

LOOK TO !

ISSUE 161

Sept 2023



**St. Cadoc's Church,
Pendoylan**

**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 2023**

Front Cover

Photograph courtesy of Peter Giles

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APOLOGY

My apologies to Alwyn who sent me this lovely note of thanks to you all in April. It should have gone into the June edition of Look To instead of languishing in my inbox. Sorry everyone.

Joy Kipling

On behalf of my son, Richard, and myself I would like to thank all of you who contributed to the Pancreatic Cancer Charity fund to which some of you donated earlier in the year. Richard completed the full London marathon distance in April in memory of my wife Margaret who died from the disease in November and raised with your help over £3000.

Thank you once again

Alwyn Lewis

EDITORIAL

As usual, my grateful thanks go to all the many contributors without whose time and effort there wouldn't be a Newsletter. Thank you one and all.

I have enjoyed reading the increasing number of accounts of shared practices, pre-practice sessions and social occasions. The last Branch practice at Pendoylan shows what can happen when ringers meet up regularly (see page 24 for a full account of an excellent evening).

Invariably, ringers chat to each other and in so doing spread the word about an upcoming Branch practice and because X is going Y decides that they, too, will go along. Result: a first class Branch Practice!

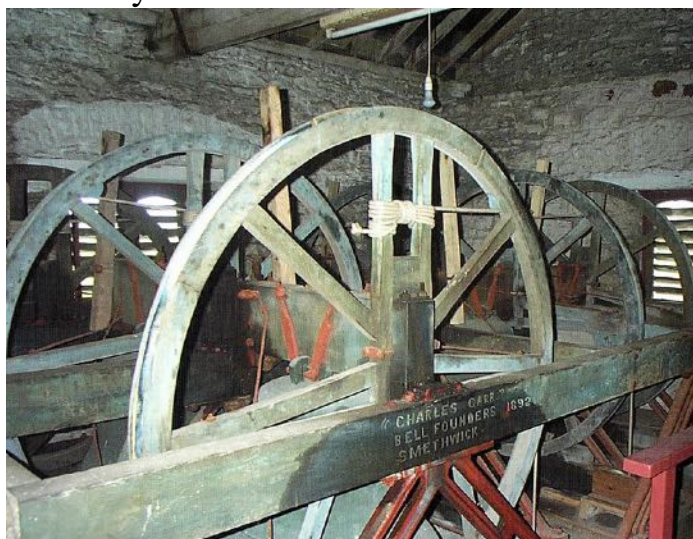
The more we share each others company and expertise the more we gain.
Keep up the good work all you Branch Members, you're doing a fine job!
Joy Kipling

THE BELLS OF ST. CADOC'S, PENDOYLAN

The church of St. Cadoc has had bells for 300 years. The original four were given to the church and people in the late 1650s by the avid royalist and judge, David Jenkins, in thanks for his release from imprisonment. He was captured following the siege of Hereford in December 1645, imprisoned, tried for writing treasonous pamphlets, was on the list of those to be hanged by the rump parliament in 1650, had his Hensol Estate confiscated in 1652 and was finally released and given back his estates in 1657 just before the restoration of the monarchy.

The limestone tower dates from the 12th century although it is believed that a pre-Norman church already existed on this site. The architect firm,

Bruton and Williams of Cardiff were in charge of a major restoration project in 1892 when the tower was extensively refurbished and the existing four bells were recast by Charles Carr of Smethwick. A new frame was



constructed and the following year they were augmented to 6 with the addition of 2 trebles.

Bell	Weight	Note	Dated	Founder
1	3½ cwt	F#	1893	Charles Carr
2	3¾ cwt	E	1893	Charles Carr
3	4¼ cwt	D	1892	Charles Carr
4	5 cwt	C#	1892	Charles Carr
5	6¼ cwt	B	1892	Charles Carr
6	8½ cwt	A	1892	Charles Carr

Time took its toll on the fittings and an application was made to the Millennium Commission for a grant to re-tune the bells and replace the

frame and fittings. Sadly, this was unsuccessful but fund raising continued and a new set of ropes was purchased.

In 2023 the local Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR bell maintenance group inspected the ring and carried out extensive minor repairs to the fittings.

Joy Kipling with thanks to Edward Rees and Julian Parker

BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

I was so pleased to see 2 events so well supported in the Branch recently - the Friday evening Branch practice at Pendoylan and the Association Surprise Major practice at Whitchurch the following Monday. We had some good ringing at both together with a friendly and supportive atmosphere - what wasn't there to like (apart from the weather on the Friday evening!)? A good crowd sat down to enjoy a beer afterwards as well.

The Officers have been trying hard to introduce new ideas and approaches to our group ringing, for example, the fixture card is being re-introduced in our Branch; you can get a copy via the Secretary. Also the Branch Practice on Saturday 9th September is taking the form of an outing to the Monmouth branch where there'll be a chance to ring on different bells (including Newport Cathedral). It should be a really good day so please come and support it if you can (even if for only part of the day).

Then, this Autumn, I've been asked to run some ringing theory lessons. There will be a series of these. If there is something you would like put on, you know what to do! Ask me!

I'm very much looking forward to seeing you on the 9th, please feel free to 'button hole' me on the day if there is anything you want to raise.

Chris Kipling

8-BELL PRACTICES

The June and July 8-bell practices were held at St John the Baptist, Newton Nottage. Thank you to the Newton ringers for allowing us to take over your practice. Due to many being on holiday, we didn't hold one in August. The September 8-bell practice will be at Cowbridge and the October one will be on the 2nd at Aberavon.

