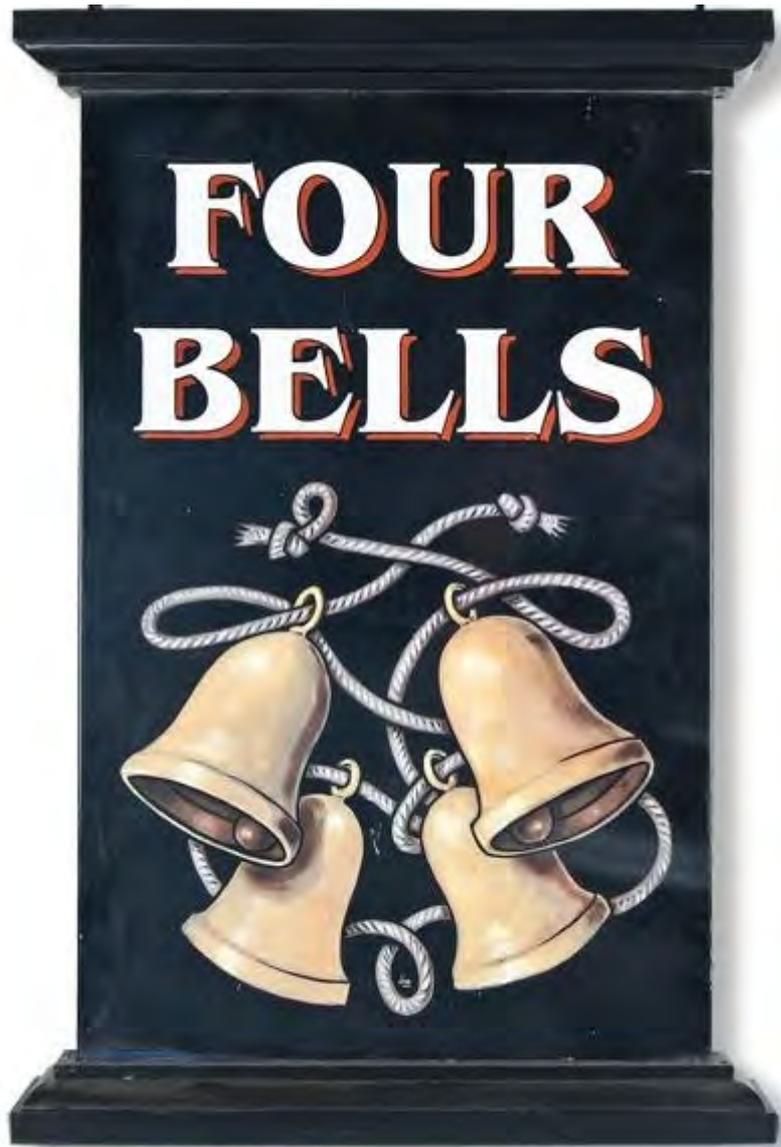


LOOK TO !

ISSUE 149

September 2020



Current Ringing!

**Newsletter of the Llandaff Branch
of the L&M DACBR**

CONTENTS

Newsletter Submission and Editor's Contact Details	2
Branch Officers	3
Editorial	3
Late News	4
Notes from your Branch Chairman	4
Association Master's Mutterings	4
News From Around the Branch	5
For those able to ring on 4 bells	10
KRO	11
Clues From Around the Branch UK Cities Answers	11
Clues From Around the Branch USA States	13
200 Club	15
Quickie Crossword	16
Cryptic Crossword	17
200 Club	18
Couch to 5K Part 2	18
Our favourite ring of 8	19
Crossword Answers	23
Diary	23

Newsletter Submission

The deadline for the next edition is **15th November 2020**

Contact Details

Editor: Joy Kipling
Email: llandaffnews@llanmon.org.uk

Branch Officers

Chairman Chris Kipling llandaffchair@llanmon.org.uk

Joint Masters Peter Giles, Kevin Musty and James Bulleid
llandaffmaster@llanmon.org.uk

Treasurer Philip Williams llandafftreas@llanmon.org.uk

Secretary Hilary Evans llandaffsec@llanmon.org.uk

Management Committee Representatives Peter Giles, Fred Jackson, Chris Kipling, Joy Kipling, Pat Moore and Philip Williams.

EDITORIAL

Well, I'm delighted to say that once more the various 'Tower Reporters' have come up trumps and supplied an amazing amount of news - my grateful thanks to you all. Ringing is starting to take place again albeit on a much reduced scale. Julian Parker has produced a fascinating article on Minimus which is very pertinent at the moment with often a maximum of only four ringers permitted in the tower as a consequence all the social distancing requirements.

I am sure that everyone in the Branch will join with me in sending our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to the Llandaff ringer who came a cropper on Thursday 20th August while helping to replace the recently refurbished clappers. (see the Late News article).

On a happier note, CONGRATULATIONS must go to Theresa Edmunds from Neath who is the winner of the UK Cities quiz featured in the last Newsletter. I believe she is planning to spend her £10 prize on spring flowering bulbs to brighten up the dreary, final winter months.

The 'Clues from around the Branch' feature proved popular last time with 5 ringers getting all 25 answers right. It has been repeated in this edition along with Bob Hardy's excellent crosswords (answers on pg 23). So there is plenty to exercise your sharp, puzzle-solving minds.

I hope you enjoy!!

Joy Kipling

LATE NEWS

I have received this from Pat Moore at Llandaff Cathedral:-

There was an incident in the Tower on Thursday afternoon 20th August 2020. To protect the privacy of the person who was injured we are not giving any details of the accident which occurred and from which the person concerned is recovering. All relevant Health and Safety regulations have been followed and all the appropriate action has been taken by the Cathedral and those who use the Tower regularly.

Although not at liberty to publish any further details I do know that the injured ringer has been posting updates on the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR Facebook page.

The story was initially reported on the BBC on 20th August 2020 and can be found at bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53854807

Joy Kipling

NOTES FROM YOUR BRANCH CHAIRMAN.

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and not too "Covided-19 out". Sadly, as I predicted in May, this is going to be a lengthy lay off from ringing, however, it is good to hear that lots of you are keeping active in your own way around the Branch.

Congratulations to the younger ones in our ranks who have had their GCSE and A level results in August, I hope that everything has turned out ok in the end for you.

