

G&B Northavon Branch - January 1993 Newsletter

1993 PROGRAMME

The new committee have now drawn up a calendar of events for 1993, and as you will see from the enclosed copy, it is a very busy year.

Only a few minor depatures from last years successful formula, and that is the publishing of a "special method" for practices, an out of Branch 10 bell practice (unless we get an unexpected augmentation!) and a cricket match against one of our neighbouring Branches. We have produced an A4 programme for notice boards, and also individual ones that are designed to fit in a RW diary. Your tower secretary should have enough for all members in your tower.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it is sometimes necessary to change venues during the year, and any such change will be announced in the Newsletter, and also published under "Saturday Meetings and Practices" in the *Ringing World*. A notice is published each month, normally the week before the Branch Practice for that month.

The "Special Methods" for Branch Practices are to give people a chance to study the method beforehand, and it is by no means the only method to be rung on that evening. We encourage ringers of all abilities to come to all practices organised by the Branch.

MANGOTSFIELD DEDICATION

The new eight at Mangotsfield were dedicated by the Bishop of Bristol on 13th December. All present agreed that the new bells are a distinct improvement on the old ones.

The handbell concert at Staple Hill the previous evening had reduced the shortfall in funds to just £500, and a cheque handed in during the Dedication Service completed the fundraising. Congatulations to all concerned.

The band now has to rebuild itself under the guidance of Tower Captain Ryan Price, and they would be grateful to anyone who can help them. Sunday ringing is from 5.15 'til 6.00pm. Practice night is Wednesday from 7.30 'til 9.00.

NEW COMMITTEE

The committee members are:

Chairman - Bryan Hardwick c/s 325662
Ringing Master - Ken Weeks br 676805
Deputy R.M. - Don Haskins c/s 898553
M.C Rep. - Dave Ware c/s 323567
Treasurer - Ruth Welch br 695084
Secretary - Alan Freke br 570942
5.Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay, BS16 1LP.

Ken Weeks is also the Belfry Adviser.

BRANCH PRACTICES FOR JANUARY

Saturday 9th at 7.30pm - Abson

Saturday 23rd at 7.30pm - Warmley

Special Methods; Abson - Little Bob, Warmley - Stedman.

G&B Northavon Branch - February 1993 Newsletter

BARN DANCE

Saturday 20th February sees a welcome return of the annual Barn Dance which proved so popular, in the past. The venue is Filton Parish Hall, and a poster advertising the event accompanies this Newsletter.

PRACTICE AT FRENCHAY

The Branch practice at Frenchay on the 13th is a different a different format to normal. The usual practice will take place from 7.00 'til 8.00pm (Note change of time), and it will be followed by a session of Campanological Karaoke. There is a ringing simulator at Frenchay, and it is a good opportunity to try your hand at ringing with a perfect band!

Whatever your level of skill, this should be an instructive experience, and the simulator can cater for those who can ring anything from Rounds up to Bristol Surprise Maximus.

ROPE SCHEME

There are a number of towers in the Branch who have no regular income, and for who the provision of new ropes is a major problem. It has been suggested that those towers who have old ropes they will never use again may like to put them in a pool for use by others. Although to you the rope may look as if it has had its day, by splicing a new top or tail, it may be a life saver for someone else.

If you have any ropes you would be prepared to part with, please contact our Belfry Adviser, Ken Weeks, who will be pleased to hear from you. Similarly, if you are desperate for a rope give Ken a call to see what he has. Ken is also available to give advice on ropes and their maintenance to anyone who needs it. His 'phone number is Bristol 676805.

TRAINING DAYS

The Branch Plain Bob Training Day is on Sat, 6th March. If you would like to attend please contact Ken Weeks. Helpers are also required, and the day will cater for Plain Bob Doubles through to Major. Times of ringing are 3.00 'til 5.00, and 6.00 'til 8.00

All tower secretaries should have received details of the Association Training Day on 27th March. If you haven't, please contact Alan Freke for details. Note: Only the first 60 at each venue will be accepted. First come first serve! Again, helpers are required, and those who would like to help should contact Ken Weeks.

