

Headlines

1. Quiz Night
2. Tower Return 1999
3. Training Day for G & B

Farcited Ringing
March 4th
Clapton in Gordano
14.30 - 16.00

Saturday 13th March

Branch Practice
Coalpit Heath
Ringing 19.00 - 20.30



Branch Dinner 1999
Kendleshire Golf Club

As you all know January was a very wet month and when we arrived at Kendleshire Golf Club for the 4th Bristol Rural Branch Annual dinner it was raining well. However this did not dampen the spirits of the forty-nine branch members who attended this years dinner.

Having furnished ourselves with a drink at the bar the assembled company took their seats for a very successful meal. Some two and a half hours later with coffee being served the evenings speaker Michael Horseman rose two his feet to reminisce on ringing in the Bath and Wells and Gloucester and Bristol Associations, with many witty anecdotes and memories. Of outings across the Somerset levels when flooding and water in the petrol stopped the group getting home and having then to spend the night in a fellow ringers front room draped on chairs and the floor. He remembered a peal at West erleigh in which young Bert Ferris and his father Jack took part.

Michael having finished the guests mingled and did not really seem to want to go home. However when we did emerge it was still raining, this did not really seem to matter as we had had a thoroughly good evening with good company, good food, and a little bit of ringing gone by recounted.

You should come next year!

Quiz Night Saturday 20th March

We look forward to seeing you all at the annual Quiz Night. This year as last it is in the Assembly rooms at Downend starting at 19.30 and Thornbury are in charge this year.

Each tower has had a poster so you have all the details.



If you do need information ring Les or Gill Usher on 01454 852367 or the branch Secretary on 01454 772532.

The four pictures on the right have been provided by Robin Ship who has been out and about with his camera again. The original idea was to just get you to guess where these one or two bell turrets might be, and provide the answers at the same time. However I would like to make it an extra competition for the quiz night so if you know where they are on the quiz night you can earn some extra points for your team. I will provide the answers in a later newsletter. Thank you Robin

Tower Returns for 1999

With this months Newsletter is the 1999 tower return form. I hope you all think it is an improvement over previous years. As you can see it includes the tower details and members names to save you having to fill it in. Graham our treasurer would appreciate the returns by April 1st. If you do find there are errors on the form please make the changes and I will incorporate them for next year.



I asked Hilda Messenger who arranges the towers for the surprise practices to give us some information on the forth coming events. Hilda provided me with the information but I unfortunately do not have room this month so I am just providing the essentials this time.

Surprise practices

Major 2nd Friday various Towers
Tel Hilda 01454 228424
Minor 3rd Friday Chipping Sodbury
Tel Alan 01454 314412

The Branch Ringing master is looking for helpers for the Association Training day on 6th March at Cirencester or Tewksbury. If you have the day to spare give Martin a ring on 01454 273456

Headlines

1. Striking Competition
2. Branch Outing
3. Bristol Rural on the Web

Farcited Ringing

Thursday June 3rd

Coach Outing to Guildford

Talk to Arthur Herbert

or Mary York if you would like to go.

Branch Striking Competition

Dyrham

Ringing and Picnic

Saturday June 12th

Please ring the Branch Ringing Master if you would like to take part. Draw at 17.30

Bring your picnic and take part in the competition.

Drinks provided



Surprise Practices 8 Bell

May 14th Bath Easton

June Thornbury

July Bitton

Chipping Sodbury(6) 3rd Friday

G & B AGM Coaley

The G & B AGM this year was in the Wooton Branch at Coaley.

The day took its normal format with various towers open on the way. Ringing at Coaley followed by the service and then tea. I have to say the tea was very good but not up to the one we had at Syston last year when the Rural Branch hosted the AGM.

As far as the branch is concerned the high light was the proposal and seconding of one of our members Bert Ferris Tower Captain at Westerleigh being elected a life Member, the branch now has three life members.



Bert Ferris waiting for his lunch on the branch outing

May Day Outing to the North Cotswolds



Ryan and Eileen Price with some of the girls from Mangotsfield and Frenchay

The May Day Branch Outing brought people from all around the branch and we even had two people from Uganda with us.

The day started well with the sun shining to leave Coalpit Heath and our driver George soon had us at our first tower Guiting Power 6(8) forty minutes early. We scoured the village for shops and as the sun was so warm people were soon buying ice creams and drinks from the local store. As the church was open and the bells available ringing started early and proceeded apace. I must admit having had a ring we deserted the tower and ensconced ourselves in the local pub to drink coffee.

We then moved on through the narrow Cotswold lanes to Chipping Camden. Ringing was soon under way at the magnificent Church of St James 8(22) and while some people rang others lazed about in the sun awaiting their turn. Ringing completed and all the ringers in the party having rung, there were some fortyeight ringers and twenty three non ringers on the outing. We then moved on to a local Hostelry for lunch.

Lunch completed rather late due to kitchen problems we moved on to Mickleton 8(15) where Pam Copson came along to meet a lot of her old friends from the Rural branch. Pam is the author of the little yellow books we all use to better our ringing these days.

We moved on to Clifford Chambers 6(8) and then again through the Stratford traffic to Bidford on Avon where we took our ease by the river as the ringing sounded over the river and the surrounding fields.

The party arrived home at Coalpit Heath at approx 19.45 after a very enjoyable but exhausting day.

We must thank the Ringing Master Martin Blanchard and Mary York for the arrangements for the day, and say they can certainly do it again next year.

