

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter September 1995

SEPTEMBER RINGING

September 7th	FarCited Band at Dundry 2.30 'til 4.00pm
September 9th	6 Bell Practice at Abson 7.30 'til 9.00pm
September 16th	8 BELL TRAINING DAY POSTPONED!!! Croombe Trophy at Horsley.
September 23rd	8 Bell Practice at Olveston 7.30 'til 9.00pm NOTE. This is an addition to the published Programme.

OCTOBER RINGING

October 5th	FarCited Band at Warmley 2.30 'til 4.00pm
October 14th	5 Bell Practice at Wapley 7.30 'til 9.00pm
October 21st	Skittles at the Rising Sun, Frampton.
October 28th	10 Bell Practice at St. Ambrose 7.30 'til 9.00pm.

BRANCH DINNER 1995

As agreed at last year's AGM, we are having a Branch Dinner on the 9th December, which will feature a formal 3 course meal, a guest speaker, handbell ringers to entertain, and of course, a bar! Tickets will be on sale from September onwards, and there is a limit to the numbers the caterers can deal with, so snap them up quick!

THE FAR CITED COMPANY OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

The Far Cited Company of Bell Ringers was inaugurated in 1989, the inspiration of Arthur Herbert, who sensing a growing number of retired, but able bodied ringers around, decided to do something about it. His idea of a monthly gathering - primarily a social occasion with opportunity to ring with old friends and new, was an immediate success. We have only two rules: No one is in charge (a Ringing Master is delegated/conscripted for each meeting), and there are no inquests when (occasionally) the ringing comes to grief! All this time Arthur has willingly made the arrangements for the meetings, and our annual outings; so efficiently that, as is the way of things, we've come to believe it will always be so. It was therefore with surprise tinged with sadness that we learnt at our August gathering that after five and a half years he's decided to relinquish some of the responsibilities. Fortunately an able successor has been found. From now on Mary York, who with Tony already organises our Christmas outing, has agreed to take on the task of organising our monthly meetings. Arthur for the time being is happy to continue organising the Mystery Tour. We're sure that we express the gratitude of all the Exercise locally in thanking Arthur for the work he's put into the promotion of the Far Cited Company - may we enjoy his, and each others companionship for a long while yet!

The September and October meetings are above, November 2nd is Cromall, and December 7th is the Christmas Outing - keep it free, it's always a good day out!

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER – JANUARY

The 1995 Branch Program is a very full one, and below are listed some of the more important dates for your new diary.

- March 11th – Training Day on 'Conducting' at Frenchay
March 25 – Association Training Day Tewkesbury and Cirencester
April 22nd – Association AGM at Swindon
May 6th – Branch Outing
May 8th – Quarter Peal day for 50 years of Peace in Europe
June 10th – Branch Striking Competition at Dyrham.
August 6th – Evensong ringing at Gloucester Cathedral
September 9th – Raising and Lowering in peal evening at Abson
September 16th – Croome Trophy at Horsley
September 23rd – 8 bell Training Day at Olveston
October 21st – David Powell's Skittles evening at the Rising Sun
November 11th – Branch AGM at Tytherington
December 9th – Proposed Branch Dinner?

It has been proposed that we have a Branch Dinner in 1995, and the committee have suggested December 9th. We are very interested in YOUR views on this, as without support the idea is not worth following up. It will be the main item for discussion at the February Quarterly Meeting, so come along and give your views.

As the Government has moved the Mayday Holiday by a week to allow celebrations of VE Day on the 8th May, we have decided to have the Outing on the previous Saturday, so that the 50th Anniversary can be used as a Quarter Peal day. We hope that you will be able to support both.

Branch Officers

Chairman	-	David Powell	0454	773506
Ringling 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

January

Sat 14th 6 bell Practice Iron Acton 7.30
Sat. 28th – 8 bell Practice Thornbury 7.30

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MARCH

March

Sat 11th 'Conducting' at Frenchay 2pm
Also Quiz Evening at Downend 7.30pm

Sat 25th Association Training Day
at Tewksbury and Cirencester.

