

Headlines

1. Only One Meeting a Month
2. 1999 Program
3. Officers and Telephone Numbers

Farcited Ringing
February 4th
Ashton Keynes and
Purton with Pub Lunch
for details see Farcited 1999
Program

Saturday 13th February

Branch Practice
Olveston
Ringing 19.30 - 21.00



Carols and Mincepies

Christmas seems a very long time ago.

However just to remind you that forty-nine ringers and friends attended the first Bristol Rural Branch Carol service at St Mary's Bitton on the 12th of December. What an excellent evening it turned out to be. We had a superb turnout of ringers with special thanks to some of our newly inducted G and B members who turned up in force.

The evening started at 5.00pm with ringing until 6.00 when we had twenty seven people in the tower it was just a bit packed, the service touch was Stedman Triples which rang out loud and clear whilst the rest of us descended the tower to hear the St Mary's players playing us in to the music of carols. Cannon George Mitchell welcomed the ringers and Friends.

The service started with the popular carol 'Once in Royal Davids City' when we found the St Marys Players and congregation were going to be well in tune and strong in voice.

The service proceeded apace, with Don Haskins and Ruth Welch reading lessons. We sang some nine carols all in the popular idioms except one which had a very calypso style. The service over the assembled congregation tucked in to hot mincepies and wine or a beverage of their choice.

We have to thank the St Marys Players, Cannon George Mitchell and Maureen and David Perrett for the success of the evening.

Thank you to you all.

Included with this Newsletter are:-

1. The 1999 Branch Program and some smaller copies for your pockets.

Please ensure you throw away the provisional program issued in December and at the AGM.

2. A poster for your tower for the Quiz night in March.

Please bring this to the attention of as many branch members as possible. It has been a very successful event for the last three years, this year Thornbury are in charge.

On the back of the smaller program you will find a list of the branch officers and their telephone numbers.

Please ensure you always check the 'Bristol Rural News' for each months program as things can change from month to month.

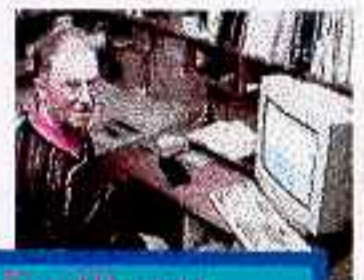
It has been suggested that we include in the Newsletter a brief occasional article on members of the branch who are well known and not so well known. To get this under way I have written a small piece on my ringing history which should not take very long.

'Me' the editor and branch secretary started ringing in 1960 at Wrington which has a very heavy ten. I was doing my National Service at Locking near Weston at the time. The reasons for learning to ring are too complex to go into here. Having started ringing in the Chew Valley Branch I started to attend branch meetings and at Portbury met Mary Powell a ringer from Nailsea who has now been Mary York for thirty seven years. However I was then posted to the Shetlands and ringing stopped. I commenced ringing again in 1992 when I retired and then had to relearn to handle a bell again. I have been ringing since at Frampton Cotterell with a year out whilst getting over a heart attack. Somewhere along the line I was encouraged to become branch



secretary. I do not know what the encouragement was. I do know that it was a hard act to follow with Alan Freke being secretary before me, and here I am on Christmas Eve penning the February Newsletter. Not only are Mary and myself members of the 'Rural Branch' we are members of the Farcited band who meet on the first Thursday of each month in the afternoon for ringing and a cup of tea. We are also members of the Moonrakers group who only meet twice a year, a week of ringing somewhere in the UK (this year Norfolk in July and August) and a reunion in November which in 1998 was a long weekend staying in Ilfracombe. For our sins Mary and I organize and arrange both these events. We are members of the Moonrakers because Dawn and Liz the twins were members of the group back in the days of yore and parents seem to be able to go along as honorary members. The Farcited group was a different story started by Arthur Herbert in 1989. Arthur asked Mary and myself to take over the activity in 1995.

So you can see ringing is quite a busy activity in our lives.



Iron Acton Fund Raising Appeal

An Evening of Music on
Saturday ~~27th~~ 30th JAN 99
at 7.30 PM
Iron Acton Parish Church
If you require tickets ring Brian
Angel
Tickets £5.00 reductions £3.50

Headlines

1. G & B Training Day Cirencester and Tewksbury
2. Quiz night
3. G & B AGM Siston
4. Branch May Day outing to Hereford

for all these events see below



Farcited Ringing Thursday
March 5th
 Wickwar 14.30 - 16.00

Branch Six Bell Practice
Saturday March 14th
 On the programme this is down for the 21st

Winterbourne



Winterbourne
 19.30 - 21.00

Branch Eight Bell practice
 No Eight Bell Practice this month

Saturday March 21st
G & B Training day

Cirencester and Tewksbury
 the Ringing Master Robin Shipp has been canvassing for helpers. If you are free on the day and think you can help please give him a call.

Your help would be appreciated.

Saturday March 28th
Its Quiz Night at the Hall
Salisbury Road Downend.
 See Posters enclosed or already in the tower.
 Do come along.

Annual General Meeting G & B Siston April 25th

More about this in the April News Letter with the Days programme.

