

G&B Northavon Branch

BRANCH PROGRAMME 1994

January

Saturday 8th Westerleigh – 7.30pm

Special method – Little Bob

Saturday 22nd Almondsbury – 7.30pm

Special Method – Superlative

February

Saturday 12th Frenchay – 7.00 pm

Followed by a short business meeting at 8.30pm

Saturday 19th Barn Dance at Filton

Saturday 26th Coalpit Heath – 7.30pm

*Tickets for the Barn
Dance from Ruth
Welch 'phone
0272 695084*

March

Saturday 12th Alveston – 7.30pm

Saturday 19th Association Training Day

Saturday 26th Olveston – 7.30pm

*Information on
the Training Day
from Dave Ware
'phone 0454
323567*

G&B Northavon Branch

BRANCH NEWSLETTER - MARCH

BARN DANCE

The Branch Barn Dance at Filton was cancelled due to poor ticket sales. This was very disappointing after last years success, but it would appear that we picked the wrong weekend! Many thanks to Ruth and Eddy Welch for all the work they had done in preparation.

BRANCH OUTING

This years Branch outing has been arranged for Monday May 2nd, and it intended to have a cut off date for bookings of April 17th. It is planned to ring at five towers, including Charminster, Warminster and Dorchester. A poster advertising the outing will be circulated shortly.

ALL CHANGE AT WESTERLEIGH

Westerleigh are no longer practicing on Monday evenings. Their practice night is now Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00. All are welcome!

HELP!!

Following the recent consultations with towers about how the Branch can best help ringers, Thornbury have asked the Branch for assistance to help them overcome a hurdle. They have four ringers who can ring "inside" and several more who can hunt the treble, but they need additional ringers to help get the "plain hunters" to ring inside. If you can help on Tuesday evenings, would you contact Dave Ware. He will try and arrange a rota so that it need not be too much of a commitment for anyone.

TRAINING DAY

The Branch Plain Bob Doubles Training Day is on Sat, 23rd April at Tytherington. It is planned to have a morning theory session from 11.00 'til 1.00, and an afternoon practical from 2.00 'til 4.00. If you can hunt the treble to any doubles method and you want to attend, then contact Dave Ware (c/s 323567) as soon as possible. Numbers will be very limited! Experienced ringers are also required as helpers - please contact Dave Ware

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Forms for subscriptions were sent out in January to Tower Secretaries. So far only a few 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 you have lost the form, or have any queries, then contact Alan Freke who will be able to supply another.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee members are:

Chairman - Arthur Herbert 0454 413968
Ringing Master - Dave Ware 0454 323567
Deputy R.M. - Don Haskins 0454 898553
M.C Rep. - Ken Weeks 0272 676805
Treasurer - Ruth Welch 0272 695084
Secretary - Alan Freke 0272 570942
5,Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay.

March

Saturday 12th Alveston - 7.30pm
Saturday 19th Association Training Day
Saturday 26th Olveston - 7.30pm

April

Wednesday 13th Frenchay - 7.30pm
Saturday 16th Association AGM
Saturday 23rd - 6 Bell Training Day

**Remember, from April the
six bell practice moves from
2nd Saturday to a Wednesday!**

May

Monday 2nd Branch Outing
Wednesday 11th Frenchay - 7.30pm
Saturday 28th Thornbury - 7.30pm

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - APRIL

ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association AGM is on Saturday 16th April, and your Tower correspondent should shortly receive full details directly from the Association Secretary. If you haven't had details by the first week in April, then Alan Freke will be able to supply them.

BRANCH OUTING

This years Branch outing has been arranged for Monday May 2nd, and the cut off date for bookings is April 17th. A poster advertising the outing has already been sent to your tower, and a committee member should appear to try and sell tickets. If you want to make sure that you book early, then contact Don Haskins or any Committee member.

