

Treasure Hunt week 3

We're staying in Charleston SC for a little while before wandering off on our world bellringing treasure hunt.

How many peals have been rung in Charleston towers since 1st of March 2016? For this you need to go to the Bellboard website <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/>. Click on search and enter Charleston into the place box. You will find that there have been 8.

What, if anything, do you find unusual about their temporal distribution? The 4 in 2018 were over 3 days of December 2018 and those in 2019 over 4 days of November. They were all rung by Societies "on tour". Those in 2018 by the St James' Guild and those in 2019 by the Cumberlands.

I'm feeling very laid back, perhaps even a little lazy, this week. Perhaps it's the places we are going to visit!

If you want to leave Charleston for destinations afar, you are encouraged to go by aeroplane. But I'm feeling laid back and not in the mood for planes, or for that matter airports. So I am going to take you on a cruise.

I have decided to travel with Carnival Cruises. What are their generic places to cruise to from Charleston? If you go to the Carnival Cruises web site <https://www.carnival.com> and click the box marked "Sail from", you have loads of options but we want to sail from Charleston. So click on Charleston and the box changes colour. Now click on "Sail to" and you can see from all of their destinations that the only 3 places are Bahamas, Bermuda and the Caribbean

Well I am going to the Eastern Caribbean. Will you come with me?

If you don't want to come then enjoy yourself in Charleston, but I am going to sail soon.

Well within a couple of days I arrive in the Netherlands. That was unexpected! Where am I (or I you have come with me, where are we?) I haven't arrived in the Netherlands at all but from the Carnival Cruise itinerary I have arrived in one of the Netherlands Antilles – St Maarten. Of course nothing is quite that easy, and good though this web site is https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands_Antilles I was still not completely sure of the status of St Maarten

But this is even weirder, what is the official language I can hear spoken around me? The official languages of St Maarten are Dutch and English, but more people speak the latter.

And what's this peculiar money? Despite everything the currency used on St Maarten is the Netherlands Antilean Guilder.

I quite like it here, so I'm going for a wander. There is still evidence of a relatively recent weather event, what was it? Hurricane Irma hit St Maarten hard and the clear up is still going on.

I like this island life so I'm going to go island hopping along this archipelago.

TIME PASSES

The boats have been a bit rickety but over the last week and I seem to have travelled across and round a myriad of islands. I got to one and thought I was in Upton Magna. Why? One of the islands is called St Lucia, who is also the dedication of the church at Upton Magna. St Lucia is the saint who is depicted with her eyes on a tray.

But at last I've arrived at my destination. I thought at first I was in the South of Spain. Why? Well I've arrived at Grenada, which if you say the name quickly enough sounds like Granada, the City and Province in Andalusia in Southern Spain

I wasn't the least surprised I seem to have been through almost every European Country language-wise and I've had lots of cocktails to drink. Oddly in the last set of islands all the drinks appeared red. Why? If you go South through the Islands you go through St Vincent and the Grenadines before finally coming to the end in Grenada. Grenadine syrup gets its name, as do the Grenadines from pomegranates, but the pomegranate isn't grown commercially in the Grenadines!! Anyway Grenadine syrup is non-alcoholic but is used to turn cocktails red or pink

Well I'm here now and as a treat I see there are some ringable bells. But I am getting a bit fed up with singles. Where am I ? There is one ring of bells in Grenada, St George's. <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/dove.php?searchString=Grenada&Submit=+Go+> A ring of 5, 3 hung for full circle ringing (hence the reference to singles).

Its also really hot. So I was very pleased after the ringing to sit in the shade and have another cocktail. I wondered if it was hot because I was ringing near the equator.

Am I near the equator? In fact Grenada is 837 miles north of the equator, so not really is the answer.

It set me wondering. What ring of bells is nearest the equator? This is one of those tricky games you can do on Dove. Do map it for Grenada. Also find a map showing the equator. Then move the Dove map in a sort of the equatorlly direction and you find a few rings of bells along that route. Then you have to go back to Google and do the distance of XXX to the equator, and you find the ring nearest the equator is the 12 in Singapore, about 70 miles north of the equator.

Are there any ringable rings of bells in "Equatorial" countries. By that I mean countries the equator passes through? There are relatively few countries that the equator passes through <https://www.infoplease.com/askeds/countries-equator> . The only one with bells in is the ring of 6 in St Thomas, Kilifi, Kenya (I hope)

And then I drifted off in the balmy sunny afternoon. See you next week.