

## TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT 2015-16

I am pleased to report that the year's training programme has been well supported and has enabled a good number of Guild members to make progress.

We started in August with a surprise minor day at St Mary's, Swansea and Sketty. Methods rung included Cambridge, Beverley, Norwich and London. All students increased in skill and confidence and one has since rung his first quarter of surprise minor (Cambridge).

The doubles day at Llanelli and Llanbedr in October drew the largest number of ringers (15) with touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire, St Martin's, St Simon's and St Osmund on the menu. Again significant progress was made all round. One feature of this day was an anticipated problem which turned out to be an advantage. Both ringing rooms were quite small and did not have enough room for everyone to observe the ringing. Using the church for coffee and informal chats on ringing theory and practice, while some of the group were ringing, was very helpful and it was particularly good to see the students with a little more experience explaining things to others.

A last minute problem with the simulator at Brecon meant that modifications had to be made to the plans for the ringing skills part of the day so we concentrated on listening skills for that session. Listening to ringing analytically was a novelty to most but they coped very well with the graded listening exercises.

The ringing up and down in peal session at Llanfeugan concentrated on developing accuracy while raising and lowering on a small number of bells - mainly three and four. It was an energetic session for the helpers!

The last training day of this year's programme is still to come on 16th July . It will be a triples and major day at Glasbury and Clifford designed for those wanting to progress beyond 6 bell ringing and shared with the Clifford and Kington branch of the Hereford Guild. Several students have already signed up but a few more helpers would still be welcome.

A very welcome innovation in the past year has been the introduction by David Childs of a monthly 8-bell practice on Saturday mornings at Llanfeugan. Although not formally part of the training programme there is a strong training aspect to this practice and an improvement in 8-bell ringing is already evident.

Next year's programme is still being arranged so, if there is something you wish to do, it's not too late to say.

Finally can I as usual congratulate all the students on their success and the helpers for their skill and their cheerful willingness to help and incumbents and tower captains for the use of their bells .

Kath Johnson  
Guild Training Officer