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

Towers who wish to enter the Best Kept Tower competition, should contact Alan Freke by the end of April. This can be a useful exercise in getting your tower not only tidy, but safe! However, note that towers which have had professional work carried out in the last two years are not eligible.

P. R. O.

The Management Committee has suggested that each Branch should have a Public Relations Officer to try and improve our image with the public at large. If you feel that this is a task you are able to do, please contact Arthur Herbert or Alan Freke to discuss it further.

TRAINING DAY

The Branch Plain Bob Doubles Training Day is on Sat, 23rd April at Tytherington. It is planned to have a morning theory session from 11,00 'til 1,00, and an afternoon practical from 2,00 'til 4,00. If you can hunt the treble to any doubles method and you want to attend, then contact Dave Ware (c/s 323567) as soon as possible. Numbers will be very limited! Experienced ringers are also required as helpers - please contact Dave Ware

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

It has been proposed that the Association produces a calendar for 1995, a tower from each Branch will be used for each month of the year. What we need is a photograph to represent North Avon. This is needed quickly, so if you have a favourite snap of your church (in colour please) could you contact Arthur Herbert by the 15th of April.

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5,Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay.

April

Wed. 13th 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Saturday 16th Association AGM

Saturday 23rd - 6 Bell Training Day

**Remember, from April the
six bell practice moves from
2nd Saturday to a Wednesday!**

May

Monday 2nd Branch Outing

Wed. 11th 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat. 28th 8 bell Practice Thornbury 7.30

Preceded by Half Yearly Meeting

June

Wed. 15th - 6 bell Practice Abson 7.30

Sat. 25th - 8 bell Practice Bitton 7.30

**G&B North Avon Branch
BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY**

May

Monday 2nd Branch Outing **

Wed. 11th 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

**Sat. 28th Half Yearly Meeting
at St Mary's Thornbury**

4.45 – General Ringing

5.30 – Service

6.00 – Tea

6.45 – Short Business Meeting

7.30 – Eight Bell Practice 'til 9.00

June

Wed. 15th – 6 bell Practice Abson 7.30

Sat. 25th – 8 bell Practice Bitton 7.30

July

Sat 2nd Striking Competition Tortworth

Sun 3rd Handbells at Iron Acton – 6.30

Wed. 13th – 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat. 23rd – 8 bell Practice Warmley 7.30

Mayday Branch Outing

At the time of going to press, there were just three places left on the coach. If you thought you had left it too late, there may still be room for you. Call Don Haskins on 0454 898553.

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - JUNE

CENTRAL COUNCIL TRAINING

Various courses are being run at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire from Friday 29th July to Sunday 31st July. The G&B is prepared to pay towards the cost of attending some of these courses. In particular they will sponsor people who go on the "Tower Management" and "Belfry Maintenance" courses. However, if interest in these courses is low, then they will also sponsor people to go on some of the other courses. Please contact Dave Ware or Alan Freke for details.

STRIKING COMPETITION

The Branch Striking Competition will take place on Saturday 2nd July. The draw will be made at 6.00pm. If you have any special requests for an early or late draw, then please contact Dave Ware before that date.

HANDBELL CONCERT

As part of the fundraising for Iron Action bells, a concert of Handbell music is being held in Iron Acton Church on Sunday 3rd July at 6.30pm. A Handbell Choir from Huston, Texas, and Winterbourne St Michael's Handbells are providing the music for what promises to be a special evening. Tickets are £2 and they are available in advance from Brian Angell (0454 228737) or Rev. A F Waker (0454 228412). Tickets will also be available on the door, but Iron Acton only seats 200 - you have been warned!

TRAINING DAY

Myself and two other ringers from St John's, Frenchay attended a theory and practice day given by David Ware at Tytherington church on April 23rd, with help from other more experienced ringers in the afternoon.

At the time it was difficult to assess how much had actually sunk in, but it soon became clear at following practices that much had been gained from the day. Our grateful thanks to Dave Ware and his team for giving up their valuable time.

David Malpass.

