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“The Bell”

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Cathedral Open Day

The recent augmentation at Truro Cathedral has attracted almost universally positive public reaction in the local & regional press and radio. This coverage has picked the project up as one for Cornwall at large, rather than just for Truro or it's Cathedral. In order to capitalise on this the Cathedral ringers decided to hold an open day, in order to show bells being rung and also the bells themselves. With the enthusiastic support of the Cathedral's Communications Officer, and help from most of the cathedral ringers, a display was set up at the back of the Cathedral Nave; this showcased artifacts which portrayed the history of ringing at the Cathedral.

We had no idea how many visitors would be interested, and I was not the only ringer to bring his daily paper along to help pass the quiet periods which I was sure would occur; we need not have worried! People came up the stairs even before the official starting time of 10:30am, and we were continuously busy unto well after 5:00pm. As we had not done anything like this before we did to some extent have to make it up as we went along, but fairly soon a pattern had evolved of visitors coming into the ringing chamber and watching one or more bells being rung. Those who wished to do so could then go up to the bell chamber to see the bells on the frame. This fascinated many who very clearly were seeing church bells for the very first time. CCTV made it possible for people to watch both a bell being rung and the same bell turning over high above them.

I am very grateful to everyone who helped, including those who took visitors up the 70 steps from the ringing chamber to the bells and then made sure they came safely down, those who staffed the display in the Cathedral Nave, and those who offered refreshments in the west gallery to people either before or after (and in some cases both before and after!) they went up to see the bells. We also received a number of enquiries about how one could learn to ring, and we hope that these will bear fruit. Although the day was not a fund-raising event a strategically-place collecting jar, charged beforehand with

some coins, did generate a tidy sum towards the project's funds. Altogether we think approaching 300 people visited the ringing chamber with nearly all of them going up to see the bells

Several people asked when we were going to do this again. My immediate reaction was "Not until I've read my paper" but it is certainly something we shall need to consider, either for next year or in 2013. It was a long and tiring day, but also a very worthwhile one.

Robert Perry

... and Dedication

I felt privileged and proud to be one of the invited ringers to ring in the service touch during the service at the Cathedral on Sunday 20th November. It was a wonderful moment and an emotional service to finally see this ambitious project come to fruition.

The service itself was well attended with ringers from all parts of the Diocese and beyond; in fact the first lesson was read by Tony Smith, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, who learned to ring at Lelant. The Second Lesson was read by Canon Malcolm Bowers, a former President of the Guild.

In his sermon the Bishop referred to communication issued between not just ringers but all members of the Church. He then proceeded to the ringing chamber, and the congregation were able to turn to the West End of the Cathedral and watch the Dedication ceremony on a large screen. *(continued overleaf)*

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Robert Perry handed the rope of the treble to the Bishop and asked him to dedicate the augmented ring and the reordered ringing chamber. After this was done, the ringers were rededicated and asked to confirm that they would carry out their duties faithfully and reverently. They and the ringing chamber were sprinkled with Holy Water, and then the bells sounded out majestically across the City with a couple of minutes of rounds. The ringers were an invited band, representing the Cathedral, the bellfounders, the donors and the four districts of the Guild. We were pleased with the ringing and the fact that we all managed to stand our bells at the appropriate time!

This was a fitting climax to this most momentous project and congratulations and a well earned rest must be extended to all that have made it happen. I hope that all ringers in Cornwall will take an opportunity to ring on Cornwall's first and only ring of 12, I am sure that you will receive a warm welcome.

Ian Self



St Dominic Tower Open Day

The day was very successful as we had 121 people turn up, 90 of which made it up to the first chamber and 80 of them up the ladder to the bells. There was a steady stream of visitors all afternoon and the refreshments were equally busy! By the end of the day all the helpers were tired out, but delighted that seven people, including some youngsters, had put their name forward to have a go at learning to ring, and there were many favourable comments.

We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on the day, and all those who gave their time to publicise the event by delivering leaflets in and around the St Dominick area. *Kevan Borlase*



Central District Pull, Puzzle & Pint

On a splendid October Saturday afternoon the Central District held a Car Treasure Hunt top n' tailed with some ringing and ending up at a local hostelry for supper. The variation from the traditional meeting format was intended to encourage wider support, and one immediate advantage was to ensure that a good number of ringers were present from the outset at Crantock.

After 45 minutes of ringing up to Cambridge Minor and including rounds for eight year-old Felicity Hood participants, armed with their question sheets, dispersed and nine cars set off on a coastal route which saw them arrive at St

Columb Major an hour or so later. The eight bells were put to good use in rounds, call-changes and a particularly nice touch of Grandsire Triples. The majority then adjourned to the Ring O' Bells where we fitted cosily into the restaurant and enjoyed an excellent meal before the all important results were announced.

