



QUIZ. St Mary's Pembroke Bell Restoration

- annebunker20@gmail.com 07977541520

1. Ringers from the St Davids Diocesan Guild of Bellringers have provided many hours of volunteer labour. Which tower has contributed the highest number of hours so far?

[Nevern](#), [Pembroke](#), [Haverfordwest](#), [St Davids Cathedral](#)

Haverfordwest. That's because both Haverfordwest Tower Captain Steve McGrath and Deputy Tower Captain Jo Boulton worked almost every day that work took place. Bellringers from other towers, especially Pembroke, St Davids and Nevern, have also helped a lot. Peter Hayward (St Davids) has also contributed many hours of time to designing the bell frame, advising and supervising work, but the questions asks about hours of labour. If you were to count the church minding as labour you could argue that Pembroke contributed equal or more hours!

2. What was the longest journey (one way) that a bellringer made to help out?

[25 miles](#), [50 miles](#), [75 miles](#), [100 miles](#)

75 miles. Andrew Lingard, who learnt to ring at Pembroke, travelled from Porthcawl to help and will be doing so again in September.

Anyone who put more than 100 miles also gets a point because Simon Gordon travelled from California, although it could be argued that he was in Tenby to see his mother and he didn't travel from California just to help with the bell restoration work.

3. Who has swept the tower's spiral stairs the most times in a week? (unless someone in the past did a lot of sweeping we don't know about!)

[Bellringer Anne Bunker](#), [Vicar Heidi](#), [Church warden Ann](#), [Bellringer Jo Boulton](#)

Jo Boulton. The 90 steps of the spiral staircase have been swept a lot of times during the work. Lots of debris including small stones end up on the stairs when so much material is being moved about and this can cause a trip or slip on the narrow stairs. Jo swept them every day that work took place to keep it safe. Sadly for us, Jo is moving and won't be able to help in September.

4. Whose shoelaces have been undone the most often while working in the tower?

[Peter Hayward](#), [Steve McGrath](#), [Tom Blyth](#), [Steel man Carl](#)

Peter's! I think they were undone at least once every day. Jane says she has tried to teach him to do his laces up.

5. Which of the bells was found to have a broken cannon when the headstock was removed?

(Cannons = loops cast onto the top of older bells when they were made, through which metal straps are passed, attaching the bell to the headstock).

[Treble](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [tenor](#)

The second. This is the bell that is out of tune with the others. It had a crooked wooden headstock over the broken cannon. It was very odd to ring, with a small handstroke. We are going to keep the bell as a teaching bell. It has had a new headstock made and will be much easier to handle than before (as will all the bells!).

6. What kind of machine was used to unload the large steel beams from the delivery lorry on to Pembroke Main Street?

[Tractor](#), [manitou](#), [combine harvester](#), [forklift](#)

A manitou, skillfully operated by local farmer Walter Simon. The beams were lifted off the lorry onto the pavement in front of Rowlies fish & chip shop, placed on a trolley and wheeled to the front gate. Ramps were built (thanks to Scotts for loan of the scaffold planks) and the beams were pushed into the church.

7. Who has given us a long-term loan of a scaffold tower?

Nick Negus, Pembroke Town Council, Scott (builders)

Nick Negus, member of the St Davids Guild of Bellringers, brought it to the church from his farm. This has saved us a lot of time as we could leave it in the tower, and a lot of money in hire charges.

8. What had to be removed from below the bell hatch before the bells were taken out?

A piano, a 17thC font, diapason organ pipes, the church safe

The organ pipes. The organ can still be played but not with less range of notes. How daft of the Victorians to build the organ pipes up under the bell hatch! Organ tuner and repairer Michael Grange helped us take them out and will help us put them back when the bells are back.

9. On which side of the tower had the beams supporting the bells rusted completely through?

north, south, west, east

South. The beams were aligned north-south. It's the south-west aspect that gets most of the driving rains and salt.

10. Which of the following things has not yet been donated?

Lemon drizzle cake, steel, wood, fish and chips, yellow buckets, bell wheel, 3 section extension ladder, tea.

The ladder is the only thing on the list not yet donated, as you will know if you have read the June update. Thank you everyone for the other donations, they are all much appreciated. The ladder cost £175 if you would like to donate it now!

Tiebreaker question:

What are you most looking forward to about the bells returning to Pembroke?

Some of the lovely answers:

- Welsh cakes made by Dilys.
- Bohemian Rhapsody rung from Pembroke tower (a couple of notes anyway!).
- Being all back together.
- To be a part of and to hear a new chapter in Pembroke town's soundscape and milestone in its rich history spanning George III to Charles III.
- They have got to be better than the old ones! (sorry Anne).
- Regular practice night.
- Hearing the bells ring for Pembroke Castle's Christmas Market.
- Getting back into Sunday morning ringing (and having the best bells in the guild!).
- A ringable second bell.

Two people got 8 correct answers so the tie breaker question was needed. At the Guild practice on Saturday 9th August, members were asked to vote for one of the two answers highlighted above.

Dilys's Welsh cakes came top, so Jo, ringer from Haverfordwest was the winner. Mike, ringer from Pembroke was runner up. Well done Jo and Mike.

Jo generously donated her winnings to the Bell Fund. The quiz has therefore generated £34 for the Bell Fund.

<https://pembrokebellrestoration.wales/>

Sign up for updates via our website