April

Sat 8th – 6 bell Practice Alveston 7.30pm
Sat. 22nd. Association AGM at Swindon
Further details next month.

Training Day at Frenchay Saturday 11th March 2.00pm 'til 5.00pm

The training session is for the benefit of ringers wishing to learn 'simple conducting', and will be run as three classes.

Class 1. 'Conducting Call Changes'

Class 2. 'Conducting Plain Bob Doubles'

Class 3 'Conducting Grandsire Doubles'

(For further information see last month's newsletter)

There are still a few places left in each class.. Ringers wishing to join the course should contact Alan Freke (0117 957 0942) as soon as possible.

Competent ringers are also required to be 'conducted' by the students, so please give your support to those learning. Again, if you are able to help, please contact Alan Freke.

Ryan Price, Branch Ringing Master.

Wine and Cheese Quiz Evening at Downend

Don't forget the Quiz Evening at the Assembly Hall Downend on Saturday 11th March. Bring your own team, or just come along and join one on the night. Tickets are obtainable from Mary York (0454 772532) and cost £2.50 to include the first glass of wine.

50th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 1995

The Government has decreed that the Mayday holiday this year is to be Monday 8th May as this is the 50th anniversary of VE Day. We are hoping that all towers in the Branch will be able ring a Quarter Peal to mark the day, but the Children's Society are seeking sponsored ringing to fundraise. Details of their 'Peace-A-Peal' are included with this newsletter. If your tower wants to take part will you contact them directly.

G&B North Avon Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - APRIL

April

Sat 8th - 6 bell Practice Alveston 7.30pm
Sat. 22nd. Association AGM at Swindon
Further details below

May

Sat 6th Branch Outing to Marlborough.
Mon 8th VE 50th Anniversary Quarter day
Sat 20th Warmley Half Yearly Meeting

Arrangements for the Association AGM at Swindon Saturday ~~22nd April~~ 22ND APRIL

Time

8.45-9.45		Lydiard Tregoze	
9.15-10.15		Purton	
9.30-10.30	Broad Hinton		Hannington
9.45-10.45		Minety	
10.00-11.00	Wroughton		Highworth
10.15-11.15		Cricklade	
10.30-11.30	Rodbourne		Blunsdon
11.00-12.00	Swindon St Mark		Stratton
12.30-14.00	Swindon Christ Church		

Ploughman's Lunches served at Leisure Centre (next to Christ Church)
*****LUNCH MUST BE ORDERED*****

Please send names to Mrs Inez Gale, 28 Vasterne Close, Purton, Swindon, Wilts SN5 9EZ or phone 01793 770138 to order lunch.

14.00-14.45 Service in Christ Church

15.00-17.00 (approx) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in Church Hall, Devises Rd

17.00-18.00 (approx) Tea also in Church Hall after meeting.

Help needed at Iron Acton

Brian Angel needs ringers to help keep the bells at Iron Acton ringing for Evensong. If you are able to help, please call Brian on (01454) 228737. You are assured of a warm welcome!

50th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 1995

The Government has decreed that the Mayday holiday this year is to be Monday 8th May as this is the 50th anniversary of VE Day. We are hoping that all towers in the Branch will be able ring a Quarter Peal to mark the day, but the Children's Society are seeking sponsored ringing to fundraise. Details of their 'Peace-A-Peal' were included with the last newsletter. If your tower wants to take part will you contact them directly.

If you are unable to arrange a Quarter (or other ringing) in your tower, please contact one of the committee who will try and find ringers to help make up a band.

G&B Bristol Rural Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY

May

Sat 6th Branch Outing to Marlborough.

Mon 8th VE 50th Anniversary Quarter day

Sat 20th Warmley Half Yearly Meeting

Ringing 4.30, Service 5.30 followed by
tea at 6.00 and the Meeting at 6.30.