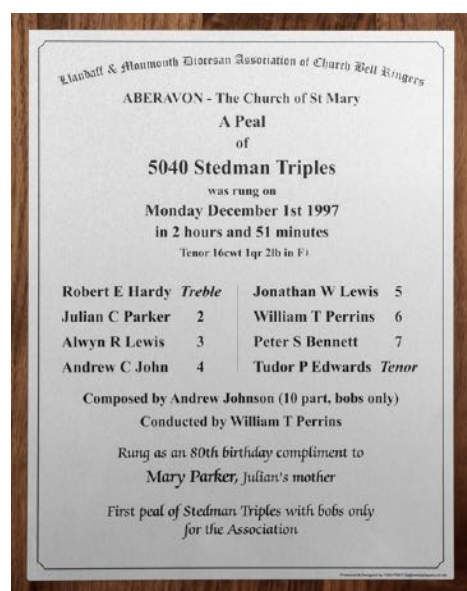
Yvonne John

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BRANCH

Aberavon

Weekly service ringing and practice nights continue to be well attended. Sadly, one of our learners, Susan, has now relocated to the other side of the bridge. We wish her well and hope she joins a local tower there. Unfortunately, there has been a local with a few complaints so we have been treading carefully and have had to say no to an 8-bell practice and some visiting ringers. However, we have been given the go ahead to recommence thus allowing other ringing. So hopefully, the winter months will mean his windows are shut and we hear no more!

Two new peal boards, paid for by contributions from some of the ringers who took part, have been produced to commemorate significant Association peals rung 25 years ago. The first is for the series of all the work Spliced Surprise Major peals 4 to 9 methods composed by A J Pitman which were rung between 1995 and 1998.



The second board commemorates a bobs only peal of Stedman Triples rung in 1997. Some of the ringers who took part in those peals will join with the local band and the Association Ringing Master in a dedication ceremony at St Mary's on the evening of 21st September. Members of the Pitman family will also be there including Jack Pitman's grandson.

Yvonne John

Baglan

Even though the rain falls we are in summer holiday mode with ringers off around the world. Those left, continue to practise with ringers from St Mary's, Aberavon. Our joint practices continue to stretch and enthuse us all.

Baglan will welcome two sets of visitors to the tower in August and will ring for a wedding. Our lovely curate will be married at the end of August and we hope to have a celebration ring for her special day.

Jen Malcolm

Cadoxton

We continue to ring Sunday mornings for 9:30 service and practice nights on Wednesdays. The work on the new louvres has been completed and inspected by a BRF representative, Steve Dutfield.

Yvonne John

Caerphilly

In my last set of notes I mentioned that Caerphilly had been chosen to be part of the forthcoming Churches Unlocked festival and this gave us the chance to open our tower to visits from the public on two occasions, both of which were very well received. As a result of one of the visits we picked up one potential new ringer though sadly, after a few enthusiastically received lessons he felt that an existing health condition meant he was, at least at present, unable to continue. However the experience did confirm that, in addition to the PR gained, such activity may be of value in the recruitment field and, indeed, who knows whatever other seeds may perhaps have been sown.

Outside of that, activity has continued to proceed much as normal with our managing, even with reduced numbers, to maintain the sounding of our bells for services. Joint practices with our friends from Whitchurch are also continuing with one recent practice being particularly noticeable in enabling three of those present to make significant advances. In addition we were pleased, at last, to host a peal by a group originally due to visit us at a time within the first Covid lockdown, It was fortunate they applied first as we had to turn down two subsequent requests for peal attempts at around the same time.

Peter Jones

Coity

Practice night continues every Wednesday night and Sunday service ringing remains paramount to the band when we manage to get a good ring out. We are blessed to have well founded ringers in Barrie Morgan,

Marice Sherlock and Richard Johns who return to Coity at least once a month to keep us motivated and up to speed with method ringing as well as enhancing the experience of our young ringers. It was great that Philip and Jack were able to ring at Laleston Church along with other church bell ringers within the Ministry Area of Pen Y Bont ar Ogwr for the dedication of our new vicar Roger Pitman. Weddings are a little low this summer but we are privileged to ring for weddings through August and further weddings in September. Interest in Coity bells seems to be high recently with 3 separate groups of bell ringers organising visits to us. Coity ringers are regularly taking the opportunity to visit other towers in the locality for practice nights or even just for interest in the bells. Equally, you are always welcome to our tower.

Philippa Coulson

Cowbridge, Llanblethian and St Hilary

Greetings from our towers and we hope you are all well and finally enjoying some summer weather after our washout July. Speaking of wet weather, we had a brood of 31 ducklings visit our tower in July....actually they were 31 infants from Y Bont Faen primary school who could easily pass as ducklings in their high viz jackets and single line formation. They were given a short talk about bell ringing and heard the tenor bell being turned over. The children's highlight was chiming the front 3 bells and judging from the noise level of both children and bells it was clear that an excellent time was had by all. Very many thanks for encouraging the next generation of ringers goes to Chris, Joy, Peter, Hilary and Karen who also negotiated the tricky operation of getting the children up and down the tower without incident...phew !

Our tower entered both the call change and method section of the annual Branch striking competition. It was a beautiful evening in Laleston for the call change section and our band came a creditable 3rd. A very sociable evening was had by all with delicious cakes and tea/coffee served from Joy and Chris' camper van.

The Pitman Trophy striking competition (method section) was held at Llancarfan and while our band did not win they enjoyed the evening and, at least, they were there. The two judges, Jane and Andrew Bull, were caught up in traffic so one member of each team acted as judges instead and an average was taken to determine the winners. This year it was Newport.

Llantwit Major band hosted our annual social evening and treasure hunt on Thursday, 3 August. This event was started 16 years ago by our dearly departed mentor, ringing master, friend and former editor of Look To, Mike Thomas. Llantwit Major band certainly ensured that a splendid evening was had by all. We had an interesting treasure hunt, with snacks

provided at the half way point, followed by pimmis, pizza and homemade cakes. The treasure hunt was won by Ellis and family from the Cowbridge band which of course means that we shall be responsible for organising next year's event. Thanks to Peter for driving around checking that nobody got lost and also picking up the odd stragglers.

Tower twitterings.... Dilys is the proud owner of a new hip, which, in time, will allow her once again to climb the tower stairs and enjoy being back to ringing the bells. Elaine has followed Mike J's example and is now the proud owner of an electric bike. While on the subject of bikes it is not uncommon for James to cycle 50 miles on his non electric bike before our service ring on Sundays and for Joy and Chris to arrive on their tandem. Just goes to prove how fit bell ringers are....hmmmm. Enjoy what's left of the summer and lets hope for a glorious Autumn.

