

LOOK TO!

ISSUE 168

June 2025



Sully Striking competition
Newsletter of the Llandaff Branch of the L&M DACBR

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Newsletter submission

The deadline for the next edition is **15th August 2025**

Front Cover

This month's cover photos were taken by **Peter Giles, Chris Kipling** and **Rhys Fairchild**

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2025, Llandaff Branch of the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR

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EDITORIAL

Firstly, I would like to thank all the people across the branch which help to make the Look To what it is.

It's that time of the quarter where the newsletter is out. It feels like the last one was published only a week ago, but when I look back, there have been a few things that have happened. Personally, I have had my Year 12 exams, which I can promise you are not fun to sit through, but luckily now I can enjoy the summer. I just hope that the nice weather doesn't go away now that I can go outside instead of revising. I have also had a few different ringing opportunities, including a young ringing practice, the striking competition, which Coity Tower did very well at, coming first place (being the only team on call changes), but it was still a very good day. I also had the opportunity to meet with the mayor of Bridgend and teach him how to ring the carillon bells at St Mary Nolton Bridgend for the VE Day celebrations, and then rushing over to Coity Tower to ring there, which was very successful. Now I have got the Ringing World National Youth Competition to look forward to in Birmingham this July. Some of you may be aware I was on the London team last year, and the experience you get just from a day of ringing in different towers is wonderful, and it is a great time to meet other ringers. Anyway, that's my piece for this edition. Look out for my next one!

Rhys Fairchild

Chairmans Quarterly Chat

It was truly great to see so many ringing contributions on Bellboard across the UK to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and it was particularly pleasing to note our branch doing our bit for VE Day. So, a special Well done to you all! (see more about VE Day on page 21) VE day celebrations were followed by our branches annual striking competition at St Johns Sully on the following sunny Saturday afternoon. Well done to all the participants with Llandaff Cathedral taking the change ringing spoils and Coity taking the Call Change trophy. A special think you to Julian, Barbara and Val for dishing up a lovely 'Ringers Tea' afterwards. (see more on page 22) So now it is onwards and upwards for the rest of this summer! Let's get our ringing caps on and open our horizons for ringing opportunities.

Andy Lingard

Treasurers Talk

This is my 6th year and final year as Llandaff Branch Treasurer. So, I will be finishing early in 2026.

The branch is now looking for a new Treasurer to take over in **February 2026**. If you would like to volunteer for the post, or to find out what the Treasurer's role involves, then please feel free to contact me.

Rhys has found a publisher for the **LOOK TO!** magazine in Bridgend. The cost is surprisingly less than previously paid to Cowbridge Church. Some towers are having their printed copies delivered by post instead of in person. The overall cost of printing and postage is less than the previous price of printing. So, good value for the Branch!!

Phillip Williams

Words of the Association Chair

How should we arrange the Associations Finances for the Future?

As an Association, we're currently sitting on a total £16,700 in reserves which aren't being spent. This is spread over 4 bank accounts, only one of which is paying interest, and banks are starting to charge for small balance community accounts. Our annual spend of £2,775 is managed by 8 volunteers: 3 Treasurers and 5 Independent Examiners – volunteers who are hard to come by.

Although the membership fees in the two branches are more or less the same, the discounts you get for being a junior member or retired member are different depending on which branch you're in, but as a proportion of the expenditure of the Association, the branches spend very little. Two thirds of our membership are over 60, and we're not investing in the future of ringing in South Wales. If we were to pool our resources, we could reduce costs and admin and make better use of the volunteers we have.

We would have a bigger pool of funds which could be spent on projects that could really make a difference to the future of ringing locally, and we would have more flexibility in how we organise ourselves – we could run more activities which cross diocesan boundaries.

A group consisting of the Association Officers, Branch Chairs, and the three Treasurers have come up with a proposal for merging the Association Funds, but we need to make sure it works for you as members.

- A single online bank account with dual authorisation
- Reserves held in an interest-bearing account
- An online membership system to make managing membership records easier.
- One Treasurer, one (or two) Membership Secretary/ies, and an Independent Examiner from each branch.
- Activities such as PR, Recruitment, Training and Bell Maintenance would be paid for from the central fund.
- Any group of members could apply for funding for a project that would benefit the Association.

We need to come up with a way of agreeing a budget, and make sure we provide a pool of money which is available for each branch to spend as it sees fit for those things that are important to them.

The proposals will be put to the Branches at their AGMs next year – nothing happens unless both Branches agree to it. Then the final proposal will go to the Association AGM for approval. We recognise that there are going to be a few practical hurdles to overcome, and we want to hear from as many members as possible.

Look out for announcements on how we're going to consult with you at a local level, and please get involved in the conversation.

Helen Phillips *Association Chair*

THE BELLS OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST'S, SULLY

There were bells in the tower as far back as 1558 and by 1758 the tower contained five bells, described in 1771 as *“four bells and a small one”*. In 1880 the bells were renovated because of considerable fund-raising efforts made by Mrs. Woods, the wife of the then Rector. This enabled three of the bells to be recast and all five rehung, with a chiming apparatus also being installed. Llandaff and Monmouth Association of Church Bell Ringers. There is evidence of a spiral staircase to the middle chamber with ground floor access by the front, but it isn't known whether the bells were ever rung from upstairs. In 1961 major restoration work was undertaken with the new treble being added and all six bells being rehung in a steel frame. In this process the existing five were quarter turned and the canons were removed. However, the chiming apparatus which was, no doubt, of the Ellacombe type was probably taken out at this time.



