



# MONMOUTH BRANCH NEWS



Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

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## The next Branch Newsletter

We hope to get the next Newsletter out at the beginning of September  
Deadline for copy will be **23rd August 2019** Please let me have articles before that date if possible.  
Thank you. **Jenny**

## Monmouth Branch Striking Competition and Bake Off

The Monmouth Branch Striking Competition and Cake Baking Competition will take place on **Saturday 18th May** at Shirenewton beginning at 4.30pm.

The rules for the competition remain the same as in previous years and are also in this Newsletter. We have the usual Call Change and Method sections for the ringing part of the day.



This promises to be a good social occasion as well as an opportunity to take part in the competition(s). I would encourage as many bands as possible to take part and would be happy to put together scratch bands if any towers feel that they are not able to raise full bands. If this is the case then please do let me know and I will see if I can help.

As in previous years, I would like to hold the draw for places in advance so that the bands can be advised of their approximate ringing times and for any logistical difficulties bands may have with these timings to be resolved.

**PLEASE CAN YOU ADVISE ME OF ENTRIES BY SATURDAY 11 MAY AT THE LATEST.**

The Great Cake Baking Contest will run in parallel and will as usual be a prestigious event with hopeful expectations of a high quality of entries.

Once again, the intention is to have "Bring and Share" tea taking place during the competition where each band brings a food contribution for the tea. Once the bands are confirmed, I can coordinate the contributions. Tea will take place in the hall which adjoins the church at Shirenewton.

The outline programme for the afternoon is as follows:

**4:00 pm**

- judges arrive for a test ring of the bells and to be settled somewhere comfortable and out of sight of the ringers

**4:30 pm** start of the ringing competitions



## BRANCH EVENTS



### General Practices

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July at Llangybi 7 p.m.  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at Trellech 7 p.m.

### 8-bell Practices – at Usk

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30 p.m.  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30 p.m.  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> July from 7.30 p.m.  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Aug from 7.30 p.m.  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept from 7.30 p.m.

### 6-bell Practices at Tredunnoc

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30 p.m.  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30 p.m.  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> July from 7.30 p.m.  
Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug from 7.30 p.m.  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept from 7.30 p.m.

### Association Daytime Practices

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May Grosmont 10.30 a.m.  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June Cadoxton 11.-12.15 a.m.  
then at Neath 2. – 3.00 p.m.  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> July Penhow (GF) 10.30 a.m.  
( t.b.c. re: building work)  
Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Aug Pendoylan 10.30 a.m.  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept Bedwellty(GF) 10.30a.m.

### Branch Training events

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug.  
Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> December

### Branch Striking Competition

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May at Shirenewton from  
4 p.m.

### Branch Outing

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June in the Vale of  
Glamorgan

### Special Event Caerleon Festival

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July  
The Charmborough Mini Ring  
For more details see page 7

*All of these practices and events  
are open to all ringers.*

- Rounds & Call Change section
- Method section
- Results of Great Cake Bake Off
- Results of Striking Competition

Look forward to seeing you there! Please do feel free to contact me should you have any queries about the competition.

**Debbie Turner**

## Striking Competition



1. The competition will be divided into **two sections:** Rounds & Call-changes, and Method.
2. The two sections will be judged separately.
3. In the spirit of the competition, bands should aim to ring test pieces in line with their capabilities (whether representing a tower or being a scratch band). A band should only enter the Call-change section if the members are unable to ring a method. Plain courses or touches of any method are acceptable.
4. A tower may enter any number of bands into either section of the competition.
5. Nobody may ring for more than two bands within the same section of the competition (Call-changes or Method).
6. The majority of the ringers in a band must be members of the L & M Association.
7. Any band representing a tower may have the assistance of no more than 2 members from another tower.
8. A scratch band representing no single tower may enter the competition and will be marked by the judges but will not be allocated a place in the results.

### 9. Rounds & Call Changes section

The test piece will be either:

- 5 minutes of Call-changes, comprising at least 12 calls and moving at least 5 bells; or
- 5 minutes of Rounds

The whole test piece including any ringing which continues after the 5 minutes will be judged. An umpire will be made available in the ringing chamber during the test piece to assist in timekeeping if required.