PENN TROPHY

For the second year in a row we came second in the Penn Trophy. I know the band put in a lot of practice, but they were beaten on the day by Wotten-under-Edge Well done to those who took part.

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Secretary	Alan Freke 0272 570942
	5.Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay

June

Wed. 15th - 6 bell Practice Abson 7.30

Sat. 25th - 8 bell Practice Bitton 7.00

**Followed by Half Yearly Meeting
from 8.30 'til 9.00**

August

THURS 11th 6 bell Practice Syston 7.30

SUN 21st Ringing for Evensong at

Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm

Sat 27th - 8 bell Practice Almondsbury 7.30

July

Sat 2nd Striking Competition

at Tortworth. Draw at 6.00pm

SUN 3rd Handbells at Iron Acton 6.30

Wed 13th - 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat 23rd 10 bell Practice St Ambrose 7.30

SUPPORT IRON ACTON'S BELL FUND

SUNDAY 3rd JULY AT 6.30.

HANDBELL CONCERT

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - JULY

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

North Avon Branch are ringing for Evensong on Sunday 21st August. The ringing will be from 1.30 to 2.45pm, and will be open to all ringers from the Branch. I have not organised a quarter peal because I feel that this would deprive too many people of the opportunity to ring. However, this will only be successful if the experienced ringers turn out in force. If you are available to ring then please phone me for details.

Dave Ware 0454 323567

QUARTER PEAL WEEK

This will take place in the week commencing Saturday 22nd October. I expect most towers will organise their own quarter peals. However, if you are short of ringers then please let me know, and I will try to organise extra ringers to make up your band. Also, if anyone has a special request (such as ringing your first quarter in a method, or conducting a quarter, or ringing a particular method ..etc) then please let me know and I will try to fix up extra quarter peals to accommodate as many requests as possible.

Dave Ware

BEST KEPT TOWER

Frampton Cotterell are representing the Branch in the Best Kept Tower Competition. We wish them luck. Maybe your tower would like to enter next year?

HANDBELL CONCERT

Don't forget the Handbell Concert in Iron Acton Church on Sunday 3rd July at 6.30pm. Tickets are £2 and they are available in from Brian Angell (0454 228737) or Rev. A F Waker (0454 228412) or at the door.

SKITTLES EVENING

Dave Powell is organising another Skittles Evening at The Rising Sun, Frampton Cotterell on Saturday 1st October. Book the date in your diary now!

MICHAEL STANLEY

Most members will by now have heard of the untimely death of Micheal on 6th June. He was Bristol Branch Chairman and a member of the Far Cited Band. He suddenly collapsed in Brecon during their outing on the previous Saturday. Our thoughts are with his family.

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5.Cliff Court Drive, Frenchay

July

Sat 2nd Striking Competition

at Tortworth. Draw at 6.00pm

SUN 3rd Handbells at Iron Acton 6.30

Wed 13th- 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat 23rd 10 bell Practice St Ambrose 7.30

August

THURS 11th 6 bell Practice Syston 7.30

SUN 21st Ringing for Evensong at

Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm

Sat 27th - 8 bell Practice Almondsbury 7.30

September

Sat. 10th - 6 bell Practice Frampton 7.00

Followed by Half Yearly Meeting

Wed. 14th - 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat. 28th - 8 bell Practice Mangotsfield 6.00

SUPPORT IRON ACTON'S BELL FUND

SUNDAY 3rd JULY AT 6.30.

HANDBELL CONCERT

**G&B North Avon Branch
BRANCH NEWSLETTER – AUGUST**

August

THURS 11th 6 bell Practice Syston 7.30

SUN 21st Ringing for Evensong at

Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm

Sat 27th – 8 bell Practice Almondsbury 7.30

September

Sat. 10th – 6 bell Practice Frampton 7.00

Followed by Quarterly Meeting 8.30

Wed. 14th – 6 bell Practice Frenchay 7.30

Sat. 24th – 8 bell Practice Mangotsfield 6.00

Frampton Cotterell won the Branch Striking Competition, and will represent the Branch in the Croome Trophy in September. Five Towers competed on a beautiful summers evening, and Frampton even beat the usual winners – the scratch band!!