SYSTON NEWS

We have received a letter from the secretary of Syston PCC thanking members for the fundraising during Quarter Peal Week. Apparently £616 was raised which paid for the welding of the cracked fourth. Well done all those who helped.

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5, Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay,

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday 13th at 7.00pm - Frenchay
(Note; open ringing 'til 8.00pm,
then ringing with the simulator 'til late!)

Saturday 27th at 7.30pm - Warmley

SMS; Frenchay - Rev. Canterbury, Warmley - Double Norwich.

G&B Northavon Branch - March 1993 Newsletter

BARN DANCE

The Branch Barn Dance at Filton was well supported, and at times it was difficult to find room on the floor! What happened to our younger ringers? Only four junior members were present, but they did enjoy themselves. Many thanks to organisers Ruth and Eddy Welch.

PRACTICE AT FRENCHAY

Last month's Branch Practice at Frenchay attracted about 30 members. Although we had two simulators, only one of them was connected to a bell for "real" ringing. Most people had a go, with the highlight being Mike Powell ringing Stedman Caters. For more information about simulators, please contact Alan Freke.

MID-WEEK RINGING

The success of the Far Cited Band is well known. Arthur Herbert has now extended the idea to include mid-week service ringing. It is unusual these days for bells to be rung for funerals, or other mid-week services. This may be due to the fact that clergy know that ringers are not available. Arthur feels that if he compiles a register of those able to undertake mid-week ringing, and clergy are made aware by their own ringers that bells could be rung for these services, then there may well be a demand. If you would like to be included on the list of those available please contact Arthur on Thornbury 413968.

STRIKING COMPETITION

Our Branch Striking Competition is being held on Saturday April 3rd. So now is the time to start practicing. Let Ken Weeks know if you intend entering a band from your tower.

TRAINING DAYS

The Branch Plain Bob Training Day is on Sat. 6th March. If you would like to attend please contact Ken Weeks ASAP! . The day will cater for Plain Bob Doubles through to Major. Times of ringing are 3.00 'til 5.00, and 6.00 'til 8.00. Helpers are also needed, so please contact Ken if you can help.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Forms for subscriptions were sent out in January to Tower Secretaries. So far only a couple of towers have responded. Would you please try and respond as soon as possible as your money is needed to give grants to bell restoration projects! If there are any problems contact Ruth Welch.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting at Thornbury is an opportunity to elect new members, tell the committee what they are doing wrong, and hear all about the Branch Outing on May 3rd. Please support your committee!

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5,Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay,

BRANCH PRACTICES FOR MARCH

Saturday 13th at Thornbury - Quarterly Meeting
Ringing 4.30 Service 5.15 followed by tea.
Meeting 6.30 then evening ringing 7.30 'til 9.00

Saturday 27th at 7.30pm - Warmley

Special Method at Warmley - Lincolnshire SM.

G&B Northavon Branch - April 1993 Newsletter

ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association AGM takes place on Saturday 17th April at Charlton Kings near Cheltenham. Your Tower Secretary should have received formal notice, together with a list of towers open for ringing on the day. This years AGM is especially important as the Management Committee have proposed increasing both subscriptions and Tower Affiliation fees. This is an attempt to balance the books as the large number of restorations and augmentations has eaten deeply into the reserves. There is also a proposal to deny grants for augmentations. If you have views on this, or any other matter, make sure you are in Charlton Kings on the 17th to make your vote count.

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

Will any Towers interested in entering the Association Best Kept Tower Competition please contact Alan Freke before the end of April. Towers which have had major work carried out by professionals since December 1991 are not eligible.

STRIKING COMPETITION

Our Branch Striking Competition is being held on Saturday April 3rd starting at 6.00pm. If your Tower is entering please let Ken Weeks know as soon as possible.

