

LOOK TO!

ISSUE 169

September 2025



**Team Cymru Ringing World National Youth 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 November 2025**

Front Cover

This month's cover photo was taken by **Debbie Turner**

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2025, Llandaff Branch of the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR

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EDITORIAL

The deadline was due for the September edition and that can only mean one thing... summer is over. Every year it seems to go that little bit faster. Over this past quarter I have had a very wild ringing experience, being a part of team Cymru for the Ringing World National Youth Competition in Birmingham (see more on page 6), this was my second year competing in this competition and each year it can only get better!

People who know me, know that I am not a fan of the heat. If you have rung with me in hot weather or just a warm tower you know I like the colder weather. For the past few months in work all they hear me talk about is that I find it too warm and eventually I will get put in the freezer to work which is my favorite department. The things I do enjoy about the summer though is having an excuse to have the occasional extra hour in bed. As well as this I get to celebrate my birthday, which is lucky because I don't have to be in school for my birthday however it does make me the baby in my year group.

One thing I do appreciate about the summer is it is my ringing anniversary and as of July I have been ringing at St Mary's Church Coity for 3 years and over that time I have learned to appreciate ringing that extra bit more. Anyway, that is my bit for this edition see you in December!

Rhys Fairchild

Chairmans Quarterly Chat

I hope you are all having a great summer as well as making the most of as many ringing opportunities as you can. Walking tours, tower outings, treasure hunts, it's all happening! So, my plea is to keep this momentum going and do our best to encourage our learners and improvers to step up to the next step, be that rounds to call changes to plain hunt and beyond.

It was a pleasure last weekend to help St Mary's in Coity celebrate the 700th anniversary of the church being established by ringing a Quarter Peal on the bells, which have only been there for 299 years! We were warmly welcomed afterwards in the church hall and lapped up tea and cake for our efforts.

Another anniversary to mark with some ringing at Newton Nottage in August was the 200th year since Porthcawl was named.

Andy Lingard

Words of the Association Chair

Association Finances – What’s all the fuss about?

Hopefully, you’ll have heard by now that we’re working on a proposal to merge the Branch bank accounts into the Association’s Accounts. The Branch and Association treasurers, together with the AMC, have been working together to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Why are we doing it?

Banks are charging around £8 per month for small societies accounts – whilst the Monmouth Branch hasn’t been affected yet, it could cost over £100 per year for each account – that’s 14 people’s membership fees just to pay the bank charges for your branch. To put this in context, in a typical year, each branch spends £150 to £250.

We want the branches to be able to focus on delivering things for ringers – this change will need fewer volunteers and allow us to streamline our admin.

How will it affect me?

If you pay your subs directly to the Association (or if you’re the person paying the subs on behalf of your tower) you’ll need to pay it into a different bank account.

If you’re a member of the Monmouth Branch, and you’re currently claiming a senior members’ discount, I’m sorry but the Monmouth Branch is going to propose that their membership fee structure is brought into line with the Llandaff Branch, and you’re going to have to pay an additional £2 per year – that’s 4p per week. If you are concerned about this, please speak to me.

Will the branches still be able to run things as they see fit?

Pretty much, yes. Over the next couple of months, we’re going to define what will be paid from “Association” funds and what will come out of the branch budget, and then we’re going to agree with the Branch Committees how we set the budget for the year.

If either branch has an exciting project that will benefit ringing in the Association as a whole, we’re keen to support it.

What else can we look out for?

We’ve realised that a lot of members don’t really know who does what in the Association, how membership can benefit them, and what financial support the Association gives to local projects. Look out for a leaflet that explains how it all works and the benefits of membership, a poster telling you what you grants are available to improve ringing in your tower, and another leaflet explaining what the Association offers to you, depending on your own level of experience. The Association has produced a full set of FAQs concerning the proposed changes, which can be found on the website here: <https://www.llanmon.org.uk/members/finance-consultation> (you’ll need to be logged in)

Helen Phillips Association Chair

RWNYC Birmingham 2025

In July, Team Cymru returned to compete in the RWNYC 2025 in Birmingham. Team Cymru is a group of young ringers aged under 18, mostly from the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. This year, we competed in the 8-bell Call Change section for the first time, so it was a step up for the team.

We met early at Cardiff Central to get a train to Birmingham for the day. Our first tower was St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter, which is a 10-bell tower in the Centre of Birmingham. Then we went to St Martin's in the Bullring, which is the famous 16-bell tower. Three of our team rang call changes on the 16, and one of our team was very happy to be able to ring the tenor! All of us had the unique and enjoyable experience of ringing on the 16, as these opportunities don't come around very often.