HB

Dyffryn

Monthly daytime practices on Monday mornings continue to keep the bells turning over and sounding in the neighbourhood. Others are welcome so if you are interested in attending these, please make contact for further information.

Sadly, still no Sunday ringing but we have rung for a couple of weddings.

Yvonne John

Llancarfan and Penmark

Regular ringing remains suspended with there being too few ringers for either a practice night or Sunday ringing.

The training sessions (organised at Cowbridge) for SVG learners continued for a while but have come to a halt in the last two months. An event was arranged, by Fr Michael at Llancarfan, for children in year 5 at the three Church primary schools in the East Vale Ministry Area to introduce them to various aspects of the Church through the medium of monastic life. One of the eight events included was an introduction to Church Tower Bell ringing. The children attending the session were given the opportunity to swing a bell to produce a note. Some also had a "go" at ringing the Ellacombe chimes. They were invited to get in touch if they were interested in the possibility of learning to ring but as yet none has done so.

Together with Sully we have organised a monthly joint practice night starting at Sully on 7th Sep.

Clive Moncrieff

Llandaff

Life has returned closer to normality since our last report. We

have continued building our capacity and on most Sundays we have rung on at least 10 bells. We continue to attract visitors and also learners, and recently, a returner to ringing. A similar consolidation has taken place at practices where we have usually had between 10 and 15 in attendance.

We have been concentrating mainly on learners but have rung Bristol Major several times and recently rang Rutland Surprise Major which for many of us was a first since the pandemic.

David Moore has organised 2 quarters of Grandsire Caters and 1 of Grandsire Triples for Sunday Evensong and a quarter of Grandsire Cinques was also rung for Sunday Evensong by the Association. In addition, there have been 2 peals of Stedman Cinques rung by visiting peal bands, one by the College Youths and the other as part of the Around Ringers summer tour. In part, in preparation for these, a lot of work has been put in by the steeple keeping team to improve the striking and sound of the bells in the ringing chamber. This work has led to many compliments on the sound and striking of the bells.

We have arranged several tours of the tower and bells as part of Diocesan and Cathedral festivals for which some 50 people visited the tower.

Some of us attended a picnic in the Deanery on the invitation of the Dean.

This was a very pleasant occasion and just for once this summer, the sun shone after earlier rain in the day. We hope the weather holds for our eagerly anticipated outing to the Vale of Glamorgan in September organised by Ali Robinson. We are looking forward to the return to ringing of David Llewellyn who we have missed since his operation and who is now making a good recovery.

Bob Woodward

Llanishen

The last three months have seen regular practices and steady progress by our two young learners and it's hoped to start Sunday ringing in the autumn. A range of methods have been rung with Double Oxford being the most recent. Thanks to those from neighbouring towers who regularly ring with us.

There have been no weddings to ring for with just two to come before an eleven month break. Having just found an old list from 2008, how different things are now from then when there were over forty that year!

On a sadder note, for the funeral of Mrs Percy, mother of Charlie (Whitchurch), there was open ringing afterwards with the tenor tolled beforehand.

Three quarters have been rung, two of which were to mark Bob Hardy's eightieth birthday on 15th June. Everyone who wished to ring in one or other of them were able to and Bob was able to listen to both.

Llanishen Cardiff Monday, 12 June 2023 in 41m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Helen Aries(1st Minor)
- 2 Martin Batten
- 3 Lynne Workman
- 4 Julian C Parker
- 5 Frederick B Jackson (C)
- 6 Roger S Harpole



The 19th June band along with the Birthday Boy

Llanishen, Cardiff Monday, 19 June 2023 in 39m

1280 Doubles (4m)

80 & Morris's 240 of Grandsire, 2 extents each of St Simon's & St Martin's, 4 extents of Plain Bob

- 1 Heather A Picton
- 2 Martin Batten
- 3 Frederick B Jackson
- 4 Roger S Harpole
- 5 Julian C Parker (C)
- 6 S Helen Giles

Birthday compliment to Bob Hardy - 80 years young!

The third quarter was of Cambridge Minor on 22nd May 2023 for the wedding of Val and Martin Batten's daughter, Charlotte, on 27th May. A new development has been ringing a pre-practice extended length to test out 'dodgy' hands and Bob hopes he will soon be able to stand long enough to take part. Other benefits of this have been allowing more

opportunity for ringing to settle down than in a standard practice length, more practice time if it's for someone's benefit, and the chance of getting to know a method as distinct from just learning a coloured line. So far, Heather from Whitchurch has been 'singled' out in a 540 of Bob Minor and a 540 of Single Oxford has been rung. By the time this appears in public, Lynne from Whitchurch will hopefully have rung 576 Kent & Oxford spliced.

With the resumption of ringing just over a year ago, we had our first visit from Taylors since 2019 and the good news was the correction of the problem with the contact between stay and pendulum slider on the fourth bell so that the restriction on who rings it has been removed. The report with recommendations and quotes is with Canon Elaine who has outlined its contents to the Church Committee before taking it to the next Ministry Area meeting. Anyway, the bells remain in good working order for the foreseeable future.

RSH

Llantwit Major

Regular ringing has been maintained throughout the summer, with good attendance at Thursday practice sessions, Sunday morning church services and weddings. We are grateful to Cowbridge for allowing our



The Llantwit Major team at Laleston

members to participate in the tied bell practices on Tuesday evenings. We all agree that our ringing techniques and striking have improved, thanks to the patience and enthusiasm of Joy, Chris and the band. Andy

Lingard often helps out on Thursday practice sessions which again has given the band confidence to ring nice rounds together, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Minimus and Plain Bob Doubles. We are certainly working together as a team and appreciate the progress we are making. This is reflected in our band coming second in the call change striking competition at Laleston church on 19th June. A very enjoyable evening was had by all indicated by our smiley faces!

We are all sure that visiting different towers improves our ringing. Hilary Evans and Cath Richards joined the Coity ringers on their ringing trip to Cadoxton and Duffryn on 24th June.

On August 3rd we hosted a social event for Llantwit and Cowbridge ringers in the form of a Treasure Hunt.