AGM DAY RINGING

On Saturday 17th April there are many Towers open for ringing on your way to the AGM. From our area the Towers open are as follows:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Tower</u>	<u>Map Reference</u>
9.00 - 10.00	Elkstone 6	SO967123
9.30 - 10.30	Badgeworth 6	SO902193
10.00 - 11.00	Leckhampton 8	SO943194
(Refreshments available here)		
10.30 - 11.30	Swindon Village 6	SO934248
11.00 - 12.30	Prestbury 8	SO969239
11.00 - 12.30	Bishops Cleeve 8	SO961227
12.00 - 13.15	Charlton Kings 8	SO964204

13.30 Service at Charlton Kings

14.45 AGM IN BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR APRIL

Saturday 3rd at 6.00pm - Frampton Cotterell
Branch Striking Competition

Saturday 17th AGM at Charlton Kings 14.45pm

Saturday 24th at 7.30pm - Warmley

Special Method at Warmley - Yorkshire.

G&B Northavon Branch - May 1993 Newsletter

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

It's still not too late to enter the Association "Best Kept Tower" Competition. If any Tower is interested, would they please contact Alan Freke as soon as possible. Towers which have had major work carried out by professionals since December 1991 are not eligible. This can offer an opportunity to do that Spring Clean you keep promising yourself, as well as improving safety features in your ringing room.

STRIKING COMPETITION

Our Branch Striking Competition was held on the 3rd of April in weather which made everyone glad that ringing is an indoor activity! However, the heavy rain didn't deter six Towers from assembling teams who enjoyed a close contest ably judged by Charles Pipe-Wolferstan from Redcliffe. The Branch would like to thank Charles for supporting us, and for his helpful and amusing comments afterwards. Coalpit Heath won, even beating the "scratch band". The results were;

1st Coalpit Heath	41%
2nd Thornbury	50%
3rd Frampton Cotterell	54
4th Warnley	58%
5th Frenchay	65%
6th Syston	66

The "scratch" band had 42 faults.

PENN TROPHY

On Saturday May 8th the Penn Trophy is being held at Warmley. The trophy was given by the late Ernest Penn of Longhope for an inter-Branch 8 bell striking competition. Each Branch enters a band selected by the Branch Ringing Master. So for those of us not selected, its an opportunity to listen to some excellent ringing. Ringing starts at 2.00pm, and will continue 'til about 5.00pm. Results will follow a short Evensong and tea.

CYRIL WRATTEN

Cyril is retiring this year as Secretary to the Central Council, and the G&B intend making a presentation to him for all he has done for the Exercise in that role. If you would like to be associated with this gift, would you please pass any contributions to Alan Freke.

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR MAY

Saturday 8th at 7.30pm - Bitton
Branch Practice, Special Method Grandsire Triples

Saturday 22nd at 7.30pm - Warmley
Special Method DNCBM.

G&B Northavon Branch - June 1993 Newsletter

PUZZLE CORNER

We are trying to fill in all the missing plates on the Branch Striking Competition Trophy, and there is one year we are having difficulty with. There appears to be no record of who won in 1988. I know it was a long time ago but there are several clues. Firstly, our Branch Competition was held at Bitton. It was followed by a Quarterly Branch Meeting, then a general knowledge quiz at the Community Centre, Warmley. (We do know who won the Quiz!) Secondly, the Croome Trophy competition that year (where we assume the winning band represented the Branch) was held at Huntley in the Forest of Dean. The winners of that competition were Dursley. So were you in that winning band? Do you know someone who was? All answers, or additional clues, to Alan Freke on Bristol 570942. (Sorry no valuable prizes!)

HANDBELL CONCERT

A concert featuring a Swedish Handbell team is being held at Fishponds Baptist Church on the evening of Thursday the 8th of July. Terry Jefferies is the organiser, and advance tickets can be obtained by contacting him on Bristol 560430. Ryan Price has heard them before and he says they make quite a sight as they ring with 150 bells! An occasion not to be missed!

PENN TROPHY 'TOWER GRAB'

On Saturday May 8th the Penn Trophy striking competition was held at Warmley - and Bitton. OK, it was just one of those days. The Judges were upset at the kitchen door banging in the Church Hall, one band was upset when tea was delivered to the umpire whilst they were ringing their test piece, and to cap it all, the clapper on the 7th broke whilst another band were ringing their's! It was an unfortunate end to Eric Taylor's spell as Ringing Master but, unflappable as always, he decided that the competition should continue at Bitton. With so much excitement in one afternoon, the result could have been an anticlimax. But no, Bristol won (don't they always) but our band are to be congratulated on coming second, Well Done!

