

AN



CLOGH

Newsletter of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers June 2026.



Retiring Guild President presenting new Guild President Robert Perry with the President's Badge.

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BREAKING NEWS

I am sure that all ringers in the Diocese will wish to congratulate the TDGR Youth Team, The Cornish Pasties, on taking part in the Ringing World National Youth Competition, in Nottingham, finishing in joint 7th in the Advanced Call Changes section. Many congratulations to you all. I hope to include a full report in the next edition of An Clogh.

TDGR Diary Dates.

12th September Western District Autumn Festival Stithians

10th October. South West Regional Striking Competition Truro Cathedral.

21st November Western District Annual Dinner Queens Hotel Penzance.

Editorial.

Welcome to the latest edition of An Clogh, this is rather a sad edition with reporting the passing of Neil Hitchens, Doug Petipher, Terry Darke, Thornley Renfree and as we go to press, Phil Booker of Helston, all of them great servants of the Guild.

We welcome a worthy successor to Owen as Guild President with Robert Perry having been elected at the AGM at Ladock. I am sure that all ringers in the Diocese and beyond wish you the best of luck Robert. I hope that you enjoy the interview which he has given An Clogh.

Congratulations to the ringers of St. Mawgan in Meneage and in particular Michael Davidson celebrating his 90th Birthday. There was a celebration to mark the presentation of his 40 year long-service certificate.

This edition contains notes from the Guild AGM as well as 2 of the District AGM's. It is always nice to attend these events and say hello to people and catch up. I encourage people particularly to attend these events, a small number of people usually take on the hard work of ensuring that they happen, please support them. One great memory from the Ladock AGM was the chance to ring on the newly restored ring of bells there, what a wonderful job the team has done there.

It has also been pleasing to mention a couple of towers one of which has never featured in An Clogh before, Hayle, where a ringing bell has been hung and Hughtown on the Isles of Scilly where a resident quarter peal has been rung. Congratulations to all.

I expressed a wish at the last Standing Committee meeting to step down from producing and editing An Clogh by the end of the year if a person can be found who is prepared to take it on. Have been producing An Clogh since 2018 and have enjoyed doing it but I now feel that the time is right to pass it on to a new Editor. If you are interested or know someone that might like to take this on, please contact me on i.self@cornishchurches.com.

Thank you as always for sending me articles photographs and material, please keep them coming.

I hope that you enjoy this edition.

Ian Self – Editor

Interview with our new Guild President Robert J. Perry.

Congratulations on your election as President Robert. I am sure that many would see this as deserved reward for you previous record of service. Gen Sec for 37½ years and Treasurer for a short period following the death of Anthony Davidson. You are the only person to have served in these three roles, would you like to reflect on this?

My brief period as Treasurer was spoilt when I couldn't get the annual accounts to balance, being something like £1.50 out on a balance sheet in excess of £100K!! But seriously, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Secretary – I met some really lovely people during my time in office. I think the highlight was always dealing with Long Service Certificates, often for people whom I didn't know and had probably never met but who had given decades of loyal service to their towers. And a close second was the opportunity to attend district festivals across the length and breadth of the diocese, where again I'd regularly meet people who eventually became good friends. This is something which I'm now looking forward to doing again in my new role.

What would you like to achieve during your Presidency?

I've never been one for setting targets – all too often they become millstones of obsession. But I should like the Guild to continue to offer support and encouragement to all its members by helping them to enjoy their ringing more and more. I've been in post about six weeks as I type this and have already been to events (three district practices and one striking competition) in all four districts. I'm delighted to say that they have all been well attended and friendly. This is all very encouraging and bodes well for the future.

You learnt to ring at Carbis Bay and were taught by Canon Roberts. What early memories do you have of those days?

Arthur Roberts was Truro born and bred and became curate-in-charge of Carbis Bay in 1940. He subsequently became the first Vicar there when the village became a parish in its own right in 1948, and continued in that post until he retired in 1979. He taught a very large number of youngsters to ring, but as is so often the case very few of them remained active in ringing. Roger Sullivan and I are just about the only two who did. But because I learned in a ten-bell tower (Arthur had the bells augmented to that number when the church tower was completed in 1959) I have always found ten-bell ringing easy to manage.

You have served on the Central Council of Church Bellringers since 1983 including a number of years on the Peals Analysis Committee. Do you have any memorable moments from the meetings that you have attended? Like many institutions the Central Council has changed considerably in the period since my first meeting, at Beverley in 1984. The membership is now much younger than it was back then, and there is now a much greater variety of people serving. Some meetings live longer in the memory than others, but some issues have remained constant – concern over the failure to attract and retain young ringers, and problems with the falling circulation of The Ringing World. But the Council is still there and continues to do much to promote and defend the interests of ringing. It's easy to take what it does for granted, but I think we'd all notice a difference if the Council suddenly imploded and wasn't there to provide the advice and co-ordination which it does.

Peals – You created another piece of Guild History by becoming the first ringer who learnt to ring in Cornwall to ring 1000 peals. Can you pick out a number of them of which you are proud?

I thought my first one (Grandsire Doubles on the back six at Carbis Bay on 18 August 1969) would never come to an end! An all Carbis Bay band rang another peal of Grandsire Doubles a few years later, and that is still one of only a handful of peals rung for the Guild by a one-tower band. I've also been privileged to take part in peals at Exeter Cathedral and

York Minster, two magnificent rings of bells. And my longest peal in terms of time taken was one of 13579 Stedman Caters in a shade over 7½ hours.

Can you recount any humorous moments for your peals?

Two come to mind in particular. We went for a peal at one of the Oxford towers which broke down in the first lead and so started again. The composition apparently had 5184 changes, which of course is 160 changes, or five leads, longer than the usual minimum length of a peal of major. A rope broke in the last half lead – over three hours of ringing with nothing to show for it!!! And secondly, we were attempting London (I think) Major at St Anthony-in Meneage. Those who have rung there will recall that it's a ground floor ring with the ringing chamber separated from the church by a wooden partition door. We'd been going about two hours with no serious problems when a lady came in, walked around the church, came up to the door, walked away, looked elsewhere in the church but then came back and stuck her head between the vertical beams in the door – at which point the ringing just collapsed. The stunned silence was broken by the lady saying "there was no need to stop, I just wanted to say how lovely the bells were sounding"! I think we remember peal failures far more than peal successes – I certainly do

You were heavily involved with augmenting the Cathedral Bells. The driving ambition of Anthony Davidson. All of the people involved must have been both pleased and proud with what was achieved?

Yes, Anthony, Chris Davis and I, as the three people behind the augmentation plan, were all very pleased with the way the project went and with the final outcome which has given Cornish ringers a chance to ring on twelve bells without the need to travel into Devon or anywhere else. Although in the fifteen years since the project was completed, we've had our ups and downs at Truro, as happens over time in most towers, the current position is very positive. The bells are now much easier to hear in the ringing chamber, and we now regularly ring on the twelve at our Tuesday practices. Sundays can be more of a challenge, and we must never forget why the bells are hung in the first place.

