

Bristol Rural Branch, Ringing masters report 2025.

With another AGM fast approaching the time has come again for my report of branch ringing over the past year and I am pleased to say it has been another great year. With the normal Branch programme in place along with a few events from the Association as well it has been busy as ever.

The first major event of the year was the branch quiz. This is an event I rarely make it along to but seems ever popular. Held again in Iron Acton hall I understand it was a very successful evening.

In March it was time for our striking competition and this year we travelled East to Sherston, it is a little harder to find appropriate towers over the border in this direction but these bells fitted the bill nicely. There was a nice representation of towers that entered and made for a good afternoon of ringing. Coalpit Heath won again this year and has been the tower to beat for a few years now, congratulations again to the Coalpit Heath ringers. I hope next year there will be as many towers enter if not more and could your tower be the ones to challenge for the trophy? I owe several notes of thanks for the day. Firstly to the judges who were Peter Harris and his wife Michelle from Fairford, Peter gave great structured feedback for the teams, which was really helpful. Secondly to Steve Crane for his assistance in the organising of the certificates, taking on from Tony York. Finally to all that contributed towards the catering for the day, many thanks.

In April we dip into the Association calendar for the AGM day and with it the striking competitions this year held in the Gloucester branch. The Croom trophy at Churchdown where Coalpit heath came a very respectable 5th and the Penn trophy held at Barnwood where the ringers representing the branch came 3rd. Congratulations to all ringers involved in both competition bands these are great results for us, my thanks go to all the ringers who get involved in ringing for the striking competitions. Thanks also to Catherine for her work in organising the Penn trophy band and practises.

Our May Day outing this year was to the very pleasant part of the world in the North Cotswold Branch around Bourton-on-the-Water. With a nice variety of towers thought the day and a lovely stop for lunch in Bourton itself it was a great day out. It was brilliant to see some new faces come along on the day and get involved in more branch ringing. Many thanks once again to Geoff for organising such a successful day.

In September it was time for the visit to Gloucester Cathedral, again there were some new faces that has their first visit up the tower. Ringing improved during the afternoon with some good rounds and call changes achieved ahead of the service.

This year we also had part of the Association training day for Cambridge major held close to home, split between Chipping Sodbury and Coalpit Heath. This was

a busy day organised by Geoff and a great help to all the students on the course with everybody making good progress over the day.

With all this along with the branch practises and other events throughout the year it has been busy as ever and it has been great ringing with you all especially seeing some new faces doing really well progressing with their ringing over the year. Thanks to Geoff for doing more than his share of the running of ringing.

Matthew Johnson.

Ringling Master.