Then we got a train to Erdington for our competition ringing slot at the 8-bell tower of St Barnabus Church. In our competition piece, we had to ring to Queens, Kings and have at least three bells leading. We were all quite nervous as we hadn't managed a practice when all eight of us were available; however, we were quite happy with our ringing when we got out of the church. Our last tower of the day was Erdington Abbey, an 8-bell tower located not far from our competition tower.

Finally, after a long day, we had the results at the Bullring. Even though we came fifth, we were all so proud of the progress we had made from being a six-bell team to being an eight-bell team when most of us didn't have much experience ringing on eight. After the results, one of our team members was invited to ring Littleport 16 (method) with others from the competing teams, which was a great experience for them.

Unfortunately, this year we had to say "goodbye" to our conductor of Team Cymru, Adam Turner, as he is now too old to compete. We will miss him in next year's competition! Overall, the trip to Birmingham had made us closer together. Not just as teammates but as friends.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to Debbie and Matthew Turner, our team leaders, for organising everything to do with the competition and helping with the ringing for us. Team Cymru will return to Nottingham next year for the RWNYC competition. See you next year!

Catherine Turner

News From Around the Branch

Caerphilly

Ringling and, in particular, the progress of our learners has continued to flourish since our last report.

We have also continued what has almost become a norm of welcoming Branch / Association groups to our tower. Firstly, we were pleased to host a meeting of the Association Young Ringers, where it was pleasing to see so many younger members of the Association receiving excellent guidance along their path through ringing. Then we also hosted the Branch 8 Bell Practice, where it was great to hear all our bells ringing, prompting thoughts of what we may hopefully be able to do from our resources in the not-too-distant future. In addition, we welcomed a band from the Cumberland Youths on their visit to the area for a peal attempt and although we were sorry that such an excellent effort failed at the very last minute, we can take some consolation personally from the fact that the residents of Caerphilly did have the pleasure of listening to some superb ringing.

Peter Jones

Pen Y Fai

Our bells have been silent for 3/4 months; we have missed them very much as have the villagers! We are so grateful for the hard work that the Nicholsons' engineers have put in and hopefully we can put some photos in the next edition. We are hoping to ring very soon and we are planning a little celebration! More news next time

Trisha Owen

Cowbridge

Hello from Cowbridge, Llanblethian, St. Hilary and St. Mary Hill,



This seems to have been a very busy quarter, with a clutch of weddings across the towers and a number of visiting ringers.

May 10th brought the Striking Competition and Cowbridge went through to the finals of the Method section. Many thanks to Mary Hardy for ringing in place of our own Sue Thomas. The remaining ringers were Ellis T, Joy K, Andy L, Chris K and Mike J. The method rung was 120 Plain Bob doubles.

Cowbridge then came 3rd in the final for the Pitman Trophy, held in Llancarfan, on Wednesday 9th July. Joy K, James B, Andrea A, Andy L, Chris K and Mike J. Well done, everyone 🛎



The Open Tower, at Holy Cross on Sunday 8th June, coincided with the Flower Festival week, and it was a busy afternoon. The weather this year was bright and sunny, which meant that the majority of visitors could also venture out onto the roof. Although slightly fewer in numbers than last year, they all proved to be both interested, enthusiastic and importantly, supportive of the ringing. Nell and Charlie had a great time at the Young Ringers practice in St. Martins, Caerphilly, this June. A chance to meet with ringers of a similar age and ring different bells.



July and all our young ringers are back to full numbers after the examination season and are taking every opportunity to ring in a variety of towers, both through Association and Branch practices and the Cowbridge Band Outing to the Swansea area.

The outing, arranged by Cowbridge for 19th July, covered towers in Sketty, Llanelli, Gorseinon and rounded off at St. Mary's, Swansea. Finally, the merry band of ringers adjourned to the Crown & Sceptre in Cadoxton for a very tasty meal and refreshments.

The final day of July this year saw the Annual Treasure Hunt, which usually pits the knowledge and skills of Cowbridge against Llantwit, and is strangely won by alternating towers each year (nothing suspicious there then!). The hunt was won this year by a team from Coity, on their first visit. More from Llantwit on the Treasure Hunt, as they set the questions and the hunt started and ended at St. Illtyd's Church. Many thanks to Llantwit for organising an evening of good fun and good pizzas.

Saturday, July 12th, saw the town and the guests arriving for the midday wedding, serenaded by a full Peal courtesy of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Holy Cross ringers then accompanied the bridal party as they left the Church. Not an intentional confluence, but the Royal Cumberland ringers were happy to begin a little earlier so that the wedding wasn't held up. Details of their Peal is listed on Bellboard as a 5088 London Surprise Major.