However just a reminder to those of you who have open towers on the day.
 10.30 - 11.15

Thornbury/Dyrham/Bitton/Iron Acton
 11.00 - 11.45

Alveston/Wapley/Warmley/Frenchay
 11.30 - 12.15

Almondsbury/Westerleigh/Abson/Winterbourne
 12.00 - 12.45

Filton/Mangotsfield/Pucklechurch/Frenchay
 Any one who needs a few bodies to help do please give me a ring to see what we can organise to help.

Branch Outing to Hereford Area

We now have the tower programme for the Branch outing to Hereford kindly arranged by Ryan Price.

This takes place on May Day Monday May 3rd to :-

Canon Pym(6) 10.30 - 11.00

Eardisland(8) 11.30 - 12.15

Lunch Black Swan Eardisland

Dilwyn(6) 13.45 - 14.25

Wellington(6) 15.00 - 15.40

Burghill(8) 15.50 - 16.35

Tea at Hereford

Home about 19.30

Cost and pickup information later.

Branch Annual Dinner 1998 at Almondsbury

This year the annual dinner was held at a restaurant in Almondsbury. Some thirty people attended, the maximum number that could be accommodated. The group met for drinks at 19.30. We were then served an excellent meal. Followed by an after dinner oration by Canon Neville Boundy who for a man of the cloth has extremely broad views. He concluded with a ringers alphabet, ably assisted in its production by the Sheppard-Walwyns. It is quite amusing. You will find a copy on the reverse of the newsletter.

If it is time to pay the G & B subscription.

Those of you who pay tax why not think about paying by covenant. You pay your subscription in cash like everyone else but the chancellor gives the G & B 23% more.

What do you have to do:-

Just fill in a covenant form and give it to the branch secretary.

It is open ended and as long as you pay your subscription in cash each year when it is due it carries on until you stop paying. Forms available from the treasurer.

Graham Hemmett 01454 415979

Iron Acton

I had the time for ringing incorrect last month it is:-

First Sunday 17.00 - 18.00

Brian Angel 01454 228737

Would all note that unless you have specifically asked for some branch training it now only takes place if **you** or your **tower** requests it.

Paul Grainger-Allen is quite happy to put on specific training. We have already this year had plain hunt and treble bob sessions, a further session is scheduled for Bob Doubles. In each case it has been requested by a tower or individuals.

Ringers for the Millenium.

I shall be ringing tower captains during the next couple of weeks to do a survey on how many new ringers we have all managed to recruit recently. One tower in the branch who had only one ringer now has six learners who are starting shortly.

We have one person from Daynton who wants to learn, and two who have started at Frampton. How are the rest of you doing?

Organizing an outing.

I recently rang a tower captain and asked for permission to ring at the tower. This was duly given, I followed by saying, I will ring you a week before to see if there are any changes such as funerals. Oh there won't be any funerals was the reply Why not I said The reply was succinct 'I am the undertaker'

Headlines

1. Gloucester and Bristol Annual General Meeting
Syston
2. Branch May Day outing to Hereford
for all these events see below

Farcited Ringing Thursday
April 2nd
A Day in the Mendips

Branch Six Bell Practice
Saturday April 4th

Westerleigh 19.30 - 21.00



Lets have someone from every tower in the branch attend the Gloucester and Bristol Annual General Meeting at Syston Saturday April 25th



It is time to pay the G & B subscription. Those of you who pay tax why not think about paying by covenant You pay your subscription in cash like everyone else but the chancellor gives the G & B 23% more. What do you have to do:- Just fill in a covenant form and give it to the branch secretary. It is open ended and as long as you pay your subscription in cash each year when it is due it carries on until you stop paying. Forms available from the treasurer. Graham Hemmett 01454 415979

180th Appleton Dinner 1998
On Saturday March 7th about 12 Bristol Rural Branch members attended the annual Appleton Dinner near Oxford. To be a member of the Appleton Society you have to have rung a peal of Grandsire at Appleton on the nearest Saturday to March the 4th on the Appleton bells to which you are invited. However members of the Appleton Society can invite friends to the dinner. The day started with a visit to Whites the Bell hangers in Appleton and a ring on their peal of bells in the roof of the workshop. Few of the 16 bells have any stays and thus are quite difficult to ring until you acquire the technique. This is then followed by a ring on the Appleton bells followed by a session in the local hostleries, or in some cases just a session in the local hostleries. The dinner commences at 18.30 and is a formal event with many speeches and toasts. This years speaker was the editor of the ringing world Tina Stoecklin below(bottom right). There was then lots of singing and some marvellous lap handbell ringing which you have to see to appreciate. Below a selection of pictures of the day with pictures of a few of the rural branch members who attended. No prizes for guessing who they are.

Stop Press
Recent editions to Ringers in the branch
March 11th Lucy and David Bailey a boy Christopher William 8lbs 1/2oz and
March 25th to Sandi and Brain Hardwick a girl Bethany Fleur 7lbs 1/2 oz
Congratulations to all from the members of the branch

Each Tower secretary/contact has now received a full program from the G & B Association Secretary. In addition to the local towers, ringing at Syston begins at 13.00 until 14.00. Followed by the Service and then the Association A.G.M. Tea and further ringing at Syston and Coalpit Heath.