Would you like to tell us of any ringers who helped or influenced you along the way?

Arthur Roberts, who taught me to ring, Malcolm Bowers who was a leading light in my formative years as a ringer in what is now the Western District, Alan Carveth, who ran the ringing at both Truro Cathedral and Kenwyn for so many years and whom I eventually succeeded, and Anthony Davidson who conducted so many of my early peals and who gave me a model upon which I based the way in which I acted as Guild Secretary.

Do you have any favourite rings of bells, which ones stand out as being memorable?

For obvious reasons I have a soft spot for the bells in our cathedral. I can't immediately think of anywhere else.

Are there any towers that you have not yet rung at but would like to?

I've had the great good fortune to have rung at Canterbury Cathedral, Liverpool Cathedral, York Minster, Exeter Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and, overseas, at the Swan Tower in Perth WA, but beyond that I've never had a bucket list of towers of which I wished to be able to say "I've been there". In fact, because I didn't make a note of towers I've rung at when I started I couldn't see the point of starting what would then, by definition, be an incomplete record. So no, there isn't anywhere I'm desperate to ring at.

Thank you Robert and good luck.

T Neil Hitchens.

With the passing of Neil Hitchens on 9th June 2026, Cornwall and the Truro Guild lost not only a real asset to the exercise but a true Christian gentleman.

I was first privileged to meet up just over 50 years ago, I was still a quiet schoolboy learning to ring at Camborne. He and Jane would occasionally come to practices and ringing events at Camborne and he was always ready to offer encouragement and to explain the aspects of ringing especially method ringing.

I remember when the bells at Camborne were rehung in 1976; Neil became heavily involved with the project. When talking to him last year about this, Neil was amused about the 'interesting' construction of the frame, especially the way that the 3 trebles rested in a frame above the main frame.

Neil grew up in Truro and learnt to ring on the then ring of 4 at St. Clement. In 197-, he was involved when the ring was augmented to become a ring of 6. He was also involved with ringing at Kenwyn and the Cathedral.

Neil married Jane on 21st August 1976 at Kenwyn and their son Trystan was born later. Trystan followed both his parents in becoming an accomplished ringer himself. Neil was proud of his election to the Ancient Society of College Youths followed by Trystan's election in 1994 and Jane's in 1990.

In the early 80's Neil and Jane moved west where they started ringing at Gulval where Jane became Tower Captain.

Neil served the Guild in a number of roles, in particular, as Bell Maintenance Adviser for a number of years and in the Western District, serving as both Chairman and Ringing Master. He will be especially remembered for the style in which he chaired the Western District Dinner each November, jumping up to propose toasts in his Cornish Kilt.

Neil was an accomplished peal ringer, ringing a total of 254 peals overall, of these 234 were rung for the Truro Guild. He rang his first peal at Stithians in January 1969 and on 1st January 1972, rang in a peal of 10752 Plain Bob Major at St. Dennis, at the time, this was the longest peal yet rung for the Guild and was completed in 5 hours and 51 minutes. Neil also rang in the first peal of Surprise Minor rung for the Guild by Residents at Landewednack in 1975.

It is interesting to note that Neil's leading tower for peals was Truro Cathedral where he had rung 25 peals. He had circled Penzance, St. Buryan and St. Clement to peals.

Neil spent most of his working life as an Engineer, particularly in Mining and his work took him for several spells abroad to such places as Hong Kong. Closer to home he had worked at Wheal Jane and Geevor Mines.

Neil will not just be missed as a fine ringer who has contributed greatly to ringing in Cornwall over many years but as a great friend to those that he met and someone that always gave his time generously to help others advance in ringing and in life.

May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Ian Self.



Neil Hitchens looking resplendent in Cornish Kilt, at the Western District Dinner. The Queens Hotel Penzance Nov 2025.

Notes from the TDGR AGM Ladock

A total of 52 ringers were present at the Guild AGM this year held at Ladock, an opportunity to get a ring on the newly refurbished/recast bells. All those involved must be congratulated on such a wonderful job, they are a joy to ring. There had also been an opportunity to ring at the lovely 8 at St. Stephen in Brannel.

Guild President Owen Borlase welcomed all present with the ringing of the Guild Bell and The General Secretary Bob Woods read out apologies from 28 members.

The following members were remembered having passed away since the previous AGM:

Mary Turfitt-St Columb Major

Mike Roberts-Lanreath / Lansallos

Pauline Staite- Mabe

Margaret Byrne, MBE, -Paul

Terry Darke- Landulph

Peter Patterson-Calstock

Tony Jope-Pillaton

Non-Guild Members: Gill Mingo & Pam Tamblyn- Botus Fleming.

The minutes of the previous meeting held at Lanteglos had been circulated and after a couple of amendments were approved with no matters arising.

Presentation of Reports

(a)The President, Owen Borlase, gave an informative & interesting summary of the past year's achievements & milestones.

(b)The Treasurer, Andrew Smith, spoke briefly regarding the TDGR accounts. There being no questions from members, Ian Self proposed & Ian Banbury seconded that members adopt them accordingly.

(c) The Bell Restoration Officer, Sue McLaughry, gave a report as to how the TDGR had supported several projects in the Diocese ongoing throughout the past 12 months

(d)The Hon. Secretary, Bob Woods, then reported to members re the work & purpose of the TDGR Standing Committee

(e) CCCBR rep. Ian Self reported on the Central Council matters this past year.

A rule change of Rule 3 was proposed and accepted by the meeting. This will allow the appointment of the post of Youth Officer to be made by the Standing Committee as opposed to being elected by the AGM.

Election of Officers.

The election of Guild Officers was carried out as follows:

President	Robert J. Perry
Guild Secretary	Robert Woods
Treasurer	Andrew G. Smith
Independent examiner of Accounts	Mike Cockram
Bell Restoration Officer	Sue McLaughry
Education Officer	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Day
Public Relations Officer	Mathew Rodliffe
Librarian	Ian Self
Ringling Performance Secretary	Carolyn Howell

Ratification of District Representatives

Northern	Julian Trick & Neil Clements
Eastern	Kevin Edwards & Owen Rorlase
Central	Gary Hodges & Bryony Dorrington
Western	Tony Dixon & Toby Arkless

Election of New members

The following new members have been elected as Guild Members since the 2025 AGM:

Kim Nash, Abigail Preston, Alan Burnett, Daniel O' Hanlon, Becca Plaisted, Heather Baker, Catherine Arthur, Emma Deanes, Gytha Pickett, Gemma Marchant, Jack Waddington, Helen Weilding, Jacob Williams, Calum Hocking, Andrew Annear, Eleanor Hunt, Blake Lees, Catherine Arkinson, Simon Bullivant, Julie Petch, Kevin Hocking, Cadan Bone, Patsy Clover, Mark Butterworth, Rob Ashworth, Carol Scott, Brian Nicholson, Bradley Crowther, Amamda Hewitt, Carol Fowler, Susan Powell, Peter Stanett, Larissa Mc Eachan, Lois Jay, Mandy Bond, Clare Green, George Argyis, William Taylor, Jane Dudley, Corvin Sparkes, Alex Harris, David Gulley, Sue Gulley, Joy Brown, Alan Thomas, Malcolm Woodford.