In first place with 39 marks out of 40 were the Kea Clappers, the Hood family; the Crantock Allstars came second just half a point behind with the Gwennap Giants in third place. Everyone agreed it had been an enjoyable and friendly afternoon, particularly successful as it attracted ringers who might not normally attend a District event, and involved non-ringing partners.

Phil Tremain



Bodmin Bells & Ale Festival

Held this year on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend, the event was well supported with the bells ringing on and off throughout the morning. In between ringing there were bacon & egg butties with tea or coffee. There was also a choice of two local real ales and, for those who were driving or put off by the early hour, two pint 'take-outs' were available.

Phil Tremain, District Ringing Master, said "Congratulations to the Bodmin ringers for organising a smashing event which attracted ringers not just from across the Central District but from as far west as Carbis Bay and as far east as St Mellion; well done to Roger & Doreen Sullivan and Robin Woods for making the effort."

Thanking people for their support Paul Scoble, tower secretary, said: "The tower was busy all day, probably the best one we've had. People especially enjoyed the *Tintagel Harbour Special*; we sold the lot, along with all the pasties."



Eighty years ringing – not one but two!!

Congratulations to Frank Duke, captain of Maker bellringers, who at the age of 92 has just celebrated his 80th year as a ringer, 61 years as captain. Frank was awarded the Cross of St Piran by the Bishop of Truro, an award made for those giving outstanding service to their parishes.

Viv Williams, 85, who now lives in Leeds, learned to ring at Redruth 80 years ago and first rang the bells at Truro Cathedral in 1933. He rang for the coronation of King George VI, the Queen's coronation and the Queen Mother's 100th birthday.

Northern District Autumn Festival

The Autumn sunshine was just like a summer's day (or hotter) and my thoughts that everyone might be going to the beach proved wrong; an excellent turnout of around between 35 to 40 ringers from many parts of Cornwall attended. Towers open during the afternoon were Lesnewth – where the five refused to strike most of the time due to too much grease! (it is now OK), Otterham, and Jacobstow. The service was kindly taken by the Rev Rob Dickenson and the ladies of the parish provided us all with a splendid tea followed by a raffle. Evening ringing continued at Jacobstow, Marhamchurch, Poundstock and Stratton. A big thank you to Brian Marshall for organizing the arrangements at Jacobstow and to everyone who came along to support this event. *Ruth Reeves*

The Spring Festival and AGM 2012 is to be held on Saturday April 28th at Week St Mary.



Cornwall 3-1 Devon

Each year at the end of November parallel striking competitions on both six and eight bells are held at Kilkhampton & Stratton, the latter having been running since the mid-1960s. Unlike the usual round ringing events which take place in East Cornwall the test piece, as well as the rise & fall of course, includes call-changes in the style of the Devon Association.

Possibly for this reason, or the weight of the bells at Stratton, few Cornish teams take part. Often St Columb Major is the only tower to enter from this side of the Tamar, and despite having attended more or less continually since 1968 they have only won once at Stratton, in 1990, and once at Kilkhampton two years ago. This year though they took first prize in the 8-bell at Stratton with a team representing South Petherwin runners-up; at Kilkhampton the positions were reversed. South Petherwin also won the 6-bell at Kilkhampton with the only Devon success being Broadhembury who won the 6-bell at Stratton.

Phil Tremain



Carol Service

Is it just me, or do others find that December is an exceptionally busy month? Not only does 4 weeks work have to be done in 3, but there are a great many events and functions to take part in, or worthy of support, and carol services are held in churches and chapels almost everywhere. With this in mind, it was pleasing to see that the

Guild Carol Service, which in 2011 was hosted by the parish and ringers of St. Erme, was so well supported.

OK, well it didn't look too promising at the start, when only 5 ringers turned up to ring on the 8 bells at St. Dennis, and only 8 to ring on the 6 at St. Newlyn East. Our efforts to publicise the event in the Eastern and Northern Districts seemed to have born little fruit, but at least there was no queuing for an opportunity to ring! On arrival at St. Erme, however, things were found to be very different so that, by the time the Service started there were, I believe, more than 60 people (and one dog!) present.

Of course, the warmth of the welcome was great, the Service was lovely, the refreshments and the mulled wine were excellent, the church was beautifully decorated, and the ringing wasn't bad either! Thanks to all those who worked hard to put on this event.

And the journey home? 'Twas easy, thanks to the good weather. One felt a bit sorry for all those who said it was too far to go. *Robin Woods*



200 Club?

The Guild is considering running a 200 club which could distribute £8000 in prize money and raise £4000 for the Bell Restoration Fund. Many organisations run similar clubs as they are a fairly painless way of raising money. Members agree to pay £5 per month for a year and there is a monthly draw and twice a year an extra draw for a £1000 prize. The monthly draw would distribute £500, probably 1 × £250 and 5 × £50.

