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Subject: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Robin](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 01:42:18 GMT  
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<http://robinmckinleysblog.com/2012/02/09/there-is-hope-continued/>

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Fiona](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 02:29:40 GMT  
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Fiona would LOVE to be able to relocate and open a yarn store (or preferably a combined yarn, book and music store with attached tearoom and chocolate counter ;) ) but there are a few fairly insurmountable obstacles to this plan!

If I was a little bit nearer I'd gladly offer to pop over and sit in the corner and be a good luck charm on a regular basis ;)

Glad things seem to be going not too badly at Forza - just remember the leopard repellent for next time.....

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [cicatricella](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 03:19:29 GMT  
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c'mon it is the jubilee! that's kinda sorta a big deal. I mean, I have mixed feelings on the monarchy, but the queen's been at it for a helluva long time, and she's pretty good at it. Whatever the heck 'it' is. So fair play to her; I don't begrudge her a glass of cheap bubbly on an important anniversary. & they're not making nearly as much of a Big Deal about it as they used to do with say, Victoria.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [blondviolinist](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 03:58:37 GMT  
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Quote:But I grasped my rope and clenched my teeth . . . and the Grandsire was not a total drooling fozzle. I had to be fetched out of a hole twice, I think, by the Scary Man shouting in my ear, but I managed to see quite a bit of what I was doing. There is hope. THERE IS.

Yaayyy!!! Good for you.

(Re. leopard repellent: how on earth are you supposed to use it with both hands on your bell rope?)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [EMoon](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 04:51:56 GMT  
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Leopard repellent goes on your shoes; then your hands are free for the bell rope. (And the leopard, trying to track you, goes "Eeeuw!!!" and turns away after something easier.)

Tonight was my second choir rehearsal after the long break to finish the revisions. We had to sight-read Svengali's music. Svengali not only runs the music program, and teaches voice, but composes. Much as I worship the ground Svengali walks on, I am not overwhelmed with glee about his music, and tonight the piece in question gave the worst line to the altos. Counter-intuitive and completely unmelodic. The basses got a nice line. The tenors got a nice line. The sopranos got the melody, and we got something that jumps around like a toad on drugs, no reason for any particular leap in no particular direction. But we learned it, and we sang it, and I still (singing it correctly) hate it.

Next week, a voice lesson again.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [blondviolinist](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 04:57:06 GMT  
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Ah, that explains it!

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 05:51:45 GMT  
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Chaos, who, as we know, has no attention span and after four and a half years of wearing a harness instead of a collar, cannot reliably remember to pick both front feet up to have it put on, remembers EVERY TREE he has ever chased a squirrel into.

This lets you know what is important to the dog brain. Or at least to Chaos's brain.

Neither of my hellhounds is prompt about the bodily-functions business.

They are not alone in this, believe me. Teddy takes more time to find Just The Right Spot than any dog I've ever had to wait for, and that's saying a lot. If it's very cold he just looks really unhappy while the hunt for the perfect place goes on and on. Aaargh.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 05:57:32 GMT  
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I had to stop by my local yarn store on my way to dog training this (very cold) evening. There were no customers when I got there, and the owner was sitting by her nice gas fireplace knitting away on some project. It was very cozy and inviting, even without a tearoom and chocolate counter! :)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [CathyR](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 07:38:09 GMT  
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But it's rounds in a GIGANTIC room and I feel bizarrely vulnerable as if there are leopards in the shadows. I feel all sort of wavery and reed-like, out in the middle of the floor like that

Oh gosh, I know that feeling exactly (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, huge industrial ringing chamber, 12 bells, heavy - and having to stand on a doughnut-like 3ft raised platform to ring!!!). Total nervous breakdown, looking into the abyss. There is a photo of Frank and I, both Cathedral novices, both terrified, ringing rounds on adjacent bells. My hands are down at the bottom of my backstroke, Frank's hands are above his head! Rounds!!?! Ha!! :)

But hey, most importantly - well done on the Grandsire!!

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [b\\_twin\\_1](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 08:59:00 GMT

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Diane in MN wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 00:51

Neither of my hellhounds is prompt about the bodily-functions business.

They are not alone in this, believe me. Teddy takes more time to find Just The Right Spot than any dog I've ever had to wait for, and that's saying a lot. If it's very cold he just looks really unhappy while the hunt for the perfect place goes on and on. Aaargh.

Yes.