24 bell ringers and their families participated in the informative walk and hunt for clues around the town. Snacks were provided at the halfway point to keep the interest and momentum going on such a warm evening. Pizza, Pimms and homemade cakes were a welcome reward in the church. It was a very successful evening, enjoyed by all. The many generous contributions were gifted to Velinder Cancer Care in memory of absent friends.

Congratulations to Ellis, Sue and family who were the outright winners.

Social events are definitely an enjoyable part of bellringing!

Sue Gordon



Merthyr Tydfil

Updates on Merthyr Tydfil at the moment seem good. We still have problems with the two of the bells' sliders (treble and second) which involve a great deal of battling when ringing but manageable. We've got 2 keen learners at the moment which is fantastic and when we get our practices going on a Tuesday, it's great fun. It wouldn't be what is it today without Yvonne, Andrew & Rebecca Johns' constant help & support at that Tower. Thank you!

Marina Thomas

Practices are continuing on Tuesday evenings, although if you're thinking of coming contact me as they can be called off at short notice due to low numbers. The monthly Sunday evening services recommenced on the 11th June and will be held on the 1st Sunday of the month going forward.

If anyone would like the bells for a quarter before one of these services please let me know.

On 3rd June as part of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocese Churches Unlocked Festival, we had the tower open for visitors between 10 - 4 and welcomed people into the belfry to observe us ringing. We borrowed the Llandaff and Monmouth publicity boards and CCTV equipment and those who couldn't climb the stairs enjoyed the view on the PC downstairs, where they had a split screen of us in the tower as well as the bells ringing above. We also gave the visitors who came upstairs a chance to feel what it is like to chime a bell and an assisted attempt at ringing the backstroke.

A big thank you to all who were involved in the tower open day, Lisa, Jeff, Mike & Dave who put in many hours on Friday cleaning the tower and setting up the CCTV equipment. Lisa, Marina, Rebecca, Dave, Andrew, Len, Neil & Jeff who were all there for ringing demonstrations and manning the laptop downstairs. The good news is that Vlasta, one of the visitors on the day, has started learning with much enthusiasm. There have been visiting bands and a branch practice since the last news letter and the wardens have informed me that there have been some lovely compliments about the bells.

Wednesday 23rd August was St Tydfils day and there was plenty of activity in the church and town for the occasion. We were asked to ring the bells from Midday for an hour, so a quarter peal was organised. The quarter of Grandsire Triples was also rung in memory of Doug Davison (Merthyr Tydfil) & Phil Evans (Caerphilly). Ed: see page 27 for his obituary.

Yvonne John

Neath

Sadly, I don't have much to report as the belfry has been out of bounds owing to an invasion of pigeons! I went up the belfry one day to check things and found one dead pigeon on the windowsill beside an egg (died in birdbirth!?), one pigeon standing guard over the dead body, and two birds flying around the ropes leaving large deposits of pigeon poo everywhere! I had to close the belfry and call specialised cleaners in to fumigate the place, plus all the carpet tiles have had to be disposed of. The Ringing Chamber is now spotless and new carpet tiles are going down next week.

Lynda Powell

Newton Nottage

Well, who can believe it, Summer season is nearly over already!

Since the last submission, three of our members have had spells away from ringing: Rosie, has given birth to a wonderful baby boy; Judi had a serious operation in July and Sharon has sustained a broken finger. We look forward to seeing you all back soon.

On the plus side, having retired last year and with a bit more time to spare these days, Fr Masson has started joining us at some of our practices and weddings too. The team was delighted to welcome back our old comrade Dr Harriet on a brief visit to celebrate her birthday with her family.

Harriet started to learn to ring with us before joining the Cardiff University Bell Ringers whilst at Uni. She has recently taken up a GP post. We wish her every success in the future.

Ruth has had a very busy season outside of the tower. She was the subject of an article entitled 'Volunteering's enriched my life and soul' in Yours magazine in late May, appeared on ITV news soon after, got a distinction in her teaching degree that she's been studying for part time for several years, won the Welsh Veteran's Inspiration of the Year Award, and was interviewed on Radio 4 Saturday Live on 29 July regarding her horrific experience in the military in the 90s. We are all so proud of her. We hosted the 8 Bell practice on 5 June and 3 July which we thoroughly enjoyed, as did at least one member of the community judging from the appreciative comment received.

We mustered 4 ringers to provide bells for retired Fr. Phillip Whites' 90th birthday celebration at Evensong on 25th June.

Our 6th slider bounced out of position during practice on 26 June, resulting in Sharon breaking her little finger which had to be splinted for several weeks. Many thanks to Andrew John for assisting me to check things out in the belfry. We discovered that the rope was in need of replacement sooner rather than later due to wear and tear, so I replaced it with a spare rope that seemed to be in good order later that week.

There was a good turnout for the Parish Summer Fayre on 8 July (thank you all). Just after ringing, I rec'd a message saying that the 6th was unringable as the bell rope was about to break! Having checked it out, we discovered that the tail was badly frayed at the point where it was rung whilst hooked to the wall! Many thanks to Andy Lingard for transporting the ropes to and from Joy and Chris who spliced on two pre stretched polyester top ends and repaired the 6th's tail end.

On 5 July the team were informed that a stalwart ringer of the 60's from our tower, Doris Mably (nee Smith), affectionately known as Dor, had passed away. We were asked at very short notice if we could provide bells after the service and with number 6 out of action, we rang on the back 4. There was a heavy emphasis on her bell ringing time in her younger years during both her granddaughter's and Fr Jon's eulogies. The family really appreciated the ringing.

In the space of a week we had enquiries from 5 potential learners! I panicked! 1 to 1 training is one thing, trying to consider a whole group is something else. A big thank you to Yvonne and Andy Lingard from me for stepping in and introducing two of our three new faces to the ropes last Monday. I am so grateful to you both.

I await with interest to see what the Autumn has in store for our team!

Many thanks one and all.

David Williams

Penarth

In Penarth we have been continuing our work in Surprise Major. We're working on Painswick – one of the pickled egg methods – and continuing to keep up our skills on the standard 8 and Stedman.