Evening ringing 7.30 'til 9.00

June

Sat 3rd. Striking Competition at Dyrham

Sat. 24th 10Bell Practice Berkeley 7.30

Branch Outing Saturday 6th May.

This year's Branch outing is by car, and we meet at Frenchay Church at 8.45am. Make up a party from your tower, and come and enjoy a great day out in the Marlborough area. A variety of Towers are promised, and we are assured of good weather (I hope!).

10.00 – 10.45 Marlborough (8) OS map 174 189693

11.15 – 12.00 Ransbury (6) OS map 174 273716

12.15 – 13.00 Lambourne (8) OS map 174 326789

LUNCH

14.15 – 15.15 East Garston (6) OS map 174 362771

16.15 – 17.15 Great Bedwyn (6) OS map 174 278643

18.15 – 19.15 Urchfont (8) OS map 173 041573

A pub meal on the way back will be available.

If you can't make it at 8.45am, then join us during the day!

50th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 1995

The Government has decreed that the Mayday holiday this year is to be Monday 8th May as this is the 50th anniversary of VE Day. We are hoping that all towers in the Branch will be able ring a Quarter Peal to mark the day, but the Children's Society are seeking sponsored ringing to fundraise. Details of their 'Peace-A-Peal' were included with the last newsletter. If your tower wants to take part will you contact them directly.

If you are unable to arrange a Quarter (or other ringing) in your tower, please contact one of the committee who will try and find ringers to help make up a band.

Name dropping?

As from the date of the Association AGM, our Branch name has officially changed to 'Bristol Rural Branch' – the name it was known by until the creation of Avon County Council in 1974. Apart from the name change, everything else is unaffected.

Congratulations!

Those of you not at the Association AGM missed the election to Honorary Life Membership of the Association of Ken Weeks and Terry Jefferies for their work on bell restorations over many years. These are the first HLM's to be elected in the Branch since 1974.

G&B Bristol Rural Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - JUNE

June

Sat 3rd - Striking Contest
Dyrham

Sat 24th - 10 bell practice
Berkeley

July

Sat 8th - 6 bell practice
Westerleigh

Sat 22nd - 8 bell practice
To Be Confirmed

Arrangements for Striking Contest Dyrham - 3rd June 6.30pm.

The draw will take place at 6.30pm. Bands wishing to enter should inform the Ringing Master or Deputy before the Contest day.

The test piece shall consist of 120 changes of any method. At the discretion of the Ringing Master inexperienced bands may ring not less than five minutes of called changes, with changes at least every four whole blows.

Five minutes shall be allowed for adjusting ropes and familiarisation. The start of the test piece shall be signalled by one whole pull on the treble.

Bands may, if necessary, import one "foreign" ringer who has a close association with the tower.

The judge will be Pat Bird, of the City Branch, and his decisions shall be final in all matters !!!!!!!

The winners shall go forward to represent the branch in the Croome Trophy competition later in the year.

Forthcoming Events

August 6th - Service ringing at Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm

December 9th - Branch Social Christmas Dinner, Book Early

ANY TOWER THAT STILL HAS NOT PAID ITS G&B SUBS PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY, OR RISK THE WRATH OF THE TREASURER !!!!

G&B Bristol Rural Branch BRANCH NEWSLETTER - JULY

July

Sat 8th 6 Bell Practice Westerleigh 7.30

Sat 22nd 8 Bell Practice - Almondsbury 7.30

August

SUN 6th Gloucester Cathedral 1.30 prompt!

Sat 12th 6 Bell Practice - Syston 7.30

Sat 26th 8 Bell Practice - Bitton 7.30

Striking Competition Report

The Branch Striking Competition at Dyrham only attracted four towers plus the usual 'scratch' band. The tendency of the fourth rope to slip wheel affected two bands; Frenchay were able to keep going, but it brought Westerleigh's efforts to a premature halt. The Branch is grateful to Pat Bird from Bristol who was our judge, and who presented the Bristol Rural Trophy to Frampton Cotterell.