## Llandaff & Monmouth DA Handbell Day – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019



Nine ringers gathered at Pat and David Moore's house on Good Friday for coffee, croissants, and a day of handbell ringing. The handbell day is an (almost) annual event - an opportunity for the regular members of the L&M handbell band to get together with our occasional visitors, and others who would like the opportunity to do more handbell ringing, but family and other commitments get in the way.

David had the challenge of putting the bands together, to provide an element of challenge, making sure that each band had a good chance of success, whilst satisfying people's aspirations, dealing with last minute changes to people's availability, and deciding what to do on behalf of those who were "just happy to fit in with everyone else".

Catering was a "bring and share" lunch, with everyone encouraged to bring their "signature dish" and the programme allowed plenty of time between quarter peal attempts for coffee, cake, and catching up with friends.

Six quarter peals were attempted, out of which four were successful – the challenge of ringing Stedman Caters after a two year absence proved too much, but we had a lot of fun in the attempt.

1444 Kent Treble Bob Royal: Helen Phillips (C) 1-2, David A Jones 3-4, Matthew J Tosh 5-6, Peter S Bennett 7-8, Philip J Huxley 9-10.

### 10. Method Section

The whole test piece will be judged on either

- 120 changes of doubles or minor (plain courses will be accepted), or
  - 120 changes comprising of 12 courses of plain hunt on 5
- All of the test piece, including any rounds will be judged.

11. A practice ringing session of 3 minutes will be allowed for each band. At the end of the practice, two whole pulls on the treble should be used to signal that the test piece is about to begin.

12. The Branch Master shall appoint a judge or judges, from outside the Monmouth Branch, whose decision shall be final.

13. Any queries about the running of the competition must be raised with the Branch Master before the adjudication and presentation of certificates.

## Association Master's Mutterings

First of all, thank you for re-electing me as Association Master at the recent AGM. It is an honour and a real privilege to have this role. The AGM was really enjoyable and many thanks to everyone who contributed to the day, particularly the Cowbridge ringers for hosting us. It was good to hold three training workshops prior to the AGM and I hope the participants found them useful. Thanks to Barry Hayman, Andrew Phillips and John Vesey for leading the workshops and to everyone who helped. Any suggestions for future workshops is welcome.



Recruitment and training remains our priority for the coming year and I'm pleased that there is an Association of Ringing Teachers Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling) course coming up on Saturday 8 June at Cowbridge.

The course is open to everyone and I would very much encourage anyone who teaches new ringers, and particularly those who would like to teach new ringers (we desperately need more teachers)

to come along. This will, I think, be the 5<sup>th</sup> time that I've been to a Module 1 course and I have learnt something new



1344 Plain Bob Major: Debbie J Turner 1-2, David A Jones 3-4, David F Moore 5-6, Peter S Bennett (C) 7-8.

1312 Kent Treble Bob Major: Helen Phillips (C) 1-2, Matthew S Turner 3-4, Philip J Huxley 5-6, Matthew J Tosh 7-8.

1344 Plain Bob Major: Helen Phillips (C) 1-2, Matthew S Turner 3-4, Philip J Huxley 5-6, Debbie J Turner 7-8. 1st on an inside pair: 5-6.



### ART Module 1 – Teaching Bell Handling – Saturday 8 June at Cowbridge

I'm pleased to announce that an Association of Ringing Teachers Module 1 course (Teaching Bell Handling) will be held at Cowbridge on Saturday 8 June. If you would be interested in coming along then please do let me know and I will reserve you a place. There are 12 places on the course and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Having a good number of capable teachers is essential if we are to increase the number of ringers that we have and so I would encourage everyone to think about coming along. The tutor is confirmed as Frank Seabright from Ledbury. The course is open to all ringers including the following:

- Those who have never taught before and would like to learn how to approach the task;
- Those who may have done some teaching but would like to improve/revise their teaching skills and maybe join ART;

each time. Both the course and subsequent accreditation process are extremely valuable and I would very much recommend them.

