



**The TDGR is listening...
Bring your thoughts and ideas**



Stay connected
Virtual Hub

Survive & Recover



Identify Local Recovery
Champions



Lizard Recovery Plan



Communicate with
Grass Roots ringers in
your area

A summary of Survive and Recover session Part 1: The Lizard, TDGR & beyond

Summary of this session has been kindly prepared by Nicki Carveth.

Held as part of the TDGR Virtual Event programme on Sunday 17th January 2021 using Zoom.

Those in Attendance:

Carolyn Howell, Miranda Penhaligon, Hayley Young, Bob Woods, Martin & Debbie Spittle, Sam Nankervis, Robert & Helen Perry, Malcolm Day, Jane McCutchan, Christine Isles, Elizabeth Bourne, Phil & Denise Tremain, Roger & Doreen Sullivan, Alastair Jeffery, Owen Borlase, Ruth Reeves, Rupert Adkins, Dorcus Jelliss, Sue McClaughry and Norman Mattingley.

Introduction

- Hayley opened the session explaining that she hoped it was not too soon to start thinking and making plans for our recovery and she wanted to share news about planning at a national level.
- The purpose of the session is to offer towers around the county support from the Guild, to get an idea of what support is needed and to discuss ideas for planning into the future.
- The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), BellBoard (The Ringing World) and The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) have come together to support individual ringers and bands using several different initiatives including the Bellboard Virtual Hub, a Survival and Recovery Toolbox, Ringing Room and the recruitment of Survival and Recovery Champions to co-ordinate the flow of ideas and information. Newsletters are being produced every two to four weeks.
- Our Guild Champions are currently Hayley Young and Sam Nankervis, but more are required!
- There is some concern around keeping in touch with our “grass root ringers” during these times of restriction. It had been suggested that the process of creating a Guild Directory will help. The new Tower Membership forms will provide extra information, so please make sure that all your ringers are contacted even if you haven’t seen them since the beginning of March 2020.

The Lizard Recovery Plan

1. Issues around lack of ringers on our return to our towers was raised by Bob Woods having assessed numbers of ringers in the ten towers across The Lizard.

- By breaking the Western District into Deaneries, the geographical area seems a bit more manageable. The Lizard area is the Kerrier Deanery of our Diocese. Below are a map of the Lizard showing towers taken from Dove online. And an interactive map of our Diocese taken from 'Directory Live' giving details of deaneries by area <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live/?deaneryid=3>.



- Data from the towers has been collated and Miranda and Bob presented this information. It was commented on the drop in number of ringers since the initial lockdown and that not all ringers supported other towers but only rang in their home tower.
- The Cury ringers seem to have disappeared. The ringers seem to have drifted off, but they may have drifted to other towers and hopefully they can be re-found at some stage in the future.
- Bob has contacted all towers on the Lizard twice since August. He has also contacted the Kerrier Rural Dean to explain our current ringing situation across the deanery.

Tower	# Ringers pre-covid (Subs 2020)	Sunday ringing pre-covid	Practice night Y/N pre-covid	Expected post covid ringers	# Ringers willing to travel to help services at other towers	Potential Post covid learners
St Anthony-in-Meneage	3	3 or 4	N	3 or 4	1 tower captain to Manaccan	0
Constantine	10	4 to 6	Y - 6 to 12	8 to 10	1	poss 2
Cury	0	N	N	0	0	0
Helston	15	6 to 8	Tuesday Y - 6 to 14	9	2 for prac, and possibly for service	Poss 4
St Keverne	6	2 or 3	2 or 3, family only	3	0 not able to travel due to work	0
Landewednack	0	about 5	No practice?	5 to 6	1, needs lift	0
Manaccan	3	4 to 5	N	1	goes to St Anthony only	0
Mawgan-in-Meneage	8	3	not enough to practice	3	2, may be more	0
Mullion	2	2	not enough to practice	2	?	0
Wendron	1	1st Sun, 1 + Helston ringers	1st Tues of the month with Helston rir	1	?	0
Total	1048			~35		
		Probably 53, inc Landewednack				
					fall of 27%(33%)**	
		St Anthony, Manaccan and Mawgan rotate services and ringers				
		Helston & Wendron share ringing and practices				
		* Ringers willing to travel				
		** % fall is actually higher, as no ringers counted in the pre-covid 'subs' from Landewednack, fall more like 33%				
		§ Cury paid for 7 in 2019				

- As it stands on The Lizard it looks like there is only a potential of 33 ringers returning to ringing, and ten of those are based at Helston. **This is a reduction of roughly 30%.**
- In at least three towers all they are managing is to toll a bell for Sunday service. Three Churches rang for Christmas services.
- It was suggested that practice nights could be altered so that other towers are able to attend, but some are not prepared to do this although they are not able to practice due to lack of numbers.
- There is also an age issue; currently both The Lizard and Mawgan Captains are in their mid-80's.

10. The plan is to organise a teaching hub at Wendron on Saturday mornings for the Helston area. Could be set up with three Saturdays for learners and then on the fourth Saturday for more experienced ringers held at different towers across the wider deanery area.

