

Newsletter February 1996

February Ringing

Thursday 1st February	Farcited Band	St Pauls Southville	14:30
Saturday 10th February	6 Bell Practice	Pucklechurch	at 19.30
Saturday 24th February	8 Bell Practice	Warmley	at 19.30

Forthcoming Events to look out for

Saturday 9th March Branch Training Day at Filton(TBC) and Frampton Cotterell

14:30 to 16:30 Conducting Method and Raising and Lowering.

If you want to attend the training as a student please ring Ryan Price on 01179493597 . If you can offer your services to help ring Bryan Hardwick on 01454-325662 or Tony York on 01454-772532.

Also:-

Saturday 9th March Quiz Evening in the Assembly Rooms Downend

19:45 to 10:30 The event this year is being run by Almondsbury tower.

Do bring a team from your tower. Last years event was well subscribed lets make it even better this year. There will be cheese and wine. For tickets ring Don Haskins on 01454-898553 or Mags Graupner on 01454-612001.

The price for the evening will be £2.90.

Saturday 16th March Penn Trophy team training day Venue TBA 19.30 to 21.00

Saturday 23rd March Guild Training day at Cirencester and Tewksbury.

Note there is no Branch 8 bell practice on this Saturday

Branch Dinner

Article received from Ruth Welch

Following a very successful Branch dinner the Speaker Steve Coleman wrote thanking the branch. Here follows an extract from the letter:-

"Many thanks indeed for such a splendid evening. It was quite the best meal we've had at a formal dinner, and the company was enjoyable as I knew it would be. The handbell ringers were very entertaining as well. But then to top of all that you gave two most marvellous presents as well. Having scoured the country for Anglungs it was a splendid surprise to receive a set at your dinner.

Once again, many thanks to everyone for such a lovely time. May the Bristol Rural Branch go from strength to strength

as yrs.

etc. Just to show you should have attended, you would then know what Anglungs are as well! We will have a set at the quiz night)

Thornbury Bells

Article received from Robin Shipp.

Fund-raising for the rehanging of Thornbury bells continues. Following the enjoyable choral concert last December, there will be a "Bells and Brass" concert in Thornbury church on March 2nd, featuring the Thornbury Castle Brass Band and the Winterbourne Handbell ringers. Watch out for tickets. In addition on 16th March there will be a sponsored last peal on the present bells. Older hands will recognise the names of Dennis Chapman and John Cornock among the ringers. Sponsorship forms are enclosed for your tower. Arrangements are also being made to send them to all towers in our association. This is an opportunity to show a really positive contribution from ringers to this project, so please make every effort to obtain as much sponsorship as possible. Contact Robin Shipp for further information or more forms: his address is on the form and his number is 01454-419328

More dates for your Diaries

30th March Stedman doubles training 14:30-16:30.

Places limited apply to Ryan Price 0117-9493597

Venue TBA.

6th May Branch Outing to Worcester area.

11th May Quarterly Meeting and B B Q at Wapley.

8th June Branch Striking competition and Picnic. Venue Dyrham TBC

15th June Farcited Summer outing to !!!!!.

Newsletter March 1996

March Ringing

Thursday 7th March Farcited Ringing Kelston 14.30-16.00

No 6 Bell Practice, its a training day and Quiz night see below

No 8 Bell Practice its Association Training Day at Cirencester and Tewksbury

Saturday 9th March Branch Training Day at Filton and Frampton Cotterell
14:30 to 16:30

Method Conducting / Raising and Lowering.

Conducting Grandsire is the prime method but if you would like to conduct Bob Doubles or any other method let us know and we will see what we can do on the day.

If you want to attend the training as a student please ring Tony York on 01454 772532.

If you can offer your services to help ring Bryan Hardwick on 01454 325662.

Also:-

Saturday 9th March Quiz Evening in the Assembly Rooms Downend 19:45 to 10:30

The event this year is being organised by Almondsbury tower.

Come along on your own, bring the wife or girl friend, raise a team from your tower.

Last years event was well attended, so lets make it even better this year.

There will be cheese and wine.

The price for the evening will be £2.90.

Saturday 23rd March Association Training day
Cirencester and Tewksbury.

There is no Branch 8 bell practice on this Saturday

Saturday 30th March

Stedman doubles training 14:30-16:30.

Places limited apply to Ryan Price 0117-9493597

Venue Frenchay.(TBC)

Helpers required please. Ring Ryan on above no.