As we get into May then we get into striking competition season. I have always enjoyed striking competitions and have been fortunate to have participated in a good number over the years, on all numbers of bells and some more serious than others. What I particularly enjoy is the practices leading up to the competition – selecting a “party piece” and then practicing over and over again and noticing how the ringing improves. The advent of smart phones makes it really easy to record and share ringing with the rest of the band for review and I would certainly encourage bands to do this. Striking competitions give a really good focus for improvement and I would recommend entering the respective branch competitions to everyone. Finally, thank you to those towers that rang in solidarity



with Notre Dame. The images on the news of the burning cathedral were dramatic and shocking. However, this is a timely reminder to us all to do what we can to avoid a similar situation in our own churches. Making sure that our towers are clean and any rubbish, particularly anything highly flammable like old tins of paint or oil, is removed is simple to do and really important. If there are any electrical fixtures and fittings that are past their best then do make sure you report this to the PCC and ask for them to be repaired or replaced. Very often the contents of the tower are out of sight and out of mind to the wider church and congregation so we should be proactive. A clean and tidy ringing room is also a much more comfortable and welcoming environment for new recruits too!

Good ringing!

**Matthew**



- Those who are experienced teachers who would be willing to mentor/coach less experienced teachers and find out more about ART.

Module 1 aims to provide you with the skills and techniques necessary to take a ringer from their first lesson to having competent bell control. The practical sessions will give you plenty of time to practise your new skills in a safe environment. Working in pairs you will also have opportunity to hone your observation skills and get feedback on your feedback. There is no minimum competency standard in terms of ringing ability for Module 1 but you must have sufficiently good bell control to be able to inspire confidence in others and the ability to ring up and down in peal.

The cost of the course is £20 per head. However, both branches have generously agreed to sponsor half of the course fees so the fee will be £10 per participant. There will also be a small charge to cover the cost of lunch and refreshments.

If you would like to book a place then please contact me via [master@llanmon.org.uk](mailto:master@llanmon.org.uk).

**Matthew Turner**

## Horton's Four – a Scary Story



Regular attendees at the Monmouth Branch 8-bell practices will have been bemused by our attempts to ring Belfast, Glasgow, “Scary Spliced”, and “Super Scary Spliced” – proving that even those of us who have been ringing for a long time are still learning, and sometimes find things too difficult too. The peal of spliced Bristol, Belfast, London and Glasgow at Blaenavon on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 was the first in these four methods by all of the band, and for the Association. If these methods were a ski slope, they would most definitely be a “black run”. It took four years, involved 26 people, more than 50 quarter peal attempts, and 18 peal attempts. This is our story.

The story begins five years ago – I like to attend Cumberlands Country Meetings when I can, and at every meeting, one or more eminently capable ringers are proposed for membership. The script runs like this: “This is [insert name here], they learnt to ring at [tower] in [insert impossibly short timescale here]. They have rung peals of 8-spliced, Horton's Four, and [list of challenging methods, which varies by region, and what access the candidate has to 12-bell ringing]” etc. etc..... In my 30-plus years of ringing surprise major, I had struggled through three leads of Belfast once or twice, and not even looked at Glasgow – I was feeling decidedly inadequate. Meanwhile, in the Monmouth branch, Matthew Turner had been organising a series of 10-bell quarters with the intention of entering the Tewkesbury Shield competition, and looking around the room (when I should have been concentrating on the method!) it occurred to me that we have a talented group of ringers, although spread out between a number of towers. At the time, Yorkshire and Bristol were rung occasionally at the St Woolos Cathedral practice, with the assistance of visitors, and from time to time at the branch practices, but there is no tower in the branch which has a surprise major band amongst its Sunday Service ringers.



## Rumney Tower News

It has been a busy couple of months in the tower at Rumney. Wedding season has started although for our first wedding of the season we found ourselves in competition with a bagpiper who had also been booked to play outside the church both before and after the service!



We rang a quarter peal on Passion Sunday before the Passiontide Sequence – a service of readings, poems and music – and have begun thinking about the forthcoming striking competition.