Branch Outing to Hereford Area
We now have the tower programme for the Branch outing to Hereford kindly arranged by Ryan Price. This takes place on May Day Monday May 3rd to :-

Canon Pym(6)	10.30 - 11.00
Eardisland(8)	11.30 - 12.15
Lunch Eardisland	
Dilwyn(6)	13.45 - 14.25
Wellington(6)	15.00 - 15.40
Burghill(8)	15.50 - 16.35
Tea TBA	

Home about 19.30
We start at Coalpit Heath Note not Frenchay as usual at 08.00 prompt
The cost will be about £10.00 if 30 people go less if more than 30.

However just a reminder to those of you who have open towers on the day.
10 30 - 11.15
Thornbury/Dyrham/Bitton/Iron Acton
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Any one who needs a few bodies to help do please give me a ring to see what we can organise to help.
01454 772532



Headlines

1. Branch May Day outing to Hereford
2. Penn Trophy Wooton Under Edge
3. Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ Olveston

for all these events see below

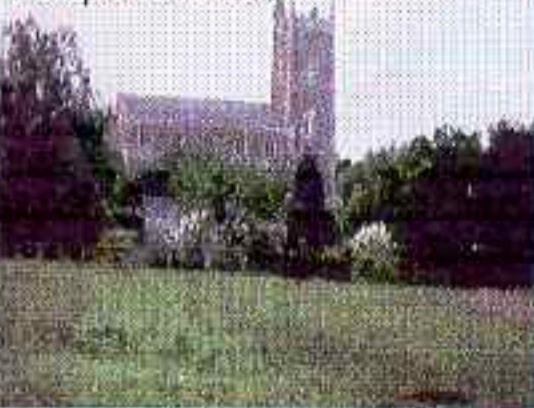
Paid your subscriptions yet!

Farcited Ringing May
Thursday May 7th
Laycock 14.30 - 16.00

Six Bell Practice
Saturday 9th May

Frampton Cotterell
19.30 - 21.00

Frampton Cotterell



Penn Trophy 16th May
Wooton-U-Edge Branch

Robin Shipp is putting together a team

8 Bell Practice

Olveston Saturday May 23rd
Practice, Service, Meeting
and Barbeque



Olveston

Ringing 16.00 - 17.00

Service 17.15 - 18.00

Meeting 18.00 - 18.45

Barbeque weather per-

mitting June and Arthur

Robbins Garden

See below



Nightmare of a Change Ringer

(Composed by a non-ringer who had to endure bell ringing conversation at all meal times for several months from other members of the family)

I was up in a chamber, gaunt and grim,
The ringers were silent, the light was dim,
The ropes seemed old, the sallies had mangle,
Then the Leader spoke the words seemed strange,
"Get to your ropes and cut the cockle
What is the method we're going to tackle?"
They started to ring, yes me as well
Though what I was ringing I could not tell
We might be ringing Steadman again
But it can't be Bob, he's Minor or Plain
I went on ringing till nearly spent
Then thought perhaps, I was ringing Kent,
They're shouting now "where's no 3"
I'm wondering perhaps if that might be me,
perhaps I had better go out straight
Whatever I do it will be to late
There! someone's given a blow behind
I really think that is unkind,
I'll do a dodge, it may be a double
That will give the old brute some trouble,
With a dodge, then a back stroke, perhaps a single
A hand stroke that's making my fingers tingle
Ah! there's the treble I'll follow his lead
They say that's right for a man in need,
They're hunting now, I can't think why
But I'd better join in the hue and cry,
Now I'm out in the hunt with Ho and a Tally,
Oh! goodness me, I have missed the sally,
Vainly I try with rope to grapple
Its winding itself round my Adam's apple
With a horrified yell and a gurgling scream
I wake to find 'tis a nightmare dream.
(Many thanks to Topsy Oxenham a farcited ringer
from who lent me copy of this poem.)

Abson Ringers

You will all be pleased to hear that the recruiting drive for new ringers has worked well for Abson. Jenny Rogers has been inundated with nine people to learn to ring. The first practice session and introduction took place on Monday April the 20th, when the deputy ringing master Paul Grainger-Allen, Jenny Rogers and Mary York introduced the nine new ringers to the bells and how they work. Followed by allowing everyone to ring at backstroke to let each one realize what it is all about. Further practices have been arranged for those people who can attend in the day and also in the evenings. We have been very fortunate that Bryn Shackleton Don Haskins and George Gillett have volunteered their services to help the learners make speedy progress. The branch members welcome the nine new ringers and a special thankyou to Jenny Rogers forgetting this band together.

Branch Outing to Hereford Area

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Burghill(8) 15.50 - 16.35

Tea TBA

Home about 19.30

We start at Coalpit Heath Note not Frenchay as usual at 08.00 prompt

The cost will be about £10.00 if 30 people go less if more than 30.



AGM Syston

The AGM has now come and gone. What a super day it all turned out to be. The morning started with the branch having sixteen towers open on four different routes. At the same time a meeting of the branch ringing 2000 representatives was being held in Syston Village Hall.