There will be an end to this and we will be able to ring again before too long I'm sure.
Keep optimistic!

Chris Kipling

ASSOCIATION MASTER'S MUTTERINGS

Firstly, I hope that everyone is safe and well. The most important news of the past few months is that limited ringing for services has been allowed to resume. This must be strictly controlled at present to ensure that all hygiene and social distancing measures are complied with but it is a step in the right direction. The Central Council officers deserve credit for working with the Church in England to pull together a comprehensive set of guidance and associated risk assessments. Locally, our Association Officers have been

liaising closely with colleagues in the Church in Wales to ensure that ringing was included in guidance provided to clergy and parishes for reopening church buildings and also to ensure a common approach with the Central Council guidance.

At Rumney, we began ringing again on 16 July and we've had many positive comments from members of the congregation and other local people regarding the bells, which is good to hear. It may be some time before ringing returns to normal but at least now some bells are able to be sounded for services. If anyone would like any advice on restarting ringing then please don't hesitate to speak to either John Vesey or myself and we will be happy to help.

Although there are no Association events taking place at present, the governance of the Association needs to continue. The Association Officers have had regular catch-ups over the last few months to ensure that everything is kept ticking along. We broke new ground back in June when the first Association Management Committee meeting was held online. This worked extremely well and made us wonder why we hadn't done it previously! Whilst there are a lot of benefits to meeting in person, online meetings also have advantages particularly in terms of cutting the travel time involved and not having to sit in a cold room for 2 hours! I would hope that future meetings of the Association Management Committee feature a mix of both online and in person meetings.

It will be another first on Saturday September 12th with the Association AGM being held online at 4pm. It is important that members pre-register so that they can be sent the necessary links and instructions on how to access the meeting. You can register for the meeting here:

<https://www.llanmon.org.uk/contacts/2020-agm-registration>

The agenda and minutes of the last meeting are also available at the link above. Please do attend the meeting if you possibly can. There is important business to discuss and, given the current situation, it is important that there is a good representation from members.

I look forward to seeing many of you on 12 September.

Matthew Turner

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BRANCH

Aberavon

The Aberavon/Baglan group has been successfully managing to hold a virtual Ringing room practice every week since early lockdown. It is restricted to call changes and plain hunt and no one is an "expert" with their finger as the whole thing is quite a different experience. I for one can't wait to get back on the end of a rope! It has however been very useful for keeping the relatively new band together through all this and is a good social event with plenty of laughs, chat and quizzes on video Messenger alongside the "ringing".

Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Services resumed in the Parish last Sunday 2nd August and we are hoping to resume some service ringing at St Mary's in the near future, subject to an inspection and favourable risk assessment. There is more scope at Aberavon for social distancing between ropes and slightly easier access, so things may resume sooner here than elsewhere.

Andrew John

Baglan

Baglan has had its application for a faculty approved for work on the bells, but obviously further progress has been delayed due to the Corona virus. Jen Malcolm has been keeping the bells sounding on the Ellacombe chimes for various occasions such as the weekly NHS clap, though services there have not yet resumed as at time of writing.

Andrew John

Cadoxton

Church services at Cadoxton resume on 9 August with limited numbers. Following John Vesey's recent email, we enquired of the Vicar and Wardens at Cadoxton seeking to gain access to the tower to undertake an inspection of the bells and risk assessment to resume ringing of some sort on Sundays. This has so far been declined. It is appreciated that space is very limited in the tower and distance between ropes would probably fail the '2 meters in any direction' test. We were hoping that maybe we could resume initially with at least 3 ringers, but the road out of lockdown at the Church is still very tentative and the resumption of ringing may still be some time off. We did try to hold a ringing room virtual practice, but unfortunately, it wasn't very successful for one reason and another and was abandoned after 1 practice.

Andrew John

Coity

We are, after giving the tower a deep clean and checking out the Bells and ropes, going to start ringing in a very restricted way soon. Due to the 2m. rule we can only ring 1 3 5 or 2 4 6 for 15 minutes. Our first ring will be on Sunday 30th August for 11.30 Eucharist which is also our Patronal Festival. We also have a Wedding on Saturday 5th September and can only ring the couple out for 15 minutes.

It is very sad that we can not train our 4 learners at the moment.

Still it's a start!

Fred Custerson

Cowbridge, Llanblethian and St Hilary

Greetings from Cowbridge Parish bell ringers. Things have been very quiet in our group with our members settling into the quiet life and making the most of more free time. 2 chums have honed their techno skills and play on line bridge frequently, while most are still 'zooming' with friends and family. Gardens are now pristine with Mike J reporting his best ever crop of French beans and potatoes. How the life has changed but we all seem to have adjusted and can muddle our way through on line shopping. No news at all on the bell ringing front but as quite a few of our ringers are classed as 'vulnerable elderly' grrr.... health and safety issues prove troublesome in the reopening of our towers.

Helen is delighted to announce the safe arrival of her 7th grandson, Lochlan Reid Denton Leaming. Only trouble is the beautiful baby is in USA and she's in Cowbridge....and likely to be for some time.

We wish you all good health. Keep safe and hope we can all be together soon.

HB

Llandaff

Numbers taking part in the "Ringing Room" online ringing on a Tuesday evening have been steady and our repertoire ranges from rounds and call changes to Cambridge minor, with quite a lot in between. We sometimes experience problems with technology and this makes ringing difficult but when we do get going, it is good fun and a real sense of achievement. The striking has definitely improved too. It is really difficult though in comparison with tower bells and we will all be relieved and glad to get back to the real thing. At least it enables us to keep in touch with people.

Meriel Gainsbury

Llancarfan, Penmark and Porthkerry

After a quiet few months in the South Vale group, we were lucky enough to be asked to ring the bells at Porthkerry for a wedding. Due to social distancing we could only ring with members of the same household, and so we produced a Williams' band for the occasion! On the 13th August, one of our younger members received his A-level grades – congratulations Mark Williams on your offer to read geology at the University of Aberdeen.

We are looking towards the future and hoping for a speedy return to the bell chamber.