As is our tradition, we didn't practice in Holy Week but spent the evening giving the tower a thorough spring clean. A check of the bells revealed some wear on one of the ropes and this has been repaired.

**Matthew Turner**

## L&M Bell Restoration Fund Grants in 2018

Please support the work of the BRF through donations, legacies, clothing and the 200 club.



### St. Athan £15,000

full rehang including new beams and a completely new metal frame (grant conditional on completion of work)

I thought that by engaging with the “gifted and talented” ringers in the branch, we could boost the number of experienced ringers attending branch practices, and provide them with the sort of personal challenge that would keep them engaged with ringing in general, where it might have been tempting to give up altogether.

And so, the “Horton Project” was born. A bit of research established that these methods had not been rung in spliced for the Association, or even in Wales; and a bit more research established that we only knew of only one ringer in the Association that had rung these four methods to a peal, and that was many years ago. It was going to be a challenge! We realised that it would be a long-term project – two years at least (!) – and that it would require commitment to regular practice.

We started towards the end of 2014, with a core of 11 inside ringers and a few trusted treble ringers. We held two quarter peal attempts per month, on different days of the week to accommodate various family commitments, and allowed ourselves one practice touch at the branch 8-bell practice each month. Although there were some who questioned whether we should ring this sort of stuff at the branch practice, it had a number of benefits to the branch: it guaranteed at least 7 experienced ringers would attend the practice, providing better support for the less experienced; it gave the less experienced ringers something to aspire to – as we became more confident, the ringing became very good; and it showed the beginners that we are all learning, we all make mistakes, and we all find some things challenging. It was at a branch practice, when explaining what we were doing to one of the learners, that the name “Scary Spliced” was coined.

The plan was to ring quarters of the individual methods, followed by peals of London, Belfast, and Glasgow, building up to quarter peals, and then peals, of 4-spliced.

Initially, we made good progress, scoring peals of London, Bristol and Belfast over the course of the first five months. We had a sociable day out in the Forest of Dean in May 2015, with the aim of ringing one quarter peal of each of the four methods, and a decent pub lunch, and were pleased to score a quarter of Glasgow at the first attempt. Our first peal of Glasgow was scored in June 2015.

Our first attempt at the four-spliced was at Aberavon, in May 2016 – these bells lend themselves to good ringing of challenging methods, and we were delighted to ring for around an hour. A second attempt followed in the summer, at Llanfeugan, where we had just over two hours of really good ringing before a trip caused two bells to swap over. Later that year, Blaenavon became our regular home – these lovely bells are next to the Heritage Centre at the Blaenavon



## Caerleon Tower News



In an effort to promote our hobby and encourage more people to get involved we are hiring the Charmborough mobile belfry for the Caerleon Festival on the 13th and 14th July . The festival weekend is a free event and attracts over 5,000 people from all around the local area. In addition to demonstrations, we will also be encouraging members of the public to have a go. We hope to gather contact details of those interested in having a taster session at their local tower. These details will then be passed to the the local tower captain to follow up. The event is being supported by both the Branch and Association. To guarantee the success of this event **we need your help!** We need experienced ringers, and helpers to man the belfry throughout the duration of the festival. If you're interested in being part of this event and can offer any help then please contact either Phil Sergeant or Jenny Mole.

Many Thanks

**Phil Sergeant**

[caerleon@llanmon.org.uk](mailto:caerleon@llanmon.org.uk)

World Heritage Site and visitors like to hear the bells ringing, which means they are readily available for peals. After a year or so, it was starting to become challenging to get people together regularly for quarter peals and practices, and so we started to extend the group. This was another opportunity to engage with ringers who might not otherwise become involved in branch ringing, but meant that we had to take a few steps backwards to bring new people on, and there were many lost quarter peals over the next 18 months, which may have caused some people to lose confidence. On the day of the peal, we were met by Craig Brown, who provided us with an extra incentive by showing us the barrel of beer he had kept aside in the vestry for a suitable occasion. The local ringers were working in the church that morning, and listened to the whole of the peal, keeping their fingers crossed in the last part when we hit a rocky patch just a few leads from the end. They were as pleased as we were to see us finally achieving the challenge we had set for ourselves.