Thornbury Bells

Dont forget your sponsor forms for Thornbury

There is still time to book and go to

Bells and Brass in Thornbury Church

2nd March 7.30pm

Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 concessions)

All proceeds in aid of Thornbury Bell Restoration

Fund. Ring Robin Shipp on 01454 419328.

15th June Handbell concert at Thornbury church
by the Coventry Handbell ringers from North
Carolina.

More dates for your Diaries

Thursday 11th April Farcited day out in Clevedon
3 towers in the day.

6th May Branch Outing to Worcester area. It is hoped
to go to Pershore.

11th May Quarterly Meeting and B B Q
at Wapley.

8th June Branch Striking Competition and Picnic
at Dyrham.

15th June Farcited Magical Mystery Tour.
Contact Arthur Herbert for a seat on the coach.

**Your Subscriptions for
the G & B are now due**

**Letter and Forms
enclosed with this news
letter.**

Newsletter May 1996

May Ringing

Thursday 2nd May Farcited Ringing Stinchcombe St Cyr 14.30-16.00

Monday 6th May Branch Outing to Hereford and Worcester area.

Saturday 11th May 5 Bell Practice at Wapley, half yearly meeting and BBQ start at 18.30. Names to **Bryan Hardwick** 01454 325662 ☎

Saturday 25th May 8 Bell Practice at Mangotsfield.

Outings:-

There are currently three outings taking place in the branch:-

Monday 6th of May. The Annual Branch outing to Hereford and Worcester, there are still some places so ring **Bryan Hardwick** on **01454 325662** ☎ Leave Frenchay Church at 08.30.

Saturday 15th June The Farcited Magical Mystery Tour. If you would like to go on this excellent outing to who knows where give **Arthur Herbert** a ring on **01454 413968** ☎

Thursday 4th July:-



This outing is over subscribed. Leave Coalpit Heath at 06.45.

If you have any question ring **Mary York** on **01454 772532** ☎

Branch Training

The branch has run two training sessions in the last few weeks. A raising and lowering exercise at Frampton Cell. Where eighteen people attended and some very sore hands were the result but I am sure that the branch raising and lowering has benefited from the exercise.

There was a Stedman doubles training afternoon held at Frenchay where about the same number attended and Stedman tricks of the trade were discussed for all to appreciate. Thanks to Bryan Hardwick and Ryan Price respectively for these two sessions.

Thornbury Bells

If you would like a last ring on the current Thornbury bells you will have to do it before the 13th of May. The bells are coming out on that date and are expected to be out of action for about three months.

Handbell Concert in aid of Dorothy House Hospice Bath

Wednesday 26th June at Kingswood School Lansdowne Bath

The Wellington Landings School Handbell Choir from Palm Beach Florida and the Winterbourne handbell ringers.

Admission £4.00 concessions £3.00. Tickets available from Ryan Price on 01179 493597 ☎

Please make every attempt to support this very worthy cause.

Thankyou to those towers who have responded for the open day.
There are still several who have not yet made the effort.

Newsletter June 1996

Saturday 25th May 8 Bell Practice at Mangotsfield Cancelled.

June Ringing

June:- Saturday 8th Striking competition and picnic at Dyrham. 18:30 (details Below)

Saturday 15th Arthurs Magical Mystery Tour

Farcited Group Summer outing. (for details see below)

Saturday 22nd 10 bell St James Barton Bristol 19.00 - 20.30.

Striking Competition Saturday June 8th.

Rules for Association Ringing Competitions (See page 8 of the 1995 Annual Report)

Towers who intend entering the competition please inform the Branch Ringing master Ryan Price Telephone no 01179 493597. ☎

Dyrham on a good day is a very pleasant spot, towers who intend entering we suggest bring a picnic and enjoy the surroundings whilst listening to the others ringing.

Saturday 15th June.

The Farcited Magical Mystery Tour. If you would like an excellent day out to who knows where, ring Arthur Herbert 01454 413968. ☎ There are still a number of seats left.

The coach will leave Coalpit Heath Church at 08.45. Please be on time.

Arthur assures me we will not be late getting home.

News1:- The branch have had two very successful events recently. Firstly the Branch outing. When most of the ringers who went braved the journey to the page at Pershore Abbey. We rang at 5 towers during the day, some which were quite difficult, and even the Branch Chairman managed to break a rope. However this was soon remedied by the team of Blanchard and Hardwick. I could wax quite lyrical about the cherry blossom and the scent on the evening breeze in the churchyard at Overbury, but their we are. We must give a big thanks to Bryan Hardwick for a marvellous day out followed by an excellent buffet. Thankyou Bryan.