Laura Williams

Llantwit Major

After a few weeks of 'Lock Down' the St Illtud ringers were missing each other's company so we decided to meet at the Bellringers Arms on our usual Thursday practice evening via Zoom. As the topics to chat about were limited during the house bound times we soon decided to give the Ringing Room a go. This we hoped would keep our ringing skills alive as well as upgrading our computer technical knowledge! For many of us getting on to Zoom and into the Room at the same time was stretching things but after a few false starts all 10 of us were in albeit with just Roger Bradshaw's voice (apparently his hair style was too scary for the screen !!)

We started cautiously with rounds and call changes which led to much laughter, frustration and some under the breath swearing especially when the internet dropped out. We have now progressed to Plain Hunt and are hoping to crack Plain Bob Doubles soon.

With the easing of restrictions a few of the band members have been measuring the rope distances in the tower in the vain hope we could do some limited ringing however it is not to be for a while as the furthest we can be apart is just 1.5 meters. So instead we have started chiming a bell for 10 minutes before services on a Sunday being the 8am service held in Church and the 10 am service which remains on Facebook. This has resulted in lots

of grateful compliments from the locals who have missed the bells ringing and are so pleased there are signs of some normality again. Each band member will take it in turns to chime on a Sunday until such time as a few more of us can enter the ringing room together for some proper change ringing.

Also on Saturday 15th August the 2nd bell was chimed 75 times by Pete Mayle in remembrances of Victory in Japan Day. This coincided with the end of a small ceremony held at the cenotaph in the square in Llantwit Major.

On a personal note I have been ringing Dave's Saxilby Simulator Bell at our home making sure to complete at least a half hour session before each Sunday morning service – I have been so lucky to have the ability to ring a proper sally during this difficult time and keep up my ringing skills. Such a shame it could not be heard outside and that others cannot join me. I am sure Dave has been pleased although I can hear him tutting at my many mistakes !!

Hilary Evans

Merthyr Tydfil

Nothing to report really on Merthyr. Practices had become very intermittent before lockdown due to lack of numbers and availability . We did try to maintain Sunday service ringing once a month up to lockdown , but this is also in abeyance at present. I understand a Sunday service has now resumed, but the Church has not yet approached us to resume ringing there.

Andrew John

Penarth

During the lockdown Penarth ringers have had a zoom meeting on a Wednesday evening which is normal ringing practise, and again on a Sunday morning. These have been well attended and provided some social interaction. We are very grateful to David Greenaway for acting as a courier service on his bicycle.

A few of us have been meeting on Ringing Room each week. With a bit of double handling we've managed a few touches of Grandsire successfully and are getting much more proficient at online ringing (and at online technology!), but we are now looking at using Abel and Muster to fill in the missing ringers.

Recently Martin Batten and Chris Saunders had permission to visit the tower to check the bells and clean the ringing chamber and all was in good condition. The dense cobwebs on the staircase made it like something out of an Indiana Jones movie!

Everyone has been healthy and on Sunday 9th August we met up for coffee in David and Barbara Jacklin's garden. We all spread out and had a good chat. It was a real pleasure to see people in person.

The ringing on 15th August for VJ Day and the next day for the first service since

lockdown began went well with four ringers ringing a mixture of call changes and Stedman front work. The ringers all wore masks but found that their glasses got very steamed up so rang without spectacles David Greenaway recorded the VJ Day ringing and posted it online. There were a lot of very positive comments on Facebook with people saying how good it was to hear the bells again.

Anne Saunders

Radyr

We managed to ring for a wedding at Radyr on Saturday 1st August - the first ringing in 4½ months (other than a couple of brief practices a few days before). Fortunately, with 4 ringers in our family we were able to ring without worrying about social



The Gainsbury family at Radyr

distancing. Although we only rang 4 bells, we understand that the couple and guests enjoyed the ringing. Well done to Lily and Caitlin on some good ringing this afternoon!

Andrew Gainsbury

Sully

Sully church hasn't yet opened for services. Even when it does re-open it's going to be a problem ringing there with the ringing circle so close to the public as they enter, even if we're only ringing 3 bells.