At 13.00 we had an hour and quarters ringing at Syston where a lot of people gathered to ring. This was followed by the service lead by the Vicar of Bitton Warmley and Syston the Rev'd George Mitchell. The Organ was played by Monica Gibbs. The service was attended by about sixty people and the church looked pretty full, but I believe we could have got in about forty more. The collection raised Sixty four pounds which was split between the church and the association.

Whilst this was going on Lucy Bailey and her Syston ringer and friends were preparing a magnificent ringers tea. Ken Weekes was directing traffic in the car park and at the same time the Sun was shining.

The service over the Association members moved into the village hall which was then asked to hold eighty people. The meeting moved along quite briskly. The Association Chairman thanked the Rev'd Mitchell for taking the service and Monica Gibbs for playing the organ. The meeting finished by about four fortyfive. We were then ushered out into the sun whilst the Syston ringers laid up for tea. As I said before the tea was splendid, in the true fashion of a ringers tea. The sun continued to shine and chairs and tables were put outside for the usual ringing chat and members to meet other ringers from the far flung parts of the association.

Just a couple of points to think on, we only had representatives at the service and meeting from seven towers in the branch, some people came and rang and disappeared before the service.

Some people only came for the tea. Also I overheard a comment that as they only had ten ringers at one tower that was open it was a waste of time. Two points on this, there were four different routes so if ten people visited each tower that was open at the same time that made forty visitors in the branch.

I believe as Bristol Rural were hosting the AGM we should all make an effort to make the day as enjoyable as possible.

This is in fact what happened and we must thank everyone who opened their tower and the branch members who went along and helped. We should also especially thank Lucy Bailey and her team of ringers and helpers for the effort they put in. Well done to all who helped, and also came along and took part in very enjoyable AGM.

Thankyou

Headlines

1. Branch Striking Competition Dyrham and Picnic Saturday June 13th.
2. 10 Bell Practice.

Farcited Ringing June

Thursday June 4th
Dayout to South Wales
for information contact
Arthur Herbert
01454 413968

Six Bell Practice

No practice
Six Bell Striking Competition
Dyrham Saturday June 13th



Starts at 17.30 with draw for ringing position.

Entries to Robin Shipp R.M.
Telephone 01454 419328
Come along, bring a picnic.
the branch will provide a drink.

10 bell Practice

Saturday 27th June
St Ambrose Bristol
19.30 - 21.00

Penn Trophy 16th May

Wooton-U-Edge.

Sadly for the first time in a number of years we did not enter a team in this years competition.

Wooton-under-Edge won.

I have just had a letter from Tony Cox our Area Adjudicator for the Tidy Tower competition asking why Bristol Rural Branch have not entered a tower this year.

The answer is that no one showed any interest in the competition.

Every tower received the information I will raise this issue at the half yearly meeting on May 23rd at Olveston.

Medical News

I am sure you will all be pleased to hear that Bert Ferris Tower Captain at Westerleigh has been, or is still in hospital at long last to have a new hip. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Also in the last few weeks Anthony Jefferies has been hobbling about having broken his leg rather badly, again we hope his recovery is swift. Get well soon both of you.

BRANCH RINGING OUTING, 4TH MAY 1998

"Ringers enjoy their teas, don't they?" was the remark made by the catering team at Burghill. We certainly did, it was the most satisfactory end to a day out, and the funds raised were going to a good cause (a Mission Hospital in Tanzania).

We started from Coalpit Heath at 8.0 a.m. in glorious sunshine and reached Hereford for the 'comfort stop' shortly after 9.30 a.m. We had greeted our new driver George, with some surprise, as Ted had navigated us around our chosen routes for so long that he had become part of the team (and if he'd got fed up, he surely didn't have to take the drastic step of changing his employers - we can take the odd hint!) After enjoying the half hour or so in Hereford, drinking coffee, visiting the Cathedral or doing whatever took our fancy, we embarked on the serious part of the day and left for Canon Pyon.

The church of St. Lawrence is famed for its misericords, and we all had time to admire them before being admitted to the ringing chamber (was this to be our lock out of the day? Silly question, such things are not allowed on Bristol Rural outings!) The six bells went well, and we congratulated our organiser of the day, Ryan Price on starting with such a good tower, and let him know that the standard had been set and we expected all the towers to reach a similar excellence.

We were not disappointed, the rings at Eardisland (8 bells, tenor 12.2.6), Dilwyn (6 11.0.3), Wellington (6 : 17.0.15) and Burghill (8 : 10.0.2.), all proved friendly, and if some were more "interesting" than others, none were difficult allowing us all to relax and ring to the best of our abilities.

The few non-ringers also had a good day out. The villages were all interesting, not to say beautiful and, as the cloud which engulfed us by mid-day did not turn into rain. they were not confined to the interior of the churches, interesting though these were. Our lunch stop at Eardisland was long enough for us all to explore the ancient village, but we did note with some concern an expensive new housing development next to the church. We hope this will not cause the local ringers any trouble other than some sound control, but the estate is very close to the churchyard I don't think there is any substantial double glazing. The most admired member of the party, was undoubtedly the new Miss Hardwick. Sandi and Bryan had no shortage of baby-sitters to allow them to ring. It was noted, though, with some surprise that Bethany found the sound of the bells soothing, not to say soporific. Sandi puts this down to the fact that she rang until shortly before Bethany was born - could this be the answer to all our noise complaints? Admit all pregnant Mums to ringing chambers and then the babies will sleep through all we can throw at them!!