### The peals:

In an Association with an ageing membership, where recruitment and retention are key issues, it might be

Saturday, 7 Feb 2015	<a href="#">Bassaleg (St Basil), Newport</a>	5088 London Surprise Major
Saturday, 11 April 2015	<a href="#">Usk (St Mary), Monmouthshire</a>	5088 Bristol Surprise Major
Saturday, 16 May 2015	<a href="#">Caerphilly (St Martin), Caerphilly</a>	5088 Belfast Surprise Major
Saturday, 27 June 2015	<a href="#">Bassaleg (St Basil), Newport</a>	5120 Glasgow Surprise Major
Saturday, 25 July 2015	<a href="#">Blaenavon (St Peter), Torfaen</a>	5088 Belfast Surprise Major
Wednesday, 23 Sept 2015	<a href="#">Usk (St Mary), Monmouthshire</a>	5088 London Surprise Major
Saturday, 24 June 2017	<a href="#">Blaenavon (St Peter), Torfaen</a>	5088 Bristol Surprise Major
Saturday 23rd Feb 2019	<a href="#">Blaenavon (St Peter), Torfaen</a>	5152 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)

thought that this was a “vanity” project. However, the legacy is that attendance of more experienced ringers at branch practices has increased, several ringers have re-connected with the branch who might otherwise have given ringing a rest by now, attendance at the Association surprise major practice has increased, and there are three quarter peal series of surprise major running, involving most of the surprise major ringers in the Association at some stage. We have enabled 19 people to ring their first quarter of “Scary Spliced”, and 3 people to call the quarters.



## Branch Training Update



Thank you to those people and towers that submitted requests for training to me so far. The requests include a mixture which are both tower centric and individual based. So far Trellech and Caerleon have requested tower based help which I will be sorting out over the coming weeks. There has also been quite a bit of interest in ringing up / down in peal and listening / striking sessions. How best to organise these will need to be worked out, as a session completely dedicated to ringing up / down in peal can be quite physically draining on its own. I suspect that a combined session of both requirements can be carried out in a half-day session run using a simulator. Food for thought.....

As you might have noticed in the provisional Branch practice program for 2019/20, there are four Saturdays where the Branch practice will be replaced by a designated training session instead. The first of these training dates is Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. My intention is to run a follow on session from the annual Branch Ringing Course held earlier this year, and offer a half day training session for Plain Bob and / or Grandsire Doubles (plain courses or touches). To give the students the best possible learning experience, the number of places for students will be limited to 6, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis. A centrally located tower will be selected once the 6 students are known.

The challenge is to make sure that ringing in the quarters of surprise major is still seen as accessible to those who have ventured into 8-bell ringing, and not just the domain of the “experts”.

So what next? There are still five or six people who have been involved in the peal attempts but were not available on the day we scored – they will have to decide whether they are still motivated to ring in a successful peal, and then there is the challenge of finding a series of dates when they are all available. The logical next step is to work towards a peal of 23-spliced, and we are currently deciding which composition is going to give us the best chances of success.

**Helen Phillips**

## The Editor Writes

I'm writing this a week or so after the fire in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. I suspect that bells in many of our towers rang out some time on Maundy Thursday in solidarity with the people of Paris. That act, in itself, show that bells can be messengers across the divide of nations and countries.



“Is there anybody there?” So begins The Listeners, a poem by Walter de la Mare.

At the moment I feel a bit like that about the towers in the Monmouth Branch. In the last week the items have come in for this edition of the Branch Newsletter and I can't help but notice that every article but one has been submitted by a ringer who lives in and/or rings in Cardiff. That may be just coincidence but I am concerned that ringers from other towers in the Branch seem reluctant to send in news, etc.