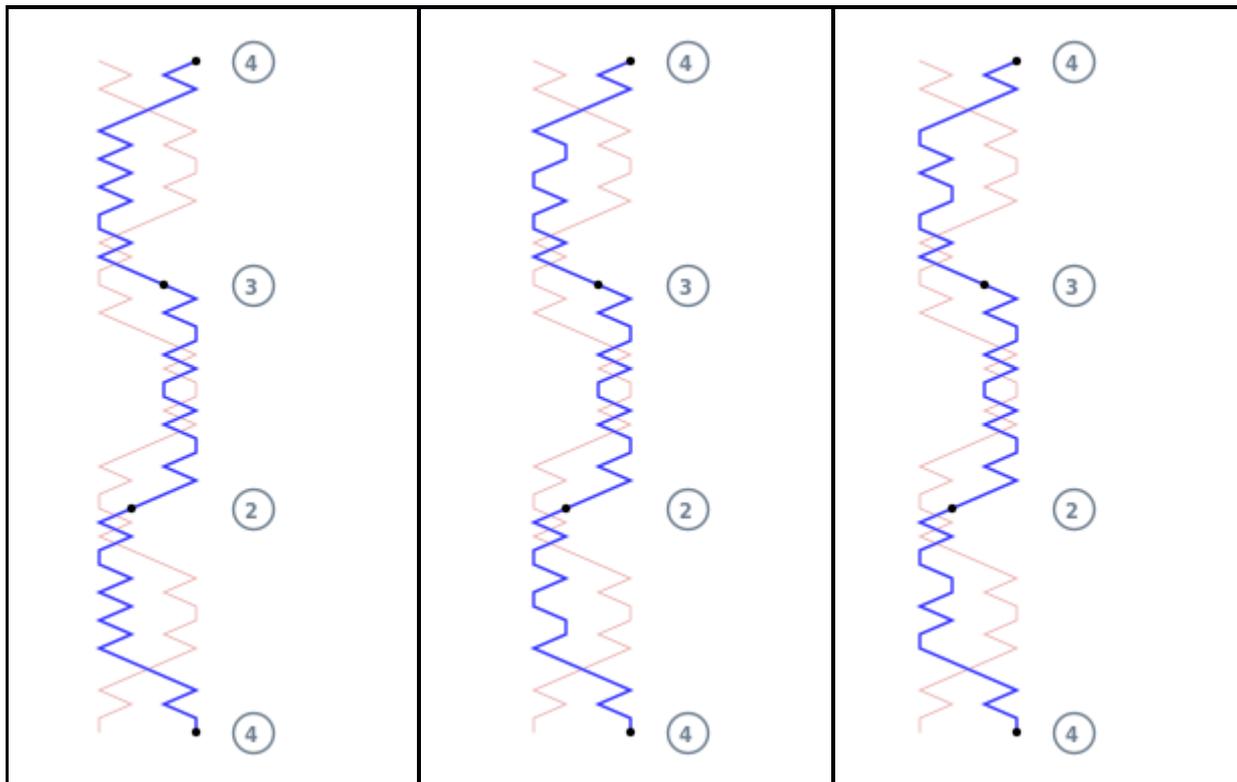
Julian Parker

FOR THOSE ABLE TO RING FOUR BELLS

Since lockdown there has been quite a lot of interest in four bell ringing, either on handbells or online in Ringing Room. Many new Treble Bob Minimus methods have been created and it was these that caught my eye as we come out of lockdown and start to go back to our towers. I know with social distancing that not every tower will be able to ring four bells but this is for those who can.

Treble Bob Minimus methods have 48 changes in the plain course and each of the possible 24 changes on four bells is repeated.

Here are three good ones to start with:-



Tulkinghorn

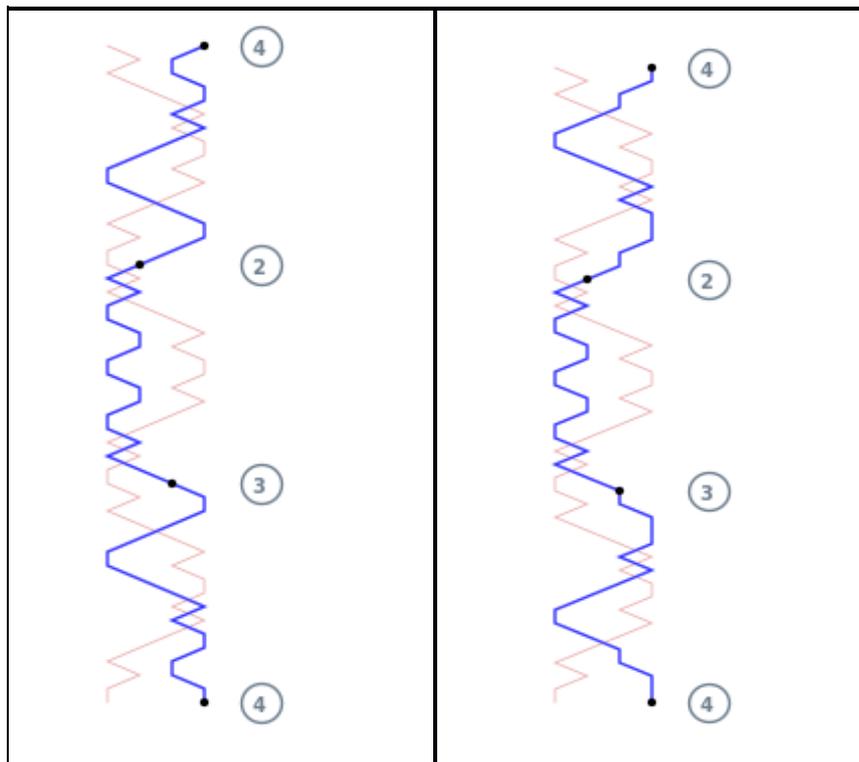
Biggetywitch

Havisham

Lovely Dickensian names aren't they!

Notice that the only difference is in the frontwork, like with St Clement's, Childwall and Buxton Bob Minor.

You can also ring Oxford and Kent:-



Oxford

Kent

There are 176 Treble Bob Minimus methods altogether so lots to try. You can even splice them!

Julian Parker

KRO

As it was not possible to arrange our normal Spring/Summer activities, we held 3 virtual practices in Ringing room during lockdown through July, which was enjoyed by all who joined in. Numbers for the last practice were rather depleted owing to the fine weather or family activities, so it was decided to suspend further practices until the autumn when there are possibly more people around .

Yvonne John

CLUES FROM AROUND THE BRANCH UK CITIES ANSWERS

Caerphilly

Q: Sounds like a capital overseas place to live (7)

A: LISBURN (sounds like 'Lisbon').

Cowbridge, Llanblethian and St. Hilary

Q: Half French sweet including direction plus digging implement minus both ends. (7,3,4)

A: BRIGHTON and HOVE

Q: Mixing had rum outcome. (6)

A: DURHAM (anag. had rum)

Llandaff

Q: A nice straight line?

A: TRURO (true row).

Llantwit Major

Q: City where the Pink Panther lives? (6)

A: Durham DURHAM

Q: All ship shape here (7)

A: BRISTOL

Q: Ring it quick (7)

A: BELFAST (bell fast)

Neath

Q: A "twin" seaside city with an Indian style former royal palace (8,3,4)

A: BRIGHTON and HOVE

Penarth and Sully

Q: Messed up Graham (6)

A: ARMAGH (anag. Graham)

Q: Eccentric crossing (9)

A: CAMBRIDGE (cam bridge)

Q: Former deal, origin unusual (6)

A: EXETER (former = EX and the origin of Deal is a TREE. Then it's an anagram)

Q: Old large apple (4)

A: YORK

Q: Grown-up boy, treasure and the Queen are united here (10)

A: MANCHESTER (man + chest + ER)

Q: A president, a car and a colour shade share my name (7)

A: LINCOLN

Q: Known for my tales and a popular ringing method which isn't really backwards (10)

A: CANTERBURY

Q: Sounds like we've finished, with Queen Elizabeth I's astrologer (6)

A: DUNDEE (sounds like 'done' + John DEE 1527 -1608)

Q: Turkish acid bird (4)

A: BATH

Q: The cathedral in this city was founded as a Monastery in 655AD at Medeswell. (12)

A: PETERBOROUGH

Q: Building the Cathedral in this city began in 1880, the first Anglican cathedral since Salisbury in 1220. (5)

A: TRURO

Pontypridd

Q: King Arthur might have dined here. (10)

A: :WINCHESTER (the round table is housed in the castle)

Radyr

Q: Which is the only city to feature in the list of 9 British railway stations with only 3 letters in their names.