The Revd. Basil Jones examining the bells before their rehanging, 1961. A photo from the church “History and Guide”.

In the mid 1990's the frame was repainted by Hayward Mills and in the latter part of 2021 more extensive work was carried out by Nicholson Engineering to refurbish the frame and fittings. Sound control and an electronic chiming mechanism were also installed. This project was made possible thanks to a bequest from Miss Olwen Allis, a former parishioner, and a grant received from the L & M Bell Restoration Fund.

Details of the bells: All the bells have the founder's name and date they were cast inscribed on them, and all except the treble have the additional inscription *“Come, let us sing unto the Lord”*.

Bell Weight	Note	Dated	Founder and Inscription
1 3-0-2	G	1961	John Taylor & Co
2 3-0-18	F	1880	Llewellyns & James, Bristol (Venite Exultemus Domine)
3 3-3-10	E	1880	Llewellyns & James, Bristol (Te Deum Laudamus)
George Woods, Rector			
4 4-0-24	D	1880	Llewellyns & James, Bristol (Gloria in Excelsis Deo)
5 4-3-15	C	1758	William Evans, Chepstow (Peace and Good
Neighbourhood)			
6 6-0-2	B	1758	William Evans, Chepstow (Evan Lloyd, Churchwarden)

Julian Parker

News From Around the Branch

Llandaff

We are sad to report the death of Beryl Baldwin at the age of 85 on 22nd March with her funeral at Llandaff on 29th April. She was a stalwart of the Cathedral and the ringing community both locally and nationally as well as a strong supporter of her husband John, a leading light in the ringing world. We miss her and a full report of her life will be provided later. There was a wide representation of ringers at the funeral and the ringing included some well struck Stedman Cinqes.

This has been another busy period for ringing at the Cathedral with further progress being made with our learners. We did not ring for 2 Sundays in February while 9 of our bells were being fitted with new sallies and tail ends made by Avon Ropes. We used the Ellacombe Chime for services during this 2-week period. However, since then we have rung on Sunday mornings with at least 8 or 10 bells and on 5 occasions rang all 12. For these services, we have concentrated on improving our ringing in rounds but have regularly rung Grandsire and Stedman Triples as well as Cambridge and Bristol Surprise Major on one occasion each. Our practices have been well attended with an average of 16 present. Again, we have focussed on ringing rounds and call changes and some of our learners are moving on to Plain Hunt as well as Bob and Grandsire Doubles. We have also managed touches of Cambridge and London Surprise Major as well as ringing Grandsire Cinqes, Stedman Caters and Cambridge Royal, each on one occasion.

There have been other highlights to our ringing including ringing for International Women's Day on 8th March. On Sunday 9th March an all-female band of Llandaff ladies gathered at Llandaff Cathedral to ring for Cathedral Evensong in celebration. The band of nine ladies (see picture) including several learners, gathered on a beautiful sunny afternoon to ring some enthusiastic rounds, call changes on 6 and 8 and Plain Hunt doubles. Many grateful thanks to all those who supported this event. The ringing has also included a peal of Grandsire Cinqes on Easter Monday rung by a South Wales band with 3 of our ringers involved. This was a considerable achievement as the new ropes had not yet fully settled. The stretching of the ropes probably contributed to the loss of a quarter peal of Yorkshire Maximus by members of the Association 12 bell practice and a quarter of Grandsire Caters arranged by David Moore for evensong. We did, however, manage a quarter of Stedman Triples for evensong at the end of April. We also rang on 8th May as part of ringing for the national commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

We managed an evening out together while there was no practice in Holy Week. This was a meal at the Italian Way in Canton organised by Clare Grevin- many thanks Clare. As part of the progress being made by our learners, 4 of them went on the Hereford ringing course at the end of April details of which are provided in a separate note. We are benefitting from the experience and progress made by them as well as their enthusiasm. Finally, we are celebrating our win in the Branch striking competition at Sully on 10th May. **Bob Woodward**



St John's, Cardiff

Rather a tale of the good and the bad as far as news from St Johns is concerned. It was very pleasing have all ten bells ringing for the Lord Mayor's St David's Day Civic Service on 1st March. Particularly as even arriving to ring that morning I was not sure we would have more than six! We were also delighted to be able to welcome the Association's Young Ringers Group to St John's on Saturday 22nd March for a Saturday morning practice. Sadly, beyond these two highlights we have been really struggling with numbers this spring and have managed to hold very few Thursday night practices, continually hovering just below the number for a viable practice. **Evan Chapman**

Pen Y Fai

Well, we are missing ringing our bells! They are being restored and the frames etc have been taken away! How the men carried the frames down those steps we will never know!

They were very friendly gentlemen and Gwyn helped when he could.