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR JUNE

Saturday 12th at 7.30pm - Berkeley
Branch Practice. Special Method Grandsire Caters

Saturday 26th at 7.30pm - Warmley
Special Method Stedman Triples.

G&B Northavon Branch - July 1993 Newsletter

PUZZLE CORNER

The correct solution to last months puzzle ie who won the 1988 Branch Striking Competition, was provided by Anne Boulton of Bitton, Anne was not only able to name Frampton Cotterell the winner, but she also gave us the results in full! Many Thanks,

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting at Westerleigh is an occasion to come and tell the committee what they are doing wrong, and to help shape Branch activities to your needs. It would be ideal if at least one member from each Tower came along. How about it Tower Captains? If you can't come yourself, then make a point of delegating someone from your Tower to come and represent you. At the last Quarterly Meeting a number of new members were proposed and elected, but none of them was present, and neither was anyone from their respective Towers. The meeting agreed that this was a most undesirable situation, and that anyone being proposed for membership should ideally be brought to the meeting by another member of their Tower.

HANDBELL CONCERT

A concert featuring a Swedish Handbell team is being held at Fishponds Baptist Church on the evening of Thursday the 8th of July. Terry Jefferies is the organiser, and advance tickets can be obtained by contacting him on Bristol 560430, or Ryan Price on Bristol 493597. Ryan has heard them before and he says they make quite a sight as they ring with 150 bells! Other bands taking part include our own Winterbourne St. Michael's Handbell Ringers, and it promises to be an occasion not to miss!

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR JULY

10th July - Quarterly Meeting at Westerleigh

 Ringing 4.30; Service 5.30 followed by tea;

 Meeting 6.30; Evening ringing to follow from 7.30.

 Saturday 24th at 7.30pm - Warmley
 8 Bell Practice - Special Method Cambridge.

 Apologies to those who came to the June Warmley practice only to find it had been cancelled at the last minute.

G & B Northavon Branch - August 1993 Newsletter

Just a very short newsletter this month as our illustrious Secretary has been dragged, kicking and screaming, on two weeks holiday.

Warmley vs. Bitton

Until further notice the 4th. Saturday practice has been moved from Warmley to Bitton. This is due to the need for further building work on the tower at Warmley, which continues to do its impression of a sieve during rain. Please continue to support this practice.

Gloucester Cathedral

On August 15 Northavon branch have been invited to ring for evensong. We will be taking a band along for this occasion. There will not be any open ringing as this is specifically for a service. Ken will be contacting people shortly in order to arrange sufficient ringers to do the Branch justice.

Cricket Match

This has been arranged for the afternoon of August 22 at the Filton sportsground. We can hire equipment from the sportsground at a cost, if anyone can borrow equipment so much the better. Please contact Dave Ware or Ruth Welch if you can help. If wet weather interrupts proceedings we can use Filton Church Hall.

Skittles Evening

A skittles evening has been organised for the third Saturday in October, (October 16th). Keep the date free. Last years match was great fun. Further details nearer the time.

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR AUGUST

14 AUGUST - WAPLEY

SPECIAL METHODS - ANY DOUBLES YOU LIKE

Do come along - they are not as bad as people make out !!!

OH YES THEY ARE

28 AUGUST - BITTON 8 bell practice

Please come along and support the branch activities which are organised for your benefit. A very low attendance at the Quarterly Meeting in July raised doubts about the viability of the branch. PLEASE PROVE US WRONG !!!!

G&B Northavon Branch - October 1993 Newsletter

SKITTLES AT THE SQUIRE

The Skittles evening at "The Squire" Chipping Sodbury is being held on Saturday 16th from 7.30pm. If you haven't got your tickets yet, then 'phone David Powell on 0454 773506. Tickets are £4 for seniors and £3 for juniors including a buffet. If you want skittles but no food, it's £1 seniors and 50p juniors. David would like names by 7th October to enable the food to be organised.