A: ELY

St Brides

Q: Bath bun maker becomes capital academic.

A: LONDON (Sally) Lunn + Don - LONDON

St. John's, Cardiff

Q: One Cardiff hospital or ten in Pembrokeshire (2,6)

A: ST. DAVID'S

Q: Where to see Elgar's statue in this place by a river crossing (8)

A: HEREFORD

Whitchurch

Q: A hundred and an everyday story of country folk setting. (9)

A: CAMBRIDGE (C, roman numeral for 100 + Ambridge, Radio 4 serial)

CLUES FROM AROUND THE BRANCH USA STATES

If you know of anyone in your band who is not online and would like a copy of this quiz please let me know on 01 446 772726 or 07 773 729506 and I will sort out a printed copy for them.

F after the clue denotes a **FACTUAL** clue. All the rest are cryptic or word puzzles
N.B. Some clues share the same answer!

Caerphilly

1) Backward TV Channel in North America (6)

Peter Jones

Cowbridge, Llanblethian and St Hilary

2) Which State has the bell with the inscription 'We are the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire in North America.' in it? (13) F

Helen Barrie

Llandaff Cathedral

3) A recently purchased item of clothing (3, 6)

Meriel Gainsbury

Neath

4) This state's nickname is useful in Christmas cooking (11) F

5) This state and a Scottish city both share this nickname. (3,9) F

6) Home to the cops according to its nickname (12) F

Theresa Edmunds

Penarth and Sully

7) Express sorrow with a model name of a very small vehicle (6)

8) Agreement with French feminine definite article and sounds like Mr Simpson (8)

Barbara and David Jacklin

9) This State is in Oliver Montague's play (7)

Helen Kerbey

10) Mutts chase ass (anagram) (13)

11) The giant heads of 4 US presidents are carved on a mountain here (5,6) F

12) The capital of this state is famous as a centre for country music (9) F

- 13) First line of a song "Oh, what did -----, boy?" (8) F
- 14) Named to honour King Louis XIV of France (9) F
- 15) Purchased in the late 1860s for less than 2 cents per acre (6) F
- 16) Meaning "red coloured" (8) F
- 17) ----- Williams, American playwright (9) F

Julian Parker

Pontypridd

- 18) Big Al lived here (8) F
- 19) Known as The Prairie State (8) F

Cheryl Lavington

Radyr

- 20) Sing Jerusalem while making this old favourite, but God won't like it (10)

Andrew Gainsbury

St John's Cardiff

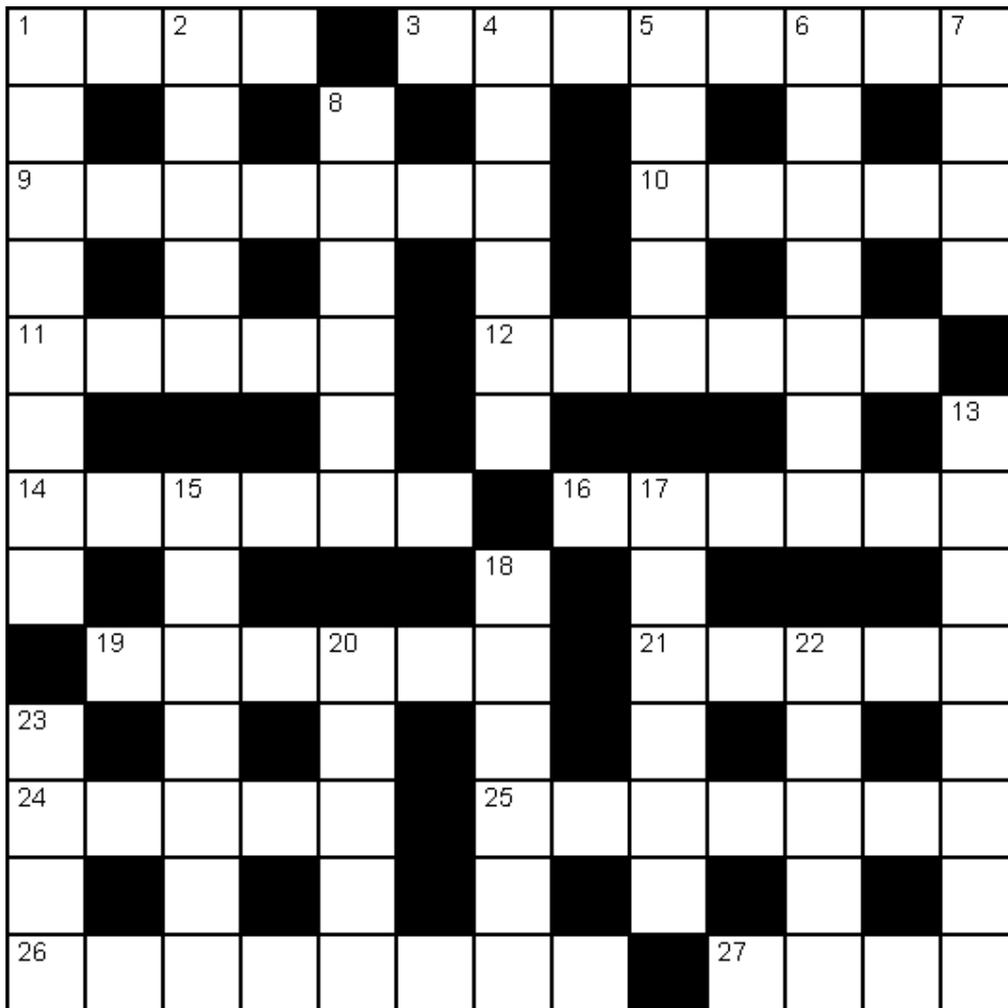
- 21) This beetle attacks potato plants (8) F
- 22) Cinema loses roof and collapses in New England (5)
- 23) Which state is the land purchased from the French in 1803 for \$15M (9) F
- 24) Augusta is its state capital (5) F
- 25) American red leads a party in the mid West (8)

Bob Hardy

- 1) This competition is **only** open to Llandaff Branch members but not Kiplings.
- 2) Entries must be received by 30th September 2020. Email (see page 2) or post. Telephone for my postal address using either number at the start of this quiz.
- 3) There is a £10 prize for the winner.
- 4) Those entries with 25 correct answers will be put in a hat and the winner drawn.
If no-one gets 25 correct answers. then the winner will be drawn from those with 24 correct and so on.
- 5) The draw will take place on 1st October 2020.
- 6) The winner will be notified by email or phone.