The congregation are missing the bells, but we have told them they will sound better after the refurb!

We are looking forward to having them back in July, and we are privileged that we are having this wonderful work being done. We are extremely grateful to Jenny, our Verger for the amount of work she did for making this possible. **Trisha Owen**

Llanishen

Practices, but not Sunday Service ringing, continue and call changes have been left behind. There are plenty of doubles ringing for our two least experienced ringers to treble and cover to. Lilly the local and Leigh from St Mellons are progressing well and George seems to have taken them under her wing. For others there's been plain minor, treble bob and surprise. A quarter peal of Bourne Surprise Minor, conducted by Julian, was rung before practice on 24th March to celebrate the birth of Finley Batten, grandson of Martin.

Three weddings have been chimed for so far this year and there's now only three more to do. Since I last put pen to paper, the Association Daytime Practice has been hosted by us with 22 in attendance. Ringing ranged from Rounds to Bourne. Friday 1st August sees the Llandaff Branch Practice from 7.30pm to 9 o'clock.

Bob Hardy, along with Mary and Neil, continue to ring with us very regularly and Bob has now rung Hull Surprise Minor several times with us as well as Doubles. It's a privilege to be able to help him keep an interest going following his recent illnesses.

Our practices are kept going by several regular visitors from Cardiff, Penarth, St Mellons, Sully and Whitchurch and we thank them for their time and effort. They had to brave a freezing cold church for three months or so, but the new heating system was celebrated with a lot of chocolate cake! **Roger Harpole**

Llantwit Major

We continue to be a committed band and regularly attend Thursday evening practices and Sunday morning services. However, no ringing has occurred since the beginning of April and many residents have been wondering why the bells are not being rung. Why may you ask? On the 25th of April the clappers were removed from all six bells by Chris and Joy Kipling, Peter Grace and Hilary Evans. They were carefully lowered down from the upper tower, over the balcony (avoiding Edwin's snow machine) on ropes to the floor. They were then transported to Nicholsons bell handlers in Bridport for maintenance and refurbishment. Thankfully this work has been completed so the bells will be in action in a few weeks' time ready for summer weddings, festivals and Sunday ringing.



We have recently been given some very generous bequeaths which together with a grant from the Bell Restoration Fund of the Association has helped to pay for the work done.

Consequently, we have been nomadic for our Thursday practice sessions and fortunate to experience ringing the bells in Llanblethian, Laleston and Baglan. This has been beneficial to us all in our striking and bell handling.

We had a request to ring for a local resident Christopher King who lived near the church and loved listening to the bells especially Thursday evenings when he frequented the local pub. This was a poignant request since we discovered that Chris' Grandfather, Harry King was a regular bellringer here and was Tower Captain in 1965. Guests at the funeral were complimentary of our striking which was forwarded to the band of the day.

No practice ringing took place Maundy Thursday and as customary spent the evening socialising in each other's company by dining at our local Porto Duo restaurant. As usual, a good time was had by all. To celebrate VE day, we rang in Laleston. Ringers taking part were Hilary Evans, Sue Gordon, Julie Lucas and Peter Grace and joined by Jack Disley and Phillipa Coulson from Coity. The Laleston residents appreciated our efforts to ring for them that evening.



We had further positive comments when we quenched our thirsts in the Laleston Inn later that evening. The bells are rarely rung so our efforts did not go amiss.

Unfortunately, we were unable to form a band to take part in the striking competition this year. Look out 2026 when hopefully we will increase the numbers in our band! We are organising some taster sessions as soon as our tower is up and ringing again. **Sue Gordon**

Coity

What a beautiful afternoon we had on Saturday 10th May at St. John 's Tower in Sully. We are grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Llandaff Association Annual Striking Competition and honoured to take 1st place for the call changes band. It was so good to see everyone and have a catch up. Thank you to all those organising the day. As a tower we endeavour to ring for important occasions and were proud to ring call changes for 80 years in memoriam of VE Day on Thursday 8th May. In April we enjoyed a good meal together to meet and report for our tower AGM. A good session where we can look at our year gone by and look ahead to another together! As a Coity Band we have Coity tower continue to hold practice nights at 7pm every Wednesday and ringing for service at 9am on Sunday mornings.



Please do join us or contact us via Philip Williams Tower Captain email philipjames1964@outlook.com **Philippa Coulson**

Pontypridd

Despite our scant Practices over the last few months, the faithful few continue to support us. Apart from this we occasionally join Caerphilly and Merthyr Practice nights to keep up the momentum.

In the meantime, visiting bands keep our bells turning. St. Mary Redcliffe and Bristol ringers rang a peal in April composed originally by Tony Cox, himself a Bristolian. The Method was JOVIUM SURPRISE MAJOR. It was rung with calls to shorten leads of the method so that they could ring a 5040 as it was Matt's 40th Birthday. A jovial celebration!