The Following members were elected at the meeting: William Hoddinott, Ted Bosley, Shelia Penna, Archie Young.

Membership Mojo. Jonathan Young introduced a motion to discuss a proposal to introduce the Membership Mojo scheme. This scheme has been successfully operated in other Guilds and Associations and should result in a more efficient way of recording Guild Membership. The motion was carried.

Date of the next Guild AGM – Saturday 15th May 2027 at a venue to be confirmed.

Election of Non-Resident Life Members: Michael Below, Malcolm Joyce, Simon Tremewan, Julia Taylor, Nigel Taylor & Victoria Tucker.

Proposal to elect a new Life Vice President. In proposing retiring Guild President, Owen Borlase, Bob Woods paid tribute to his time as President, highlighting especially his commitment not only to ringing but to bell-maintenance where he had been involved with

various projects throughout the Diocese of a number of years. The proposal was seconded by Malcolm Day and he was duly elected.

Long Service Certificates Awarded.

Paul Pengelly-15 yrs- Callington.	Doreen Robbins-45yrs-St Budock.
Dave Hussey-15 yrs- Callington.	Simon Brewer-50yrs-Lostwithiel.
Rachel Cottam-15 yrs- Linkinhorne.	Jo Barnes-50yrs-Stratton.
George Drew-15 yrs-Linkinhorne	Steve Leonard Williams-50yrs- Stoke Climsland.
Ella Drew-15 yrs-Linkinhorne.	Nick Merrick-50yrs-Truro.
Amanda Jones- 25 yrs-Callington.	Angela Winter-60yrs-St Budock.
John Blatchford-25 yrs-Callington.	Robert J Woods-60yrs-Helston.
Jenny Stott-25yrs-Liskeard.	Bryony Dorrington-60yrs-Bodmin.
Bryan Martin-25yrs-Liskeard	Kevan J Borlase-60yrs-St Dominic.
Lorna Crewes-25 yrs-St Dominic.	Phil Tremain-60yrs-St Columb Major.
Owen Borlase-30 yrs-St Dominic.	Jeff Britchford-65yrs-St Stephen in Brannel.
Doreen Sullivan-35yrs-Carbis Bay.	Mike Auger-65yrs-S. Petherwin.
Lucy Thompson-35yrs-St Budock.	John Atkinson-65 yrs-S. Petherwin.
Glynis Jones-40yrs-St Mawgan in Pydar.	Lynn Benney-65yrs-Crantock.
Neil Scoble-40yrs-Bodmin.	Margaret Pryor-65yrs-Helston.
Claire Sweetman-40yrs-Penzance.	Esther Jones-70yrs-Marhamchurch.
Raymond Spencer-40yrs- Wendron.	David Garvie-70yrs-Poughill & Launcells.
Helen Barnes-40yrs-Launcells.	Tony Grimmer-70yrs-Mawnan Smith.
Rosemary Warner-45yrs- St Budock.	Renfree Stephens-75yrs-Ladock.

Any Other Business

Under AOB, Andrew Hoddinott paid further tribute to the Presidency of Owen Borlase and Bob Woods thanked Hayley Young for the welcome that she had extended to the Districts for the District practices that had taken place there during the year.

Truro on tour.

Living and ringing West of the Tamar we only have one 12-bell tower in the whole of Cornwall so there are challenges to developing 12-bell ringing. Whilst there are a good number of people keen to progress many have to travel considerable distances to attend practices. We have found a good way to supplement this is to arrange mini outings to “nearby” 12-bell towers. A couple of years ago we sampled three such towers in Devon: Buckfast Abbey, Withycombe Raleigh and Crediton. I suggested we might try Somerset next and so helped to organise this year’s outing.

We journeyed by car from all over Cornwall and met at South Petherton in good time. The bells were soon being put to good use. Our focus of the day was on Grandsire Cinques and improving our striking. We were joined by three friends from Somerset who we regularly meet at the monthly open practice at Exeter. all we had about 24 participants which meant on average ringing every other set.



In



In the afternoon we rang at Bridgewater which were a delight. Many of our party appreciative of there being only a few stairs up to the ringing chamber. One of our number who had been asked to lead this session impressed us by producing a spread-sheet with details of who was ringing what in each set!

The final tower was the minster church in Taunton. Those of our number who had rung here in “the old days” commented on how well they ring now. A good end to an enjoyable day, well not quite as we repaired to a nearby hostelry for a meal and beverage or two!

John Hereward on behalf of Truro ringers



Terry Darke – 28th July, 1945 to 27th February, 2026

I was saddened to hear of Terry Darke's passing. He was one of the great characters who contributed enormously to ringing in our area.

For many years Terry and his wife Doreen organised the annual Landulph Ringing Week, an event that brought together ringers from the local area and further afield to enjoy good call change ringing and excellent company. Doreen would arrange a 57-seater coach and each year we would visit different parts of the country. Among the destinations I remember were Yorkshire, Hereford, the Isle of Wight and Cheltenham. Typically, we would ring at five or six towers each day, often including Minsters and Cathedrals. The familiar cry of “ringers off the coach first” became something of a daily tradition. There are so many stories from those trips that I could share, but An Clogh is simply not big enough!

Terry was always supportive of ringing beyond his own tower. He regularly helped other churches within our Benefice by ringing for weddings, funerals and other services whenever he was needed. He was also a keen supporter of the Call Change Peal Days that I organised in the years before COVID.

I particularly remember his pride in our call change peal at Tavistock in 2007, which was the first achieved by our group on 10 bells. He was equally delighted to ring the 2nd bell twice at St Buryan in 2009 & 2013. After the 2009 performance, in typical Terry fashion, he summed up the experience perfectly by declaring, “a proper job on they great gurt bells!”

Saturday, 25 April 2009 in 33m (37–2–9 in C#)

120 Chimehammer Doubles Call Changes

- 1 Jane Gilbert*
- 2 Terry Darke*
- 3 Joanne Bower*
- 4 Robin Clowes*
- 5 Kevan Borlase*
- 6 Owen Borlase (C)*

Friday, 1 March 2013 in 29m (37–2–9 in C#)

120 I'll Be Back Doubles Call Changes

- 1 Phil Morse*
- 2 Terry Darke*
- 3 Norman Cowling*
- 4 Richard Warwick*
- 5 Kevan Borlase*
- 6 Owen Borlase (C)*

Rung to celebrate the recent birthday of Ron Johns (95), one of the oldest active members of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

From my personal records I rang exactly 100 call change peals with Terry with the last one being at Pillaton in 2018. Terry's longest length was a 356 at St Dominic in 2010.

In more recent years Terry mainly rang at Landulph on Sundays, so we did not see him as often as we once had. However, after Sarah and I moved to Hatt, we would occasionally bump into Terry and Doreen.