Don't forget Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 21st August. Meet by the door at 1.30pm. There is no admission if you come late! All are most welcome. (It's worth it just to see Great Peter Swinging!)

G&B North Avon Branch October 1994 Newsletter

October

Saturday 1st - Skittles at the Rising Sun, Frampton Cotterell.
Wednesday 12th - 6 bell practice at Frenchay.
Saturday 22nd - 8 bell practice at Coalpit Heath.

November

Saturday 12th - Branch A.G.M. at Filton.
Saturday 19th - Plain Bob Major training day at Bitton.
Saturday 26th - 8 bell practice at Warmley.

December

Saturday 10th - 6 bell practice at Winterbourne.
No 8 bell practice in December because the 4th Saturday is Christmas eve.

G&B Calendars

At the September meeting of the M.C. Reps, they were all asked to take copies of the G&B calendar to sell. They cost £3:00 each, so if you want one please contact Ken Weeks on 0272 676805.

New Branch Officers

A new ringing master and deputy ringing master will be required at the branch A.G.M. in November. Dave Ware is standing down because he will probably be working in St. Neots soon, and will only be around at week-ends. Don Haskins gave notification last year that he wanted to stand down due to other commitments, but was prepared to stand for one more year so that there were not too many changes to the branch officers last year.

Please try to find two people ready to step into their shoes in November.

Branch 8 Bell Training Day

This will be a Plain Bob Major training day at Bitton on Saturday 19th November. The minimum requirement will be that you can ring a touch of Plain Bob Doubles inside, or a plain course of Plain Bob Minor. The day will be organised as a theory session from 10:00 till 12:30 in the morning, followed by a practical session from 2:30 till 5:00 in the afternoon. If you wish to attend please contact Dave Ware on 0454 323567. **Helpers will be required for the afternoon ringing** - If you can help please contact Dave Ware on the above number.

Quarter Peal Week

Quarter peal week this year starts on Saturday 22nd October. If your tower will not be ringing a quarter, or if you want to ring or conduct a particular method, then please contact Dave Ware and he will try to fix up a band for you.

In Memorium

Raymond (Bert) Williams died on Tuesday 13th September. He had been a ringer in the North Avon area since the 1920s, ringing mainly at Coalpit Heath and Abson. An obituary will be published in the next news letter.

Branch Officers

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Secretary - Alan Freke 0272 570942

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER

November

Sat. 12th Branch AGM at Filton
Sat. 19th 8 bell training day Bitton
Sat. 26th - 8 bell Practice Warmley 7.30

December

Sat 10th 6 bell Practice Winterbourne 7.30
Sat. 24th - No 8 bell Practice, it's Christmas Eve
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Bob Major Training Day 19th November

There is still time to phone Dave Ware for a place on the Bob Major Training Day, and Dave still needs experienced ringers to assist in the afternoon. For further information call Dave on 0454 323567.

Branch Officers

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Nominations are invited for all Committee posts at the AGM, but a new Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master are definitely needed. If you can help, or know someone who can, then call Alan Freke on 0272 570942 asap, or come to the AGM ready to stand.

Obituary - Albert Isaac Raymond Williams 2nd Feb 1916 - 13th Sept 1994

The death of Ray Williams seems like the end of an era in the North Avon Branch. He lived all his life in the same road in Coalpit Heath, starting work as a blacksmith's striker at the coal mine in Coalpit Heath where his father also worked. Later he became a railway porter and then signaller on the G.W.R. until modernisation made him redundant - nothing changes!

