

Ring & Ramble IV

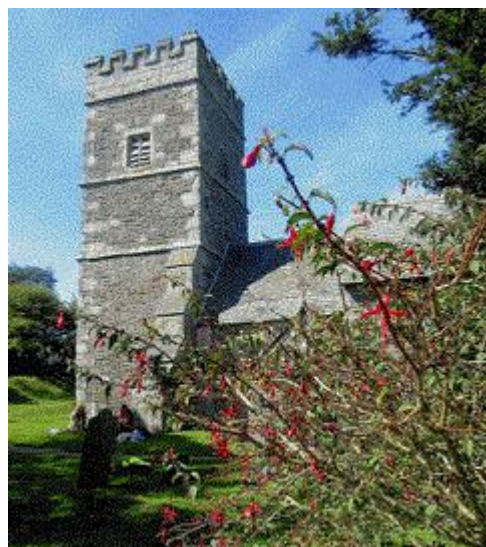
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The fourth Central District Ring & Ramble set off on a glorious summer afternoon from Gorran Cricket Club just across the valley from the church. Led by Ringing Master Phil Tremain some two dozen walkers followed the narrow lanes to Tregavarras and a steep footpath down to Porthlune Cove where an ice-cream stop was essential. Once everyone had been served we continued to Caerhays where we soon had the six bells ringing out to a mixture of methods and call changes. In the distance we could see the top of Gorran tower; it seemed an awfully long way away!



We retraced our steps to Porthlune and then took a different footpath via Treveor and across the fields to Gorran Churchtown where the splendid ten bells of the recently augmented Victoria Peal awaited us. First of all though was an equally splendid tea, pasties, sandwiches and yummy cakes, to invigorate us after our 6.21 mile walk with a total ascent/descent of 776 feet. Everybody then had an opportunity to ring, with rounds & call changes and a nice touch of Grandsire Caters on the menu.



Phil Tremain

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Guild Carol Service

The Carol Service, ably put together by Eric Bannister, was held at St Erme with almost 50 ringers & friends attending.

We were fortunate in having not one but two organists, Margaret Edwards and Ann Benney. Margaret also played clarinet with Eric on guitar, and the service was conducted by Revd. Ellie Goldsmith.

At the conclusion of the service much appreciated mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments were kindly served by the local ringers. *Phil Tremain*



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"The Bell"

Issue 2017/1

Kernow Old Codgers visit Imber

Since the group was started in February 2010 the Kernow Old Codgers have tended to meet mainly in mid-Cornwall simply to ensure that none of the participants, who come from all corners of the Duchy and beyond, have too far to travel. Last summer we ventured across the Tamar to visit Brent Tor, but this year organiser and instigator Phil Tremain suggested another unusual tower but one much further from home; Imber in Wiltshire.

Thus it was that a group of some 30 ringers, roughly half of whom were regular participants and the others friends & relations who joined us for the day, gathered at Longbridge Deverill near Warminster after an early start for those who had travelled up that morning. The prospect of a lock-out loomed until a phone call told us where to find the key and the eight bells were soon sounding out with a mixture of methods and call-changes, the latter with closed leads as is the custom for the majority of towers in Cornwall.

From here we proceeded to Imber, the village which had been evacuated in 1943 to facilitate training for the invasion of Europe and is now open for visitors on only a handful of days in the year, plus a fortnight in August when the army goes on holiday! A few years ago Neil Skelton, who kindly facilitated our visit, arranged with Matthew Higby for the installation of a light ring of six bells and we enjoyed taking our turn in ringing these in between eating our sandwiches in the churchyard while Apache helicopters flew overhead; hopefully they hadn't come to complain about the noise!