In May, Val and Martin Batten's daughter Charlotte got married. A Sunday service band rang a 1260 of Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles at St. Augustine's as a compliment the following day, 28th May.

St Augustine's took part in the Open Church events and as part of that we

had several very successful tower events. With the usual technical wizardry we've come to expect of them, Peter and co. set up video feeds from the belfry and the ringing chamber to a screen in the porch. This was extremely amusing for the ringers and, we hope, enjoyed by the visitors. We invited people to watch our practice night and had 2 hours at the weekend for visitors to come and have a go and also look at the



bells. The practice night was extremely well attended by visitors and there was a steady stream of people on the weekend event. (We later received a kind message of thanks from the open church event organiser.) We also hosted 94th Penarth Guides on their meeting night. All the Guides had a go at backstrokes and there was a lot of natural talent on display.

Unfortunately we had to drop out of the striking competition due to (our) confusion over the date and the busy lives of the band. Hoping to be back next year!

We are planning our tower outing for November in the Chipping Sodbury area.

Correction: In the previous issue, I stated erroneously that biscuits had been supplied by Val for the coronation ring. (In my defence, it was Val who handed me the tin.) It was actually Barbara Jacklin who provided them. Thanks Barbara!

Sarah Greenaway

Pen-y-Fai

We are meeting every Monday as usual and thrilled to have 3 keen learners. The new recruits come 45 minutes before the practice and that works much better. They are all coming on really well. The “experienced ones” (if we can call us that !) are attempting new call changes and getting much better at Plain Hunt. We are definitely improving slowly. We are so grateful for Phillip and Jack helping us out on Monday nights, they make a big difference. We try to keep the tower clean and we are planning to paint the walls before the Winter comes!

We have a new Vicar now, Revd. Roger Pitman he was inducted on July 17th in Laleston church. We managed to get a team to ring for his important evening including Philip and Jack plus a gentleman visitor who came up to ring too. It was only rounds and cross and queens, but everyone enjoyed it! The service went well and it was great meeting the new Bishop, Mary Stallard - a lovely lady.

Trisha Owen

Pontypridd

We have hosted or attended fewer practices during the Summer months, mainly due to lower numbers, though hopefully that will pick up now as exigencies of daily life reduce with the holiday season. I must say, we did keep ringing though, during the reworking /repairing of our ropes, all this due to the tireless effort of Nick Jones, in removing the old, replacing them with borrowed ropes and putting on the new. A magnificent effort for which we, at St Catherine's are eternally grateful.

A very big thank you also, to Chris and Joy Kipling for removing and fitting, new stays and to Barry (St Woolos) for transit. An excellent Bell Maintenance Team.

The Ancient Society of College Youths, christened our new ropes with a peal on 18th July, followed on 3rd August by 'The Calls' Band, (not that they rang call changes). I think name derives from the fact that they can be called upon, from various regions of England, though don't quote me

on that. The Lilliputters, completed the 'hat trick' on Sunday 13th Aug and were delighted with the improvement of their experience, from last year, the new ropes being well stretched by then.

We look forward to a fresh start back to ringing at Pontypridd, with our old stalwarts and a few possible new recruits waiting in the wings.

So, Ponty bells are alive and well and I'm sure will enjoy a joyous revival, along with the National Eisteddfod in 2024.... last celebrated here in 1893.

Do come and join us if you can.

Cheryl Lavington

Porthkerry

It was really good to be able to ring at Porthkerry again! I was one of those invited by Jon Williams to ring for a wedding last Saturday, 19th August. The other band members were Harriet Moncrieff, Chris Saunders, Ellis Thomas, Norman Waite and Jon Williams.

We were told that the wedding was at 3pm but there was some confusion over this after we arrived and, in fact, it didn't start for another half hour. Anyway, this meant we had more of a ring on the bells which were going very well thanks to some tlc. by Jon.

Julian Parker

Radyr

Attendances at practices at Radyr have continued to be healthy which has allowed many of our less-experienced ringers to progress well with the aid of a strong band around them. Recently we have been able to ring a wide range of things at Radyr including Cambridge Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Triples.

We had a tower open day as part of the church Family Fun Day on 1st July. This saw a steady stream of visitors interested to see what ringing is about and in some cases have a go. We also managed to recruit one additional learner to join our three other learners who continue to progress well.

We were pleased to be able to enter a band to the striking competition in June. Phil Rees who had only been ringing 3 months at the time was particularly keen to enter and it was good to have Trevor and Wendy Lewis with us. Whilst we didn't win (we came last!), it was a good experience and a fun evening!

Finally, a well done one of our ringers, Lauren Thomas, for securing a job in Llantrisant after graduating this summer.

Andrew Gainsbury

St John's, Cardiff

We continue to live on the edge as far as numbers are concerned. In general, numbers available for Thursday practices, and so the regularity of practices, has been looking up (ignoring a current 'August downturn'). The strange pattern does, however, continue that if practices are healthy Sunday ringing is not, and *vice versa*. The one event of note was the first quarter since the lockdown, rung as a birthday tribute to Bob Hardy. Only Plain Bob Doubles but a reasonable bit of ringing, although I say it myself. A big thanks to Julian Parker for suggesting the quarter and then conducting it.

St. John, Cardiff Sunday, 9 July 2023 in 44m,
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Lesley Sheppard,
- 2 Evan M Chapman,
- 3 David M Slater,
- 4 Stephen J Dutfield,
- 5 Julian C Parker (C),
- 6 Llyr Thomas-James

Rung in honour of Robert (Bob) Hardy, former tower captain of St John the Baptist, Cardiff, to mark his 80th Birthday last month. Tim and Chris Taylor requested to be associated with the gesture.

Thank you, Bob for all your years of service to the tower.

Evan Chapman

Sully

We again had evidence of some growth on top of the tower and I asked Peter Giles if he would fly his drone over to thoroughly check it out. Amazingly some more bushes had grown, see photo.

I'm pleased to say that our intrepid churchwarden and ex-fireman, Leigh Jones, climbed out on to the roof and has now removed them. Our thanks to Peter and Leigh!!