Terry will be remembered not only for his ringing, but also for his enthusiasm, humour, friendship and the encouragement he gave to others. He played a significant part in the ringing life of our area and leaves behind many happy memories for those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Terry.

Owen J Borlase – St Dominic

St Dominic, Cornwall

Thursday, 26 March 2026 in 19m (8–0–19 in G)

120 Darke Doubles Call Changes

1 Hilary J Davis

2 Joanne Bower-Brown

3 Owen J Borlase

4 George W L Roberts

5 John Blatchford

6 Kevan J Borlase

Externally conducted by Jane I Grimwood. Rung open to celebrate the life of Terry K. Darke by a band who had rung many call change peals with him over the years. Terry rang the 5th to this composition at this tower in March 2003, which the ringers of the 3rd, 4th, and Tenor took part, each ringing the same bells today.

Thornley Renfree

We at Paul were deeply saddened by the passing of our good friend Thornley Renfree.

Thornley learned to ring when he was young, but other interests (family) as well as his job with the motorcycle dealers Blewett and Pender, led to him not continuing at that time.

It was to be 2002 when Thornley came back to ringing. By then Margaret was at the helm, and was looking to recruit more ringers. Having rung before and having recently retired, Thornley was an obvious recruit. It didn't take long for Thornley to get back into ringing, and soon he was a regular ringer on both Sunday morning and, at that time, evening. We could also depend on him for weddings and other special occasions. That included mine and Gemma's wedding in 2007.

Indeed Thornley managed to learn to ring Plain Bob Doubles including bobs during that time.

The 2020/2021 pandemic was a hard time for all of us but as we came out of it, Thornley was there and ready to resume. Indeed, he came to our first practice after the 72 week hiatus.

Two years later, we rang for the Coronation putting Thornley's name on Bellboard, his good friend David Carpenter was the caller for that.

Unfortunately, ill-health started to become apparent and not long after that, Thornley had to hang up his end rope and finish. He still continued coming to church, almost to the end. We shall miss him in the tower.

John Swan.



The band that rang the Call-Change Peal at St. Dominic on 26th March 2026.

Doug Petipher of Calstock.



I am sad to share the news of the death of Cornwall's oldest ringer, Doug Petipher of Calstock (pictured left). Doug had celebrated his 100th birthday earlier in the year and had given many years service to the parish and ringers of Calstock.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

TOWER OPEN DAY



Displays



See the view
from the top

Competitions

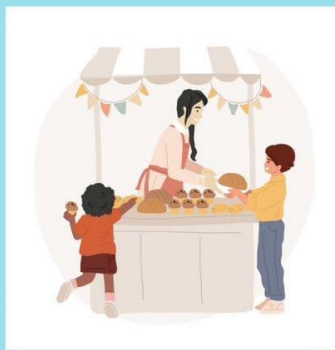
Sunday 19th July.

Have a go
at
Bellringing

1PM – 4PM

Stalls

Funds go towards the
Tower repair fund



At St Meubred's Church

The bells and ringers of St. Mawgan in Meneage.

In recent years, the bells in the tower at St Mawgan in Meneage had fallen silent, apart from some tolling here & then when required.

Since 9 October, 2025, when a 'community team' from across The Lizard/ Kerrier ringing areas formed to ring the delightful 6 bells in the Mawgan Church, the bells are now ringing across the community village again on a regular basis.

During the Winter & Spring, on every other Thursday, a practice session has taken place where new, lapsed & returning ringers, assisted by experienced ringers/helpers from nearby towers, rang in harmony to improve skills with rope & ringing time.

Today, the hard work came to fruition with the team totalling 9 ringers, rang for their 1st Sunday service ring in celebration of the St Mawgan in Meneage Feast Week & Sunday Holy Communion service.

9 current team members enjoyed 45 minutes ringing Rounds & a variety of Call Changes for the starting Feast Week.

Congratulations to the ringers who have shown immense commitment to meet the challenges of Sunday Service ringing.

It has been a privilege & pleasure to have had a lead in the rejuvenation of a lovely set of bells...and get ringers ringing them again.

Practice sessions were due to start on Thursday 18 June, 2026, from 7pm - 8.30pm, every 2 weeks thereafter.

Any further details of enquiries please contact me. Bob W.



The ringers of St. Mawgan in Meneage.

Michael Davidson's 90th Birthday.

Thursday evening practice at Mawgan in Meneage.

The amazing Michael Davidson, who is 90 years young, receiving his certificate for 40 years of ringing at Mawgan in Meneage, Nr Helston.

Mike is the Capt there & is regularly in attendance every other Thursday to treble lead in rounds.

Congratulations to a special member here.

His commitment to ringing the Mawgan bells is well appreciated far & wide in the Kerrier area.

Photo is of the Western District TDGR Deputy Chairman, Tony Dixon, presenting Mike with his TDGR Long Service Certificate at the practice session.



Michael receiving his Long-Service Certificate from Tony Dixon.

Notes from the Northern District AGM Altarnun 7th March 2026.

25 people attended the AGM of the Northern District held in the beautiful parish and church of Altarnun. The meeting followed the Guild Office.

Apologies were received from: Tony Davies, Lorna Curtis, Veronica Francis, Sue Shadrack, Helen Barnes, Bob Griggs, and Lesley Booker

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved with no matters arising.

The Chairman, Julian Trick, delivered his report and expressed his pleasure at the continuing support for district practices and other events and particularly the opportunity that had been given to newer ringers to develop their skills and for the more experienced ringers and opportunity to share their knowledge and encouragement.

One exciting piece of news for the district comes from “St Andrews’s” Stratton. Jo, the Tower Captain, has worked very hard to raise the funds required to repair the bellframe and restore the fine peal of eight bells. This has been a significant effort and it is wonderful to see such dedication to preserving our bells for the future.

Funding for the project has come from several sources. Grants have been made from the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers bell restoration Fund and the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust. In addition an appeal raised an impressive £15, 840, along with a further £4,000 in Gift Aid. Remarkably, £15,000 of that total came from a single very generous donor who saw the appeal featured on the front page of the Bude and Stratton Post. Together with several other donations, the funding target was successfully reached.

Work on the bells began on Monday the 23rd of February and is expected to be completed by the end of March. We very much look forward to hearing these bells ringing again.

Projects like this highlight the importance of the work many of you do behind the scenes to maintain and preserve our towers and bells. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers, fundraisers, and local supporters, many of these historic churches would fall silent.

Julian went on to thank members of the District Committee and all those who organize meetings, practices and other events during the year. Particular thanks were extended to two District officers, Liz Gliddon who has served as District Secretary and Sue Shadrack who has served as Treasurer. He also thanked Altarnun tower for hosting today’s meeting/

In delivering his report, the Ringing Master Robert Corney commented on another eventful year particularly with Lanteglos hosting the Guild AGM. 2 events that merited special mention were the chance to ring the refurbished bells at North Tamerton and the 8 bell practice at Altarnun in September.

A number of members of the District had attended the South West Ringing Course at Millfield School in Somerset and had benefitted from this.

Robert also commented on the relationship which is shared between ringers in the North of the District and the neighbouring Tamar Valley Guild and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers which is mutually beneficial.