Leaving the firing range past blown-up tanks and signs clearly warning us not to leave the carriageway owing to unexploded military debris we visited our third and final tower, the ring of six at Sutton Veny which again were much enjoyed. Many of the party were staying in the area or going on elsewhere but a small group returned directly to Cornwall and met for supper at Lanivet at the conclusion of a long but enjoyable and interesting day. *Phil Tremain*

Northern District

At our District AGM in April 2016 it was agreed by members not to have Autumn Festival due to the lack of numbers attending. We now hold monthly Improver's practices on Saturday mornings at various locations around the district which seem to be appreciated and worthwhile by those who have attended. We also have a basic method practice at Bridgerule (fourth Monday 7:30pm) for anyone who wishes to come along and have a go. Any feedback and suggestions for events and training in our district will be most welcome. *Ruth Reeves*



Ringers with a Facebook account may like to join the group *Bellringing in Cornwall*.

Standing Committee report

At their November meeting the Standing Committee further progressed the matter of shelving for the Guild library, which is kept in the Cathedral belfry; hopefully this matter is nearing a conclusion.

It was agreed to purchase 2,000 badges for visitors to the mini-ring at the 2017 Royal Cornwall Show and also 250 for members of the scouting movement undertaking a ringing activity. The potential for involving more young people in ringing was thought to make this a worthwhile investment.

BRF grants were awarded to Lanreath (£275, clappers overhauled and rebushed) and St Veep (£4675, major work to frame & fittings), both figures representing 15% of the cost net of VAT which is reclaimable by the PCCs.

Matters of Health & Safety and Safeguarding occupied a substantial portion of the agenda. Following discussions and agreement with the Diocesan Safeguarding officer a draft Job Description for tower captains, necessary as a part of safer recruitment requirements, was approved for circulation. *Phil Tremain*



Keep up to date with what's going on and receive information about Guild activities by subscribing to the Guild email mailing list. You can sign up at our website <http://tdgr.org.uk> by clicking the mailing list link.

Light in the darkness

Twice in 20 years of ringing I have experienced a sudden blackout due to power failures. Once during a lightning storm at Zennor and again more recently at Gulval. On both occasions everyone was able to stand their bells safely. It's an experience that highlights how much, even as sighted ringers, we ring far more by timing and rhythm rather than by vision. As an individual ringer I am confident that I can ring safely during a blackout. As tower captain I realise I am likely to be distracted by my concern for the safety of others and need to condition myself to first safely stand my own bell. The recent experience also made me realise that in total darkness I would be unable to rescue the rope from anyone who had panicked and lost control.

For safety reasons, therefore, it is worth considering emergency lighting. I understand that mains systems, even where they exist, take a while to kick in and this sort of situation requires something instant. An inexpensive solution is to have a rechargeable lantern. This can be left switched on during night-time ringing and will continue to provide lighting if the mains power fails. Hunting around online I found an even better option at a cost of just £9.99 which can be left plugged in and will switch itself on instantly if the power cuts out.

More recently, some of the Towednack band gained confidence by ringing with their eyes shut and were pleasantly surprised to discover how easy this is, even at a practice with time to worry about it. When a blackout happens for real most ringers will have stood their bell before any panic reaction has had time to kick in.

Mary Jones



The St. Goran Project

As readers will know, the ring at St. Gorran which were a six and then an eight are now a ten. The new trebles together with the entire project were blessed by the Bishop of Truro on September 9th 2016.

Many ringers will remember the wonderful rededication service in February 2015 when the eight bells of the Victoria Ring (originally from Chatham in Kent) were blessed. Shortly following this service an anonymous donation provided for two new trebles along with all associated work.



The work to the bells has come to fruition in parallel with a much larger project to provide a light, airy and wholly modern area at the west end of the church with kitchen, office, loos and a quiet private sitting room. The sale of the Church Flats & School Rooms for affordable housing contributed just over a third of the cost of that project, the balance being raised by generous donations from the church members, the community, visitors and grants.

