

President's End of Year report to the 2026 AGM

Many things have happened in my final year as Guild President. The Presidential role is not an easy one but with a determined spirit it is amazing what can be achieved with some delegation and teamwork. My time as President has been very enjoyable although there have been some difficult decisions to be made, but as the saying goes, that comes with the territory.

On a personal note, one of the things I wanted to achieve during my tenure was to reinstate the written Guild Handbook. Malcolm Day has duly taken on this task and I am pleased that he has agreed to continue doing so in the future. There is also a new Guild mug available to buy and the 2025 version of the Tea Towel went down well!

It was another busy year on the Guild front. Many towers rang for both the anniversary of VE Day and later VJ Day. The new Bishop of Truro, David Williams, was inaugurated at the Cathedral in May. 14 year old Sennen Holden rang "Solomon" at St. Buryan to a Quarter Peal at first attempt. Landhydrock appeared on the front cover of the Ringing World and our own Robert Perry was awarded a certificate for 50 years as a member of the ASCY.

Sue McClaughry and I delivered a Guild Bell Maintenance Course on Easter Saturday at St. Erme and Ladock and I was invited to deliver a Call Change Striking Workshop prior to the Western District AGM.

I hope most of you have read my monthly Blogs – I try my best to keep up with the things going on with the wider membership as a whole.

Sadly during the last 12 months we have lost some of our stalwart ringers throughout Cornwall. Personally known to me were Tony Jope of Pillaton, Terry Darke of Landulph and Pam Tamblin of Botus Fleming/Lansallos. Although Pam was not a Guild member she was secretary of the East Cornwall Association for many years.

On a brighter note, there have been several "firsts" in ringing – great. One of note was the first peal on the rehung bells at Lanteglos-by-Camelford in memory of Ruth Reeves.

Doug Petipher, former Tower Captain at Calstock, celebrated his 100th birthday on Monday 26th January and to mark this in the evening we rang a successful Quarter Peal at St. Andrew's rung by members who had often rung with Doug over the years.

Following Jo's departure, Hayley Young became the acting Safeguarding Officer and I am able to tell you that the Standing Committee has appointed Carolyn Horrell as Hayley's replacement. Sincere thanks Hayley for all your work in this important role.

Many rings of bells have required works carried out with more to come. In June St. Dennis were rehung to their former glory and also that month Ladock bells were stripped down. In December the recast middle 4 bells plus the two Trebles and Tenors were returned and rehung in a new cast iron frame lower in the tower. These are the first bells in the County to be recast since the cracked 7th at Lanivet in 2018. Also worth a mention is that the single ringable bell at St Elwyn's, Hayle has been rehung on ball bearings and will be rung regularly for Services.

The Youth Team, our Cornish Pasties, have been practicing throughout the year and travelled up to Birmingham for a competition and a chance to ring some fine and interesting bells. I was delighted that the Guild felt able to support this trip. Clare Below has decided to

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stand down and so I would personally like to thank her for all the time and effort she has devoted to the team, and for encouraging our ringers of the future. I also thank the group of helpers because without them the practices and trips would not happen.

All in all I have tried to visit as many towers and Districts as possible – my work permitting!

This year I have been able to attend all of the District AGM's and meet their respective members. There have been changes in some District roles but I am pleased to say that most vacancies have been filled. Thanks to all those towers who welcomed me during the past year and I look forward to seeing many of you again in the future.

I must also mention, and thank, the Guild Officers who give up their time to keep us all going and fill these important and necessary voluntary roles.

Finally, I must mention Bob who joined me at the top table following his election as Secretary last year. Bob has taken to it with ease and is now fully integrated into the role. Our bi-monthly catch ups have been great and we have had some good laughs along the way, including him coming to me before a Standing Committee meeting saying the clapper had broken in the Guild Bell!

And my final two words – keep ringing!

Oll an gwella!

Owen J Borlase – Guild President