Calverleigh and Wash field on several occasions, and some very good Minor, Stedman, and Grandsire Doubles have been rung, including the Ladies also who have taken part.

Guild Report, 1904:

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J. Richards
Practice Night, Tuesday.
        TIVERTON.
         8 Bells.
E. Munday (r), 35, Leat-
 street, Tiverton
J. Babbage
B. Grater
R. Grater, senr.
R. Grater, jun.
John Grater, senr.
John Grater, jun.
S. Grater
 W. Grater
 T. Harvey
 F. Taylor
J. Hart
G. Elsworthy
 J. Elsworthy
 W. Clements
H. Ware
 Miss C. Scott
      K. Hennell
      L. Hennell
      L. C. Kennaway
      M. Todd
      L. Todd
      A. Havman
      M. Moovaart
 Practice Night, Wednesday
     OTTERY ST. MARY.
          8 Bells.
 I Godfroy (w) Ottory St
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The Tiverton Ladies Band

- Attracted national attention reported as far away as Lincolnshire,
 Nottingham and Edinburgh
- 8 ladies listed in 1904 report, but by 1908 only 4 remained at Tiverton
- By 1911 there were no women listed for Tiverton

So what happened to the Tiverton ladies?

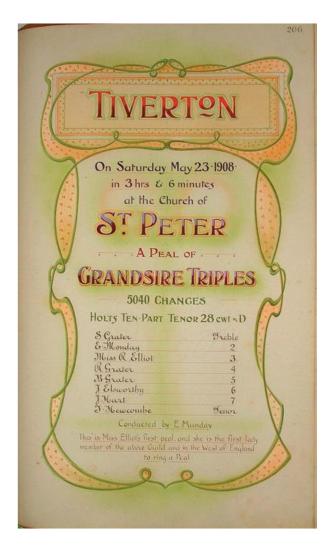
The Tiverton Ladies Band

We are indebted to Janet Ritterman for an answer to that question. Using Census and other information she has discovered that:

- All came from educated, middle class backgrounds, the daughters of clergy, army officers and a physician.
- Two trained as nurses in London
- One became Librarian and English Tutor at St Hilda's, Oxford
- Others married and moved away

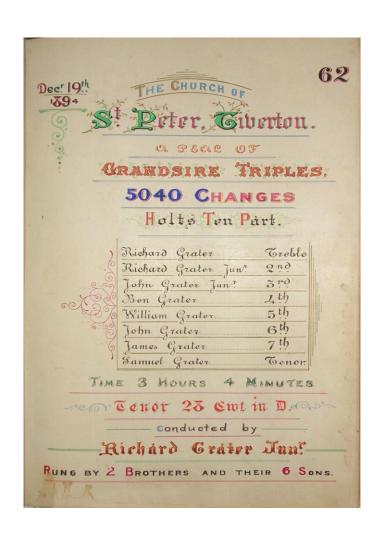
See "When the ladies joined in ..." in Ringing Round Devon, 107, Sep 17

First South West Peal by a Lady





Another Notable Peal – the Grater family





List of Sources Consulted

• Research resources will vary from tower to tower, but those used for Tiverton St Peter are typical for what might be available.

STARTING POINTS

- Scott, John, Mack, Frank & Clarke, James Towers & Bells of Devon 2 vols, 2007
 Gives key dates and historical information often drawing on Churchwarden's Accounts
- Guild of Devonshire Ringers Annual Reports 1874 –

Guild Library has the full set with a few gaps for early years. WW1 & WW2 years available on-line. Lists members tower by tower.

Church Histories & Guides

Example: Chalk, E.S. *History of the Church of St Peter's, Tiverton* 1905. Includes selective listing of bell work and payments to ringers from Churchwarden Accounts 1607 – 1852

Tower memorabilia

Minute books, peal boards and records, photographs, certificates

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

- PRIMARY SOURCES NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS
 - Local Newspapers. Especially useful for 19th C onwards, but some from 18th

Example: *The Tiverton Gazette* from 1854 to date. Some years on British Newspaper Archive. Full microfilm runs in Tiverton Library, Tiverton Museum and West Country Studies Library (Devon Heritage Centre) Exeter. Near verbatim reports of meetings in 1850s – 1890s.

Trewman's Exeter Flying Post was published from 1763 to 1917 (1800 – 1900 is on B.N.A.)

• Order & Disorder (Wratten & Eisel). 5 vols of newspaper extracts on bells and ringing.

In the Guild Library – there is a consolidated Devon Index on the Guild website.

Ringing Journals – available on the CC Library website

Church Bells 1870 - 1906

Bell News 1881 - 1915

The Ringing World 1911 – 1970. (More recent issues available in the Guild Library on DVD ROM)

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

PRIMARY SOURCES - BELL FOUNDRY & BELLHANGER'S RECORDS

Taylor's Archive, Loughborough (http://taylorbells.co.uk/history/taylors-foundry-archives/) . Example: Extensive files of correspondence and other records relating to Tiverton.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Archive has been taken over by the London Metropolitan Archives and will be fully available in 2021. See: https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/the-collections/Pages/whitechapel-bell-foundry-cataloguing.aspx

PRIMARY SOURCES – BELFRY RECORDS & MEMORABILIA

Minute Books, Ringing Records, Photographs etc. Search those belfry cupboards, drawers and shelves!

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

SECONDARY SOURCES

Towers & Bells of Devon as above

Scott, John Devon Bellringing 1874 – 1974: A history of the G.D.R.

Eisel, John *Early scientific change ringing in Devon*. Series of 11 articles in *The Ringing World*, May – Oct 2017

Eisel, John Musings on call changes in Devon - and beyond. Series of 8 articles in The Ringing World, April — May 2019