Julian Parker

Whitchurch

In the past 3 months we have rung more Sundays that not even with the holiday season upon us. On Sunday July 16th there was a service for the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Whitchurch War Memorial. The Memorial is in front of the Whitchurch Library and the service was very well attended.

Joint practices with Caerphilly have worked well and with increased numbers plain hunting and various methods inside have been attempted.

Lynne Workman

ON-LINE PERFORMANCES

3 quarter peals, all for significant birthdays!

Ringling Room, South Wales Sunday, 18 June 2023 in 52m

1280 Erin Cinques Composed by John Hyden

1-2-3-4 Wheatley (C)

5 Roger Masterman (Coed Ely)

6-7-8-9-10 Wheatley

11 Julian C Parker (Cardiff)

12 Wheatley

With best wishes to Bob Hardy who celebrated his 80th birthday last Thursday 15th June 2023.

Also Roger's first quarter of Erin.

Ringling Room, South Wales Thursday, 3 August 2023 in 54m

1280 Erin Cinques Composed by John Hyden

1-2-3-4 Wheatley (C)

5 Roger Masterman (Coed Ely)

6-7-8-9-10 Wheatley

11 Julian C Parker (Cardiff)

12 Wheatley

With best wishes to Roger and his twin brother Bernard who celebrated their 80th birthdays yesterday 2nd August 2023.

Ringling Room, South Wales Sunday, 13 August 2023 in 42m

1260 Middlesex Bob Triples Composed by K George Lee

1-2-3 Wheatley

4 Roger Masterman (Coed Ely)

5-6 Wheatley

7 Julian C Parker (Cardiff) (C)

8 Wheatley

90 leads rung with best wishes to Nigel Miller on his forthcoming 90th birthday on Tuesday 15th August 2023.

Julian Parker

200 CLUB WINNERS

June - St Woolos - Sun 25th June			
Prize	Number	Name	Tower
£30	131	Richard James	Tredunnoch
£15	178	Val Deisler	ex Llantilio Pertholey
£10	53	Theresa Edmunds	Neath
£10	171	John Smith	Llanedeyrn
£10	10	Steve Avery	Monmouth Branch

July - The Ridgeway, Newport - Tues 25th July			
Prize	Number	Name	Tower
£30	159	Philip Williams	Coity
£15	5	Jenny Mole	Caerleon
£10	22	Zoe Ward	Rumney
£10	120	Catherine Jones	Llantilio Pertholey
£10	60	Mark Bennett	Newport

August - Pendoylan - Fri 18th August			
Prize	Number	Name	Tower
£30	2	Peter Bennett	Newport
£15	67	Rosemarie Ballard	Redwick
£10	44	Geraint Thomas	ex Monmouth
£10	157	Ann Cadogan	Caerleon
£10	16	Helen Giles	Llantwit Major

Anne Hayman

THE YOUNGER-THAN-AVERAGE GROUP

A few younger-than-average ringers, including parents with young families and other younger people (broadly 25 to 40 year olds), have set up a whatsapp group to help co-ordinate/encourage attendance at branch events. If you'd like to be added, email m.greenaway@gmail.com.

Matt Greenaway

ED: There's no reason why this group shouldn't organise some ringing/activities for themselves independent of the Branch.

HANDBELL GROUP

We are sorry to announce that our hand bell group has had to disband. This may be a temporary measure, and I certainly hope so, but for the time being we have had no choice but to cancel practices. We really struggled getting enough ringers together on a Wednesday evening. If however, people think they would like to join the group, we could reconsider and start up again. It was such good fun!

Meriel Gainsbury

merielgainsbury@hotmail.co.uk

BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITION AT LALESTON MONDAY 19th JUNE

On 19th June I had the pleasure of attending my first striking competition for call changes at St. David's Church in Laleston. The weather was sunny but was quite breezy in the evening. Our team, representing Radyr, was drawn fourth out of the five participating teams. The atmosphere at the event was delightful, with everyone relaxed and friendly, it was lovely to meet other ringers from the association and share ringing experiences. During the competition, we had the opportunity to indulge in some delicious homemade cakes as part of a bring-and-share session. Myrtle, the Kiplings' motor home provided hot water for our drinks, which was greatly appreciated. Before the competition, Chris welcomed our two new ringers, Phil who only started learning to ring a bell a couple of months ago and Gillian to the Association. As the competition progressed, our team felt a mixture of nerves and excitement. The ringing standard was impressively high, and for most of us in the team, it was our first time participating in such an event. The judging panel, headed by Helen Philips with two learner judges from Caerleon, oversaw the performances. After an eager wait, the results were announced, and the results were posted onto a blackboard outside the entrance of the church. Coity emerged as the deserving winners, with Llantwit Major securing the runner's up position. The other rankings were Cowbridge, Aberavon, and finally, our team, Radyr. Overall, the experience was immensely enjoyable, and I look forward to participating in more striking competitions in the future.

Lauren Thomas

BRANCH PRACTICE MERTHYR TYDFIL SATURDAY 1st JULY

On the 1st July, I attended the Saturday morning Branch Practice at my local tower of Merthyr Tydfil and what an excellent turnout we had! I brought my eldest daughter along with me as she's very interested in what bellringing is all about and thoroughly enjoyed watching. She even had a go at chiming at the end.

We had all 8 bells going and how glorious it was to hear all 8 of them ringing! We rang some Rounds, Plain Hunt on 7, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Triples, Stedman Triples and Cambridge S. Minor. It was nice to have these opportunities. For me, seeing new faces, and catching up with old ringing friends was wonderful too.

We went for food at The Crown Pub and it was delicious. The company was great fun. By the time we finished having food and got home, it was roughly half past 3.....the day hadn't finished and I wanted to keep ringing bells! I am looking forward to the next Branch Practice that I can hopefully attend.

Marina Thomas

THE 2023 PITMAN TROPHY, LLANCARFAN TUESDAY 25th JULY

Now then, where on earth is Llanccarfán? Well, Google maps says it's only 30 mins away, so let's follow Mrs. SatNav as she knows best! Oh yes, A48 and then turn right. Good grief, why are both wing mirrors touching the hedge on either side of the road? When I say road, I've seen wider footpaths! Hey ho, just hope I don't meet another car down here! (I didn't thankfully!)