General Comments, thoughts, and ideas

1. Similar issues could be found in the Northern District where ringers stay in their own towers and do not support other towers. It was asked whether the ringers were members of the congregation and therefore they do not look to support other towers as they are a part of the church and its social life. It is not believed that this is the reason, but that it was an inherited situation, that they just always stayed in their own towers and never mixed.
2. Rupert stated that he recruits his ringers from the church congregation (currently around 100 congregants). He approaches people, especially anyone new to the church and introduces himself. He has recruited four people around retirement age, but this only works if you are active within the church.
3. Bob said that he has been more prominent in the community with work he has done with the Museum and posting on both his personal and the Helston Group Facebook, putting up posts of anything he is doing in relation to the bells. This has generated some interest.
4. It was agreed that we need to make ourselves more prominent within our communities and get people along to see what happens, but also promote other activities our towers might be doing. Facebook may be a good tool to use to build up interest. It was commented on that it may be useful to have some training on how to use the platform. Phil was asked if he could put together some instructions and circulate them.
5. It was pointed out that it is important to recruit both inside and outside the church community.
6. Doreen asked whether it would be useful for all Deanery Stewards or Secretaries to complete a similar survey to Bob's. She says that at Carbis Bay they have not had any contact with their Deanery Steward. Ruth felt this could be a good idea, but at some point, trying to get people to meet up again may be better. Sue also believed this may be a useful exercise.
7. It was commented that it has been difficult to recruit Deanery Stewards and other roles within the Guild. It is usually the same group of people who always take on roles. There is a need to get other people involved within the Guild.
8. Christine asked if there is a job description for a Deanery Steward, as she said that different towers have different needs and require different support.
9. Norman stated that it is important before thinking about recruitment to know who we have in the Guild who is capable of teaching and those who are happy to help. Which towers are suitable for teaching and what facilities towers have, such as toilets and car parks? This information could be gathered at the same time as the survey is undertaken.
10. Miranda said that this had been asked when they did the survey of The Lizard and only Bob came forward as a teacher, the others were not able or did not have enough time or were not interested in teaching.
11. If towers do not have resources for teaching, then we need to be able to access help from other towers. One suggestion was to have solid teaching for a couple of weeks, for example during School holidays, to really concentrate on the basics. But this would have to involve several people.
12. Teaching good bell handling and control is vital for safety and retention. We will need many more teachers, who have been trained to teach bell handling to be engaged with future recruitment.

13. Doreen is worried that there we may receive complaints about noise once we are back ringing again. Jane feels therefore we need to promote ringing. So far, this is not what we have found when ringing was restarted in July and briefly over Christmas. A lot of positive comments were received at this time.
14. Phil stated that he had incredibly positive reactions through St Columb Bellringer's Facebook page. It was a good way to get positive news out, but it is difficult when there is nothing to write about. Interestingly any negative comments have been shouted down by other people who look at the page rather than the ringers having to make comment.
15. Ruth said that a dumbbell is to be installed at Lanteglos by Camelford in the next couple of years, this will help with teaching new ringers.
16. Some towers in the North also struggle as they are in large Team Ministries and may only have services once a month so there is a lack of community around the church.
17. Jane believes that we need to think outside the box and suggested running programmes of bringing groups of ringers down from up country, accommodate them in the community and then they come and ring and help teach. She believes some towers would jump at this as Cornwall is a great place to come on holiday. It could attract the attention of the local community. Events can be put on outside of ringing such as pasty and pint evenings. Show that ringing can be fun and that it is not all about the ringing, but also has a social aspect.
18. Sam liked Bob's idea of a joint practice but said that you do not want ringers to feel that they are making a large commitment as people can be put off by this. Perhaps invite them to a joint practice, then after having a good session ask if anyone would like to have another get together at another time. Try to build up momentum, make it enjoyable, offer to move around to other towers.
19. Pydar Beginners practice takes place once a month and is popular. Phil believes this is because it is not seen as too big a commitment for people, agreeing with Sam that you do not want to put ringers off by asking for too big a commitment.
20. Debbie and Martin said they were happy to be part of a pool of volunteers to help support Bob if it did not clash with their current commitments. Christine also said she was happy to support Bob.
21. Norman said that anything that is being set up must be set up properly from the start and that it important that the churches and incumbents are involved as well as having helpers.
22. Sam suggested linking towers for support so that you have someone who is a driving force to help move things along. Also make sure anything is publicised as taking place to build up interest. Do not just promote Sunday ringing but also about the friendships and community around ringing.
23. Owen has done several talks to local groups (History Society, Scouts, WI, YFC etc.) where he has talked about the history of bell ringing. From 14 presentations he has attracted 20 new ringers. We need sell the idea of bell ringing to the public, not just the Sunday morning ringing, but that it is bigger than that.
24. Carolyn is happy to go out and do talks maybe once a month, and already has contact with youth groups. Miranda and Bob said that they were also happy to do this. Sam asked that those interested in speaking could get together and work on a presentation. Owen has offered to share his presentation. He also takes bell parts with him on a talk. Ian Self also has leaflets, guild banners and other matierals.
25. Doreen would like to think that the bells at Carbis Bay could be rung when the G7 is taking place, but that she is currently the only ringer there. Carolyn said that a band could be put together to ring if we are given permission to ring.