Thursday July 4th. The coach leaves Coalpit Heath at 06.45. Please be there on time.

Any questions ring Mary York 01454 772532. ☎

Handbell Concert in aid of Dorothy House Hospice Bath

Wednesday 26th June at Kingswood School Lansdowne Bath

The Wellington Landings School Handbell Choir from Palm Beach Florida and the Winterbourne handbell ringers.

Admission £4.00 concessions £3.00. Tickets available from Ryan Price on 01179 493 597 ☎

Please make every attempt to support this very worthy cause.

News2:- The second event was the 5 bell practice, half yearly meeting and BBQ at Wapley. The service was conducted by Reverend John Shepherd-Walwyn a ringer at Frampton Cotterell. The BBQ was well burnt by Bryan Hardwick ably assisted by Sandy Pidgeon. Many thanks to John, Sandy and Bryan for an enjoyable but wet and windy evening.

I have now heard from or have contacted all the towers about the open day on September the 21st. I hope to have before the next newsletter a proposed schedule to include all the ringable towers in the branch. Watch this space.

Newsletter July 1996

July Ringing

July:- Thursday July 4th Farcited Outing to Lundy for info see below.
Saturday 13th 6 Bell Practice Frenchay 19.30 - 21.00
Saturday 27th 8 Bell practice Henbury shared practice 19.30 - 21.00.
It should have been Thornbury but see article below.

Enclosed is the openday timetable for September 21st. I have met everybody's requests that I knew about. It has been quite difficult to plan to meet your requirements. If you would like to discuss any points please ring me on 01454772532.

Saturday 6th June Striking Competition at Dyrham.

I'm afraid this event did not take place as only one team entered (Westerleigh). We have asked Westerleigh to represent Bristol Rural Branch in the Croome Trophy.

Saturday 15th June Arthurs Magical Mystery Tour and it was!

About 30 people met at Coal pit Heath church on a lovely Saturday morning. We left with everyone speculating on the first tower. As we proceeded onto the M4 it was across the new Severn bridge we thought, then onto the M5 and then off at Cribbs causeway, we were properly fooled, however it was to pick up two more people for the day. Back onto the M5 and South. Leaving the M5 at Taunton and going West, this was soon reversed and we were going East and South. After passing Honiton on the bypass we reversed tracks and finished up at Honiton St. Paul 8(12-2-27) where we^{were} just in time for coffee in the church. From here we moved on to Lyme Regis. Lunch on the front overlooking the people paddling and wind surfing. Then ringing at St Michael the Archangel 10(10-3-18). On to Withycombe Raleigh 10(17-1-10). Then on again to North Peterton 6(21-0-0). They were not the best bells of the day. The only highlight here apart from the bells was that we lost Mrs Livesy when she took a walk around the town. When she was found we moved up the A38 to a local Hostelry for our evening meal. A very good day was had by all, Thankyou Arthur.



The Coach leaves Coalpit Heath Church at 06.45 prompt.

If you want more information ring Mary or Tony York on 01454772532



I apologise for the wrong information about St James Barton in last month's Newsletter. I am sure we will try and get the bells at a later date.

News from Thornbury... and a request for help!

The Thornbury bells are now safely at Whitechapel. After a careful study, the proposal is now to weld up a crack in the 5th, to recast the treble (which is untuneable and generally a poor bell) and to retune the whole ring. We have no date for their return yet but we are hoping for early September, in time for the Branch open day. We need to put together a band of local volunteers to help with the rehanging, which will spread over about three weeks. If anyone could spare time to help, even for just a day or so, could they please contact Norman Clothier (01454 417830) or Robin Shipp (01454 419328). Thanks for input from Robin Shipp.

GBJuly.ppp

Newsletter August 1996

August Ringing

Thursday 1st	Farcited Coalpit Heath	14.30 - 16.00
Saturday 10th	6 Bell Practice Winterbourne	19.30 - 20.45
	Quarterly Meeting	20.45 - 21.00
Saturday 27th	8 Bell practice Wooton Under Edge	19.30 - 21.00.

Open Day 21st September

If you have any problems in providing ringers for your allocated times please let me know. I am aware of a couple from the forms you returned. I will be in touch with those towers during the next few weeks.