So, now I'm in the small village of Llanccarfán which is in the middle of nowhere, by the babbling brook and about 75 yards from the pub. The bells are a 5cwt six cast by the Whitechapel Foundry and installed in 1998. Being fairly light bells they have a tendency to be a bit flighty for the unaware, so finesse rather than pulling power is the name of the bellringing game here.

Right, down to business, the contenders!

From Llandaff Branch: Cadoxton and Cowbridge

From Monmouth Branch: Rumney and St Woolos

The Draw: Strangely/Coincidentally/Suspiciously It came out in alphabetical order!

Judges ready? No, not quite! The original judges, all the way from Gloucestershire are caught up in traffic and are still somewhere en route. So Plan B it is. One member from each non ringing team has to make up a team of three; perched on not very comfortable looking stone steps at the end of the churchyard, with pencils and clipboards in hand and..... we're off!

So first up to ring the competition set-piece of two extents of Grandsire Doubles were the team from the western end of the Association, Cadoxton, a lightish ring of six so Llancarfan should suit their style of ringing.

Second up were Cowbridge, which included one ringer sporting a blue line T-Shirt which I think looked like it had Yorkshire S. Major printed on it - could be confusing to the other band members if they were looking for inspiration as to where they were in Grandsire!

Next up were the rather youthful-looking Rumney ringers, perhaps these previous winners of the Pitman trophy were the dark horses.....?

And lastly, St Woolos Newport, who included some well known, experienced ringers. They went in to ring knowing precisely what they had to do to lift the trophy.

So after all four teams did their best and the judges scoring had been deliberated - it was retire to the Fox and Hounds next door for the results!!

In first place, St Woolos, worthy winners with not many faults at all in their 240 changes and who now go through to the All Wales final. No need to detail the other teams' faults, but well done to all for attending and to Harriet Moncrief for the organising and chivvying up of people.
Andy Lingard

BRANCH PRACTICE PENDOYLAN FRIDAY 18th AUGUST

Despite the rainy conditions and the threat of a storm, over 25 ringers from across the Association braved the narrow lanes to attend this

evening practice. Fortunately the ringing room is large enough for all those not ringing from that number to line the sides. This light six (about 8cwt) are now much easier to ring than when the Cowbridge Grammar School band rang the first peal on the bells in 1964.

The proceedings were smoothly run by Kevin Musty. Everyone was able to try something, and the ringing ranged from call changes and plain hunt, through Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, to Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

During the evening, the draw for the Association 200 Club was performed when Peter Bennett's number being the first drawn winning him £30 (See page 21 for the full results).

This was another successful Friday evening practice following the new pattern. Sadly the local hostelry in Pendoylan has closed, so the evening wound up in The Three Horseshoes in nearby Peterstone-s-Ely.

Ellis N. Thomas

COITY TOWER OUTING SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2023

Our thanks go to Barry Morgan, who suggested an outing early in the year, when we were still coming to terms with Fred Custerson's death. The weather was perfect with only a shower at Duffryn. Car parking and access to churches could not have been better. Lunch at the Crown and Sceptre in Cadoxton was excellent.

We rang in the morning at Cadoxton and Duffryn, and in the afternoon at Baglan and Aberafan. There was quite a variety in the 4 towers, from 6 light bells in Cadoxton, to 8 heavier bells in Aberafan. The ringing was of a good standard throughout, and everyone had plenty of ringing in all of the towers.

Methods rung on the three sixes were: Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Stedman Doubles, St. Clements, Plain Hunting on 5 and 6 bells. Call changes and rounds were rung for the learners.

Aberafan was more challenging. With 8 bells we rang Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Plain Hunt, rounds and call changes on 8. Some of the Coity band had never rung on 8 bells before, so a marvellous experience.

Kath and Hilary joined us from Llantwit Major, Jake and Ellie from Aberafan and Christine and Richard Knight from Suffolk who were on their way to their holiday home in the Gower. With the extra ringers, we not only increased our repertoire but were able to ring for longer too.

Our thanks again to Barry Morgan, for suggesting a tour to the area and who organised lunch and also to Yvonne for arranging the towers.

A marvellous end to the week, after winning the trophy for call changes in Laleston on Monday evening.

Philip Crocker

A DAY WITH THE BELL MAINTENANCE GROUP

On Friday 14th July I had the pleasure of spending a day working with the Bell Maintenance Group (BMG) on two Association towers. The morning was at Bedwellty (GF 8, 14-0-14) where we fixed stays, replaced missing bolts, and tied on a replacement rope, to leave them in a good ringable condition. This was followed by a short trip to Ebbw Vale (8, 24-3-25) to tighten a clapper and overhaul a sticking pulley. I know plenty of ringers never venture above the ringing chamber, or even think about what is happening upstairs when we pull on a rope, but this is a huge mistake. Bells only remain safe and pleasurable to ring, when someone is doing the skilled work of keeping them in good order.

Photo : Joy Kipling sat on top of the glorious tenor bell at Ebbw Vale.



As many towers in the Association no longer have a regular band or an experienced steeple keeper, we are extremely lucky to have a group of dedicated volunteers, able to help with this work. I certainly learnt more about bell maintenance in just a few hours with the BMG, than I picked up during years of ringing in my youth. As a teenager, the most I was ever asked to do was to oil the plain (or is it plane?) bearings at the tower

where I learned. Although, I well remember going up to see the stump of a broken stay (not mine - honest!) and being glad it wasn't my job to fix it!

For those interested in bell maintenance, volunteering with the BMG can be a great experience. And, if you do a good job, Joy will offer some of her wonderful cake at lunchtime to keep you motivated! Even if you are not practically minded, I still recommend you ask to go up to the belfry whenever you can, just to wonder at the mechanics that allows us to ring bells full circle and create their glorious sound. If you pick a tower as impressive as Ebbw Vale, the sheer size and beauty of the bells we ring week in, week out, can be an awe-inspiring sight!