The name of the winner plus the answers will be printed in Look To No.150

Quickie Crossword



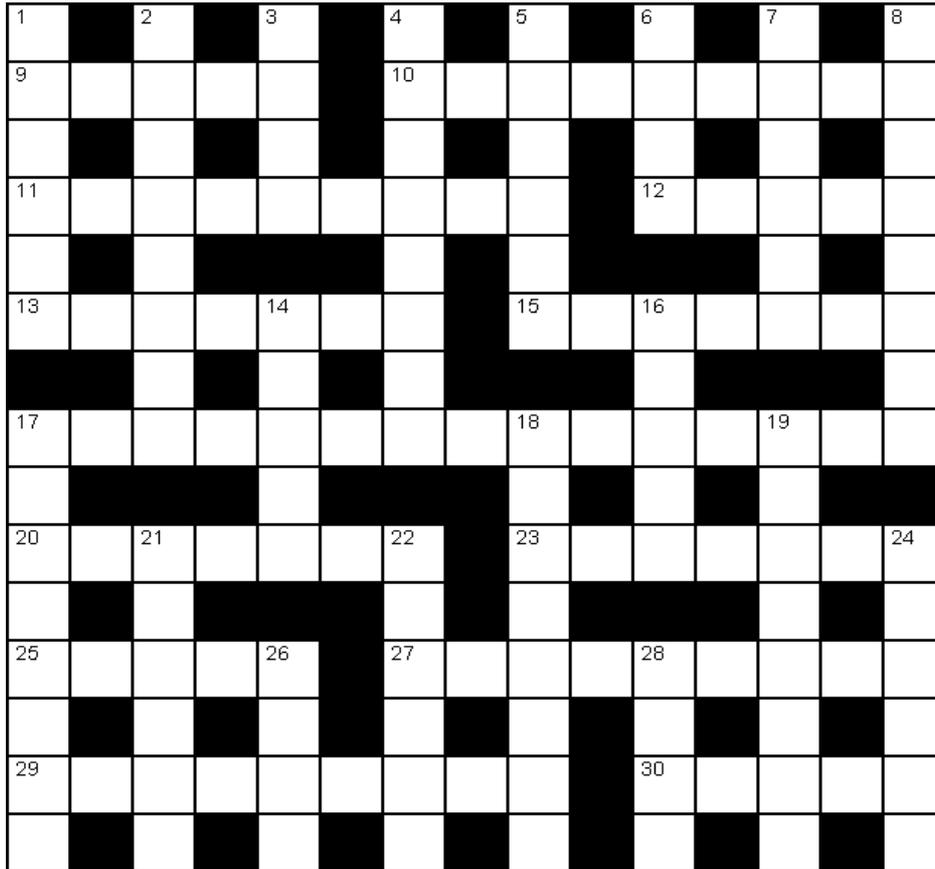
Across

- 1 Horned animal (4)
- 3 Forcefulness of expression (8)
- 9 Wonderful! (7)
- 10 Number of pints in a gallon (5)
- 11 Not dirty (5)
- 12 Less complicated (6)
- 14 Put up with (6)
- 16 Group of six players (6)
- 19 Beer container (6)
- 21 A vagrant (5)
- 24 Strongly encouraged (5)
- 25 Came out into view (7)
- 26 The most abundant element (8)
- 27 Refuse to accept (4)

Down

- 1 Parts of a tree (8)
- 2 Permitted absence from the office (5)
- 4 Attacked (6)
- 5 Takes notice of (5)
- 6 Part of a circle (7)
- 7 Where the building works are (4)
- 8 Main evening meal (6)
- 13 In an unintelligent manner (8)
- 15 Was tedious and boring (7)
- 17 One alternative (6)
- 18 Part of a garment (6)
- 20 Wireless (5)
- 22 Dispute (5)
- 23 Be in a hurry (4)

Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 9 Headdress of tantalum with fresh air centre (5)
- 10 Shell band provides small tinklers (9)
- 11 Desalted I became the most lethal (9)
- 12 Fishing tackle got held up in general war transport problems (5)
- 13 End badly after a time, which is longed for (7)
- 15 Pets I am using for my hobby (7)
- 17 Self-hypnotic proposals - "How about a Mini, or a Ford, or a Peugeot ... ?" (15)
- 20 One who makes detailed investigation is a historical recorder, we are told (7)
- 23 General call-back is hereditary (7)
- 25 To lift what's inside a bra is easy! (5)
- 27 Head off sacred cow I let loose with lack of courage! (9)
- 29 Clan said to have gooly trouble - study them rubbing together! (9)
- 30 Worrying theory, unfinished, is the alternative (5)

Down

- 1 See 3

- 2 Many at a right performance - a torrent in fact (8)
- 3/1 Describe 24 hours as sufficient (4,6)
- 4 Animal is an awful speed hog (8)
- 5 Part of the foot which conforms (6)
- 6 Off-beat help (4)
- 7 Base extract of chalk, a limestone product (6)
- 8 After thought, changes church song books (8)
- 14 Extremely necessary to keep a good man in - how unpleasant (5)
- 16 Took the weight off one's feet with fashionable material (5)
- 17 A remarkable clarity of enthusiasm (8)
- 18 Gay Swede goes laterally! (8)
- 19 Without delay not worth considering correct (8)
- 21 Like lemons or vinegar from a Channel Islands medical centre (6)
- 22 Tory with no alternative company and no backing becomes a great businessman (6)
- 24 When confused, her cry becomes "Fruit!" (6)
- 26 Consumed noisily at school (4)
- 28 Top of house is constructed for nothing (4)

200 CLUB WINNERS

Editor: No report received.

COUCH TO 5K - LOCKDOWN HANDBELLS UPDATE

It is now just over 3 months since I wrote the first article detailing our experiences of attempting to ring handbells as a family during this period of lockdown, so this is a brief update on our progress. Couch to 5K has been our shorthand for attempting to work through a structured progression for our handbell ringing, taking our inspiration from the NHS running programme of the same name.

