

Bell Restoration Officer's Report 2019 / 2020
For 2020 Guild AGM

This report covers the period from the 2019 Guild AGM when John Davis was Bell restoration Officer to September 2020.

In comparison with the previous year this has been a quiet period.

The rehang of Calstock bells by John Taylor & Co was completed in August 2019 at a cost of £41,825. The work included new clappers, bearings and housings, pulleys, runner boards and stays, refurbishment or replacement of wheels, new headstocks, restoration of the bell frame and strengthening of the rope guide. The work was supported by a grant from the TDGR of £6,275, in recognition of which the initials 'TDGR' have been added to the treble headstock.

The bells of St Ewe are currently being rehung by Andrew Nicholson Ltd. A new steel bell frame has been built, new fittings, stays, sliders, pulleys etc are being supplied, the clappers are being re-bushed and re-ground, the bells are being 1/8 turned and a new oak floor is being put in the belfry. The cost of the work amounts to £68,466, a grant of £10,275 will be provided by the TDGR.

St Hilary's bells remain in storage at John Taylor & Co pending completion of their fundraising efforts to rehang the bells. The TDGR has previously approved a grant of £7,500 against expected costs of £49,803.

St Tudy have undertaken some general work on their bells. Gudgeon pin bearings have been replaced on bell number three, all clapper bearings have been replaced and improvements have been made to all slider pins. Work was carried out by John Taylor & Co. The cost of the work amounted to £2,358, and a grant of £375 was made by the Guild.

Shevioc church was awarded a grant of £2,050 to overhaul their bells and bell frame, improve belfry access and convert to full circle ringing at a total cost of £13,616. The work was completed by John Taylor & Co in June 2020.

St Merryn are planning significant work on their bells. All bell bearings, clapper bearings, wheel shrouds and soles will be replaced, the clappers will be twisted and re-annealed, the second and third bells are to be turned. Work is to be carried out by Andrew Nicholson with help from tower personnel. The cost of work will be £11,978, TDGR has offered a grant of £1,800.

St Cleer are planning a complete replacement of their bells, frame and fittings with a new ring of 8 plus a sharpened 5th. The cost of the project will be around £175,000, TDGR has offered a grant of £11,250 which is the largest grant offered to date by the Guild.

Sue McClaughry
September 2020