From the age of ten he had longed to learn to ring, but he had to wait until he was thirteen before anyone would teach him. He learnt very quickly and became a stalwart member of the first band of ringers at Coalpit Heath and was Tower Captain for a number of years. He and his friends would cycle miles for an evening's ringing, or by train - yes train - to Bristol, getting a cheap fare as an employee. When Albert Rodman got a motorbike and sidecar they would go further afield for the evening or on a Saturday.

Although he rang several peals (some with Fred Scudamore) and conducted the quarter peal to celebrate the end of the Second World War which is recorded on a board at St. Saviours, his main interest was to share his enthusiasm with other ringers, particularly learners, and help towers that were struggling. It was for this reason that he came to ring at Abson in the mid-Seventies, and stayed with us until a stroke curtailed his abilities two years ago. (He always said that he was "on loan" from Coalpit Heath, where he continued to ring for Sunday services and weddings.) He encouraged his good friend Gilbert Drew and myself to visit other towers. Many happy Wednesday evenings were spent at Westerleigh practices where, in winter, Jack Ferris would have warmed the ropes by the fire! Afterwards appropriate refreshments were always taken at the "Old Inn".

His ringing skill was recognised in 1973 when he became a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. His dedication to teaching and encouraging ringers earned him Honorary Life Membership of the G&B.

He is much missed at Abson where he succeeded George Mizen as Tower Captain. His ability and reliability were sterling qualities, and his sense of humour - sometimes rather wicked - meant that ringing with him was never dull. Our condolences go out to his extended family.

Jennifer Rogers

On 2nd October a half muffled quarter peal was rung at Abson before a thanksgiving service for his life.

1260 Doubles - David Powell 1, Brian Angell 2, Jennifer Rogers 3, Terry Jefferies 4, Bert Ferris 5, Andy Fox 6

G&B North Avon Branch

BRANCH NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER

December

Sat 10th 6 bell Practice Winterbourne 7.30
Special methods - All Saints & Oxford T.B.

Sat. 24th - No 8 bell Practice, it's Christmas Eve
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

January

Sat 14th 6 bell Practice Iron Acton 7.30

Sat. 28th - 8 bell Practice Thornbury 7.30

Bob Major Training Day 19th November

The Bob Major Training Day at Bitton was a great success and it is planned to have two more Training Days in 1995. Requests so far include 'Conducting' and Stedman, but if you have any views let Ryan Price know.

A Message from the new Chairman

As your new Chairman, I would like to remind members that this is your Branch, and we want to make ringing as pleasurable as possible. "We aim to please" is our motto, and if you can come to meetings and give us your thoughts, we'll do our best to provide what you want.
David Powell

For 1995 we hope to have a Branch calendar, so that all the activities will be available on a single sheet. These should come with your January Newsletter

What's in a name?

At the AGM (draft minutes attached) it was decided to change the Branch name back to 'Bristol Rural' after 20 years as 'Northavon' or 'North Avon'. There should be no effect other than a change at the top of this Newsletter, and we will appear earlier in the Annual Report. It isn't a takeover by Bristol Branch! As the Bard said 'A rose by any other name would smell as sweet'! The new (old?) name should come in effect after the Association AGM in April.

Special Quarter

Many of you will know Bill Hawkins of Frenchay who rings one handed due to bone cancer in his right arm. On 11th December Bill is 18, and to mark the occasion he is ringing a sponsored quarter to raise funds for CLIC, the children's cancer charity, who are also 18 this year. Other members of the band include ringers from Coaley who were also helped by CLIC. If you want to sponsor Bill, phone Alan Freke on 0272 570942.

Branch Officers

Chairman - David Powell 0454 773506
Ringing Master - Ryan Price 0272 493597
Deputy R.M. - Bryan Hardwick 0454 325662
M.C. Rep. - Ken Weeks 0272 676805
Treasurer - Ruth Welch 0272 695084
Secretary - Alan Freke 0272 570942

If you know of any changes to the Annual Report for 1995, please let Alan Freke (0272 570942) know as soon as possible, as the amendments have to be sent to the Report Secretary by Christmas.