If there are any ringers who would like to volunteer their services for helping out please let me know.

The "Far-cited" and their Friends visit Lundy

An anxious deteriorating grey showery Tony to the good was that



watch on the weather reports in the run up to the day showed steadily conditions. Never the less we set forth, arriving at Bideford under skies. To learn whether or not we could sail, we dispatched Mary and booking office - soon returning with the good and the bad news. The Lundy's own ship the MS Oldenburg would be leaving on time, and conditions at the island would allow us to disembark; the Bad - her Captain estimated that 50% of his passengers would be ill before we reached there! Crunch time had arrived. Bellringers and their friends do not give up easily, and except for a few of us with special physical problems all elected to take their chance and sail.

That Captain had a great sense of humour, for as we approached the open sea he came on the tannoy to advise holding on to something for the next few minutes at it could be bumpy as we crossed Bideford Bar. For the next two and a half hours many of us tried very hard to hold onto "something" as the Oldenburg headed into a force 7 South-Westerly! Shaken and very much scared we arrived safely, and the bells of St Helena's rang out to the first of three sessions arranged for the ringers of every ability - a fourth was reserved for those wishing to ring Lundy Surprise. The grey skies replaced by sunshine we passed the remainder of the time ashore each in our own manner. The promise of the Captain on arrival that the passage home would be a doddle after the mornings experience proved correct, which was just as well, for our last treat was taking supper together at a local hotel on our return to Bideford. A tired but exhilarated company arrived home shortly after midnight with memories which must surely pass into local ringing folklore. Mary is going to find it difficult to produce anything more memorable, and thank both her and Tony most sincerely for a great day out.

Many thanks to Don Haskins for submitting this report.

You will all be pleased to hear that our Assistant ringing Master Bryan Hardwick and Sandi Pidgeon have announced that they are to get married. I am sure all members of the Branch will wish them well.

There is a trip to Loughborough being arranged by Chew Branch Bath and Wells Association Saturday 17th August. For further details ring us on 01454 772532

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter September 1996

September Ringing

Thursday 5th	Farcited Swainswick	14.30 - 16.00
Saturday 14th	6 Bell Practice Westerleigh	19.30 - 21.00
Saturday 21st	Branch Open Day	
Saturday 28th	8 Bell Practice CoalpitHeath	19.30 - 21.00.

Open Day 21st September

Updated program with this newsletter.

We have unfortunately had to withdraw Thornbury as the work is taking longer than expected.

If you have any problems in providing ringers for your allocated times please let me know. I will be in touch with all towers in the next couple of weeks.

If there are any ringers who would like to volunteer their services for helping out please let me know.

I have been asked by the Branch Chairman to give warning of

Dauids Annual Skittles match

at the

Rising Sun Frampton Cotterell Saturday October 5th

The price for seniors £4.50. Juniors £3.50, includes Buffet
(Skittles only £1.50)

If you would like to attend please let David Powell Know by the 27th September

Just a final point on Lundy.

Don Haskins was kind enough to write an article for last months newsletter which incidentally he also sent to the ringing world. Sorry Don I made a secretary change to your article for which you received the call about the misuse of the word wether and weather. the change from wether to weather seemed highly appropriate to me, but once again sorry.

Training Day at Olveston Saturday October 5th.

The two methods for this training day will be Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. Please let Ryan Price have the names of trainees and helpers as soon as possible.

Open Day Return (After 21st September please send or phone this information to Tony York Telephone no 01454 772532)

Tower Name	No of Visitors	No of Tower tickets Sold	Amount Rx	Refreshments Amount
Pucklechurch				

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter October 1996

October Ringing

Thursday 3rd	Farcited Marshfield	14.30 - 16.00
Saturday 5th	Training Day Olveston	14.00 - 16.30
See below		
Saturday 5th	Skittles match at the Rising Sun Frampton Cotterell	19.00 - Late
Saturday 12th	6 Bell Practice Iron Acton	19.30 - 21.00
Saturday 26th	Branch 10 Bell Practice Berkley	19.30 - 21.00.

The Annual General meeting is nearly upon us and this year is being held at Bitton on November the 9th . We will have a number of positions to fill on the branch committee, Chairman, Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master, all other positions are currently up for re-election. If you have any suggestions or proposals for these vacancies please come along to the meeting and make your suggestions known. Come along and ring anyway.