The Treasurer reported a healthy bank balance which reflects some growth in the District and also thanked ringers for their support.

1. Election of officers:

- a) Chairman: Julian Trick - Proposed by Owen Borlase and seconded by Dave Garvie
- b) Ringing master: Neil Clements - proposed by Sean Shaw and seconded by Gytha Pickett.
- c) Secretary: Wendy Couch - proposed by Esther Jones and seconded by Will Olsson
- d) Treasurer: Gytha Pickett - Proposed by Jo Barnes and seconded by Sean Shaw.
- e) Auditor: TBC. JB made a suggestion to someone he knows from Launceston. WC took details.
- f) Standing committee: Julian Trick and Neil Clements. It was agreed that Wendy Couch would attend the next meeting 21st March to represent Neil Clements.

An update on Safeguarding was given and a reminder was given that Tower captains are required to undertake the Leadership training course.

A discussion was held on the improvers practice when it was decided to move them from the Saturday mornings to Wednesday evenings, this was improved.

The Guild President Owen Borlase introduced a discussion regarding the provision of portable defibrillators. The merits of the Northern district having their own portable defibrillator were discussed. Available to take to every ringing event, providing prompt treatment for persons in sudden cardiac arrest. It was highlighted that churches can be remote and may be some distance from available defibs located in villages. The demographic of ringers and bell ringing can be seen to be at risk and it was decided that this was a good idea and to take this forward to the standing committee for further investigation.

Long service certificates were presented by the president of TDGR, Owen Borlase to 2 members. Esther Jones from Marhamchurch, in recognition of 70 years of service as a ringer and to Jo Barnes from Stratton for 50 years of service as a ringer. Congratulations to you both.

The President also presented a certificate of Guild membership to a new member, William Olsson and Will was welcomed into the Guild.

Date and Venue for next Northern district meeting: Stratton church 06/03/2027.

A wonderful tea was then enjoyed by all.



Jo Barnes of Stratton receiving her long-service certificate from Guild President, Owen Borlase.



Esther Jones of Marhamchurch receiving her long-service certificate from Guild President Owen Borlase.

South Hill Bell Walkers.

We are the BELL WALKERS connected to St Sampson's church in South Hill Parish S.E Cornwall; we walk to churches that have bells.

Started in December 2021 with a community RamBELL <https://south-hill.co.uk/country-rambell/> to raise funds towards the repairs to the cracked bell tower, the rotten woodwork and rehang our listed bells not heard ring for over 50 years.

We started walking to churches on our doorstep, then walked the Tamara Way in loops taking in 18 churches along the way, meaning we walked 120 miles rather than the 87 miles route.

We are still walking, chiming bells and climbing towers. We really enjoy meeting the ringers, many who give us interesting information about their bells and churches. Although most in our group are not bell ringers we can appreciate the weights and sound and the powerful feelings this evokes. Seeing the bells up close is a real history lesson and climbing the towers is the icing on the top, and the most rewarding when we have magnificent views. Towers are like the bells and people they are all different and have different challenges.

If we haven't visited you yet, rest assured you are on our list and we look forward to meeting you.

Ali Humphreys

Bell Walkers lead



Western District Striking Competition Mullion 13th June 2026.

Western District Striking Competition - Saturday 23 June, St Mellanus Church, Mullion

Well, what can I say... Western District, you really are a truly wonderful bunch of fabulous people ☺...

The bells rang ☺the sun shone the tea flowed and the company was AMAZING

11 Teams entered the Rounds category

9 Teams entered the Call-Change category

3 Teams entered the Method category

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who took part - every Band was amazing - I for one had THE biggest butterflies, but the encouragement and camaraderie was just wonderful.

Special thanks must go to Andy and Jo (our esteemed judges) for their time and critique, and to Neil and his team of lovely ladies at Mullion for hosting us - you looked after us so well - those 'bell biscuits' were simply delicious!

Congratulations to:

Lelant - winner of the Method category and the St. Pol-de-Leon Cup ☺

Wendron 13-73 Band - winner of the Rounds category and the Charles Ball Memorial Cup ☺

Wendron 13-73 Band - winner of the Call Change category and the Harry Miles Memorial Cup ☺

3rd Saturday in June TBC...

Claire Thompson WD Secretary.

Editor's note: This was very successful day and well done to Claire and all of the many others who made this day so successful. It was wonderful to see 23 teams, no less, competing in such a happy and friendly atmosphere. This will be difficult to top next year!



Tony Dixon (Wendron Captain) collects the trophy for the call-change section.

Jo Hodding (Lelant) collects the method-ringing trophy.



Around the District Practices.

Eastern District. Stoke Climsland 26.02.2026. We had a great turn out of over 30 people for the Eastern District Practice at Stoke Climsland last night. Ringers from far and wide braved the miserable weather, several even managing to find their way across country from Central and Northern Districts. A fabulous time was had by all not least because of the lovely cakes and biscuits provided by the home team. Many thanks to the Stoke Climsland tower members for their hospitality and to Owen Borlase for running such a good practice.

Northern District Poundstock 28.04.2026. Last night saw a great turn out of over 20 ringers at Poundstock tower. I wasn't quick enough to get a group photo sadly! It was a fun night of call changes, method, reversies, and Neil Clements even got us doing a rendition of Twinkle Twinkle little Star! ☺ Well done everybody. It was a great exercise in holding bells up at back stroke.

Thank-you to the Poundstock team for hosting and providing a delicious tea, the cakes were scrumptious ☺. Even the vicar came and helped with the washing up. Also, thank you to all the members who provide support and guidance ensuring a fun-filled learning environment.



Truro Cathedral 05.05.2026



Kilhampton 22.05.2026



Western District. Budock 18th March 2026. Our first Western District Open Tower practice took place this evening and what a grand night it was! Thank you St Budock for your warm welcome and hospitality - thank you Western District and friends for supporting (40 attendees plus our hosts!) - and thank you Mr President for your unexpected attendance, always a pleasure!

A wonderful opportunity also, to present long service awards to members of St Budock Band - congratulations ladies

Such a lovely evening...

Thank you all...



Truro Cathedral practice Easter Monday. Thank you to Hayley for welcoming 28 ringers from the Western District and a further thank you to the 14 helpers who turned out to assist. Thanks also to Bob and Martin for co-ordinating the ringing.

WD Ringers pictured below at Truro Cathedral on Easter Mondy.



St. Erth 20th May.



In excess of 20 ringers turned out for an open practice at St. Erth on 20th May. Where a variety of ringing styles was enjoyed by all. Thank you again to Martin and Bob for running the ringing

TDGR Secretary scoops inspirational award

Cornwall's inspiring over-60s came together at Lys Kernow for a special 60 over 60 celebration event, recognising people who are making a positive difference in their communities.

The event celebrated their stories, achievements and contributions, highlighting the wide range of ways people over 60 are helping to improve life

Our very own TDGR Secretary Robert Woods picked up an award in the Mentor section for the involvement he has had in training new recruits over past 5 years. Highly commended (Of course!). Nominated locally in Helston. Thanks for all that you do for bell ringing Bob Woods!