A York and Leeds band came to ring in May and enthused about the beautiful tone of the bells. Unfortunately, our new recruits have fallen by the wayside for various reasons so back to the drawing board...or maybe a miracle? **Cheryl Lavington**

Llantrisant

Bell Restoration: Following the initial work to install both the steel roof and lifting beams the existing 8 bells were removed at the end of April and transported to Nicholson Engineering at Bridport for refurbishment and retuning where they joined the recently cast treble bells to augment the ring to 10. We were extremely fortunate to have had the support of both church members and local residents and the experience and guidance from members of the Association bell maintenance team. The next stage of building work has commenced with external scaffolding on the north side of the tower erected to allow for work to both the main tower and vice tower roofs including preparation work for the new bell frame.



We now anticipate that the frame and bells will be installed at the end of September/early October and Llantrisant bells will ring again by the end of October.

Band Development: Thanks to the continued support of Cowbridge we are well into double figures with a mixture of new beginners and previous band members returning to ringing after several years.

Hand Bells: Following several concerts over December we have yet not returned to practice nights due to various circumstances; however, we hope to start again in the autumn in preparation for Christmas. **Nigel Bosanko**

Llanblethian

Only once this year have, we not rung all six bells for our Sunday services, and there were five ringers on that occasion. More often or not we are nine or ten and even ringers who cannot ring due to injury have been known to turn up to support the others.

We have been delighted to welcome a family only recently started to ring. Sometimes all three turn up and other times one or two when other commitments get in the way.

The longstanding ringers form the backbone of our band, and we are delighted they make the effort to get there by 8.45 to ring each week.

Our ringing each week can vary from call changes to bob doubles, and it is so rewarding when new ringers are able to develop their skills with us. Several of them have been encouraged at Tuesday night's practices and we offer a great thank you to those who run them.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who has joined us at our Sunday ringing. **Mike Kemp**

Cowbridge

Hello from Cowbridge, Llanblethian, St, Hilary and St. Mary Hill, Welcome back to Andrea, who has returned after a longer than expected trip to Dubai, her visit extended by the earlier than expected arrival of her granddaughter, Ella Olivia Clements. Born to Andrea's daughter Caitlin and husband Mike, there's a lot of flying time ahead for Andrea but absolutely worth it.



Best wishes to all.

The Bell Maintenance Group ran a two-prong training day at St. Hilary on March 8th. Upstairs in the chilly bell chamber we had a hands-on hunt, bell by bell, to identify a range of maintenance issues that had been staged for the purposes of the course.

Outside in the sunshine, another group were getting to grips with the art of splicing and rope maintenance. Many thanks to Joy K for organising the courses, the second of which is scheduled for June.

The end of March saw Charlie, our youngest ringer, take the Treble to ring for his first wedding. He led us through Plain Hunt at a fair gallop. Well done, Charlie.

April began with welcoming visiting ringers for the Llandaff Branch 8 bell practice at Holy Cross.

In Easter week, with the lull in ringing, gave time for the full inspection of three of the four towers covered by the Cowbridge Benefice. St. Mary Hill, Llanblethian and Holy Cross towers were checked but St. Hilary will be used again in June for the next Tower Maintenance course. All towers are thankfully in good condition overall with no major work being needed.

April 30th saw a good turnout at Holy Cross, in the form of a working party, to begin installation of the new Simulator. Andy Parry (Newport) led the electronics set up, whilst Joy, Chris, Elaine, Ellis and Charlie worked on the various other jobs involved. All the work progressing all the quicker after Charlie's expert use of the plumb line; an essential job in getting the cabling into the bell chamber.

Early May and the Cowbridge group achieved a close 2nd place in the Method section of the Striking Competition; only a half point behind Llandaff and ringing Plain Bob Doubles. This qualifies us for the Association Final later in the year. Well done everyone, particularly Mike on the Tenor.



In commemoration of VE day in this 80th year we rang 6 bells for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on 8th May: this following on from an 8 bell QP rung during the second half of our usual practice night earlier in the week. Congratulations to David F on his Tenor work, a first 8 bell QP cover (and for those in the know - his glasses stayed on throughout.) Ringing can be such thirsty work. **Elaine John**

Sully

Two of our very senior members of the congregation, Pam & Bill Bridgwater, recently celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary. At a Morning Eucharist the couple renewed their wedding vows with Canon Edward Dowding officiating. Edward was a previous incumbent, as many will know, and it was so nice to see him again. After the service as Pam & Bill came down the aisle, we rang extents of Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles, and this was followed by a celebratory lunch plus entertainment in the Old School Hall next door.

A very successful quarter peal was rung for the VE Day Anniversary: -

Thursday, 8 May 2025 in 39m

1280 Doubles (4m/1v - 2 extents each of Sully, St Simon's, Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury, 2 extents and an 80 of Grandsire

Susan Thomas 1, Helen C Kerbey 2, Christopher E Saunders 3, Ellis N Thomas 4, Julian C Parker (C) 5, Alex G Saunders 6.

Rung for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

The first two extents were of a new variation which we've named "Sully" - Chase Bob with a Burton bob (204 br), called bobs x 3.

The band afterwards.

More recently on a sad note, one of our former Sully ringers, Pam Randles, passed away and we were able, at the family's request, to ring the bells half-muffled after her funeral. Many ringers in the area will remember Pam and her husband Don when they so professionally organised the music and dancing at the ringers' paths we held in Sully.