The only time I can be pretty certain things will ... work quickly... is when they've just had a swim. Not going to help with Hellhounds though... :(

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued

Posted by [b\\_twin\\_1](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 09:03:51 GMT

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CathyR wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 02:38But it's rounds in a GIGANTIC room and I feel bizarrely vulnerable as if there are leopards in the shadows. I feel all sort of wavery and reed-like, out in the middle of the floor like that

Oh gosh, I know that feeling exactly (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, huge industrial ringing chamber, 12 bells, heavy - and having to stand on a doughnut-like 3ft raised platform to ring!!!). Total nervous breakdown, looking into the abyss. There is a photo of Frank and I, both Cathedral novices, both terrified, ringing rounds on adjacent bells. My hands are down at the bottom of my backstroke, Frank's hands are above his head! Rounds!!?! Ha!! :)

But hey, most importantly - well done on the Grandsire!!

Grandsire is very important. :) A 'Well Done' is definitely in order!! :)

And I think that description of being in the ringing chamber preeetty much summed up how I felt in every tower around England when I visited... LOL (Me, a rank beginner! Ringing in a UK BigNameCathedral! aaaiieeeee) The only VERY SLIM thought that gave me any backbone at all was "I learnt to ring in a cathedral". We're only SMALL but it COUNTED. LOL

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued

Posted by [AJLR](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 13:35:36 GMT

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CathyR wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 07:38

Oh gosh, I know that feeling exactly (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, huge industrial ringing chamber, 12 bells, heavy - and having to stand on a doughnut-like 3ft raised platform to ring!!!). Total nervous breakdown, looking into the abyss. There is a photo of Frank and I, both Cathedral novices, both terrified, ringing rounds on adjacent bells. My hands are down at the bottom of my backstroke, Frank's hands are above his head! Rounds!!?! Ha!! :)  
So, one of you was on the tenor and the other was on the treble? :d

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued

Posted by [AJLR](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 13:52:13 GMT

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Quote:But I#8217;d programmed myself too well.

It's a pain, that, isn't it. I felt the same about yesterday evening's practise. I sat in the car, on the driveway, in the cold and the dark, and felt I was just too tired/fed up to go. But I went anyway. And it was fine once I was there - well, fine until I was standing there practising (I thought) the plain course of Plain Bob Doubles from the two, and suddenly the conductor started calling bobs. OK, I was unaffected, but nooooo...the bells I was trying to follow all started changing. Help! :)

Re the Diamond Jubilee celebrations that have just started, one of my non-ringing local friends aimed a Tweet at me on Monday evening, to ask what on earth was going on with the bells at Canterbury Cathedral as it sounded as though they'd gone mad and as if "someone had sat down hard on a giant piano keyboard". When I asked a ringing friend what was up, the Cathedral band had apparently been working up to an extended session of 'firing' in honour of the Jubilee. She said it got better as they got further into it. :)

(For anyone who hasn't heard this, firing is when all the bells pull off exactly together, at both hand and back stroke. A small example is here.) It must have sounded pretty alarming from the big 12 at the Cathedral!)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued

Posted by [CathyR](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 14:42:54 GMT

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AJLR wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 13:35CathyR wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 07:38

Oh gosh, I know that feeling exactly (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, huge industrial ringing chamber, 12 bells, heavy - and having to stand on a doughnut-like 3ft raised platform to ring!!!). Total nervous breakdown, looking into the abyss. There is a photo of Frank and I, both Cathedral novices, both terrified, ringing rounds on adjacent bells. My hands are down at the bottom of my

backstroke, Frank's hands are above his head! Rounds!!?! Ha!! :)  
So, one of you was on the tenor and the other was on the treble? :d

If only! I'd probably struggle on the treble (9cwt), never mind the tenor (82cwt, 4100kg, 4 tons)!!  
It's the heaviest and highest peal of bells hung for change ringing in the world.

Mind you, it's skill not brute strength (although it does usually take two people to ring the tenor up). I've seen a fairly slight teenage girl ring that tenor.

We've probably a second visit there in a couple of months. Hopefully I'll do better. I'll think of Robin to give me strength! :)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [PamAdams](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 18:16:45 GMT  
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Quote:Neither of my hellhounds is prompt about the bodily-functions business.

They are not alone in this, believe me. Teddy takes more time to find Just The Right Spot than any dog I've ever had to wait for, and that's saying a lot.

Sigh. I worked with a Chow once who had to have a bush to hide behind. Luckily, his overall sweetness made up for the difficulty of finding bushes in heavily urbaniaed showgrounds.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [shalea](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2012 18:39:57 GMT  
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Diane in MN wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 00:51  
Neither of my hellhounds is prompt about the bodily-functions business.

They are not alone in this, believe me. Teddy takes more time to find Just The Right Spot than any dog I've ever had to wait for, and that's saying a lot. If it's very cold he just looks really unhappy while the hunt for the perfect place goes on and on. Aaargh.