Ringling for Bell Sunday.

Bell Sunday is normally the closest Sunday to 19th May, which is the feast of St Dunstan (patron saint of bellringers). Ringers in churches are encouraged to discuss possible participation in the services that day with their clergy.

If the normal date clashes with another church festival (as it did in 2024) then it may be moved to another Sunday.

Thank you and congratulations to all that took part in Cornwall.

Truro Diocesan Guild

Helston, Cornwall

St Michael

Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 24m (15-3-7 in F)

108 Rounds and Call Changes

Rounds & then 2 lots of mixed Call Changes incorporating Whittington & Queens (2nd part first) & return to Rounds.

Composed by Bob Woods (Conductor)

- 1 Blake Lees
- 2 Julie Petch
- 3 Mandy Basher
- 4 Tony Dixon
- 5 Bob Woods (C)
- 6 Claire Thomson
- 7 Fred Henderson
- 8 Jacob Williams

Rang in celebration of St Dunstan on Bell Sunday.

Truro Diocesan Guild

St Ewe, Cornwall

All Saints

Sunday, 17 May 2026 (7-0-16 in Bb)

66 Devon Call Changes For Bell Sunday

- 1 Anne Hodges
- 2 Suzanne Roland-Jones
- 3 Juliet Thornton
- 4 Emma Williams
- 5 Paul Sibley
- 6 Bob Thornton

Called by Garry Hodges.

Also rounds and general ring involving the above and Lynn May.



The ringers of St. Ewe marking Bell Sunday.

Truro Diocesan Guild

Truro, Cornwall

Cathedral (West Gallery)

Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 2m (19 in F)

60 Plain Bob Minor

1–2 Joanna Wenborne (C)

3–4 Martin Spittle

5–6 Andrew G Smith

Rung on a pentatonic scale, at the beginning of the morning service, accompanying the Truro Cathedral choir who were singing "If Ye Love Me" by Thomas Tallis.

For Bell Sunday.

Truro Diocesan Guild

Week St Mary, Cornwall

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 22m (8–2–24 in A)

100 Call Changes

1 Wendy Couch (C)

2 Angela O'Connor

3 Wendy Booker Watts

4 Lesley Booker

5 Derek Orchard

6 Paul Brooks

Centenary call changes to celebrate Lesley Bookers Mother, Jeanne Powell's 100th birthday which coincided with Bell Sunday

Truro Diocesan Guild

Wendron, Cornwall

St Wendron

Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 10m (8–0–20 in A_b)

Rounds and Queens

1 Blake Lees

2 Elaine Retallack

3 Hayley Orchard

4 Claire Thomson

5 Peter Boex

6 Jake Williams

7 Tony Dixon (Captain and Conductor)

Rang in celebration of Bell Ringing Sunday

Truro Diocesan Guild

Wendron, Cornwall

St Wendron

Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 10m (8-0-20 in A5)

Hagdyke 28 Call-Change Peal and Rounds

- 1 Hayley Orchard
- 2 Elaine Retallack
- 3 Blake Lees
- 4 Tony Dixon (Captain and Conductor)
- 5 Claire Thomson
- 6 Jake Williams

Rang in celebration of Bell Ringing Sunday

St Agnes. ringers:-Trudy, Ron, David , Bob, Tim, Pete, our visitor Chris Rogers and I, managed some tuneful rounds and call changes this morning for Bell Sunday! 🛎

Our Sunday morning ringing at Week St Mary was a 100 call change peal to celebrate Lesley Booker's Mum's 100th birthday today

Lesley Booker, Wendy Couch, Paul Brooks (Poundstock), Angela O'Connor, Derek Orchard and Wendy Watts.



Lanivet.

Privileged to ring on this very special day for the church service of Bell Sunday.
Missing from pic is Jo and Terry.

*Practice is Tuesday 7-8.30pm for anyone that would like to join us.



Musings on the TDGR Standing committee 2017-2026

At the 2026 TDGR AGM I stood down as Guild Membership Secretary and ended 9 years on the standing committee. Below are some rambling thoughts of what has occurred in that time.

I joined the standing committee in 2017 as Central District representative, taking over from Malcolm Bowers and joining Brian Wood. At the time there had been some accusation that the Standing Committee was somewhat of a closed shop- Polit Bureau was mentioned. Minutes and agendas for non-members were difficult to find and reporting to the general membership was poor. I had served on Guild/Association committees in the Midlands and North East and had a good understanding of their workings. My hope was to bring a bit of outside knowledge- how others did things, to the table. I do remember a former member of the Standing Committee say to me “what’s good for others may not be good for Cornwall” and “what we’ve done before has served us ok”. Got my work cut out then.

Those early meetings were, how do I put it diplomatically- spikey. Norman Mattingley often playing devil’s advocate to discussions that should never have been controversial. Norman always had a glint in his eye and a wry smile suggesting he was enjoying stirring the pot. John Davis as Guild Bell Advisor also liked to prolong a discussion. Those meetings did go on a bit. Thankfully Helen Perry was always on tea duty for those well-earned/much needed breaks.

When Ian Self announced that he would no longer be handbook editor and there was no one willing to take on the role we were forced into the first of a number of big projects. The work to produce the handbook should not be underestimated and Ian had done a sterling job. However with the introduction of GDPR (more of that later) and our roles as Trustees (also later) a more efficient and detailed approach was required. Annie was running her own project to commission a new website. This would be all singing, all dancing with all the information of the handbook, Doves Guide, Bellboard, Blogs, events being online. If this came off the handbook wouldn’t be needed. But the administration of ‘the data’ was still required.

My next role was replacing Helen as Performance Secretary. The yearly task of grabbing all the data from Bellboard- some 150 quarter peals, 20 or 30 call change peals and John Pladdys Stedman peal week, collating, editing and publishing it... to where? We had no handbook. Thankfully the website became live and, although the functionality has changed a little since then, what we have now is a really good and up to date resource, credit goes to Annie and Martin Spittle for the hard work to get this off the ground.

It was also around then I become Guild mailing list moderator after Annie sacked the previous one. He threatened ‘to wrap a miniring over my head’ during a heated online ‘discussion’ about peals at St Winnow. Clearly people get too passionate about peals, particularly if they are rung for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers on a newly installed Cornish ring.

The next modernising project we went through was the updating of the Guild Rules. Since the last fundamental rule change the Charity Commission had become more involved and were

stressing the liabilities of trustees, particularly considering new laws of GDPR and the continual push for improved safeguarding. It's fair to say ringers are ahead of the wave and more proactive about doing the right things in the right way than The Church, but we still had to get it down in writing. I lost count of the number of emails I should have read about Data Protection as the minutiae of the policy was dissected. It is the Standing Committee's job to do these things so you don't have to.

Just as we started this process, and shortly after Hayley became Guild Secretary, we received word that one of our membership was starting legal proceeding against the Guild for defamation.

You couldn't make it up and we were somewhat aghast at this.