AGM ADVANCE NOTICE

This year's AGM is being held at Mangotsfield on Saturday November 14th at 6.00pm. It is an occasion to come and tell the committee what they are doing wrong, and to help shape Branch activities to your needs. It would be ideal if at least one member from each Tower came along. How about it Tower Captains? If you can't come yourself, then make a point of delegating someone from your Tower to come and represent you. All officers are up for election, and although some are standing for re-election, several posts look like being vacant unless new candidates are found!

CROOME TROPHY

Coalpit Heath represented the Branch in the Croome Trophy competition held at Lacock on September 18th. Despite one member of the band having a badly burnt hand, they came 7th out of 11 enteries. Well done.

SID RICHES

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Sid Riches who was so well known and respected in this area. Sid had been ringing at St Werburgh's for about 70 years, and for most of that time St Werburgh's was is the old "Bristol Rural" Branch. As he was a member of the Far Cited Band, and news of his death in Frenchay Hospital came on the day of their monthly meeting, a band rang a half muffled Quarter Peal at Frenchay.

May he rest in peace.

PEAL/QUARTER PEAL WEEK

This year the Peal/Quarter Peal Week is from 23rd - 31st October. If you want to try something ambitious, and you need a band, call Ken Weeks who will be able to help. Can you send details of successful attempts to Ken so that they can forwarded together to the Association for publication in the Ringing World.

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BRANCH PRACTICES FOR OCTOBER

9th October - Branch Practice Pucklechurch 7.30pm
Special method - Stedman Doubles

16th October Skittles at "The Squire"

23rd October 8 bell practice WARMLEY 7.30pm
Special Method - Little Bob Major.

It is with regret that we report the death of Eric Taylor of Leckhampton on September 23rd.

Until the AGM this year, Eric had been Ringing Master of the Association for a number of years, and took a special interest in the Association training days. May he rest in peace.

G&B Northavon Branch - December 1993 Newsletter

FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

1993 AGM

As your new Chairman it is incumbent on me to let you know in general which way we, your Committee, are proceeding. The problems of running a voluntary organisation are that, whilst a few regulars turn up to organised events, the majority of Ringers don't. It is my, and our, intention to try and rectify this state of affairs. Accordingly, members of the Committee will be visiting all the Towers in the Branch area between now and the end of the year and, with your Captain's permission, discuss your opinions, your criticisms and your suggestions for improvement. Please let us know.

Our programme of events has only been arranged until the end of March to enable us to analyse your feedback and to give you what you want from March onwards. Please, therefore, don't hold back if you have anything to say, say it! Then please support us with your presence.

I will ask Dave Ware, your Branch Ringing Master, to write to you in a later newsletter letting you know what plans he and Don Haskins have for future ringing programmes which, I am sure, will be suitable for all ringers.

During my term of office I pledge that enthusiasm will always be more important than ability. Thank you.

Arthur Herbert

On 13th November the Branch AGM was held at S. James Mangotsfield, and 28 members attended. For the first time in many years there was an election for one of the Committee posts. Draft minutes of the meeting will be circulated shortly for those who were not able to be there.

HANDBELLS NEEDED

Dennis Orchard is trying to obtain eight handbells for method ringing, for a group who ring with Tom Walters who can no longer ring tower bells due to a stroke. If anyone can help, would they contact Dennis on 0272 565622.

PEOPLE NEWS

You will be pleased to hear that David Powell is making a good recovery following his road accident earlier this month. David is now home from hospital, but not yet back to ringing!

Committee 1994

Chairman - Arthur Herbert 0454 413968
Ringing Master - Dave Ware 0454 323567
Deputy R.M. - Don Haskins 0454 898553
Treasurer - Ruth Welch 0272 695084
M.C. Rep. - Ken Weeks 0272 676805
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5 Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay BS16 1LP

BRANCH PRACTICES FOR DECEMBER

Saturday 11th at 7.30pm - Coalpit Heath
Special Method - Call changes and DNCBM

NO FOURTH SATURDAY PRACTICE AT WARMLEY!
(It's Christmas Day - Merry Christmas to all!)