Other welcome visitors included a group from the Gloucester and Bristol Association of Ringers. A roving group organised by Graham Cane (his terrier Hector) and his son Harry. The group meets once a month and is currently arranging visits to towers in a wide area from Somerset, South Wales and up to Herefordshire.

Finally, keeping the best until last, Sue and Ellis T organised a visiting group from Yateley, in Hampshire. Before moving to Rhoose in 2021, Ellis and Sue had been members of the band at St. Peter's, Yateley, for over 40 years. At the end of May, 8 ringers from Yateley spent a weekend in the Vale of Glamorgan visiting them. On the Friday, they all rang at Sully and Peterston-super-Ely, and on the Saturday, they rang at Penmark, Llancarfan, Cowbridge, Llanblethian and St. Hilary. They all expressed thanks for the use of the bells and for an enjoyable weekend.

Elaine John



Llandaff

We have continued to build on our ringing at the Cathedral over this period, with further progress being made with our new ringers. We have rung on 11 Sunday mornings with at least 10 or 12 bells and on 6 occasions rang all 12. On the other 2 Sundays we rang 8 and 6. For these services, we have regularly rung at least Grandsire and Stedman Triples as well as Bristol Surprise Major on 2 occasions. On four Sundays, we rang Grandsire Cinques. Our less experienced ringers have also extended to ringing Bob and Grandsire Doubles on the Treble as well as Plain Hunt. Our practices have been well attended with an average of almost 16 present. Again, we have focused on ringing rounds and call changes, regularly ringing these on 12 as our learners get to grips with ringing on high numbers and showing considerable skill. Some of our newer ringers are moving on to Plain Hunt as well as Bob and Grandsire Doubles. We have regularly rung touches of Cambridge and Yorkshire Major and extended to London, Bristol and Superlative Surprise Major on some occasions, as well as twice ringing Double Norwich. Stedman and up to Grandsire Cinques have been regularly rung.

In order to maintain our skills in method ringing, Fred Jackson has arranged 2 successful practices on Friday nights for more advanced ringing. These have been well attended and have included ringing Yorkshire, London and Cambridge Major as well as Royal, Stedman Caters and Grandsire Cinques-a further such practice is planned for the end of September. We also rang a quarter of Grandsire Cinques arranged by David Moore at the end of July. We have enjoyed 2 sets of visiting ringers-one by students from North Wales and the other by the Cumberland Youths who lost a peal during one of the heatwaves of the summer.

Following our win in the Branch striking competition at Sully on 10th May we were pleased to come second in the Interbranch competition at Llancarfan on 9th July on a sunny and enjoyable social evening. We hope the weather holds for our outing to the Brecon area on 4th October. As mentioned in our last report, ringing took place to commemorate the life of Beryl Baldwin for whom a separate obituary appears in this newsletter. This included a peal of Grandsire Cinques on Easter Monday rung by a South Wales band with 3 of our ringers involved and a quarter of Stedman Triples before evensong at the end of April.

Bob Woodward

Llanishen

Recent weeks have seen the occasional practice cancelled due to illness or holidays, but we have a new learner, Catrin, who's had four or five lessons so far. The holiday season has so far seen Lilly in France and Sweden, Roger in Luxembourg and France with Sunday lunch in Germany and Catrin also favouring France. Andy has had to make do with Nottingham and the south coast of England.

We were all sorry to hear of the passing of Ann Rowe in July. As with Llanishen, the appointment of a ringing curate, Jenny Mole, led to restoration of Llanedeyrn bells and the training of a group of parishioners by Jenny to ring them. Ann and husband Richard was in at

the start until there were only them and Malcolm Wigmore left and all three joined us on practice nights with Ann and Richard joining us on Sundays as well. At Richard's request a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung open at Llanedeyrn by Matthew Turner and colleagues, and another quarter was scheduled to be rung at Llanishen on 1st September by people who rang with Ann here on Sundays or Mondays.

Ann and Richard continued to ring with us until lockdown in March 2020 but didn't return to ringing afterwards. She rang four quarters with us with four different conductors: Bob Doubles and Reverse Canterbury on both the treble and second.

We hosted the August Branch Practice with eighteen present, including Bob Hardy who, if I'm correct, rang in a course of London. Bob, along with Mary and Neil continues to ring regularly with us on practice nights.

Our organist's daughter was due to get married in August with the Ellacombe being rung. Otherwise, a wedding-free summer, unlike the good old days.

Lilly is getting to be a confident trebler and enjoys ringing all six bells up at the start and then down afterwards. Leigh, from St Mellons, regularly attends our practices and recently made a good attempt at Bob Doubles inside and ringing down in peal.

