P97 Some Bell ringing records

The following are some notable records which will probably be of interest to readers :-

Bolton, Jan 29th 1927
11,232 Superlative Surprise Major rung

Rainswick, Feb. 14th 1920
13,001 Grandsire Cinques rung.

London, Mar 27th 1784
12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung.

Ashton-under-Lyne April 13th 1914
12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus (12 bells) rung.

Heptonstall, April 18th 1927.
17,824 Oxford Treble Bob Major rung.

Appleton, Berks. April 22nd 1922
21,363 Stedman Caters rung. (In over 12 hours)

Ashton-under-Lyne, Aug 5th 1929
15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus rung.

Heydour, Oct 4th 1947
14,144 London Surprise Major rung.

Over, Cheshire, Nov 4th 1950
21,600 Bristol Surprise Major rung.

Appleton, Berks, Dec 27th 1932.
16,271 Grandsire Caters rung

South Wigston, Leic., Dec. 27th 1904.
17,104 Double Norwich Court Bob Major rung.

Since the publication of the above book in 1954 a band of 8 ringers has rung the extent (the maximum number of changes possible) of Major (8 bells).

Loughborough, July 27th-28th 1963
40,320 Plain Bob Major rung in 17 hours 58 min.
6-52 AM — 12-50 AM. Checked by 4 umpires.

312 Copied from 'The Devonshire Dialect' by Clement Marten 15/12/02
Words and music in 'The Magic of Dartmoor' by David 1973 mudd. P 69.
See P 58
P 326

Tavistock Goozey Vair

By C. John. Toythall

Tiz jist a month come Friday nex'
Bill Camperdown an' me
Us drain'd across auld Dartymoor
Th' Goozey Vair t' zee
Us maade ourzel's quate viddy
Us shaved an' graized our ayes
Then off us gaws een our Zindy Blaws
Be'ind Bill's auld grey mare.
Us smilled th' zage an' orions
Aul th' way vrom Whitchurch Down
An' did'n us'av a blaw out
When us fut up een town
An' there us met hed 'Annaford
Jan Steever an' Nicky Square
An' it zeemed to me auld Dem mus' be
T' Tavistock Goozey Vair.

Chorus
An' it's aul an' wer be gwain?
An' what be doin' ov ther'?
'Aive down yer frrong
An' step down 'long
T' Tavistock Goozey Vair

Us wen' t' zee th' osses
An' th' effers an' th' yaws
Us wen' vrum aul th' round 'Bouts
An' een t' aul th' shaws
An then it started rainin'
An blawing too ees fay
Zo off us gaws up to "th' Rauz"
T'av a dish o' tay
An' ther' us 'ad a zing zong
An' th' volks Reg draffin' een
An' they wat naw'd us all come round
An' 'ad a drap o' gin
Till wat wi' one an' t' other
Us didd'n zim t' care
Whether us wuz t' Bellever Tor
Or Tavistock Goozey Vair.

Chorus
Ver wer' an what be doin'?, etc.

T' wus rainin stranes an' dark as pitch
Wen us started awm that night
An' wen us got Nass Merrivale-Burge
Th' ole mare 'er took'd t' right
Zed I t' Bill, "Be careful
Or you'll 'av us een th' drain"
Zed Bill t' me "Be dad t' thee,
Why - am'n you got th' reins?"
Jist then th' ould mare 'er runned
Agin a wackin' gert big stone
'Er kicked the traps t' Hibberts
An' 'er tratted off alone
Wen us cummed to us reckon'd
Twadd'n naw gude sittin' ther
Zo us 'ad t' trudge awm fourteen mile
Vrum Tavistock Goozey Vair

Chorus
Ver wer' an what be doin'? Etc.

Words and music of the above in
P 69. 'The Magic of Dartmoor' By David Mudd. 1994

From Cotleigh Womens Institute Apr 03

DO you remember your pre-decimal coinage?
Do your answers agree with the total?

A	a pet pig
B	a bicycle
C	a leather worker
D	a stone
E	a woman's head gear
F	a dinger
G	Venus, Jupiter and Mars
H	a ruler
I	An R injected into a domestic animal

£	s	d
26	7	0

Hope you have a good memory and have fun.

Answers page 223

A Good Friday Experience

18th April 2003

We had been to a service of Bible readings, prayers and hymns, and afterwards drove along Lupfitt Common to Jacks House, turned right and then right again along to the Hartridge Layby. We entered by the track and turned on to the grass area to the right and drove along by the edge towards Beacon, overlooking the valley and village area. The view was impressive and the weather hot and sunny, with just a little haze which detracted a little from the overall view of the village and the far side of the valley, mainly of Hense moor common reaching nearly to Jack's House.