Our thanks to Ryan and Eileen Price and Mary and Tony York for organising the day. The May Day outing is now part of our annual diary, and we look forward to an equally successful day in 1999.

Tea at Burghill

Thanks to Ruth Welch for this article on the day out.



Headlines

1. Six Bell Practice at Abson
2. 8 Bell Practice Warmley
3. Winners of Six Bell Striking Competition

Farcited Ringing August

Thursday 6th

Bromham 11.00 - 12.00

Coffee in Church 10.30

Lunch Greyhound Pub

Bromham 12.00 - 14.00

Heddington 14.30 - 15.30

followed by a cup of tea.

(Send as been changed to Heddington)

Six Bell Practice

August 8th

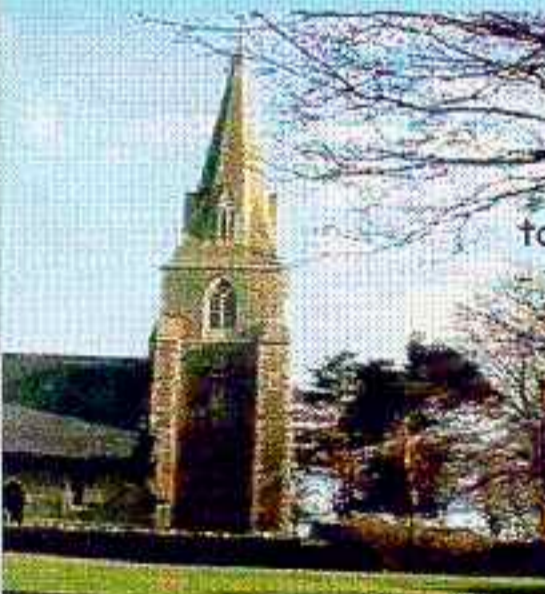
Abson 19.30 - 21.00



Come and meet Absons new ringers.

8 bell Practice

Warmley Saturday 22nd
19.30 - 21.00



I would like to take the belated opportunity to thank our Treasurer Graham Hemmett for sending out to some of the towers copies of the June newsletter.

I am afraid I went of on Holiday leaving the copies for the towers we did not see at the half Yearly meeting very safely at home.

Thanks Graham.

Frampton Filton and Westerleigh Tower Outing to Oxford Saturday September 5th.

There are spaces on the coach for anyone wishing to go. Please ring Mary York on 01454 772532 if you do.

As most of you are Bristol Rural Branch members I have you in a data base on my computer. If you have any objections to this please let me know and I will remove you.
Tony York Branch Secretary

An Evening Out with Tytherington Ringers

On the evening of Friday 26th of June seven of Tytheringtons ringers left their home village and descended on Newland, the Cathedral of the Forest All Saints 6(16-1-14) F natural.

With everything unlocked for us we climbed the massively walled tower (about five feet thick at 35-40ft above ground level) We made educated guesses to deal with the chimes and raised the bells in peal. The bells

turned out be well mannered if unrushable. The treble weighs al most as much as

the fifth at Tytherington. Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire, Kent and Cambridge were all successful as was the lower. The ringing was followed by an excellent pint or two of "Free Miners" in Clearwell afterwards, and was a fitting end to a very pleasant evening. The Tytherington Ringers are saying where next Suggestions to Fran on 417445.

Many thanks to Fran Johnson for this record of a very pleasant evening out.

If you have an outing why not let us publish an article on it.



Rural Branch Striking Competition

Well it eventually took place at Tytherington thanks to the Tytherington ringers.

The participating bands arrived at 6.30pm on a very wet Saturday evening. The Judges Richard and Nick Bowden from Bristol were ensconced in Fran Johnsons father's summer house just over the church wall to keep dry and listen to the teams efforts. The draw took place promptly at 6.30 although the third team who entered did not bother to turn up

Westerleigh had drawn the short straw and started. They rang Stedman as their warm up and Bob Doubles as their test piece. Frampton were on second and rang Bob Doubles for both pieces. The scratch band rang third and last. They rang Bob Minor and Oxford Treble Bob as their test piece.

The judges then deliberated, Richard Bowden gave a few anecdotes, and then a resume on how they marked the competition. Nick Bowden gave the results. In first place was the scratch band with 20 points, and believe it or not there was a dead heat for second place with both Frampton and Westerleigh having 32 1/2 points.

By this time it was 7.30 and time for the branch six bell practice to begin, at which there was a very good attendance including the G and B Ringing Master Steve Coleman and his wife.

Thankyou to the teams who entered and made an interesting competition, and thankyou Tytherington for being our hosts.

There are fifteen towers in the branch with sufficient ringers to put in a team where were you????????????????????