Until next time, enjoy you're ringing.

Roger Harpole

Llantwit Major

We were delighted to see the return of our refurbished clappers on the 6th June. Canon Edwin Counsell gave thanks to the ringers for all their hard work in supporting ringing across the Diocese and also explained the bells' restoration on Facebook- Edwin always cracks jokes in his sermons, and this was an opportunity he could not miss. Edwin is himself a campanologist and taking hold of the third bell to ring amongst the local band, said " We will be going like the clappers "

We resumed ringing after a two-month break on the 8th June for the 9.30 church service, followed a few days later by our usual Thursday evening practice. As you can imagine, we were pleased to return to some normality, and the emotions were strong. Many local residents have commented that they have missed the sound of the bells and were pleased that they are being rung once again. Fortunately, the bells were able to be rung for the Civic Service on the 15th June.

Early morning of the 4th July, a very brave stone mason abseiled the tower exterior to assess the state of the stonework. We are awaiting the findings.

July 17th we were pleased to receive a visit from the fiancée and friend of the late Christopher King who donated a generous sum of money to the tower. They were both amazed at the complexity of ringing and were impressed by our efforts of bell control and the various methodologies. Equally, we were impressed when they accepted a challenge of having a go!

19th July, Hilary Evans and Sue Gordon joined the Cowbridge band on their outing to the Swansea area organised by Joy. We rang on 8 bells at Llanelli, Gorseinon, Sketty and St. Mary's Swansea, joined by visitors from local towers. It was an extremely warm day, so

refreshments, accompanied by an excellent supper, were a great welcome at the Crown and Sceptre, Cadoxton.

Hilary, Sue, Cath and Julie were invited to attend the Coity practice on 30th July. We all benefitted from call changes, Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles and have promised to make this a regular monthly visit.

Finally, on 31 July, Peter Grace organised a Treasure Hunt for the ringers of Coity, Cowbridge and Llantwit. It was a super evening- lovely weather, nice stroll around the old town, followed by pizzas and pimm's in the church. Congratulations to Coity for winning the Treasure Hunt. The boys were as pleased as punch to be awarded the trophy, and we look forward to them hosting the Hunt next summer. The Grand Finale of the evening was an invitation to ring the bells for 30 minutes. Quite an eventful summer!!



Sue Gordon

Sully

Our learners on a Thursday night are now all starting to plain hunt and I'm grateful for the continuing support from neighbouring towers. Ray Harris from Wenvoe has now joined us, after not ringing for a number of years. Ray was formerly at Bedwellty and taught Steve Avery to ring.

We had two notable pieces of special ringing: - Thursday 24 July 2025 50 Stedman Doubles Harriet Moncrieff 1, Helen Kerbey 2, Alex Saunders 3, Christopher Saunders 4, Julian Parker (C) 5, Anne Saunders 6. During practice night as a Golden Wedding Anniversary compliment to Chris & Anne Saunders.

Friday, 15 August 2025 General Ringing (Rounds & Call Changes, Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles) Peter Giles, Ray Harris, Helen Kerbey, Lily Kerbey, Julian Parker (C), Ken Pudney, Anne Saunders, Chris Saunders. To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day.



June errata

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 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' tympathau 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

Cadoxton

We continue to ring every Sunday for the 9.30am Service. Our Wednesday night practices are varied, with semi regular visitors, Chris & Tom from Llanelli, Jake from Baglan, Andy from Cowbridge and other occasional visitors. Ringing ranges from Rounds and call changes, various doubles and minor methods stretching to Kent and Cambridge on a good night. Its been a quiet few months with no other news to report.

Yvonne John

Merthyr

Practices can still be hit and miss due to low numbers, visitors always welcome but do contact me before travelling in case of cancellation. We have recently acquired two learners, Ali & Calvin, who started their ringing journey at Ebbw Vale. They are still in handling stages, but hopefully not for much longer. We have hosted a successful Llandaff 8 bell practice 2nd June, which was well attended.

Visiting ringers from Blackburn Cathedral and a few of its local towers came 21st June and did some splendid ringing and gave us lovely feedback about the bells, which they thought

were lovely. On the 11th July we welcomed the Cumberland Youths for their peal tour of South Wales. Sadly, it was unsuccessful after about an hour. It was a very warm afternoon. The ringing at a very brisk pace sounded lovely.

We had a successful 1/4 on the 6/5 of Bob doubles for the 80th anniversary of VE day with Cheryl Lavington from Pontypridd on the treble for her first quarter peal. Well done Cheryl.