Crosses — Two crosses had already been erected up above Sharcombe at the edge of the flat cultivated area. Other cars followed and a group of about 30 persons collected. Presently the Carger of the three crosses was borne by about four from the nearby path towards the site. It was laid in place on the turf and then raised in a position midway between the two smaller crosses, the upright dropped into a prepared hole and well supported upright; the base being refilled and well held in place with stones being rammed to ensure that it was firmly in place.

Rev Wall — Curate Vicar, Rev N. Wall. read a suitable Bible portion from St Matthew's Gospel which dealt with his account of the historical fact of what took place nearly two thousand years ago; a short prayer and then the Lords Prayer helped to make the experience one to be remembered.

This had been first enacted last year 2002, and I understand requested to be repeated.

There can be little doubt as to the origin of the impulse which led to this development. The activity of the Holy Spirit in the thoughts of men and women in Lupfitt. Thanks be to God.

Calendar — The Gregorian calendar was introduced in Great Britain by Calendar (new style) Act 1750 2nd Sept. 1752 was followed by 14th Sept 1752 Loss of 11 days. Year began before 25 March after 1st Jan

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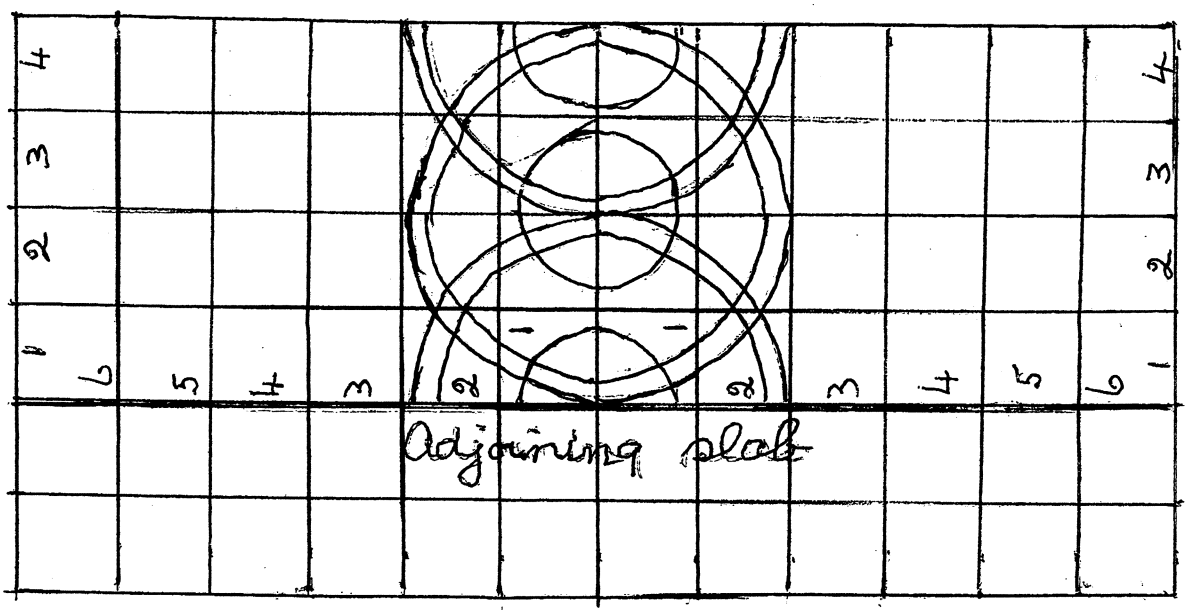
See also P 290

Greenway Iron Slabs

Greenway Targets

I was intrigued by the markings on two slabs of iron which had been seen on a roadside wall, and which had been placed there at Corry Height as the surface of a churn milk stand by Greenway Farm. The farmer was able to tell me that there were three others nearby, but one had been broken. I asked Mrs Jessie Reed who lived nearby, the widow of the previous farmer, what she knew about them, but all she could tell me was that they were found years before in a field above the farm called 'Target Moor', but I could see no logical reason why anyone would want to shoot at cast iron slabs. Other enquiries bore no fruit.

1986 In February 1986 I measured the detailed grooves on the face of these 6 foot by 2 foot slabs. Grooves in each direction marked out 6 inch squares which were numbered, one to four on its width and one to six in both directions from the centre to each end of its length. There was a 4 inch circle from the central point as well as the two foot circle from the same central point. Also from the central line at each outside edge a two foot diameter semi-circle which met at the central point. Another slightly smaller semi-circle one and a half inches away from the other also on either side



Each square was numbered 1 to 4 left to right at top and bottom of the slab, and surprisingly 1 to 6 along one side from the centre outwards to both top and bottom. I do not understand the method of scoring, one would have expected to see the higher numbers at the centre, and the lower ones at top and bottom.