Headlines Note Venue Change see below

1. Six Bell Practice at Dyrham not Iron Acton
2. 8 Bell Practice Thornbury
3. Ringing at Gloucester

Farcited Ringing September

Thursday 3rd
Claverton NR Bath
14.30 - 16.00

Six Bell Practice

Dyrham
September 12th
19.30 - 21.00



Note Change Iron Acton Bells are ringable but the floor is unsafe. See article

8 bell Practice

Thornbury Saturday 26th
19.30 - 21.00



Ringing at Gloucester Cathedral

Sunday 27th September
13.30 - 14.53 start ringing at 14.00
Meet at the main entrance at 13.30

This is the branches once a year turn to ring at the Cathedral. If we do not have sufficient volunteers we may invite you to attend, but if you would like to go please let Paul Grainger-Allen know. We would certainly like more than 10 and even 20 - 25 lets see what we can do this year.

The Branch have a video entitled 'Bell Handling a Tutorial Companion' This has been produced by the Central Council of Bell Ringers and its duration is about 40 minutes. If you have new ringers it may be worth them seeing it. If you would like to borrow it please contact Tony York 01454 772532

Iron Acton an Update.

I have been passed a letter by Brian Angell Tower Captain at Iron Acton about the condition of the tower. Below is the salient paragraph from that letter.

'A careful examination was made and it appeared (without taking out any material) that the vault had been constructed with sections in which the rib and half of the vault either side had been carved from one piece of stone. There are fine hairline cracks down the centre of most panels and there has been quite extensive infilling in the past. To the corona there are iron cramps and where one was uncovered extensive rust was in evidence. In the northeast corner one section of ribbing and panelling had dropped in the past. There are numerous cracks in the west wall above the window and several over the west face of the Nave arch (all long standing)'

It may be some time before we ring again at Iron Acton, the estimated cost for the repairs is £30,000.

The Abson Ringers and Helpers after a Wednesday Morning practice.

This was the second photo call of the morning as the Gazette had been earlier taking pictures.



Eight bell Surprise Practice.

I have been asked to include the above practice in the Rural Branch Newsletter.

We are fortunate that Hilda Messenger a ringer at Thornbury has taken the time to arrange an eight bell surprise practice.

This practice moves around the Bristol area and is attended by ringers from both Bristol Rural, Wooton and Bristol branches. If you are interested ring Hilda 01454 228424.

The next practice is Chewton Mendip at 19.30, on September 11th.

Bristol Rural Branch Sweat Shirts

Two years ago branch sweat shirts were introduced.

How often do you see them being worn?

Are you a new member and would like to purchase one.

Did you miss the initial batch.

Be prepared for winter ringing and place an order now.

Choose from one of twelve colours.

Sweatshirts - £16.00

Polo Shirts - £15.00

To order ring Graham Hemmett the branch treasurer

01454 415979

Below is a poor photograph of a polo neck with yellow badge. The background colour is not representative due to the camera and the printer.



To Tower Contacts

We often find that information for branch members does not always reach them. We have observed that where the newsletter is pinned directly onto the tower notice board when it first arrives it often does not get read, but if it is handed around on arrival at the weekly practice it often does. Perhaps also when you take a new edition into the tower you could bring it to the ringers attention. We often get told I did not know about that, when we do know it was advertised, perhaps several times.

Can you help please.

Branch Secretary

22/8/98

Headlines

1. No Six Bell Practice
2. Training afternoon 10th October
3. Skittles match Tytherinton see below
4. 8 Bell Practice Mangotsfield.

AGM on November 14th Almondsbury
MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES

Farcited Ringing October

Thursday 1st

A day out around Swindon
Starts at 09.30 at
Stratton St Margaret

No Six Bell Practice

Training afternoon
followed by

The Skittles Match at
Tytherington

The Swan

Starts at 19.30

8 bell Practice

Mangotsfield Saturday 24th
19.30 - 21.00



Surprise Practices

October 9th Bitton

November 13th Coalpit Heath

December 11th Thornbury

Phone Hilda on 01454 228424

Let Paul Grainger Allen know of your training needs for Saturday afternoon October the 10th. When he will tell you what is being arranged followed by the skittles match at Tytherington

Iron Acton

Many of you said you could not read the Iron Acton letter content last month here it is in easy print.

'A careful examination was made and it appeared (without taking out any material) that the vault had been constructed with sections in which the rib and half of the vault either side had been carved from one piece of stone. There are fine hairline cracks down the centre of most panels and there has been quite extensive infilling in the past. To the corona there are iron cramps and where one was uncovered extensive rust was in evidence. In the northeast corner one section of ribbing and panelling had dropped in the past. There are numerous cracks in the west wall above the window and several over the west face of the Nave arch (all long standing)'

Sorry about last months print but I tried to make it look different.

Dyrham Quarterly Meeting

Well Branch members you failed.

We had eleven people attend the practice and meeting.

Six members, four of them branch officers, four non members and a visitor.

How can you expect the committee to run a branch when you do not turn up to help make the decisions. We cancelled the meeting until the AGM, I hope we get a better turn out for that.