Now, if you are thinking, “We've got nothing to write about” then that means you probably have got something to share with us all. For instance: the wedding season is now upon us – let us know how many weddings you normally ring for in the summer months; do you ring before the ceremony or only afterwards? If you ring before and after, what do you do in the 45 minutes or so while the wedding is taking place? I know of one tower where alcohol is the answer and at another tower they do ringing theory lessons and, I guess, some just sit and chat.



If you are interested in being a student on this Doubles session, then please let me know at the e-mail address below.

For those experienced ringers who will not be on their summer holidays on that day, and would be available to help out on the session, please could you also let me know at the e-mail address below.

If anybody has not replied to my initial request for training needs across the Branch, then please do not be afraid to do so.

**Andrew Phillips**



[MonmouthTraining@llanmon.org.uk](mailto:MonmouthTraining@llanmon.org.uk)

**L&M Bell Restoration Fund Grants in 2018**

Please support the work of the BRF through donations, legacies, clothing and the 200 club.



**Whitchurch £1,800**

Replacement of rusted beam ends, bearings, pulleys and general refurbishments. (grant paid - work completed)

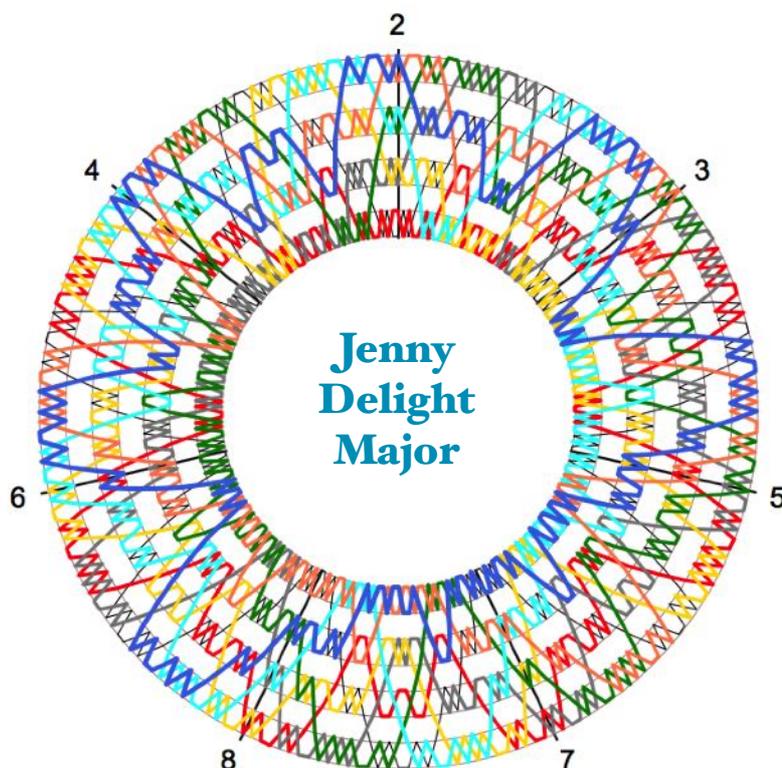
Summer can also be the season when towers go on outings. Are your ringers going on an outing this year? Are your ringers going on the Branch Outing on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June? There's no excuse about distance and early starts this year as we're going to the Vale of Glamorgan – local enough for lots of our Branch members to go!

Still think you have nothing to write about? How about telling us about your normal practices? Do you combine with other local towers? Are you constantly frustrated because you always seem to be one ringer short in order to try that method or be able to ring a touch of it? Do you manage to ring, as local ringers, for Sunday service each week?