The next step in Suffritt's mystery was when the following letter arrived from Mrs Street

Gathins
Suffritt
17-09-2001

Dear Mr Sage

I was watching a television programme tonight called "What the Victorians did for us." The presenter, Adam Hart Davis, was showing how Queen Victoria was using a new rifle to score a bullseye on a target. The target, as far as I could see, was your mystery Greenway plate. I could'nt see if there were any numbers on it.

Perhaps it would be possible to write to Mr Hart Davies C/o the B.B.C. In the credits at the end of the programme the National Rifle Association was mentioned as helping make the programme so maybe this could also be a possible line of investigation. Hope this may be of use to you

Yours sincerely
Jacqueline Street

Accordingly I wrote to Mr Adam Hart-Davis asking if he could give us any further information on the targets which were shown on T.V. in that programme. He replied by letter dated 24th October 2001 stating that he knew nothing about them, but suggested that I ask at a local museum; and he also gave me the address of the National Rifle Association, Main Office, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0PB (Tel 01483-797-777).

As I had, in 1986, already asked at the Royal Albert Museum, who could offer little help, I now wrote to the National Rifle Association and received a most helpful reply, together with a photo copy of a page from "The Volunteer Service Gazette" of May 3rd 1862 which clearly showed our 'target'.

As I had made enquiries at the Exeter Museum a few years ago, and they could not help in identifying these marked iron slabs, I wrote now to the National Rifle Association at Bisley, as suggested by Mr Hart-Davis and received a very clear explanation from the Curator.

As this reply has already been written on page 290. there is no need to repeat it here.

Page 290

In September 2000 my wife's carer informed me that having driven over a 4x4 course at Awliscombe, the farmer stated that over there in the bushes was where the canon was fired at the time of Trafalgar. Enquiries led to the title of a book which I was able to borrow from the Library at Honiton "A Biography of John Graves Simcoe" by Mary Beacock Fryer and Christopher Dracot, which gave details of the firing of a cannon by Luppitt Artillery under Captain Pearce on St Cyres hill.

See Luppitt book P51

We now have a clearer understanding of the use to which the Greenway iron slabs were put, as practice targets for Luppitt Volunteers.

Targets

Greenway

Particulars concerning Greenway manor for sale in 2003 as given in a brochure by Knight Frank.

Historical note

The Devonshire Domesday description of Greenway begins "Walscin has a manor called Grenouueia, whic Ailsi held on the day on which King Edward was alive and dead ..." (1066). Greenway was one of four manors of Luppitt, the name Luppitt being derived from the Old English "Lova pitt" or lovely valley.

Greenway

Henry II

In Henry II's time (1154) documents show that a Philip de Greenway was living at Greenway and his family resided there until 1366 or later.

Greenway was given to the Abbey of Newenham (Axminster) in the mid 14th Century as a park by Sir William de Mohun but was no longer in Abbey hands by 1528 (dissolution of the monasteries).

De Mohun 1528

As far as the house is concerned the central portion is an example of an open hall house of the early 15th century, possibly on earlier foundation

The impressive fireplace in the drawing room and the stone mullioned window upstairs date from about 1520 and the dining room was probably added in around 1600 with its own mullioned windows. All the other wings including the Linhay date from about 1650.

1520
1600
1650

See Page 303

Weather problems 2nd February 1947

I was in the farmyard dairy above the barn putting the milking bucket units together sometime after 4PM, when Mr Sprague of the Angel Hotel, Honiton came to the door and asked 'could I help him? A Honiton doctor, I think Dr Finlay, had received an urgent call from a Lady in Luppitt Village, Mrs Mobias to come and treat her son who was very ill. The conditions were atrocious with quite deep snow and they had had to leave the car and set out on foot, had I got a tractor? and could I help by taking them to the village? Yes of course I could, but he would have to wait while I filled the standard Fordson radiator with water, and then we set out. In the meantime Dr Finlay had walked along the bottom road and we were able to pick him up as roped at Penny Thorn Cross. The tractor took us safely to Town Cottage, opposite the Inn and the Doctor was able to treat his patient, I believe that an oxygen flask was required to assist his breathing, and in due course we set out on the return journey. Both men were taken back to Langford where they had abandoned their car, and I returned to the farm to milk the dairy cows and do the other necessary chores, as well as get some tea inside me.

Mobias

I feel fairly certain that I kept a newspaper cutting which referred to this incident and which expressed the opinion that it probably saved the Boy's life; but I have failed to locate it recently.

The above experience can be fitted into the larger picture by reference to the diary entries given on Page 303