I've gone so far as to attempt to clear a path through snow and ice so that the prima donna boy greyhound can not only perform bodily functions, but have an appropriate selection of places from

which to choose. Of course I didn't clear the right places.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Audrey Falconer](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 03:20:28 GMT  
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AJLR wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 00:52Quote:But I&#8217;d programmed myself too well. It's a pain, that, isn't it. I felt the same about yesterday evening's practise.

You want to try waiting 40 minutes for a late bride (plus another 20 minutes for the over-long service) when the temperature is 35+ degrees Celsius.

And we're a ground-floor ring on display so we have to look respectable. No ringing in shorts, singlets and thongs. :+<

Audrey

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [b\\_twin\\_1](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 03:41:12 GMT  
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Audrey Falconer wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 22:20AJLR wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 00:52Quote:But I&#8217;d programmed myself too well. It's a pain, that, isn't it. I felt the same about yesterday evening's practise.

You want to try waiting 40 minutes for a late bride (plus another 20 minutes for the over-long service) when the temperature is 35+ degrees Celsius.

And we're a ground-floor ring on display so we have to look respectable. No ringing in shorts, singlets and thongs. :+<

Audrey

That's why we have air-con. And a seperate tower. :p

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued

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Posted by [CathyR](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 06:44:52 GMT  
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b\_twin\_1 wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 03:41Audrey Falconer wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 22:20AJLR wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 00:52Quote:But I&#8217;d programmed myself too well.

It's a pain, that, isn't it. I felt the same about yesterday evening's practise.

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Audrey

That's why we have air-con. And a seperate tower. :p

Air con!? You ring in some luxury! ;)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [b\\_twin\\_1](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 06:55:18 GMT  
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CathyR wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 01:44b\_twin\_1 wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 03:41Audrey Falconer wrote on Thu, 09 February 2012 22:20AJLR wrote on Fri, 10 February 2012 00:52Quote:But I&#8217;d programmed myself too well.

It's a pain, that, isn't it. I felt the same about yesterday evening's practise.

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And we're a ground-floor ring on display so we have to look respectable. No ringing in shorts, singlets and thongs. :+<

Audrey

That's why we have air-con. And a seperate tower. :p

Air con!? You ring in some luxury! ;)

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If we didn't have air-con then we basically wouldn't ring over the summer at all. On average we're hotter up here than Melbourne. I was still surprised to learn that we were only one of 2 towers in Victoria that had A/C - and up until a year or so ago we were the \*only\* ones. \*boggled\* Of course, we don't have an ancient stone tower so logistically it was pretty easy to install...

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [CathyR](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 07:34:26 GMT  
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I rang in a church some time ago, a ground floor ring - with underfloor heating!! Now that was luxury! :)

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Mrs Redboots](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 13:38:56 GMT  
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My parents' current dog appears to have to sit on a thorn or a stinging-nettle in order to function, which my mother says looks horrendously painful!

And male dogs do pee every yard or so, not to relieve their bladders but for scent-marking purposes. A great nuisance....

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [anef](#) on Sat, 11 Feb 2012 08:19:41 GMT  
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Today's the something anniversary of the Queen swimming the English Channel or bungee-jumping off the Forth Bridge or the day she dropped the Black Prince's Ruby down the loo during an especially tedious reception, or something really important.

I'm not particularly a royalist (though prefer having a Queen as Head of State to a President), but the accession to the throne is kind of a big deal. It is certainly acceptable to complain about the cheapness of the fizz, but that's the Church of England for you.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Aaron](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 20:14:00 GMT  
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anef wrote on Sat, 11 February 2012 00:19: Today's the something anniversary of the Queen swimming the English Channel or bungie-jumping off the Forth Bridge or the day she dropped the Black Prince's Ruby down the loo during an especially tedious reception, or something really important.

I'm not particularly a royalist (though prefer having a Queen as Head of State to a President), but the accession to the throne is kind of a big deal. It is certainly acceptable to complain about the cheapness of the fizz, but that's the Church of England for you.

For me the critical thing here is that in the UK the head of state is not also the chief executive. In the US the President is both and it is wrenching to oppose or replace him. Replacing the prime minister is nowhere near as big a deal. Part of this is the parliamentary system which makes it mechanically easier but I think a lot of it is that the distinction between "a vote of no confidence" and "deposing the king" is not preserved in US system.

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Subject: Re: There is hope, continued  
Posted by [Mrs Redboots](#) on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 20:29:02 GMT  
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In many countries, of course, the Head of State is elected but does not have any governmental authority - reigns but doesn't rule, just like our Queen. Ireland springs to mind, and France to a certain extent. I don't know whether being Head of State by accident of birth is better or worse than being it by popular vote. Certainly kings have been elected in the past, although not so much here.

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