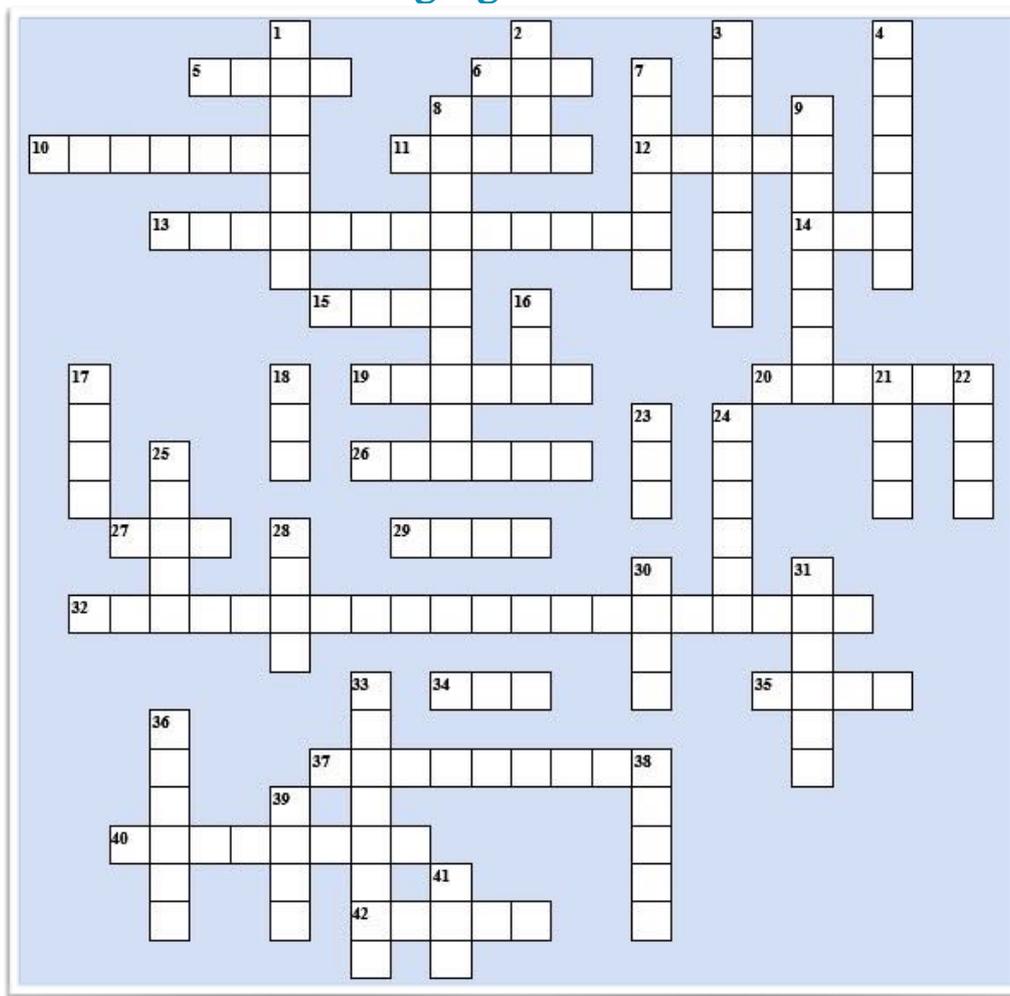
We are hoping to publish the next edition of this Branch Newsletter at the beginning of September and I'm asking that articles and pictures are sent to me by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. Please put that date in your diary and, go on, surprise me and swamp me with news from the Monmouth Branch.

Happy ringing to you all,

**Jenny**



## Ringing Crossword



**Across**

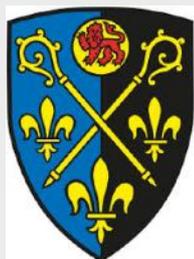
- 5 Popular measure after ringing (4)
- 6 Bell ready for ringing (3)
- 10 A fraction of 2D (7)
- 11 The girl to pull (5)
- 12 For good striking each gap needs to be this (5)
- 13 The man of principle (6,7)
- 14 The bands' hope in the striking competition (3)
- 15 Access point to the tower (4)
- 19 Hey! Watch me! (4,2)
- 20 Unsure walker in winter weather? (6)
- 26 The bell for the boy who sings? (6)
- 27 Between England and Ireland there is shorthand for the affected work sequence for 120 Bob Doubles (1,1,1)
- 29 Southern snooze for Stedman front work (4)
- 32 An occasional global case of tinnitus displayed on the street (7,5,8)
- 34 Briefly calling Robert? (3)
- 35 Get this correct at both strokes (4)
- 37 Instruction in painting? (1,1,1,6)
- 40 These are closed for sound control (8)
- 42 Perversely, an opportunity to take a seat? (5)