Yvonne John

Penarth

It has been a warm and sunny few months in Penarth, but the heat hasn't deterred our loyal band from our regular Wednesday evening practices, two quarter peals and even a church open day. Firstly, worth noting our positive press from our VE Day ringing in the Penarth Times (article here: <https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/25174892.penarth-bellringers-commemorate-ve-day-anniversary>

<<https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/25174892.penarth-bellringers-commemorate-ve-day-anniversary/>>). We're trying to ensure we keep reminding people about the bells to help with PR and also to try and tempt some new ringers. We're keen to learn from other towers of what works, so if anyone has any articles or links which worked particularly well



then please do share. Linked to this, we had a church open day on 19th July where we were able to put up the banners and had a steady stream of locals and visitors who were interested to learn about bellringing. We were able to give some demonstrations, let people have a go at chiming, and even had the Ellacombe working. Regarding our ringing, we've been enjoying finding specific number touches for birthdays and anniversaries. We had a 47 of Stedman doubles which (should have) started on backstroke, a 74 of minor which

was mainly plain bob with 2 blows of Norwich, and a 50 of grandsire with bingles! So, a palindrome in birthdays and a 50th wedding anniversary compliment to Anne and Chris Saunders (photo of the pair enjoying their celebrations). The latter of which was also celebrated with a successful 1250 of Cambridge, Beverley and Surfleet on 27th July. We also rang a quarter of Lincolnshire on 8th June continuing our journey through the standard 8; Rutland is next on the list.

Also, special mention for Lily, one of our ringers who was part of the team Cymru for the RWNYS in Birmingham on 5th July and put in a fantastic effort



so well done to all who took part and supported. One of the most interesting new additions to the tower is a rather wonderful patchwork window blind, inspired by the recent artwork at Edinburgh Cathedral.

The piece was sewn by Anne and if you look very carefully you will notice it depicts a bellringing method. The method is Penarth surprise major, and the blind is particularly stunning against the window and lit from behind. Well worth the trip to Penarth to have a look if you ever fancy joining a Wednesday practice where you would be most welcome; drinks are at the Bear's Head after ringing. Lots to look forward to in the coming months; some new muffles, ringing outing, VJ Day ringing all to come in the next update.

Chris Ball



Pontypridd

Our two new Learners continue to make excellent progress, under the tutelage of Charlie and Robert who continue to offer their dedicated and tireless support.

Craig has fitted a new stay to the 4th bell in readiness for our visitors from Huddersfield, whom we look forward to welcoming later this month.

Our extended Spring Cleaning has turned into a refurbishment of the Ringing Chamber as we clean, redecorate and reclaim the old dust encrusted Peel Boards. We await the Royal Blue replacement carpet, donated to us, which will match the Sallies perfectly.

Painting has started with 'the Spider' which is now a shining black monster in place of the old, rusted version. We have also installed a safety rope on the spiral stone stairway.

Onwards and upwards, which is where our Steeple Keeper spends a lot of his time cleaning the various upper levels of the tower, with his new wet cleaner vacuum.

We are also delighted to report that a thorough overhaul of the 4 faced Town clock, also housed in the bell-tower, has begun. Originally gifted to the people of Pontypridd by local benefactors; along with Professional servicing, it has for many years been 'looked after' by various generations of Bellringers. Currently, enjoying a major overhaul by two experienced and dedicated Horologists, to whom we are indebted, we also have an enthusiastic learner in Craig, who is constantly in attendance.

As we continue with our Learners' Practice nights during August, we look forward to returning to full Practices from September.

Cheryl Lavington

Cotiy

It's been another busy time for our ringers in the tower; events have been keeping us on our toes!

Firstly, congratulations to our 2 young ringers Jack and Rhys for taking part in the Wales Team Young Ringers as part of the Ringing World National Youth Ringers competition in Birmingham. Rhys can provide details of the day and churches visited. A huge effort was made by the team, committing their time and courage to take part especially during exam season!

We had a good streak of luck also when entering St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major for their treasure hunt. Our vigilant Coity team were so clued in that they won the hunt – (pardon the pun) Well done team! And now we will be hosting next year!

It has been a wonderful time for us to celebrate through August as our beloved church St. Mary's, Coity has reached her 700th anniversary. Events and activities, tours and talks at the church over the weekend of Saturday 9th August meant that we averaged over 40 visitors per hour and queues were forming before doors opening. As bellringers we contributed with thanks to a visiting mixed band- Andy Linguard (1), Harriet Moncroft (2), Johnathan Lewis (3), Simon Gordon (4), Andrew C John (5), and Alwyn Lewis (6), who rang a recorded ¼ peal in 43 minutes, 1320 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor. Many thanks. Our growing band here at Coity along with some of our bedrock members met to ring for the festivity also.