I know we have the die-hards who do not turn up to anything to do with the branch, but:-

Where were You

Do not forget the Skittles Match at The Swan at Tytherington on Saturday the 10th of October starts at 19.30.

Lets have a good turn out.



A Day in Oxford

This year the Frampton Filton and Westerleigh tower outing was to Oxford mop up the towers at which we had not rung. The day started wet at Coalpit Heath as we boarded the coach. The day improved and we finished walking perhaps to farin Oxford in brilliant sunshine. For me the highlight of the day was the impressive ringing circle at Merton College. We finished with a meal on the way home at the Lamb and Flag Kingston Bagpuize, The day was slightly marred by three tables getting very poor service, but over all a good day was had by all.

Below a few pictures of the ringing circle at Merton

On the Balcony
Mary Dawson
and
Ruth Welch



Splendid
Isolation
(Didge Freke)



Andy Fox
looks down to
floor below,
that's what
I think
He's doing.



View from
the ringing
Gallery to the
floor

A Reminder

Quarter Peal Week

18/26th October

Please let the secretary have any
Q/peals you ring to submit under

Rural branch

Thankyou Secretary

Headlines

1. Branch AGM Almondsbury
2. 6 Bell Practice Pucklechurch
3. Quarter Peal Week

Farcited Ringing November

Thursday 5th
Queen Charlton
6cwt Six
14.30 - 16.00

AGM Almondsbury

Saturday 14th
Ringing 16.00 - 17.00
Meeting 17.15 - 18.00
Tea 18.00 - 18.45
Ringing 19.00 - 21.00
Items for agenda to secretary by Wednesday 11th November please
The chairman reserves the right not to accept AOB items on the night

Six Bell Practice
Pucklechurch Saturday 28th
19.30 - 21.00



Surprise Practices
November 13th Coalpit Heath
December 11th TBA
Phone Hilda on 01454 228424

Quarter Peal Week

As I said last month if your tower rings any quarter peals please will you let the Deputy Ringing Master have the information with any monies to forward to the Guild ringing Master to send to the Ringing World.

Paul Grainger-Allen
01454 632604 Thankyou

Skittles at Tytherington

All of the people, and there were about forty, had a smashing time.

Whilst early in the evening the alley was quite cold the bowling activity and the considerable amount of conversation whilst doing the usual when at a reasonable hostelry warmed it up.

The supper arrived at about nine fifteen and comprised of sandwiches and bowls of chips. Which with as I said a suitable drink all went down very well.

The evening finished with a play off for those with the highest scores during the evening.

We all wended our way home at about ten thirty.

Thanks to Val and Fran for arranging the evening which was most enjoyable.

Training in the Branch.

We have said a number of times during the last year that if you need training all you have to do is ring the deputy ringing master and it can be arranged relatively quickly. As we have said before waiting for specific training days did not work so at the last AGM Paul suggested we do training on a need to train basis which has to my knowledge been very successful for those who have taken the time to ring up and ask.

On the same day as the skittles match we had a Grandsire triples afternoon at Olveston. We had three trainees and the required number of helpers and a very successful afternoon it turned out to be.

So don't just sit there, pick up the phone and talk to Paul and he will arrange in a relatively short space of time what you need.



The following was sent in by Alan Freke
The Reverend Royston Bryant

The death on the 30th of September of Reverend Royston Bryant in his 90th year was marked by a representative band ringing a half muffled peal immediately before his funeral at Frenchay. We believe that Royston started his ringing career at Stapleton in the mid 1930s (when it was part of the Old Bristol Rural Branch) and he was ringing peals both before and after the war with Sid Riches and other well known local ringers. He was also an accomplished handbell ringer in both method and tune ringing, and he rang as a member of the group providing entertainment for Princess Margaret in the Red Lodge during a visit to Bristol in the 1950s.

Following a career as a mental nurse, he was ordained when he was 49, and served at Christ Church - Swindon, Stratton St Margaret, and some non-ringing parishes before eventually retiring to Winterbourne. He assisted at St Michael's before moving to Frenchay some 10 years ago. A stroke in 1990 left him severely disabled for the remainder of his life which was spent in a home in Frenchay. He attended Frenchay church each Sunday, and was always interested in the ringing and ready to tell anecdotes and offer advice.

May he rest in Peace

St John Baptist Frenchay

On 5th October 1998 a half muffled Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung as Thanksgiving for the life of the Reverend Royston Bryant

Treble	Rev'd David Sansum	Guild of Clerical Ringers
Second	Gill Greef	Winterbourne and Frenchay
Third	Richard Bowden	St Philip and Jacob
Fourth	A. Anthony Peake	Stratton St Margaret
Fifth	Eric Sutton	Christ Church Swindon
Tenor	Alan Petrie	Stapleton

Conducted by Eric Sutton



Ringers Christmas songs of praise at Bitton on December 12th. If your tower would like to select a carol for the service please talk to Mary York on 01454 772532



Headlines

1. Carol Service and Ringing Bitton
2. January 6 bell Frampton Cotterell
3. Branch Dinner

Farcited Ringing
December and January
December 3rd
Christmas Day Out
Malmesbury, Chippenham
and Marlborough
Christmas lunch at
Chippenham
Leave Coalpit Heath at 09.00