At the end of the last article we had just completed Adam's first quarter peal in hand which was Stage 7, having worked our way up to it through the previous stages. This spurred Catherine on and she rang a course of Bob Minor on the trebles the next day. Not long after this we took delivery of a copy of Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay's new book "Change-Ringing on Handbells" and found it very helpful in thinking about our progression. We would certainly recommend this book to other handbell bands and there are a plethora of videos available on YouTube from the Association of Ringing Teachers and others that are helpful. We consolidated Stage 7 with a further quarter of Plain Bob Minor to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Around this time it was great to see other family bands score their first quarter peals. On Jersey, the Read family, scored quarter peals of Bob Minor involving all members of the family on 10 May. The Sonning Common handbell band featuring members of the Ellis family scored a quarter of Bob Minor on 12 May. They have since gone on to score several quarters of Bob Major featuring the full house of all four family members, including 9-year old Dominic - a great achievement.

In terms of our own family, I think it's fair to say that interest in handbells has waxed and waned throughout the period. What we have found is that our time for practice has been compressed due to home working and home-schooling and also all of the other activities that we're involved with, such as choir, bands, dance and music lessons, restarting online. Nevertheless, we have tried to keep persevering although our progress has been a bit slower than previously. The South Wales handbell ringers have also started meeting online twice a week utilising Handbell Stadium and Ringing Room, the first distributed quarter being scored on 14 May.

Having scored a couple of quarters on 5-6, the next steps saw Adam take hold of 3-4 and progress through successively longer lengths until we scored Stage 8, a quarter of Bob Minor on 28 May. It was good to ring this quarter in memory of Christine Lucas on the day of her funeral. Christine had rung at Rumney with us in her later years and Debbie had also sung with her in the Rumney choir.

Having done this, the question then arose as to where do we go next? Catherine had mostly lost interest by this point so that ruled out progressing to 8-bell ringing. Richard Herrissier of Jersey had sent through some notes which suggested a progression in a number of stages working towards Oxford Treble Bob. We took advice from this and also from Tina and Simon's book and launched ourselves into St Clement's.

Stages 9 and 10 were various increasing lengths to build confidence before we attempted and scored Stage 11 - a quarter of St Clement's. This was Adam's first quarter in the method. We agreed that St Clement's is a great method for handbells as it introduces a number of useful concepts in terms of method structure and is a good progression from Plain Bob. Soon after this, and following some more work with the squared paper and coloured pens, we scored Stage 12 - a plain course of Oxford Treble Bob.

Whilst the project has been loosely titled "Couch to 5k", the focus has been around building a broad competence through a structured progression rather than necessarily ringing a 5040. Having said that, it remains a personal ambition to ring a peal. I just need to persuade the other family members of the benefits of this and at present I'm struggling somewhat! My birthday on 28 June was a good opportunity to extend our range and, after some intense negotiations, we agreed upon and scored a half-peal of Plain Bob Minor. We discovered that a half-peal is quite a nice length to ring comfortably and would recommend it to other bands. The half-peal became Stage 13 and had the added bonus of lending itself to a Bon Jovi quote in the footnote.

Since then, we've been consolidating our St Clement's and rang two quarters of mixed minor (720 Plain Bob and 540 St Clement's) before Peter Bennett encouraged us to go for a quarter of spliced and provided a suitable composition. We duly scored this quarter of spliced on 28 July, which was Adam's first ever quarter of spliced.

So that's where we've got to so far. As before, it has been enormously rewarding and we've enjoyed our handbell ringing.

Matthew Turner

Our favourite ring of 8 - all due to our ringing predecessors.

The Association Facebook Group has been used extensively during the lockdown period with members sharing old photos, updates from the Central Council and a variety of "guess the tower"-type competitions. Inspired by similar competitions on the national Bellringers Facebook Group regarding rings of 10 and 12, I ran a competition to determine our favourite ring of eight. The term "favourite" was deliberately used to bring an element of subjectivity to the proceedings, recognising that a range of elements contribute to how we view a ring of bells - e.g. the bells themselves, comfort of the ringing room, ease of parking, proximity to good pub etc..

Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

There were no prizes to be won; the main aim being to stimulate some good-natured discussion.

In order to shape the competition, using organiser's privilege I selected eight Llandaff Branch and eight Monmouth Branch rings of eight. Following a draw and series of knockout polls, Ebbw Vale were adjudged to be our favourite ring of eight.

After the competition, I was reflecting on how lucky we are to have such a plethora of good rings of eight in the area. The 16 towers that made it into the competition were:

Aberavon - cast 1893 by Taylor's Bassaleg - cast 1901 by Warners retuned 1964 by Taylor's

Caerphilly - cast 1910 by Taylor's Blaenavon - cast 1948 by Taylor's

Cowbridge - cast 1722 by Evans of Chepstow and retuned 1935 by Taylor's
Caerleon - cast 1953 by Taylor's

Merthyr Tydfil - cast 1893 by Taylor's Caldicot - cast by a variety of founders but retuned by Gillett and Johnston in 1913

Penarth - cast 1935 by Taylor's Ebbw Vale - cast by Taylor's in 1937

Pentre - cast 1889 by Taylor's Llantilio Crossenny - cast by Whitechapel in 1977

Pontypridd - cast 1913 by Taylor's Monmouth - cast in 1706 by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester and retuned by Whitechapel in 1982

Radyr - cast 1910 by Taylor's Usk - cast by Taylor's in 1925

What is immediately obvious from this list is, firstly, what a great collection of bells there are here (and there were several other towers that didn't make this list that could feel a bit hard done by). Secondly, it is noticeable how many were cast by or had major work done by Taylor's of Loughborough. Lastly, many of the rings here were cast at the end of nineteenth and into the first few decades of the twentieth century.

This all got me thinking about why this should be so. There were a number of factors that coincided to allow the installation of such a large number of rings of bells around this period. Firstly, the coal industry was still very profitable and there was a good supply of wealthy benefactors to call upon to fund bell-related projects. Secondly, there was a boom in church building in South Wales during the Victorian period with many new churches being built to serve new communities, or existing churches being expanded to serve their rapidly growing communities.