There were further celebrations when we were able to give a ballon and card to Rhys for his 17th birthday. Also, a big congratulations to Rhys for getting that step further and passing his driving theory test.

Philippa Coulson



Annual Report Editor Required

This role would be suitable for someone with an eye for detail and interest in what's happened in the Association during the year. The format of the report is set from year to year with only minor changes to the content.

The work on collating the information mainly runs between late October and the beginning of March when the report has to be ready to go to the printers. Although it is worth noting any deaths that have occurred during the year to be able to ensure all the Obituaries are received.

You need to be computer literate, but don't need any sophisticated programmes. The report is essentially a WORD document. During the preparation stage EXCEL can be useful if an EXCEL document is received. The tables in the report are produced using WORD tables. Adobe Photoshop is also used to modify or extract information from images received. If you are interested in editing / helping to edit the 2025 Annual report please contact secretary@llanmon.org.uk or annualreport@llanmon.org.uk for more information.

Pauline Morris

BELL MAINTENANCE GROUP

UPDATE

This quarter we re-instated the 6 re-bushed clappers at Llantwit Major on 6th June. The following day we ran the second Bell Maintenance course of 2025, again at St. Hilary where the bells are easily accessed and there is a range of bearings and stay fittings to examine.

21st July found us at Porthkerry re-instating their 6 re-bushed clappers and on 25th July we inspected the 6 bells, fittings and frame at Cadoxton-juxta-Neath. While there we tightened 6 stays and 4 clappers. We noted that the frame is extremely rusty in places, and the tenor wheel needs repair. While in the area we returned to Neath to replace a pair of wheel nuts and a stay bolt - repairs outstanding from our earlier inspection.

We do not meet in August. It is holiday time!

If any member of the L. and M. 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

COWBRIDGE ANNUAL OUTING TO THE SWANSEA AREA

SATURDAY 19th JULY 2025

The day had dawned bright and fair when 22 Cowbridge ringers and friends gathered at St. Elli's, Llanelli. Although the church has toilets there is no sewer so many of us nipped across the road to Llanelli House, a beautiful building housing an elegant tearoom. The toilets were as stylish as their surroundings! Back in the upstairs ringing chamber we coped with the light 8, the long ropes, the lightly set 4th and all the rope noise drowning out the bells with ringing ranging from Plain Hunt through to half a course of Cambridge Major.

The next tower was St. Catherine's, Gorseinon where we had to negotiate workmen and trenches running through the church grounds. Our less experienced ringers acquitted themselves really well on these unfamiliar bells and the more experienced members of the group enjoyed a fine half course of Yorkshire. It was a DIY lunch with many going on to Sketty although a few ended up in Asda's café, Gorseinon.

At Sketty we were joined by 3 more ringers and just about managed to squeeze everyone into the cozy and very warm ringing chamber. There is an active band here judging by the plentiful teaching resources on hand. We took advantage of the pleasant surroundings outside to have the group photo. taken at the end of ringing.

Our last tower of the day was St. Mary's, Swansea which are heavier than anything in the Cowbridge Benefice. We were able to park in the churchyard thanks to Revd. Ryan opening the barrier for us. This was a real boon as parking is always difficult in Swansea. These were arguably the best bells of the day, and we enjoyed some good ringing on them.

We bade farewell to several members of the group, some of the locals to go home and a couple to attend a concert in The Brangwyn Hall while the rest made their way



to The Crown and Sceptre, Cadoxton for an excellent supper with speedy service and generous portions. The kitchen was situated behind a large glass window, and it was fascinating watching all the food being prepared.

It was very rewarding to realise that in the intervening 10 months between our last and this outing our band has improved from ringing rounds with a minder to courses of Plain Hunt on 7. That is real progress! Our thanks go to all the friends who joined us for the day and who enabled Surprise Major, Stedman and Grandsire to be achieved - a treat for all the more advanced in the group.

Joy Kipling

10 Bell Outing - Saturday 26th July

As July and August are the months when people traditionally go on their hols, I arranged a 10-bell practice day in place of the monthly 12 bell practice. This was similar to what we did in 2024 and is partly to assist surprise Major ringers on their route to Maximus by ringing some Royal (and Caters). The other reason is of course to have a good day out and hopefully have some good ringing as well.

The first issue is that you will know that we are not exactly over blessed with handy rings with 10 bells in south Wales. So inevitably, some traveling was needed and also a ring of 8 as there wasn't enough 10's in easy reach! So, our tour took us to St Mary's Brecon (8) followed by Brecon Cathedral (10) and after a leisurely lunch after the early start, Abergavenny (10).