The odds of winning are actually quite good and this is an easy way for us all to contribute. It would be really helpful if those who might be interested in joining in or just finding out more would let myself or Phil Tremain know.

Mary Jones



Olympic Ringing

No, not a new Olympic sport (now there's an idea!) but an opportunity for us to ring in connection with a major national event.

Firstly on 19th May when the Olympic Torch makes its way from Lands End up through Cornwall. Secondly on the opening day, Friday 27th July, when there is a 'typically bonkers' (according to the *Guardian*) scheme to ring every bell in the country 'as fast and as loud as possible' for three minutes at 8am! This is not

limited to church bells, bicycle bells, door bells, are all included and its OK to ring for more than three minutes. Individual towers are encouraged to take part on one or both of these occasions as they wish and when they are able to raise a band.
Phil Tremain



Eastern District Autumn Festival

Ringling commenced at Pelynt and on the eight at Lansallos, on our way to Talland. For the benefit of those not familiar with Talland, the church is situated about half a mile from the beach, high on the hill-side about 200 feet above the sea, and not far from the coastal footpath. The tower is set into the hill, so that the ringing chamber is almost sub-terranean, and the path behind the tower is nearly level with the bell chamber. The ringers have recently fitted new ropes and refurbished some of the fittings. They have also removed the panelling in the ringing chamber, exposing the bare rock, so that it is rather like ringing in a cave! One needs to keep one's feet clear of the drainage channels which run around the floor to catch water seeping out of the rock.

The church is connected to the (semi-)detached tower by a cloister and, after most people had had a good ring, we moved into the church for the service. This included some carefully selected hymns, with relevance to ringing in Cornwall, and was followed by an excellent tea. After an exceptionally short meeting we thanked our hosts and departed for a ring at St. Martins-by-Looe on the way home.
Robin Woods



Tail Ends

The Standing Committee would like to make it known that grants are available for those wishing to attend ringing courses, for example the Hereford Course. Please contact Robert Perry, the General Secretary, for information.

Heather Harris writes: we raised over £400 at our **Gorran Tower Open Day** and more importantly, may have recruited a new member.

Congratulations to **Martin Spittle & Debbie Couch** (Gwennap) on their recent engagement.

Budock ringers were deeply saddened by the death in August of **Marjorie Brough** aged 86. Marjorie was an enthusiastic member of the tower and handbell ringing teams and a collection in lieu of flowers at her funeral will be used to purchase a new handbell in her memory.

Cury bells are ringing again having been rehung in a new frame by Taylors of Loughborough. Much of the work was done by a team of volunteers from the Guild, directed by Taylor's bellhanger Steve Westerman.

The **Phillack** bellringers enjoyed a day out ringing in North Cornwall to celebrate the 80th birthdays of Mike Smaldon & Keith Peters.

Gwennap Ringers ventured further afield, spending a weekend in the Hereford area

Work is underway to restore **Stithians** bells, the bearings of the second need replacing and the tenor headstock, which was found to have a loose gudgeon pin, has been returned to Nicholsons works at Bridport. Everything should be reinstalled by the time this issue is published..

Anthony Davidson, guest speaker at the **Western District Dinner**, talked about some of the highs and lows of the Cathedral project, from start to finish. A handbell touch of spliced Yorkshire, Little Bob and Duffield was rung by David Mattingley, Helen Hood, Norman Mattingley & David Ralls.

The grant recently paid to Talland was the 100th payment to have been disbursed from the **Bell Restoration Fund** since the first payment (of £75) had been made to Withiel in 1978.

Congratulations to **Martin Spittle** for ringing his first quarters of Belfast and of 8-spliced, also to **Sam Nankervis** his first in the method and of spliced as conductor with the Monday night band at Gulval.

Congratulations too to **Matthew Rodliffe** ringing his first inside on eight bells with Plain Bob Triples at St Columb Major; earlier the same day Matthew had clocked up his 50th quarter.

What is believed to have been the first quarter on the bells, 1260 Stedman Singles, has been rung at **Philleigh**.

A quarter of 8-spliced was rung at **Kenwyn** on New Year's Eve after a lost peal attempt for Bristol. It was rung in celebration of 50 years of ringing for Jacqui and John Davis, and 50 years of ringing together for Joy and Peter Sharp.

John Pladdys clocked up his 3,000th peal as Conductor ringing Stedman Triples (what else?!) at St Dennis.

Congratulations to **Kevin Borthwick** who rang his first quarter, treble to Doubles, at Gwennap.

Phil Morse has rung his first quarter of Bristol, and Phil Tremain his first in the method for over 25 years.