The final factor was undoubtedly the enthusiasm and energy of the Association at that time and, in particular, that of the Secretary - John W Jones. By way of illustration, David Llewellyn kindly provided me with extracts of all the references to ringing in South Wales from the Ringing World of 1911 and some of the highlights include:

14 March - dedication of the new tower and bells at Caerphilly - "The bells, a ring of eight (tenor 13 cwt). are by Messrs John Taylor & Sons, Loughborough, and are a beautifully sweet toned ring, reflecting the highest credit on the founders."

Easter Monday - first meeting of the Association to be held at Radyr.

19 May 1911 - note of the proposed restoration of the bells at Lower Machen - "After being silent for many years, the bells of Machen Church, near Newport, Mon., are to be taken in hand for restoration. There is a peal of six in the tower, and several months ago it was decided to rehang them. Just as the work was about to be commenced the honorary secretary of the Llandaff Diocesan Association (Mr. J. W. Jones) intervened and suggested that it should be deferred so that a special effort might be made to complete the octave. This, as reported in a previous issue, it has now been decided, shall be done, and a treble and tenor are to be added, the contract having been secured by Messrs. Llewellyns and James, of Bristol."

[Note - this intervention by J W Jones to persuade the local authorities to have an 8-bell ring is a common feature of this period.]

28 July - Association meeting held at Caerleon. In the report of the meeting it is noted that "through the persistent efforts of the Association, the authorities at Radyr have seen their way to have the ropes lowered to the proper ringing chamber, instead of the ringing having to be done on the floor immediately under the bells. The tower is now an ideal place for peal ringing."

4 August - Dedication of the new ring of bells at Llanbradach. "The bells are by Messrs John Taylor and Co ., who are entitled to congratulations upon the excellent work put into this ring, the tone and "go" being perfect."

[Note - the bells at Llanbradach were transferred to Kingstone, Herefordshire after the church at Llanbradach was closed and demolished in the 1980s. They are a lovely ring of bells and would probably have featured in the "favourite ring" competition if they were still within the Association's area.]

20 October 1911 - Association meeting held at Aberdare. The report notes that "the Hon. Secretary explained that he had carried out his instruction in reference to St. Fagan's Church bells. He read the correspondence with the Earl of Plymouth, who had promised to inquire into the matter as regards the rehousing, and hoped the matter would soon be put right."

[Note - this never happened and the bells at St Fagan's were scrapped in 1986. The second survives as the service bell in the Pritchard Tower at Llandaff Cathedral.]

22 December 1911 - dedication of the restored and augmented bells at Lower Machen.

Coincidentally, the Ringing World printed a mini-biography of J W Jones in the issue dated 22 September 1911. In the article it states that he was born in Tidenham, Gloucestershire on 5 December 1865 but moved to Caerleon two years later. He learnt to ring at Caerleon in 1888, taught by Evan Davies who became the first Master of the Association. The article records his various peal ringing achievements, his involvement with All Saint's Newport and also notes that "Teaching new bands is, indeed, a pet hobby with Mr. Jones. He has voluntarily given his services as instructor at a great many towers in his district during the past twelve or fifteen years, and at the present time has two new bands in hand at Caerphilly and Llanbradach. Moreover, Mr. Jones is always on the alert to secure the rehangings, where necessary, and the augmentation of bells, and several eight-bell towers in the Llandaff Diocese owe the possession of the two trebles to his energy and persuasion. Mr. Jones possesses several presents, which he much cherishes, from towers where he has taught, and which have been given him to mark the ringers' appreciation and thanks."

John Jones died on 21 April 1956 at the age of 90. His obituary in the Ringing World records that:

"During his 46 years as secretary of the Association he carried out his duties with vigour and enthusiasm, and many towers in the district can thank him for their early instruction; he must have travelled many hundreds of miles in doing this service. For many years he was a member of the Central Council and was at the time of his resignation the oldest member. A friendly man, he was loved by all who came in contact with him. Mr. Jones was a great traveller and visited most parts of Great Britain, ringing in nearly 700 towers. He rang over 500 peals, mostly in the standard methods. As a boy he joined the Great Western Railway at Newport, and was a storekeeper in the engineering department at Newport. In his younger days he was a very good cricketer and played for Monmouthshire in the Minor Counties Championship. For many years he saw every England-Australia test match in this country."

We owe much to our ringing predecessors, and John W Jones in particular, who worked tirelessly to leave us with so many wonderful rings of bells in South Wales.
Matthew Turner

Crossword answers below

Quickie Answers

Across: 1 Bull, 3 Emphasis, 9 Amazing, 10 Eight, 11 Clean, 12 Easier, 14 Endure, 16 Sextet, 19 Barrel, 21 Tramp, 24 Urged, 25 Emerged, 26 Hydrogen, 27 Deny.

Down: 1 Branches, 2 Leave, 4 Mugged, 5 Heeds, 6 Segment, 7 Site, 8 Dinner, 13 Stupidly, 15 Dragged, 17 Either, 18 Sleeve, 20 Radio, 22 Argue, 23 Rush.

Cryptic Answers

Across: 9 Tiara, 10 Handbells, 11 Deadliest, 12 Trawl, 13 Yearned, 15 Pastime, 17 Autosuggestions, 20 Analyst, 23 Genetic, 25 Raise, 27 Cowardice, 29 Tribology, 30 Other.

Down: 2 Cataract, 3/1 Call it a day, 4 Sheepdog, 5 Instep, 6 Abet, 7 Alkali, 8 Psalters, 14 Nasty, 16 Satin, 17 Alacrity, 18 Edgeways, 19 Outright, 21 Acidic, 22 Tycoon, 24 Cherry, 26 Eton, 28 Roof.

DIARY

Sunday 6th September 2020 at 4:00pm. "Practice event" to connect to zoom

Saturday 12th September 4:00p.m. AGM via zoom.

The Diary has been largely cleared due to Covid 19 restrictions.

For news of any change to the above and other information, please sign up to the Association Mailing Lists at:

[https:// www.llanmon.org.uk/ mailing-lists](https://www.llanmon.org.uk/ mailing-lists)

There is also a very active Association Facebook Group available at:

<https:// www.facebook.com/ groups/LlanMonDACBR/>

-oOo-