The results were:-
First Frampton Cotterell - 12 faults
Second Syston - 15 faults
Third The scratch band - 20 faults
Fourth Frenchay - 27 faults
Unplaced Westerleigh - failed to finish.

240's of Bob Doubles

Most of you will be familiar with 240's of Grandsire Doubles where all changes occur twice, once at handstroke and once at backstroke. A few years ago John Morgan, then vicar of Mangotsfield, wrote an article for the Ringing World about Bob Doubles in which he showed that similar 240's of Bob Doubles were not possible.

However, he had only considered the use of the 'bob', and his ideas have now led to callings of 240's using both the 'bob' and the 'single'. In fact 240's are more than just possible. There are no less than 328 ways of calling a 240 of Bob Doubles, compared with only 32 ways with Grandsire!

Attached to this Newsletter is a sheet giving all the callings; Try them in a Quarter peal - they're fun!
For those of you without a RW diary the single is:-

31524
13254
13245
31425

Branch Officers

Chairman - David Powell, Ringing Master - Ryan Price, Deputy RM - Bryan Hardwick,
Treasurer - Ruth Welch, MC Rep. - Ken Weeks, Secretary - Alan Freke (0117 957 0942)

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter August 1995

AUGUST RINGING

- August 6th* *Evensong ringing at Gloucester Cathedral. Meet inside at the South Transept by 1.30pm sharp!*
- August 12th* *6 Bell Practice at Syston 7.00 'til 8.30, then 30 minute Quarterly Business Meeting. (See also Sept.16th below!)*
- August 26th* *8 Bell Practice at Bitton 7.30 'til 9.00pm.*

SEPTEMBER RINGING

- September 9th* *6 Bell Practice at Abson 7.30 'til 9.00pm*
- September 16th* *8 Bell Training Day at Olveston - see September Newsletter for further details. Note. The exact nature of this Training Day will be decided by the Quarterly Meeting at Syston on August 12th.*

RINGING OUTING ON SATURDAY 2nd. SEPTEMBER

Frampton Cotterell and Westerleigh's joint outing on 2nd September has room for a few more ringers - if you hurry!

They are spending the day in the City of Oxford, and the towers include Christchurch (12), Magdalen (10), and the Carfax Tower (6). Further details from Mary York 01454 772532 or Leon Shackleton 01454 772025.

G & B Bristol Rural Branch

Branch Newsletter - October

OCTOBER DIARY

Sat 14th - Wapley 5 bell practice
7.30pm - 9.00pm

Sat 21st - Skittles evening at
The Rising Sun, Frampton Cotterell

Sat 28th - St Ambrose 10 bell practice
7.30pm - 9.00pm

Wapley - Please bring your own sweatbands, muscle rub, bearing oil and enthusiasm. These bells are hard work, but interesting.

Skittles evening - To be held at the Rising Sun, Frampton Cotterell. Cost including buffet £4 for adults and £3 for juniors, or not including buffet £1 for adults and 50p for children (alley only). Please bring pen and paper for some more of David's famous anagrams. Numbers by 14 October at the latest please.

ADVANCE NOTICE

November 11 - Bristol Rural Branch AGM at Tytherington Service, Tea, Meeting and half muffled ringing for Remembrance Day

Please come along and make your voice heard. This is your Branch and we need your ideas and feedback to make it work. Please also consider standing for a committee post as some of the present committee will be retiring this year. See Alan or Bryan for details of committee posts.

Croome Trophy - Frampton represented Bristol Rural Branch at the Croome Trophy competition held at Horsley this year. They came a creditable 7th.

G+B Peal and Quarter peal week. This is approaching fast. We aim to ring at least one quarter in every ringable tower during the week. If your tower wishes to ring but cannot raise a band, please contact any member of the committee who will attempt to arrange extra ringers to assist.

Christmas meal - December 9th Make sure this is in your diary.