Essentially there had been a bit of a village falling out with a ringer, which had escalated and someone had the Guild in their sights. It was quickly kicked into touch but we'd had a scare, and our solicitors told us we needed to tighten the rules for membership.

This is why we ask for elections at meetings. So that those being elected have someone to vouch for them and that there is a Guild event where there is a possibility a counter voice can be heard and where membership could be refused. This won't solve the problem but it does add a mechanism to show that we can do this and are diligent about it. Of course, it also gives us the opportunity to make a bit of a celebration for a new ringer and to present a certificate.

The rules took most of the Covid lockdown to update and during this time Jo Wenborne, Martin Spittle and others drafted and updated our policies- Data Protection, Safeguarding, Membership etc. I took advice from friends across the country about our rules, our Charity Commission status, and our membership policies. A vitally important retention from the old ones was rule 2- The Powers. Whilst the rest of the rules are an excellent cure for insomnia, if you have a spare minute have a look in the handbook at rule 2. This is the spirit in which the Guild should work and rule 2.2 "Promoting good fellowship amongst ringers of all traditions" is key. Our trustees can and have used this for justification for spending money on anything that bring ringers together. Some Associations are sitting on hundreds of thousands of pounds tied up in charitable Bell Restoration Funds they cannot access for public relations or youth because how the rules were written 60 years ago when restoration projects were more popular. We can spend ours on ringers parties if our Trustees decided so!

Having written the membership secretary job description and with the rules now implemented I took on that role following on from Jo with the Performance work now being carried out by Carolyn Howell.

For 9 months of the year the membership role required little work, just updating the online directory as and when changes occur. However from Christmas to Easter the thankless task of sending out tower return forms, getting them back, trying to read them, updating the spreadsheet, creating a report, going back to tower contact who haven't signed the form, chasing up towers that hadn't returned the forms, it all took quite a bit of time. I'm thankful to Miranda, Claire, Sue and Sue for their work in helping with this over the years. There are about 100 towers where forms are sent and each year. It always puzzled me that only about half of these are completed correctly. There are lawful reasons why we ask for this information and we have to apply GDPR to any information we hold. That means all data that we don't have consent for is destroyed- that little tick box is important.

When one strips back the TDGR we are essentially a group of ringers who pay a little bit of money to a fund that pays out to restoration projects, recruitment, youth trips. £10 a year to help with those projects is good value. It was a pity that (only) one tower this year decided that it was too much and 80% of their members wouldn't pay, particularly annoying given they had benefited for a substantial TDGR grant in the past decade.

I decided to leave the standing committee about 18 months ago when it was clear that Member Mojo was becoming a realistic option for the Guild to adopt. Once fully implemented the role of Membership Secretary could be wound up and replaced with a Data Controller. This software is essentially a giant database that will do all the jobs I have been doing for the past five years. It will generate all the tower contacts in a directory, it will allow membership to be paid directly, it will have its own opt-in, opt-out Guild mailing lists and separate District mailing lists. It does require our membership, or at least the tower secretaries to take leap of faith and embrace an easier way of doing things online. We now live in the 21st century and take part in an activity that is losing numbers nationwide (note the TDGR has stayed steady at ~725 members since Covid) so we need to modernise and do things more efficiently.

Back to the decision to stand down from the Standing Committee... With MemberMojo coming along the tracks and with the rules and membership completed, and with the Ladock restoration now taking up all of my time early 2025 I decide I could not continue as Membership secretary to oversee another project. I am extremely happy that this has now fallen to Malcolm Day's capable hands. You will have seen the great work he has done with the handbook and I'm sure he'll do well with the membership. Please help him with this as he implements it moving through 2026 and 2027.

There are members of the standing committee who have served (far) longer than me and nine years not a long time. But I'm also keen that there is a balance and the most effective committees have new ideas and fresh blood as well as those that are a steadying hand to help steer the ship.

We are, as a Guild, forward thinking and in a good place. Our funds are accessible, we have policies and procedures that will guide the leadership through the current Safeguarding/Charity Commission/GDPR considerations. We have managed to demonstrate to the membership in recent years the point of the existence of the TDGR- that it does good.

If you wish to join the standing committee if you think you have something to offer, either in a specialist role or as representative of your district have a chat with someone who is already on it. It's great to help steer the TDGR in leading ringing in Cornwall.

Jonathan Young

Notes from the WD AGM 11th April . St. Buryan.

It was wonderful to see an attendance of 81 people, representing 21 Western District towers, in attendance at St. Buryan. Ringing had already taken place at Madron and with the climb up the tower, ringing was well marshalled to allow people to get in out of the ringing chamber.

After a short service, by Revd Adam, we moved swiftly to the AGM and were warmly welcomed by District Chairman Bob Woods, who welcomed our President Owen Borlase from St. Dominic.

After receiving apologies, the minutes of the 2025 AGM held at Towednack were approved.

Bob Woods presented his report thanking all those who had given their time and support to the District during the previous year especially Ringing Master Martin Spittle. Thanks were also expressed to those District Towers who had made the District welcome at District in addition to the Cathedral where ringers had been made welcome. Bob also thanked the Guild for the funding received towards the installation of a training bell which is now in good use at Helston.

Another source of joy this past year has been the success of the Youth Team. 3 junior members of the District, Daniel, Sennen and Jake, were applauded for their efforts with the team. Sennen was further congratulated for being the youngest person, at 14, to ring the tenor at St. Buryan (37.2 cwt) to a quarter peal, well done.

Bob concluded with the words ‘...let us all keep the sweet sound of bells ringing across our communities’ and extended good wishes to all Members for happy and rewarding ringing during the forthcoming year.

Chris Davie presented the Treasurer’s report commenting that activity for the year had been quite limited.

Martin Spittle presented his Ringing Master’s report commenting on the fact that many new ringers had been tutored by experienced ringers at Towednack, Paul, St Buryan, St Erth and Gwennap (amongst others); and bespoke Saturday morning sessions had continued at the Wendron Teaching Hub, led by Bob Woods, to enhance Bands at Wendron, Helston, and Mullion.

Thanks were extended to Hayley Young, the Cathedral Master, for opening up ringing opportunities at the Cathedral to all Guild members; the WD had been invited to attend on 2 occasions during 2025; both were well attended.

On 8th May, many towers had taken part in commemorative ringing to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day including ringing at 11 WD Towers that were recorded on Bellboard.

Reports were received from 2 of the three Deanery Stewards. Geoff Cook, the new Carnmarth Steward, had enjoyed going out to practices, introducing himself and meeting up with people and Tony Dixon from Kerrier, reported similarly, whilst Bob Woods gave an update from Penwith. All 3 reports were positive and referred to much progress being made.

Tony also referred to Safeguarding and stressed the importance of this and was pleased to report that this remains a high priority within towers. He also gave a report on the South West Ringing Course that had taken place at Millfield in Somerset in October and gave a resume of the recent activities of the Standing Committee.