**Down**

- 1 You might have Abel on this device (7)
- 2 For this achievement we hear you have to prepare fruit for eating (4)
- 3 From "Go \_" to "That's all" (8)
- 4 Fairground vehicles having fun? (7)
- 7 Changes to female royalty? (6)
- 8 Holding up a laddered stocking? (6,4)
- 9 Gwynllyw's church is on this city street (4,4)
- 16 Belfry resident? (3)
- 17 The players (4)
- 18 Fight for height (3)
- 21 Leaving the bell safe or descending the tower (4)
- 22 One of the longest items in the tower (4)
- 23 The place where you might have a 5A (3)
- 24 Milk the success when you get these right (6)
- 25 This staple used to fix the bells (5)
- 28 No animals needed to do this (4)
- 30 Keep this stroke in especially at lead (4)
- 31 The bell we use to start off our Thelma when she's in a hurry in Plain Hunt (6)
- 33 Unexpected pleasure in many major cities (8)
- 36 Monmouth Branch tower with a query on using a writing instrument (6)
- 38 Quick ones made by thirsty ringers! (5)
- 39 Break it... and remain to do the repair! (4)
- 41 There could be a fine if you don't remove this headgear (3)

**Solution on page 11**





**Monmouth Branch Officers**

- Chair:** Peter Bennett
- Ringling Master:** Debbie Turner
- Secretary:** Jenny Mole
- Treasurer:** Jen Mundy
- Training Coord.:** Andrew Phillips

**Committee Representatives**

- John Hopkins
- Nye Brown
- Gwyn Sayce
- Jonathan Lewis
- Catherine Bleach
- Martin Gilbert
- Matthew Turner
- Pip Penney



**Website:**  
[www.llanmon.org.uk](http://www.llanmon.org.uk)



**Facebook Group:**  
 Llandaff & Monmouth  
 Diocesan Association of  
 Church Bell

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**Chair's Chat**



In the February issue of the Branch Newsletter, readers were introduced to the newly elected Branch officers, and the members of the Branch Committee. The Committee held its first meeting on 6th March, and I'm pleased to report a 100% attendance. As this was the first meeting of the year, the first since the revision of the structure of the Committee, and there were several new members, I thought it appropriate to explain my vision of the task facing the Committee. It may be expressed very simply as to re-energise ringing within the Diocese. Just a few words, but a mighty task! The former Committee had recognised the scale of this task, and sought the restructuring as a means to dealing with it. Andrew Phillips, the Training Coordinator has circulated towers in order to perform a survey of training needs, with the intention of developing an array of targeted training sessions. Meanwhile, the Branch has three events every month, as follows:-

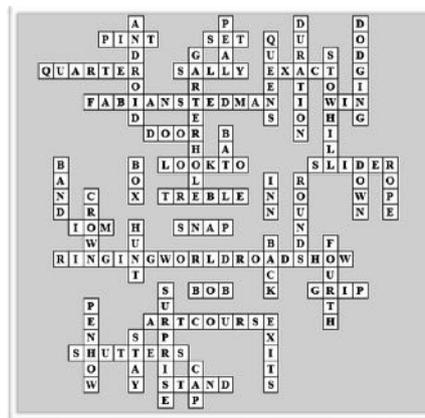
- On the second Thursday an 8 bell practice at Usk
- On the fourth Friday a 6 bell practice at Tredunnock
- On the third Saturday at various places either a practice or something else.

And in addition, not specifically a Branch event, but organized by our Secretary, Canon Jenny, a morning practice somewhere in the Association area.

Full details of the events of the next few months are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter, and on the Association website, and all are open to **EVERYONE**. We have been at pains to make it clear that all Branch events are open to all members, whatever their abilities, and can be used to seek advice, ask questions and develop skills. The myth that Branch events are only aimed at the most skilled ringers is just that, a myth, which I would like to see killed off!

Looking forward to meeting you somewhere,

**Peter**



**Ringling Crossword Solution**

