

BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH A.G.M. MINUTES
23rd NOVEMBER 2024 – St THOMAS CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH

1. Opening and Vote of Thanks

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked the Vicar and Organist and for the service and the members who provided the tea.

The Chairman also made a tribute to members who had passed away during the year

2. Attendance

The meeting was attended by 23 members plus the G&B Association Chairman Roger Haynes and Secretary Fiona Hartley.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Edna Cause, Alison Holliday, Rosemary Morgan, Julie and Nigel Scudamore, Robin Shipp, Glenn Laurence, Mick and Sheila Lewis.

4. Approval of 2023 Minutes The minutes had been circulated on the Branch Website before the meeting and were approved. Proposed by Bryan Hardwicke, seconded by Gill Greef.

5. Matters Arising

The Chairman mentioned the suggestion of £1 per person attending Branch Practices has been successful.

6. Approval of 2024 Accounts

The Accounts were circulated by email before the meeting and were approved. Proposed by Gill Greef, seconded by Geoff Pick.

7. Committee Reports

The Committee Members reports were circulated by email before the meeting and there were no issues.

8. Branch Officer Elections All the officers except the Treasurer, MC Rep, Webmaster and the Twig for the Far East were prepared to stand again and were re-elected, proposed by Linda Gittings, seconded by Chris Greef. Steve Crane Volunteered for the position of Webmaster and was accepted. No one was willing to take the remaining positions and it was agreed that the other officers would cover them in the short term until they can be filled.

9. Applications to Belfry Repair Fund

Siston - A grant may be required to provide a new entrance to the ringing chamber as a kitchen may be installed in the base of the tower. The restoration at Doynton has been put on hold.

10. Membership

The following new members were elected, Proposed by Geoff Pick, Seconded by Kathy Mills:-

Frenchay - Taisa Bennett
Frenchay - Stephanie Evans
Frenchay - Katherine Haswell
Frenchay - Peter Robson
Mangotsfield - Lucy Hall
Mangotsfield - Rose Rhyddid
Westerleigh - Derek Lewis
Westerleigh - Luke Packer
Westerleigh - Maria Packer

11. Association Matters

The Peal Secretary, Simon Edwards, and Ringing Master, James Joynson, are standing down. Cameron Waters was proposed by Steve Crane and seconded by Gill Greef to stand for both positions.

12. Branch Programme

It was suggested Frenchay could host the Barbecue, there were no suggestions for the Cream Tea. It was also suggested Branch practices could be shortened to 90 minutes from 2 hours, 15.00 to 16.30.

13. Recruitment and Training

No issues.

14. May Day Outing 2025

Geoff Pick suggester the Cotswolds.

15. Achievement of the Year Competition

How to persuade members to attend branch meetings.

16. CCTV Bookings

Only used by Frenchay last year.

17. A.O.B.

Newsletter - Chris Greef mentioned some concerns he was having with the newsletter such as shortage of content from members and towers, do people find it useful and is the frequency of every two months right. A suggestion was the possibility of using a Whats App Group.

Fiona Hartley mentioned a proposed new ringing course to be held in Somerset next October.

After the meeting was closed, the Chairman sent a vote of thanks to Alison Holliday for her work as Treasurer and MC Rep over the last five years. He asked for a posthumous note of thanks to be made to Tony York for his work as Webmaster.