Claire reported on The Westerner, on behalf of Ally, which continues to be published quarterly and relies heavily on contributions of material from the ringing fraternity. Ally and Tina (sub-editor) were both thanked for their considerable work in producing this)

There followed the election of Officers, where Bob Woods is to continue as Chairman, with Tony Dixon elected as Deputy Chairman, Claire Thompson as Secretary, Chris Davie as Treasurer, Mike Cockeram as Independent Examiner, Martin Spittle as Ringing Master and Tony Dixon and Toby Arkless to serve on the Standing Committee.

Long Service Certificates were presented to the following:

Lynn Benney	Crantock 65 Years
Margaret Pryor	Helston 65 Years
Tony Grimmer	Mawnan 70 Years
Angela Winter - 60 years	Budock 60 Years
Doreen Robbins - 45 years	Budock 45 Years
Rosemary Warner	Budock 45 Years
Lucy Thompson	Budock 35 Years
Lorna Crewes	Budock 25 Years

Thanks were expressed to the locals for the splendid tea which was enjoyed and was followed by further ringing at St. Buryan.



Margaret Pryor of Helston receiving her Long-Service Certificate for 65 Years of Service to the Truro Guild.

Notes from the Standing Committee Meeting held at Truro on 21/03/2026.

17 members of the Standing Committee met in the Kenwyn Lychgate on 21/03/2026 whilst apologies were received from 5 members.

The President, Owen Borlase extended a welcome to the Committee for what was to be his last meeting as President. He welcomed Wendy Couch (N District Secretary), Eleanor Hunt (Central – potential Youth Officer for TDGR) & Garry Hodges (Central District Rep) to their first SC meeting and thanked all members for their continued support during the last 3 years. At this point, all members of the Committee were presented with commemorative TDGR mugs.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

Under Matters Arising, Tony Dixon raised requirements from the teaching hub at Wendron and asked whether the Guild would like to contribute, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Secretary announced to the meeting that the Central Council of Church Bellringers had received an invitation from the Truro Diocesan Guild to host their AGM in September 2028 but that no definite reply had since been received.

The Safeguarding Officer had sent a message via the Secretary that no Safeguarding incidents had been brought to her attention.

The Bell Restoration Officer reported that there were no new applications for projects and that at present, there were no further updates from either St. Hilary or St. Cleer.

The Treasurer reported that accounts had been circulated to members and although a small deficit was shown in the General Fund, this was not expected to continue over the next 12 months.

In the absence of the Youth Officer, the Secretary presented short report on Claire's behalf. He said that there was a Youth practice tomorrow at Wendron. He understood that Claire was preparing to enter the Youth team in the forthcoming 6 bell competition being held in Nottingham in July 2026. A discussion was held concerning the structure and possible financial support for the Youth team. These discussions will be carried forward to future meetings.

The Health and Safety Officer was pleased to note that no incidents had been reported to him. He has produced an article on organising an outing which is due to be published shortly. He suggested that towers should teach how to hand over a bell in the event of an incident in the tower.

The Membership Officer reported that all is well and gave the Committee an update on the proposed Membership Mojo.

The Webmaster reported that everything was ticking along nicely particularly since the upgrade that had taken place earlier in the year.

The CCCBR Reps reported on the fact that the Council meets in Rugby in September of this year and that the possibility of the Truro Guild hosting the 2028 meeting was being discussed as a possibility at present.

The Standing Committee appointment of officers was discussed with Carolyn Howell (Safeguarding) already in post, Webmaster, Martin Spittle and Health and Safety Officer, Richard Rider, being voted in unanimously.

An update was given on the forthcoming Guild AGM to be held at Ladock on May 16th was given. There was to be open ringing at St. Stephen in Brannel and Ladock before the Service and AGM.

Ian Self announced that he intended to stand down as Editor of An Clogh by the end of 2026.

The next meeting is due to be held at Kenwyn on Saturday 18th July at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:55 with further thanks from the retiring President.

Tower News



St. Columb Minor. The ladies of St. Columb Minor ringing for international Women's day on March 8th.

Egloshayle Ringers Outing - Saturday 21st March 2026.

Egloshayle Ringers were joined by the Shipwrecks for an enjoyable outing in the sunshine yesterday, taking in three Towers- and pubs.

First Tower - St Nectan's, Welcombe, 6 bells 7cwt, Lunch at The Old Smithy

Second Tower - St Morwenna and St John the Baptist - Morwenstow, 6 bells 8cwt, then to The Bush Inn for refreshments.

Third Tower - St Olaf's- Poughill, 6 bells 12cwt, followed by evening meal at The Preston Gate Inn

Thank you everyone for being so welcoming of us, and special thanks to Stef for organising us - a really special day!



Pictured outside St. Nectan's Welcombe



Pictured outside St. Olaf Poughill.

Hayle – St. Elwyn. This is not a tower which has featured in An Clogh before but the 7 cwt bell has been hung for full-circle ringing. It was dedicated on Sunday 17th May.



Hughtown Isles of Scilly. I am pleased to be able to include some news from the Isles of Scilly in this edition with a quarter peal rung on 10th May. Congratulations to all.

Truro Diocesan Guild On Sunday, 10 May 2026 in 41m Hugh Town, Isles of Scilly St Mary the Virgin Tenor: 8–3–7 in A 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Keith Grossett 2 Joseph Payne 3 Fiona Maybrey 4 Chris E Bulleid 5 David Maybrey (C) 6 Martyn Smalley In celebration of the life's of John FM Maybrey 28/06/34 - 29/11/25 and Ron Grossett 06/04/32 - 15/10/25.



The ringers from l-r Keith Grossett, Joseph Payne, Fiona Maybrey, Chris E. Bulleid, David Maybrey (c), Martyn Smalley.

Ladock.

Following the successful restoration and dedication of Ladock bells, the first peal has been rung on them.

Loughborough Bellfoundry Society

On Monday, 25 May 2026 in 2h 56

Ladock, Cornwall

St Ladoca

Tenor: 10–3–24 in G

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Jonathan F Young

- 1 Simon E Adams
- 2 Nathan Evans
- 3 Christopher J Bardsley
- 4 Eliza I Lewis-Skeath
- 5 Richard S K Salisbury
- 6 Christopher J Venn
- 7 Owen J Borlase
- 8 Jonathan F Young (C)

**First Peal on the newly restored bells and for Ladock
flower festival**



The peal band anti-clockwise from the front left.

St. Columb Major.

The ringers of St. Columb Major celebrated the 250th anniversary of their bells on Saturday 4th July with an exhibition in the church and tours of the ringing chamber as well as demonstrations of ringing. There was also a chance to chime a bell. Tower Captain Mathew Rodliffe used the opportunity to talk to small groups of people and to show them what goes on 'upstairs' refreshments were served in the church and it was nice to see some familiar faces around including Robert and Helen Perry.

A new history of St. Columb bells was launched and copies were available in the church for purchase. This is a superb new book well researched and written and very well illustrated. I can recommend it as a very interesting read. Copies are available from Mathew at St. Columb who can be reached by messenger through the Bellringing in Cornwall Facebook group for a suggested donation of £5 plus postage of £1.90.

