

Guild Secretary's Report for the 2024 AGM at Calstock

Another eventful year!

At the core of my ringing belief is that we must make opportunity for development.

To this end I have continued to provide opportunities for guild members to ring on higher numbers at Truro Cathedral. We had a record-breaking attendance at one of the guild 12 bell practices at which 53 ringers were in attendance!

The South West Regional 12 bell contest is a friendly competition that enables focused practicing opportunities around striking a specified method touch, usually involving 11 bells in method with a tenor behind for maintaining good rhythm. This year will be the third year that a band will enter from Cornwall. It's being held at Withycombe Reighleigh and the competition touch is 264 changes of Grandsire Cinques. Not only do I love the sound of 12 bells, but my desire is to enable development of ringing on 12 bells to all ringers in Cornwall, this isn't about having the best 12 bell ringers in the team, but it's about developing 12 bell ringing in Cornwall.

As part of my Central Council Representative role within the guild, I am enabling the creation of a Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) South West Residential Course. I'm heading up a small team, which will grow over the next year. We have identified a suitable venue at Millfield School, Somerset and have earmarked October half term in 2025 as the first time this course will run. I'm going to need help from willing volunteer helpers and I hope the TDGR will support its members if any would like to come along for a 'ringing learning and development holiday' when the time comes for applications to open.

I now find myself feeling very pleased with how other guild officers are progressing in their roles rapidly and providing ever increasing opportunity for our guild members.

The guild has had Jemma Hoare as acting Education Officer since September 2023 and I know it was a big decision in terms of the commitment, but the passion and determination she has shown and put into the role is just inspirational. I was one of the helpers on the first steps into plain hunt workshop that Jemma ran at Stithians, and I was blown away by how well planned and thorough both the theory and practical sessions were and the

progress that each of the students made. The guild hasn't seen such dynamism in years, and I'll continue to support Jemma's efforts in every way I can. Jemma cares about getting to know what ringers in the TDGR need from their Education Officer and although most of the responses are for progression onto plain hunting, she is passionate about promoting excellent call change ringing and keeping that tradition alive within Cornwall. To this end Jemma is heading up the guild entry into the National Call Change competition on 6 bells, which has opened up the opportunity for ringing to be practiced in this style outside of the usual pockets in which it is found. I hope that Cornwall will be forevermore represented on the national stage for its distinctive call change ringing.

I am so happy that Claire Below has been able to take a proposal to enter a team in this year's Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) to the Standing Committee, the committee approved bursaries and full support was given. This year the RWNYC is in London, we've already held two youth practices and the youngsters are really developing their ringing and confidence.

As I start my final year as guild secretary, I'll be working as ever, closely with the President to enable opportunities that bridge the current gap from ringing the basics at your own tower practice night to being invited to ring with the best call change, quarter peal or peal bands at home or nationally. Better supported district practices and other developmental opportunities need to be created and supported by ringers with more experience in order to provide the all-important opportunities for quality practicing and real development at home within Cornwall.

Anyone who feels they would be interested in taking on the post of Secretary of the TDGR and would like to find out a little more, please come and chat to me, pick up the phone, text or email me. I'll be happy to tell you what a fantastic role it is, and pivotal for making a difference for Cornish ringers. At the end of the day, opportunities are just that, but it's what you make from them that really counts – this could be your next opportunity!

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