Sully was very pleased to host the recent Branch Striking Competition, and we were pleased that the recently installed sound insulation under the bells, composed of 120 free carpet samples, proved to be effective. **Julian Parker**

Penarth

At Penarth we continue to hold our regular learners practice before our main practice and our learners are progressing well, with some now joining our Sunday morning band.

We are still ringing assorted surprise major methods, working on different methods every few weeks. The band have also been working on an unringed delight minor method, aiming for a quarter peal to name the method for the Batten's newest grandchild.

We celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of David and Jane Greenaway on Sunday 13 April by ringing a touch of 40 bob doubles. Sadly, Jane could not be persuaded out of long-time ringing retirement to join us.

We had general ringing for VE day, including ringing Kings and firing the bells. Some of the band went on to ring a quarter at Sully.

Enthusiasm for entering the Llandaff Branch striking competition reached a new low this year. Eventually a compromise was reached - we would enter a band and ring something silly to

ensure we would not progress to the Association competition. We decided that Cambridge Minor would be a suitable method, and we came fourth out of the five bands - a respectable performance but happily succeeding in our aim not to progress. There is a tentative plan that next year we will enter a call change band only, on the basis that our learners will have more enthusiasm than the rest of us.

Thanks to Barbara and Val for ably supporting Julian in running the tea section of the striking competition. **Sarah Greenaway**

Cadoxton

We were pleased to ring a full peal recently, brought together by a band of both past and present members of our Sunday Service ringing team. It was a special occasion that celebrated the continuity and shared commitment of our ringing community over the years.

In addition to the peal, a quarter peal was rung on 8 May to commemorate VE Day. To mark the 80th anniversary.

We are also delighted to announce that Alwyn has taken on the role of Tower Captain once again. We are grateful for his leadership and dedication, and we look forward to continuing to ring under his guidance. **Andrew John**

Newton Nottage

The past few months at the Newton Nottage Bell Tower have been filled with memorable events. We have had the joy and honor of ringing for several weddings, with the bells marking the celebrations as families and friends gathered together.

A particularly poignant moment came on May 8th, when the Bell Tower played a central role in the local VE Day commemorations. To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, our ringers performed call

changes, providing a reflective soundscape that offered the community a chance to pause, remember, and honor those who served and sacrificed during the war.

As we head into the summer, we are looking forward to continuing to ring for weddings, the annual church fete and other community events. Our weekly practice sessions remain a vital part of our schedule, allowing us to refine our skills and welcome new learners into the Newton Nottage Tower.

Rhian Mulligan



Radyr

Practices and Sunday ringing at Radyr continue to be well attended and the ongoing support from visitors, including Llandaff and Peterston, is appreciated. Since the last update we have had one new learner, Cian, who lives locally and studies at Cardiff Met University. On the 29th March, we had joint outing with the Peterston ringers to Laleston, Bridgend, Pen-y-Fai and Coity; thanks to all these towers for allowing us to use their bells. On Thursday 8th May, we joined other towers around the country in ringing for the VE Day commemorations by dedicating our practice to the occasion. It was good to be able to ring all 8 bells, and we had some good ringing suitable for the occasion. Finally, we entered a band in the Llandaff branch striking competition on the 10th May. This year we stretched the band a bit further and rang in the in methods section with some Plain Bob Doubles. We rang our best but with lots of other competition came fifth (out of five!). However, the tea was good, it was a nice afternoon in the sun, and we hope to do better next year! **Andrew Gainsbury**

Dyffryn

The bells continued to be rung for service every 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings, For the 80th Anniversary of VE day, we rang a quarter peal of All Saints Place Doubles. The bell ringers receive lots of comments from the congregation, who really appreciate hearing the bells.

Liz Walters

Caerphilly

At the time of our last update, we were unable to ring on Sundays because of major work being carried out in the Church. I am pleased to report that service ringing has now been restored on a regular basis, albeit with our numbers there remaining low. In the latter respect, however, we look forward to much better times ahead since, as previously reported, we have been blessed with a number of learners, plus now a new recruit who had rung long in the past, so that, albeit confining our ringing to rounds, we were able to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day by ringing all 8 bells from our own resources - something we'd not been able to do since well before Covid.

I have previously commented on the welcome increase in our tower having received or being due to receive visits from local bands and it was a pleasure to recently be able to host the Association AGM, giving us a chance to catch up with old and greet new friends whom our circumstances have caused us to see a little less than previously in recent times. **Peter Jones**

Chairs Challenge – Winner!

During the year members of the Association were challenged to arrange three things, and an overall winner would be announced at the Association AGM in April.

The contenders were, Joy Kipling, Pauline Morris, Peter Bray and St Mellon's tower. Other than Joy who received hers at the AGM certificates were awarded at the Branch AGM's earlier in the year, for taking part in the challenge.



The overall winner was Pauline Morris, who arranged a number of events during 2024, from an All-Ladies quarter peal, an event at Caerphilly for Bell Sunday, a session called Festive bells where tower and handbells were put to good use attempting to ring carols and finally arranging to call my first Quarter peal. The challenge was good for me as it made me get up and do things that I'd been thinking about but never got around to.

