



Webmaster Report, Bristol Rural Branch AGM, 2025

Following the 2024 AGM, the Branch reviewed the hosting of the website that Tony York had managed for the past two decades. The challenge of transferring ownership of the website to the Branch led us to consider alternative hosting options. We looked at a range of options including fully paid, reduced fee 'charity status' and free. After two months of testing and further consideration we decided to take up the G&B offer and host as a subdomain of the G&B website. This had the advantage of being free from any costs, thereby avoiding the Branch paying up to £150 per year, but led to a slightly less user friendly web address. This arrangement has to date been excellent and we thank G&B Webmaster Rob Clive for his kind support.

Our new website went live in late December 2024, with both desktop and mobile access. It is estimated that the website receives on average one to two visits each day, more in the days leading up to events and after the bi-monthly newsletter is released.

The website exists to promote ringing, share information and highlight activities across the Branch and beyond. Content is promptly updated and includes latest details of events, notices and news, important/urgent communications to members, the annual programme, newsletters, tower details and reports of Branch and G&B ringing. There are pages dedicated to midweek ringing including Farcited, Dodgers and practices in neighbouring branches. There are resources dedicated to recruitment, learning and broader aspects of ringing.

Content is sought from many sources including our Secretary, towers, individuals and other organisations including G&B, CCCBR and The Ringing World. During the year we have posted reports on VE and VJ Day ringing, a visit to Loughborough, our May Day outing, Cream Tea practice, the 'bells and digital bells' of Stoke Gifford, the Branch and G&B striking competitions, and an increasing number of fascinating articles (and a video) contributed by towers and members. The website links to BellBoard to highlight quarter peals and other special ringing rung at Branch towers

Plans for the coming year include encouraging greater use of the website, expanding greatly the history content and adding more learning resources.

Thanks to all committee members, towers and members for helping make the website a useful resource.

Stephen Crane / Webmaster

12 November 2025

www.bellsgandb.org.uk/bristolrural