January 7th
Coalpit Heath 14.30 - 16.00

December 12th 1998
8 Bell Practice Bitton
Ringing 17.00 - 17.55
Carol Service
18.00 - 19.00
with Bitton Music Group
Mince Pies and Wine,
followed by Ringing until
21.00

Saturday 9th January
Branch Six Bell Practice
Frampton Cotterell
Ringing 19.30 - 21.00

Frampton Cotterell



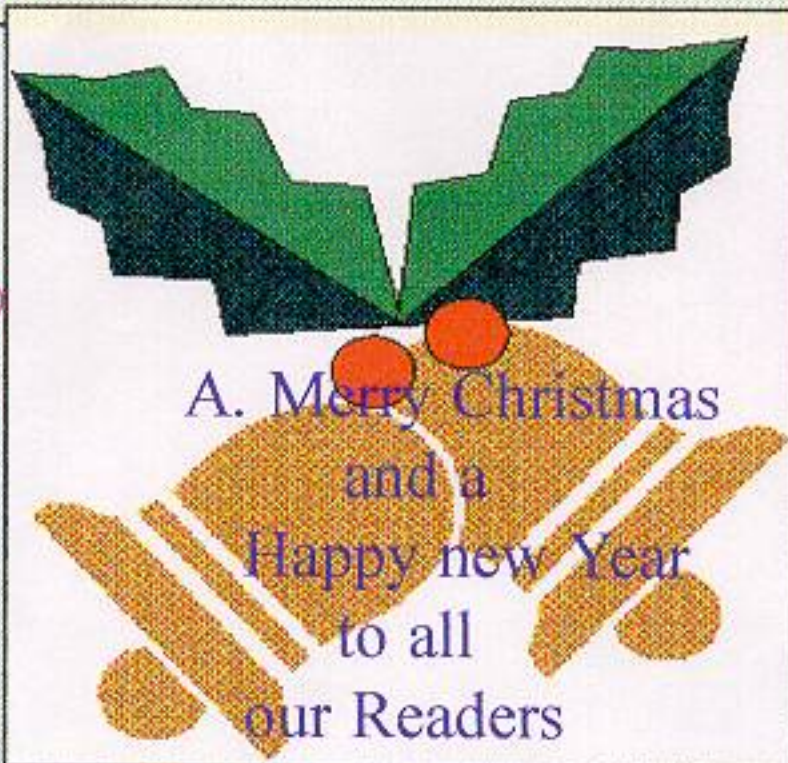
Program Changes 1999

The A.G.M agreed changes proposed by your committee to only have one branch practice a month to be held on the 2nd Saturday.

There will no longer be quarterly meetings.

The proposed program is included with the newsletter.

Tower captains confirm the dates and times we have proposed to the secretary as quickly as possible.



Branch Ringing Master

I am sure you all welcome **Martin Blanchard** as the New Branch Ringing Master.

Martin was elected unanimously at the AGM at Almondsbury he has returned to ringing in recent years at Westerleigh. He learnt to ring in the Bath and Wells Association at Bath Easton. We wish him every success so do come along and support him.

Do not forget Branch Training can be arranged at any time by ringing the Deputy Ringing Master Paul Grainger-Allen. With the change in program we have more Saturdays for training.

Points from the AGM.

The standing officers were all willing to stand again and were unanimously re-elected.

We have already mentioned the changes to the 1999 program with only one practice a month. With less business meetings new members may be elected at any branch practice, as long as we have two branch officers and four members present.

The meeting agreed that following a visit to all branch towers by committee members, a tower be proposed to enter the tidy tower competition. If the tower proposed declined to enter a further tower would be proposed etc.,



The May Day outing is to be to the North Cotswolds so watch this space for details. The Annual Quiz night will this year be at Downend. Thornbury ringers will be the hosts

There will be two association training days this year one up to and including Bob Doubles and one for more advanced ringing watch the newsletter for details.

It was reported that the branch have forty-four people learning to ring, fourteen of these were elected as members of the branch.

Almondsbury. Miss Emily Rowe, Mrs Gillian Llewellyn, and Mr Roger Flack

Westerleigh. Mrs Claire Garven, Miss Becky Garven, Miss Jenny Garven and Miss Maggy Lote.

Abson. Mrs Margaret Gorley, Mrs Mary Taylor and Mrs Angela Robb.

Bitton. Mr Pete Midgely.

Frampton. Mrs Elizabeth Squire, Mr Nathan Fear and Mr Denis Jones.

Welcome to you all as branch members.

Thank you to the thirty-five people who came along to A.G.M, rang, attended the service, the meeting and indulged in the superb ringers tea provided by the Almondsbury ringers

Thank you Almondsbury

Branch Dinner 1999

We have Reserved the Rocklands Restaurant at Almondsbury opposite the old Hospital for Saturday, January 23rd 19.30 for 20.00. with a guest speaker. Last years dinner was very successful and we filled the restaurant. So if you would like to be there ring Mary York 01454 772532.

Publication date for February Newsletter 1999 will be second Saturday 9th January.