Info: The BMG gets together monthly through much of the year. If you want to volunteer with the group, or need help or advice with maintenance on an Association tower, contact Joy Kipling at llandaffnews@llanmon.org.uk

Robert Bruce

And the rest of the quarter.....

We inspected both the above towers on 16th June and, whilst at Ebbw Vale, we shaped and fitted a new Hastings stay which included taking the dingler from the old stay and fitting it to the new. We did not meet in August. My grateful thanks to Rob for his excellent article above - much more readable than my rather dry and factual reports.

Joy Kipling

PHILIP JOHN EVANS 1935 - 2023

Phil was born and grew up in Shrewsbury where he later became an accomplished ringer at St Chad's Church. Following military service he entered the railway industry where he spent all of his working life and he eventually moved on promotion to work in Cardiff and took up residence in Caerphilly. This coincided with the formation of our new band of ringers at St Martin's Church in 1974 and although Phil was initially reluctant to come and join those teaching us he did join us as part of the band once we were considered able to proceed on our own. His experience was a very important factor in the development of our fledgling band and we appreciated how he continued to support us for the rest of his ringing life rather than thinking of moving elsewhere where he would have had a chance to make wider use of the abilities he had

previously developed. He and his wife, Anne, also became regular members of St Martin's congregation.

Since the majority of his recordable ringing achievements occurred prior to his joining us it is not easy to establish what he attained precisely but a flavour can be given by the fact that when in December 1979 our band had reached the stage where five of us rang our first peal, of Plain Bob Doubles, Phil, who conducted us, rang his hundredth. Situated in Caerphilly he did not really come into regular contact with any of the various groups who regularly rang peals or quarter peals but, especially in a period when we held regular joint practices with the ringers of Llanbradach and Bedwelty, he did come into contact with others who opened some windows for such activity which we were always pleased to see him undertake. In addition, he rang a further three peals with Caerphilly bands together with a considerable number of quarter peals. Eventually, health problems meant he was initially unable to make the steps up to our tower and then, subsequently, to ring at all so our contacts with him inevitably became less, though we tried to maintain a measure of contact to show him he was not forgotten.

Within and outside ringing Phil always enjoyed social activity. In his early days with us he was a member of a skittles team, later he learned Welsh (not much use when communicating with the rest of our band), he and Anne had life tickets to the Waverley and Balmoral paddle steamers (from which they regularly obtained much enjoyment) and in latter times he had much pleasure 'collecting' Wetherspoons pubs. A life he lived to the fullest possible and his rest well earned.

Peter Jones

ADVANCE NOTICES

LLANDAFF BRANCH OUTING - SAT. 9th SEPTEMBER

With some help from the towers and branch officers (thank you all) I finally have a plan to share. It's not quite the route or towers I was hoping for but it's been really nice to see churches busy on Saturdays at the moment with Pet Services, Open Days and Flower Festivals breaking my original plan.

This should be a great opportunity to ring together on some new bells, add a few more ticks for new towers and even ring with some new people if we can persuade any of the Monmouth branch members to join us for the day (please do, you'll be most welcome).

09:30-10:30 Newport St Woolos (12)

11:00-12:00 Michaelston y Fedw (8)

Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 Caerleon (8)


15:00-15:45 Nash (6)

Contact Peter Giles for any further details - see pg 3 for his email.

ASSOCIATION DINNER - SAT. 14th OCTOBER 7:30p.m.

The cost of the 3 course meal followed by coffee or tea meal will be approx. £30 per person at Cwrt Bleddyn, Llangybi, Usk, NP15 1PG. Tel: 01633 450521. Contact Sam Emmott for more details.

ASSOCIATION QUIZ - FRI. 27th OCTOBER



THE LLANMON ANNUAL
QUIZ NIGHT
Friday 27 October | 19:00 start
St John Baptist Church Hall
Bryngwyn Road, Newport NP20 4LP
Teams of up to 6 people £6 per person
Half a pizza will be included in ticket price per person
Bring your own drink, glasses and snacks
Send us your team details to christian_gem21@hotmail.com
Payment can be made to St Woolos Bellringers:
Sort code -09 01 55 Account number - 57425700
Team details and payment to be sent by 30 September

DIARY

Sept

1	Fri	Assn. 12 bell Practice	Llandaff Cathedral	19:30 - 21:00
9	Sat	Llandaff Br. Outing - further details page 28		10:00 - 16:00
11	Mon	Llandaff Br. 8-bell Practice	Cowbridge	19:30 - 21:00
18	Mon	Assn. Surprise Major Practice	Venue tbc	19:30 - 21:00
29	Fri	Assn. Day time practice	Caldicot	10:30 - Noon

Oct

2	Mon	Llandaff Br. 8-bell Practice	Aberavon	19:30 - 21:00
6	Fri	Assn. 12 bell Practice	Newport Cathedral	19:30 - 21:00
7	Sat	Llandaff Br. Practice	Pontypridd	14:30 - 16:30
14	Sat	L&M 130th Anniversary Dinner		
		Cwt Bleddyn -see advert page 29		19:00 for 19:30
16	Mon	Assn. Surprise Major Practice	Venue tbc	19:30 - 21:00
27	Fri	Assn. Day time practice	Caerleon	10:30 - Noon
27	Fri	Assn. Quiz Newport - see advert. page 29		19:00 start

Nov

3	Fri	Assn. 12 bell Practice	Llandaff Cathedral	19:30 - 21:00
4	Sat	Llandaff Br. Practice	Radyr	10:30 - 12:30
6	Mon	Llandaff Br. 8 bell Practice	Venue tbc	19:30 - 21:00
20	Mon	Assn. Surprise Major Practice	Venue tbc	19:30 - 21:00
24	Fri	Assn. Day time practice	Whitchurch	10:30 - Noon

Dec

1	Fri	Assn. 12 bell Practice	Llandaff Cathedral	19:30 - 21:00
2	Sat	Llandaff Br. Practice	St. Brides Major	14:30 - 16:30

For news of any changes or other information, please visit the Association Website at: <https://www.llanmon.org.uk>

There is also a very active Association Facebook Group available at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LlanMonDACBR>

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