The highlight of the year for me was the visit to St Giles, Church in the lost village of Imber, this was somewhere I'd wanted to go since I'd seen a documentary about it on television. The bells are only available to ring at certain times of the year and even then,

can access can be denied at short notice, due to the fact the access to the church means driving through Salisbury Plain, which is controlled by the military.

The prize, *The Core seven and beyond*, book by Simon Linford.

This has been sent to both branch newsletters as the challenge covered the whole Association and people from both branches helped me achieve my goals.

Pauline Morris

BELL MAINTENANCE GROUP

UPDATE

On March 8th the BMG ran a bell maintenance course at St. Hilary for 6 members of the Association and at the same time a rope splicing course for another 3 members was held in the churchyard there.

In April we visited Caldicot - please see the Monmouth Branch Newsletter for further details.

May found us at Llantrisant for a week helping to remove the bells, fittings and frame for transport back to Nicholson Engineering in Bridport. A new steel frame will replace the Carr's of Smethwick 1896 frame; all the fittings will be replaced with new; the 8 bells will be tuned and the two new trebles cast at Eijsbouts foundry, Holland on 14th March 2025 will be added. The new ring of 10 should be ready in the autumn. The 6 Llantwit Major clappers, removed the previous Friday by BMG members, were also taken to Bridport by Nicholson Engineering for refurbishment.

If any member of the LandM. has a bell maintenance query or would like their peal of bells inspected (free of charge) then please do get in touch with me and the BMG will do its best to help.

Joy Kipling

bmg@llanmon.org.uk

Llantarnam and Friends Spring Outing

Monday 5th May saw a group of 16 ringers and 2 spouses from across the Association arrive at English Bicknor on what was a dry but cold morning for a day of ringing in the Forest of Dean.

English Bicknor was our meeting point, and the car park is adjacent to the school which you must walk through to get to the church. Once you are in the church, you access the ringing chamber by a short metal staircase. Some of the less experienced ringers were a bit apprehensive about these as they are a 10cwt anticlockwise ring. But everyone managed very well.

Newland was our next stop, which is known as the Cathedral of the Forest. These were a 16cwt 6 despite not being rung often they went well. Parking was by the 16 Almshouses which were built in 1615 and bear an interesting inscription 'these Almshouses for eight men and eight women Parishioners of Newland and the habitation adjoining for a lecturer, were founded A.D. 1615 by Mr William Jones citizen and Haberdasher of London, and he appointed the worshipful Company of Haberdasher governors. Mr Jones was born in Newland and apprenticed in Monmouth, hence the bequest of the Almshouses in Newland and Haberdashers school in Monmouth when he died.



Kaplan's Café in Coleford, was our lunch venue, which had been pre booked because of the size of the party and the large menu choice, you could have been there all day just deciding what you wanted to eat. We were well looked after with excellent food and service.

Hewes field was the only ground floor ring of the day, rung from the chancel with the treble being in the choir stalls, (a readymade box!) The church is set in a dip at the bottom of a hill, which makes it look very squat. The bells were okay but the 4, 5 & 6 were all in a line so quite a difficult circle. The tenor is 15th century, which is believed to be the oldest bell in the forest. St Briavels just a few minutes away were the only eight we visited, this again had a metal



spiral staircase to reach the ringing chamber, a lot higher than the previous one. These were a nice ring, and the day ended with a lovely touch of Stedman triples.

The group at St Briavels before heading off to the pub.
Pauline Morris

Hereford Course



Andrew Gainsbury (Radyr), Clare Grevin, Christine Thomas, Caroline Barratt, Georgina Barratt (helper), Ali Robinson (all from Llandaff) and Susan Davies (Cowbridge) attended the Hereford ringing course this year. The course was held over four days on the last weekend in April and offered a programme packed with opportunities to expand on both practical skills as well as the theory behind Bellringing. There was a wide choice of lectures and practical sessions so something for everyone. Although a

very intense four days, all ringers came away having gained in various aspects of their ringing. A very well organised course supported by enthusiastic (and patient) helpers and a great opportunity to meet fellow ringers and to visit the beautiful churches of Herefordshire.
Clare Grevin

Upcoming Young Ringers Event



Bellringer in South Wales? Aged under 30?

We are arranging a ringing session for young ringers who are living or studying in South Wales on Sunday 15 June 1400-1530

Central location for both branches

For further details on this and future events for young ringers please contact Debbie Turner (youngringers@gmail.com)

Honorary Life Member - Yvonne John

Awarded to Yvonne at the Association AGM on 26th April 2025

Yvonne has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to supporting others in their ringing over many years and has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the ringing in the Western and Northern fringes of the Llandaff branch in towers such as Aberavon, Baglan, Cadoxton, Dyffryn, Aberdare and Merthyr.



Additionally, Yvonne is seemingly always at every Branch ringing event and the Branch would be very much the poorer without the family's involvement and commitment. Not to mention her hugely popular cream and jam puffs that appear at all our bring and share teas.