The weather was excellent as was the ringing; we had spliced surprise Major at St Mary's and then Grandsire and Stedman Caters, followed by Cambridge, Yorkshire and London Surprise Royal at Brecon Cathedral and again at Abergavenny. The highlights of the day were the glorious drives through the Brecon Beacons, the interesting ascent and descent to and from the ringing room at Brecon Cathedral, the London Royal we were able to ring (a real achievement) and the lovely pint afterwards at The Kings Head in Abergavenny. Thank you for coming along, hope you enjoyed it.

Chris Kipling



Cumberland Weekend

L&M DACBR host The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, during the weekend of 10th to 12th July for their Annual Country weekend. This turned out to be the hottest weekend of the year so far.

For those that don't know, the "Cumberlands" is a non-territorial ringing society, made up of ringers from the UK and overseas, founded in 1747 and based at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London.

Abergavenny was the nominated central point, with peals being attempted at 19 towers within an hour's drive away.

Unfortunately, the weather had a detrimental effect on the number of successful attempts but 12 peals were scored, ranging from Cambridge Surprise Major to Spliced Cinqes and Maximus. There was also a handbell peal rung on Sunday afternoon.

Saturday was a mini tour for those not peal ringing with Mynyddislwyn and Bedwellty, the venues in the morning and open ringing at Abergavenny in the afternoon. The weekend concluded with an evening meal and social at Abergavenny Community Centre.

Abergavenny Community Centre - picture courtesy of Centre staff



As it was such a lovely evening, the meal and quiz were held outside in the courtyard. Sometime during the evening, a handbell quarter peal of Dust and Debris Treble Place minimus was rung.

Everyone appeared to have a good time and where peals were 'lost' it is likely the 'Cumberlands' will return to try again. There were lots of favourable comments on the bells and locations.

Pauline Morris

200 Club Results

Friday 23rd May

Prize	Number	Name
£30	176	Meriel Gainsbury (Llandaff)
£15	49	Fred Jackson (Llandaff)
£10	67	Rosemarie Ballard (Redwick)
£10	166	Mandy Berry (ex Rumney)
£10	163	Carole Russell (Caerleon)

Monday 16th June

Prize	Number	Name
£30	78	Helen Phillips (Newport)
£15	31	Marie Swidenbank (ex Llantarnam)
£10	182	Pauline Morris (Monmouth Branch)
£10	127	Margaret Matthews (Rumney)
£10	75	John Evans (Redwick)

Tuesday 22nd July

Prize	Number	Name
£30	154	Debbie Turner (Rumney)
£15	86	James Leney (Shirenewton)
£10	61	Nick W Jones (Bassaleg)
£10	70	Angharad Jones (Rumney)
£10	160	Barbara Haydn Jones (Magor)

Association Website Services

Events Calendar (Also shown below)

<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

◀ August		September 2025					October ▶	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
1 19:30-21:00 Llandaff Branch 8-Bell Practice at Location tbc	2	3	4	5	6 10:30-12:00 Llandaff Branch Practice at Caerphilly	7		
8	9	10	11 19:30-21:00 Monmouth Branch 8-Bell Practice at Usk	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20 19:00-21:00 Monmouth Branch Practice at Llanedeyrn	21		
22	23	24	25	26 10:30-12:00 Association Daytime Practice at Michaelston- y-Fedw	27	28		
29	30	1	2	3	4	5		

September		October 2025					November	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
29	30	1	2	3	4 14:30-16:30 Llandaff Branch Practice at Llantrisant (if available)	5		
6 19:30-21:00 Llandaff Branch 8-Bell Practice at Location tbc	7	8	9 19:30-21:00 Monmouth Branch 8-Bell Practice at Usk	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18 10:00-12:00 Monmouth Branch Training Event at TBC	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25 19:00-22:15 Association Quiz Night at Llantarnam Church Hall, NP44 3BP	26		
27	28	29	30	31 10:30-12:00 Association Daytime Practice at Radyr	1	2		

October		November 2025					December	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
3 19:30-21:00 Llandaff Branch 8-Bell Practice at Location tbc	4	5	6	7	8 14:30-16:00 Llandaff Branch Practice at Baglan (tbc)	9		
10	11	12	13 19:30-21:00 Monmouth Branch 8-Bell Practice at Usk	14	15 14:00-16:00 Monmouth Branch Practice at Blaenavon	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28 10:30-12:00 Association Daytime Practice at Bassaleg	29	30		

Beryl Wilson Baldwin 17th July 1939 – 22nd March 2025

Beryl was an active member of the Llandaff Cathedral band for almost 50 years. With her husband John (who was President of the Central Council of Church Bellingers from 1987-1990), they were key members of the ringing community in South Wales and beyond, contributing to the development of ringing in Australia and America. She held key posts (both Secretary and Treasurer at different times) in both the Llandaff and Monmouth Association and within the Llandaff tower. She was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Beryl and John provided much hospitality and a warm welcome to ringers both locally and from the wider ringing community.