Dauids Skittles Match:- Please let David Powell know by the 27th September £4.50 for seniors, Juniors £3.50 Skittles only £1.50

Branch Open Day:-

I would like to thank all those people who opened their towers, provided refreshments and also those ringers who went to towers where the bands are very small or do not exist to help with ticket selling and ringing. Thank you on behalf of the Branch Committee

Not all the monies are in as I write this news letter. However we should make just over £400 for the day, we had about 60 visitors to Bristol Rural Branch. From the comments I have heard the visitors enjoyed the day.

In earlier news letters it was stated that the proceeds from the day would be divided between all participating towers. Is this practical as each tower will only receive about £20.00. therefore unless we are specifically asked the proceeds will be put into the Branch tower fund.

Overheard at an open day Tower.

Lady comes frantically running into the church and asks breathlessly "Why are you ringing"

Answer " Its the branch open day".

Lady retreats saying "Thats all right then I thought my Husband should be here"

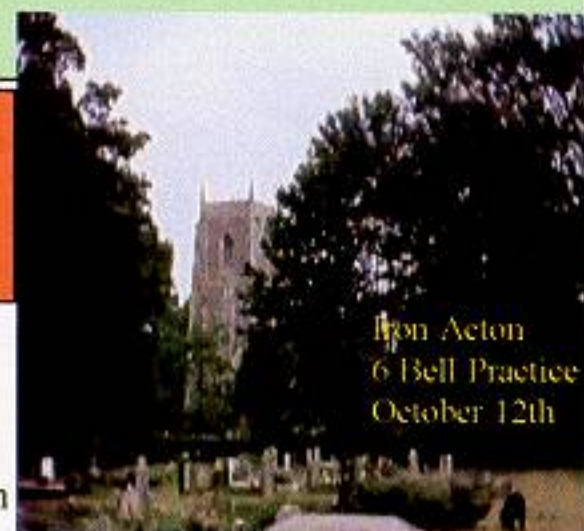
Gentleman selling the tickets says "Thats the Rectors wife!"

Training Day at Olveston Saturday October 5th. The two methods for this training day will be Bob Major and Grandsire Triples Please let Ryan Price have the names of trainees and helpers as soon as possible.

Dates for your 1997 diaries:-

The Branch Annual dinner will be on January 25th at the Fluer de Lys in Henleaze.

Thornbury are having a flower festival on June 7/8/9th. The tower will be open on Saturday the 8th for all to ring.



GBoct.ppp

Handbell Concert

As you have probably seen on the front page there is to be a Handbell concert on Saturday 14th of December in the Roman Catholic Cathedral Clifton Bristol. and is entitled:

A Festival of Christmas Music" it is to be given by "The Society of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain"

It is in aid of St Peters Hospice.

Tickets are £5.00 concessions £3.00

Tickets are available from St Peters Administration 23, Whatley Rd., Clifton. Telephone Number 01179 733069

However Mary York is prepared to take a block booking and order your tickets if you would like to go. Give her a ring on 01454 772532 by 5th of December.

Annual Dinner

This years annual dinner will take place at the Fleur De Lys Restaurant 238 Henleaze Rd., Westbury on Trym.

The Speaker at the Dinner will be John Brain a well known ringer from Backwell in North Somerset, when we will probably get a pot pourri of reminiscences. We will also probably have handbells and Anglunds again.

The date is the 25th of January. If you would like to go ring Ruth Welch Tel 01179 695084, followed by your deposit of £10.00 and choice of menu to Ruth whose address is:-

18, Station Road, Filton, Bristol by 11th January.

Enclosed with the newsletter is a menu

Bristol Rural Branch

Newsletter December and January

Ringling and Events for December and January.

Thursday 5th December Farcited Christmas Outing to Bridgewater Taunton and Wellington.

Saturday 14th December Festival of Christmas Music
The Society of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain.

Thursday 2nd January Farcited Tytherinton 14.30-16.00

Saturday 11th January 11th 6 Bell Practice Tytherington 19.30-21.00

Saturday 25th January. Annual Dinner

For Further detail see the last page.



The New Bristol Rural Branch Chairman Bert Shackleton (right) with Bert Ferris Tower Captain at Westerleigh examined the Bristol Rural Branch 6 bell Trophy at the AGM at Bitt Westerleigh won the trophy unopposed this year. Bryn Rings at Frampton Cotterell



Robin Shipp the new Bristol Rural Branch Ringing Master at Olveston some months before he even thought about being Ringing Master Robin rings at Thebury

A list of the branch officers is inside.