Yvonne served as Llandaff branch master between 2014 and 2019 and did an 11-year stint as Llandaff branch treasurer between 1991 and 2001.

Yvonne has run the monthly Branch 8 bell practice over a number of years that has provided valuable ringing experience to many, expanding their ringing opportunities beyond what is achievable in their own tower. With a keen interest in training, Yvonne has turned many recruits into ringers and then supported them on their ringing journey, nurturing and

nudging people to achieve more than they thought possible. Capitalising on this skill and ability, Yvonne was elected as Llandaff branch training Officer when she stepped down from being master in 2020 and has now fulfilled this important role for the last 5 years.

With the geographically spread-out nature of the Llandaff branch, she has played a key role with her exceptional efforts and time commitment keeping the Branch coming together at our monthly practices. **Chris Kipling**



Here is a photo of both Yvonne and Julian after the striking competition which took place on the 10th of May.

Honorary Life Member - Julian Parker

Awarded to Julian at the Association AGM on 26th April 2025.

Honorary life membership is, according to the rules of the Association, conferred upon members who have given outstanding service to furthering the aims of the Association. Julian Parker has quietly and determinedly given that outstanding service over the 43 years he has been a member.



As Tower Captain of Sully for many years, he has worked hard to keep the bells ringing as the commitment from a local band has ebbed and flowed, always managing to keep ringing in the hearts of the parishioners.

Julian has held many of the key officer positions in both Llandaff branch and the Association, serving as Llandaff Branch Master for eight years between 1996 and 2003, Association Master in 2001 and Central Council Rep for 14 years between 1996 and 2009.

He was Public Relations officer for ten years between 1992 and 2001 and was instrumental in bringing the Lichfield Diocesan mobile belfry to the Royal Welsh Show for a sustained week of ringing, even sleeping alongside it for the duration. His work of proofreading the Association Annual reports, whilst mainly unnoticed, has been key in improving their accuracy and readability.

In addition, Julian has organised and run the monthly Association Surprise Major Practices since 1993 keeping his approach fresh and relevant over all that time.

Julian has nurtured a keen interest in developing new methods, composing and putting bands together to ring at least 17 new methods for the Association. This leaves a lasting legacy for our towers, our ringers and their offspring (who have had methods named after them) that will remain in the annals of ringing for perpetuity.

We confer our highest mark of appreciation to Julian with the award of Honorary Life Membership of the Association and also thank Julian for everything he has done.'

Harriett Moncrieff

VE Day Ringing Bell Board

As many of you will know, the 8th of May this year marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) commemorating the end of World War II in Europe in 1945. It was a moment of national reflection and gratitude, and across the country, church bells rang out in celebration and remembrance, echoing the sounds that were heard eight decades ago on that day.

To mark this important milestone, bell ringers across the Diocese of Llandaff took part in the nationwide ringing. Below is a list from BellBoard, of the churches in Llandaff where bells were rung. While this list is not completely accurate, I know that the actual number of participating churches in our area was significantly higher.

The churches that have been recorded include:

- Baglan
- Cadoxton
- Caerphilly
- Coity
- Cowbridge
- Dyffryn
- Llandaff
- Newton Nottage
- Penarth
- Peterston-super-Ely
- Radyr
- Sully

If you would like to see all the towers which have been recorded on BellBoard click the link: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=21060>. Hopefully the link will work unless you are looking at this on a paper copy, I can confirm that clicking a link on a paper copy will not get you very far.

Rhys Fairchild

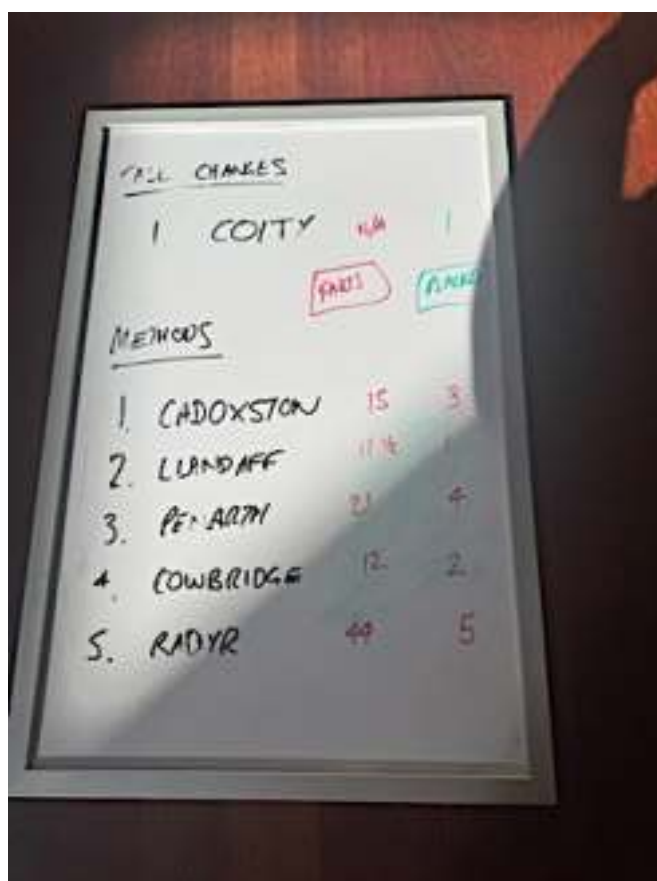
Striking Competition

On the 10th of May we had our annual striking competition. We had two categories the call changes and the methods. Overall, there were six teams consisting of Coity, Cadoxton, Llandaff, Cowbridge and Radyr. It was a lovely sunny day, so it was perfect for everyone there to get a tan out in the sun (or burned if like me).