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1995

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday 2nd FarCited Band meet at Cromhall 2.30 'til 4.00pm
Saturday 11th AGM at Tytherington 5.45pm - see separate notice.
Saturday 25th 8 Bell Practice at Mangotsfield 6.30 'til 8.00pm Note times!!

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Thursday 7th FarCited Band Christmas Outing - already sold out!
Saturday 9th Branch Dinner - see below.

BRANCH DINNER

To mark our renaming as Bristol Rural Branch, a Dinner is being held on 9th December at Stoke Gifford Trust Hall. It promises to be a great evening with guest speaker Steve Colman and the Winterbourne St Michael's Handbell Ringers. Don't get the old dinner jacket out, as lounge suits will be the order of the day. Tickets are available from Ruth Welch (0117 969 5084). When ordering your tickets, please tell Ruth your menu selections for our caterers. Tickets are £15 each, and the numbers are limited, so don't delay!

Menu

Starters; Cream of Watercress and Mushroom Soup
Smoked Salmon with Avocado
Marinated Melon with Orange and Ginger

Main Courses Roast Salmon with Mustard Butter
Chicken Breasts in White Wine with Apricots
Spinach and Feta Cheese in Filo Pastry Pie (Vegetarian)

Desserts Chocolate Fruit Pavlova
Sticky Date and Walnut Pudding
Fresh Fruit Mousse

Followed by Coffee and Mints

Thank you

I am retiring from the job of Branch Secretary at the AGM (This may be the opening on the Committee that you've been waiting to fill!). As this is the last Newsletter I will be producing, I would like to thank all those Tower Correspondants who have helped by putting the Newsletter on their Tower notice boards over the last four years, and thereby helped make Branch activities a success. Again, thank you.

Alan Freke

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter December 1995

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all our readers

December and January Ringing

Thursday 7th December Farcited outing to Cirencester/Stow(Christmas Lunch) and Chipping Norton. There are 55 people booked to attend.

The next organised ringing will be in January:-

Saturday 13th January 6 Bell Practice Frampton Cotterell at 19.30

Saturday 27th January 8 Bell Practice Coalpit Heath at 19.30 TBC

Branch Dinner

The Branch Dinner will take place on the 9th of December at the Stoke Gifford Trust Hall.

The guest speaker is Steve Coleman the author of two popular ringing books.

The Winterbourne handbell ringers will also be present to entertain.

Ring Ruth Welch and book your seats so as not to miss a very entertaining evening(Phone Number 01179 695084)

Steve Colemans two books will be the raffle prize

Bristol Rural Branch AGM at Tytherington

The ringers at Tytherington welcomed the AGM this year in style, we had an excellent service, a superb tea, some good ringing, and to top it all they have taken away the ladder and put in a magnificent doorway. The minutes from the AGM have been sent out with this newsletter. In general the officers of the branch remain the same with only a change of secretary, and a new appointment this year of Public Relations Officer(PRO). The new secretary is Tony York and the PRO is Mary York telephone number 01454 772532. Our address for the articles you are going to send for the newsletter is:-

Portbury 170 Watleys End Road Winterbourne South Gloucestershire, BS17 1QH.

Iron Acton Ringing

For a number of months now there has been ringing at Iron Acton for evening service on the 2nd Sunday in the month at 17:30. This has been particularly well attended and so an attempt at setting up a monthly Practice on the 4th Thursday of every month is to be tried. Starting on 25th January 1996 at 19.30 all welcome.

Thornbury Bells

We are reliably informed that Thornburys bells are to be removed for major work to be carried out. If you want a final ring on the bells it will have to be before Easter 1996. So get along to their practice or Sunday ringing. To raise money for this task they are arranging a number of events the first is a recital,

The Celebration of Advent

Sung by Chanson an unaccompanied choir from Gloucester. This is taking place in St Mary's Thornbury on the 2nd of December at 7.30pm.

Tickets available from Norton Clothier on 01454 417830
Price £3.50 and includes a glass of wine.

Your article or event could be here in the next news letter send it in now



GBDEC.ppp