Just like the project, the service was equally well thought out. A flautist played as the congregation gathered, members of the St. Gorran school choir sang two songs with magnificent confidence and competence to great applause, lessons were read by the Chair of the DAC and a chartered building surveyor and a churchwarden lead the prayers. Bishop Tim picked up the theme of achievement in his address having told us that the difference between a sermon and an address was 10 minutes in our favour! Humour marked the service wherever appropriate and reflected the joyous sense of the occasion.

Some 14 Guild members and Tim & Diana Wraight (former tower captain of the Victoria ring at Chatham) joined the local ringers in ringing and revelling in this glorious addition to bells and ringing in Cornwall. Inevitably we all tucked in to the yummy refreshments but the focus and excitement was on the bells. Some of the school choir came up to watch and a local

who "used to ring years ago" had a go and discovered that she had not forgotten how to ring. A little later some of us concluded the evening across the road in the Barley Sheaf which had hosted the ringers and their handbells when the tower bells were unavailable. *Annie Holland & Dave Ralls*



Mini-ring at Pillaton

The village of Pillaton held a "Souper Village Showcase Day" on Saturday, 12th November. Brexit or not, this followed the French tradition of communities hosting a "Fête des Associations" to enable all the village groups show themselves off to the local inhabitants (and also hopefully to help them attract new members). The 'Souper' bit refers to the warming soup lunch provided by local super-chef Shirley Floyd – very welcome on a November day. The tower bell ringers made good use of the Guild's publicity materials in the Village Hall, but the main attraction was the mini-ring, kindly loaned by Robert Pearce and the Bradoc ringers, erected just outside the hall.



Thank goodness the rain held off. Quite a lot of locals had a go, although several commented that "it's harder than it looks" and so whether we will get any new recruits, or whether the experience will have put them off the idea forever, remains to be seen. Pillaton handbell ringers also entertained from the stage in the hall, and many visitors had a try at this too.

Richard Warwick



Eastern District

Because the traditional form of Autumn Festival has been poorly supported in recent years, it was decided to have a mini-outing this year. We visited three towers in West Devon, starting at the church on the hill at Brentor. The weather was windy but dry, and we started with 15 ringers climbing the Tor, accompanied by 3 year old Jack Sawyer (Hon. Sec's Grandson), who thoroughly enjoyed the climb and running down again afterwards. He and his Dad were able to chime the treble bell during a short break in the ringing.

We also rang at Lydford, and then retired to a local tea-room for refreshments, before heading for home via Lamerton, where, numbers being a bit depleted, we rang a call-change 120. The rain, which had been threatening all afternoon, arrived while we were ringing it. Altogether it was a very pleasant afternoon which all present seemed to enjoy. *Robin Woods*



Tail Ends

In May 2016 year (as reported in our 2016-2 issue) a group of ringers inaugurated a walk for St Dunstan, patron saint of bell ringers, with ringing at the churches along *St Michael's Way*. It is hoped to make this an annual event and the date for 2017, weather permitting, will be Saturday 20th May.

As a part of the national *Strike Back against Blood Cancer* campaign, in November a band rang a quarter of Julie McDonnell Doubles at Veryan. Nationally a total of £7m has been raised, mostly from corporate sponsors, for stem cell treatment through this initiative.


A quarter peal of Doubles was rung at Crantock to welcome Revd. Anne Brown, and her ringing husband Chris, as Priest-in-charge of the Atlantic Coast Cluster.

Organised by Dave Ralls, a band rang a peal, 5760 changes of Delight Minor at Stithians in 8 extents; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!

On St Andrew's Day, 30th November, a band rang a quarter peal of St Andrew Bob Triples on the magnificent octave at St Andrew's, Stratton.



An Clogh is the newsletter of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers, and is edited by the Public Relations Officer, Phil Tremain, 24 Penkernick Way, ST COLUMB, Cornwall, TR9 6BQ ☎ 01637-881041



Young ringers (under 30) with a Facebook account may like to join the *Young Bell Ringers Facebook Group*.