The day started around 2pm held at St John the Baptist, Sully, starting off with the call changes section consisting of only Coity so it is safe to say that it was less of a challenge to win. Then it went straight on to the methods section, starting off with Cadoxton coming third place with 15 faults, then followed by Llandaff with 11 ½ faults who came first place in the methods section. After Llandaff came the Penarth band with 21 faults landing at fourth place. Cowbridge were the fourth method band to ring coming second place with only ½ a point between them and Llandaff Making it very close, and to end the competition we had Radyr who were given very harsh feedback on their ringing in my opinion.

After ringing all the teams went into the church hall for the results, a massive thanks to the judges Peter and Marion Bennett for giving up their afternoon, also a massive thank you to Sully for hosting us with lovely tea and coffee (with the Help of Julian Parker). The food variety was excellent with a lot of homemade food and cakes that you cannot go wrong with. Overall, it was a wonderful day, and I most certainly am looking forward to the competition next year! (more photos are on the front and back cover)

Rhys Fairchild



Association Website Services

Events Calendar

<https://www.llanmon.org.uk/calendar/calendar-subscription>

Mailing Lists

If you haven't already done so, please consider subscribing to our various Mailing Lists to keep in touch with what's going on. Choose as many or as few as you wish:

<https://www.llanmon.org.uk/mailling-lists> See the note at the top of the form about changing existing subscriptions of you wish to.

Members Contact Details and Preferences

If you haven't already done so (or wish to update previously provided information), please help us to help you by providing your contact details and preferences for receiving the Annual Report, etc.:

<https://www.llanmon.org.uk/members/updated-members-details>

Details provided will be used solely for Membership Admin and matters personal to you regarding your Membership. They will not be used for routine contact or mail shots, etc. That is the role of the Mailing Lists.

Any questions then please ask!

John Vesey, Webmaster, Llandaff & Monmouth DACBR webmaster@llanmon.org.uk

200 Club results

MARCH - BASSALEG

PRIZE	Number	Name
£30	103	Lynn Hair (Rumney)
£15	36	David Llewellyn (Llandaff)
£10	85	Blaenavon Tower
£10	176	Meriel Gainsbury (Llandaff)
£10	165	Harriet Moncrieff (Penmark)

26TH APRIL - ASSOCIATION AGM - CAERPHILLY

PRIZE	Number	Name
£60	63	Alan Bartley (Caerphilly)
£30	167	Jasmine Willcott (Rumney)
£20	55	Yvonne John (Cadoxton)
£20	71	Barbara Gordon (Caerleon)
£20	196	Lisa Drury (Merthyr Tydfil)

Upcoming ringing events

**8-Bell practice- Merthyr Tydfil
19:30-21:00 2nd June. For more
information contact Yvonne John.**

**Branch practice- Pentre
14:30-16:30 7th June. For
more information contact
Lauren Thomas (shown
on page 3).**

**12-Bell Practice- Newport Cathedral
10:00-11:30 14th June. For more
information contact Chris Kipling.**

**Llandaff branch tour Bristol area- 10:00-
16:30 5th July (TBC). For more information
contact Lauren Thomas.**

**8-Bell practice-
Caerphilly 19:30-21:00
7th July. For more
information contact
Yvonne John.**

Emails to contact:

-landaff8bell@llanmon.org.uk

-llandaffsec@llanmon.org.uk

-12bell@llanmon.org.uk

You can find any other ringing events on the calendar (page 23 has a link)

LATEST

Branch

OPENING!

LLANDAFF TREASURER

our current treasurer Philip Williams has come to the end of his six year term. I think I can say from all of us that he has done a fantastic job. but now we need someone new to take over this role in our branch.
Are You Interested?

If you are interested, please contact philip Via the email given on page 3.
The take over will be in February 2026.

What does the Treasurer do?: The Treasurer oversees the general financial management of the Branch. They plan and keep track of budgets within the Branch, collect, deposit, and keep track of funds. as well as many other things.

LOOK TO! COMPETITION

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

**FOR THE DECEMBER EDITION I AM
GIVING THE BRANCH THE CHANCE TO
DESIGN A FRONT COVER FOR THE LOOK
TO'S 170TH EDITION.**

All submissions must be Emailed to llandaffnews@llamon.org.uk by the 15th November and the best cover will be on issue 170. The cover can be of a llandaff church or something related to christmas bell ringing. It is all for fun so why not have a go!

Save the Date!

Save The Date

Quiz Night

Saturday 25th
October

More details to follow

Doors Open 6.30 for a 7.00 start

Llantarnam Village Hall,
Cwmbran, NP44 3BP