Beryl was born in Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, on 17th July 1939 to Harry and Renee Abbott. She learnt to ring whilst at school in Cleckheaton, mainly rounds and plain hunt, but when she went up to Bristol University in 1957 to read English, she joined the UBSCR and her ringing took off. Beryl played an active role in the Resident's Society activities ringing regularly and joining other activities including outings and tours – this even involved learning to ride a bike so she could attend the summer tour to the Exmoor area at the end of her first year. It was while she was at Bristol that she met her future husband, John. When she graduated, Beryl moved to Shrewsbury to work as a librarian on the mobile library. A year later, she moved to Manchester when John started a PhD. After two years they moved to Brighton and Judith was born. From Brighton they moved to Wantage where they lived for several years during which time Simon (now known as Sid) was born. Wherever they lived they were always active in local ringing circles. Their time in Wantage included a Sabbatical year in America based in Washington DC where they rang regularly with the Washington Cathedral ringers which resulted in many lifelong friendships.



The move to Cardiff in 1972 was the result of John gaining a job at the University Computer Centre. Beryl gradually went back to work as the children grew up, starting as a dinner lady at their school, followed by mornings at the local post office before eventually returning to being a librarian at the University.

Beryl took an active role in the life of the Cathedral as well as in ringing. She was a member of the Mothers' Union and held roles including Branch and Diocesan Treasurer for many years. Beryl was not a prolific peal ringer but was primarily a reliable and regular member of the local band, wherever she lived. According to Pealbase, she rang 34 peals, 23 of which were rung by 1962 in her time in Bristol and in Shropshire. She is recorded as ringing 209 quarters at Llandaff Cathedral and many elsewhere some of which were in America and Australia. Her total quarters must approach at least 300 which included Cambridge and Yorkshire Maximus as well as Stedman Cinques and Bristol Royal. However, she did not keep any personal records, so the full number remains unknown. She was more interested in just ringing and supporting fellow band members, especially the social side, and was often involved in the "background" preparations for events.

She attended many non-Resident UBSCR summer tours which in the late 1960's and 70's were very much family affairs, camping or staying in places like Halls of Residence. Children were very much part of these tours and Beryl's role in entertaining them is still well remembered. Beryl and John continued to join the summer tours for most of their lives, not missing many, but her last was that based in Exeter in 2019. She last rang at Llandaff in March 2018. By then Beryl had lost confidence and rang only occasionally, but she never lost her interest in people and the social side, always made everyone welcome and took a particular interest in newcomers and ensuring they felt included. John's health deteriorated post pandemic, but thanks to Beryl's care he was able to stay at home until the end. This took its toll on Beryl, and she then struggled with her own health issues. Thanks to the support from her daughter, Judith, she continued to live at home until last year, when she moved into a lovely Care Home in Cardiff where she made new friends and became a regular daily scrabble player, unless she was entertaining visitors. Beryl's funeral in Llandaff Cathedral was well attended by many friends from all phases of her life and had 12 bells greeting her coffin as she left the Cathedral for the last time. She will be missed by many.

Bob Woodward based on the Ringing World Obituary prepared by Judith Alford & Jane Hough

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.

Save the Date!



Save the Date
Association AGM
Saturday 18th April 2026
venue: Michaelston Y Fedw



Save the Date
Association Towers Open Day
Monday 4th May 2026 (Bank Holiday)
Raising Money for Bell Restoration
Fund

Association Quiz Night

Saturday 25th October

Llantarnam Church Hall, NP44 3BP

Doors Open 6.30

Quiz Starts 7.00 prompt

Quiz Entry £3.00 per person, (suggest no more than 6 per team)

Pay cash on the night or by bank transfer to Monmouth Branch of
Llandaff & Monmouth Church Bellringers

A/C 05017750 - S/C 51-61-02

Please put ref: Quiz and your name

Bring your own Picnic! Prize for the most innovative team table in
terms of Food and Decoration.

Tea / Coffee/ Soft drinks provided

New for 2025 Tower Bingo (instead of a raffle)

£2.00 per entry (person not team)

Donation of prizes welcomed

Entries by 15th October to secretary@llanmon.org.uk

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!