Thank you also to all of you who went for making it such an enjoyable day.



Bristol Rural on the World Wide Web

You might like to have a look at the Bristol Rural Web pages the next time you are on your computer surfing the net. After the G & B Web pages we are the first branch in the G & B to have our own Web Pages.

I currently have two addresses on the WEB

<http://ds/dial/pipex.com/town/way/et57/>

This address is a bit of a mouthful so you might like to try

<http://ruralbranch/findhere.com/>

A small snag with this address is that you will get an advert in the top left-hand corner of your screen, just click the cross in the top left hand corner of the advert and it will disappear.

Both of these addresses may change again but watch this space.

Do send me an email to say what you think of your web site!

The G & B web address is

www.belfrey.demon.co.uk/

How many of you are able to look at the web pages in the branch.

You can send me an email directly from the web pages so it would be a way to find out if you would like to view the web pages and send me an email from there.

If you have any problems give me a ring.

Barn Dance Iron Acton

June 26th

Tickets from Brian Angel or

Hilda Messenger 01454

228737 and 228424

Headlines

1. Junior Ringing in the Branch

2. Striking Competition Dyrham

3. Millennium Ringing. Is your tower ringing in the Millennium at 12.00 midday on January 1st if it is let Mary York know please.

Farcited Ringing
Thursday August 5th
Bath Easton
14.30 - 16.00

Branch Practice
Frenchay

Saturday August 14th
19.30 - 21.00



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00

August	Wotton
Sept	Thornbury
October	Coalpit Heath

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday
19.30-21.00
Chipping Sodbury(6)

Junior Branch Ringing

The Organisers of this event have told me they only have six signed up for this activity so far. If you would like to take join in ring Hilda Messenger on (send email) other wise it is likely to be cancelled which would be a great pity.

You will all be pleased to know that Don Haskins is out of Hospital after an operation and is doing well.

You can see all the all the teams and other pictures on the branch web site.

Branch Striking Competition Dyrham

Well branch you surpassed yourselves this year we had over sixty people attend the striking competition and picnic, and although it rained most of the day it cleared up for competition itself. Six towers took part and we had eight teams in the draw.

Finding a suitable place for the judge Michael Horseman from the Bath and Wells Association was going to be difficult whilst we thought it was going to rain but as cleared up he found a suitable bench under a tree and provided with copious cups of tea seemed to enjoy himself.

The ringing commenced with Westerleigh, followed by Thornbury Red, Frampton Thornbury Blue, Bitton, Mangotsfield, Frampton and Friends, and Almondsbury. After the judges deliberations to a rather full church this years winners were pronounced as Thornbury Red.



Iron Acton Church Fund

Raising The Barn Dance

A big 'THANKYOU' to all who attended or bought tickets and could not come.

We raised about £1600 for the Tower/Bell repairs.

Two hundred people joined us and were entertained by the Abbey Folk Band, with an extremely enjoyable interlude from the St Michaels Winterbourne Handbell ringers.

A very pleasant evening was had by all- Well the beer ran out so I presume it was! Our thanks to Martin for printing the tickets, Bryn and Andy for their assistance in their usual place - behind the bar. Especially to Don and Gary for their cleaning, decorating and furniture removal services.

Finally I would like to thank Don for his supervision of the door and raffle ticket sellers. I normally have immense difficulty keeping my two children polite, courteous, and out of mischief for that long.

Once again many thanks to everybody.
Hilda Messenger

Gloucester Cathedral Ringing

Please ensure you put Sunday September 26th in your diary for ringing at Gloucester Cathedral more details later.

All Towers should be receiving shortly information about the October Training day. If you do not please let Martin or the secretary know.

Headlines

1. Ringing Gloucester Cathedral
2. G & B Training Day
3. Branch Training

Farcited Ringing

First Thursday

Thursday September 2nd

Eastington 6

14.30 - 16.00

Early Warning

The Farcited Christmas outing will be to the Salisbury area.

Christmas lunch has been booked at the

'Salisbury College'

Branch Practice

Second Saturday

Mangotsfield

Saturday September 11th

19.30 - 21.00



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

Sept Thornbury
October Coalpit Heath

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Please contact the Branch Ringing Master and Deputy if you intend going to Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 25th of September, we do need your help. Especially if you are experienced on higher numbers of Bells.

Martin would also like to know if you can help at the next training day in October. Your tower should have received all the information by now!

The newsletter has had to be produced early this month as I will be away.

As you will see I am a bit short on news.

I have asked several people for articles for situations like this which have not been forthcoming.

If any of you have anything interesting to the Rural Branch ringers please let me have it for publication!

Robin Shipp has just sent me an email to say that their will be a Stedman Triples training day in November.

If you are interested contact Robin. There will be more details in next months Newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter the junior/teenager practices on Wednesday's will be under way.

I hope all our younger ringers take advantage of this opportunity.



Publication date
August 14th

<http://ruralbranch.findhere.com>

Headlines

1. Skittles Match at Tytherington
2. Ringing Gloucester Cathedral
3. G & B Training Day
4. AGM Warmley (see programme below)

Farcited Ringing

First Thursday October 7th
Dayout by Car to Forest of Dean
Ring Mary York for details.
01454 772532.

Early Warning

The Farcited Christmas outing will be to the Salisbury area. Christmas lunch has been booked at 'Salisbury College' Ring 01454 772532 to book your seat.

Quarter Peal Week 17th 25th
October

Branch Practice

Saturday October 9th

No Practice

Skittles Match

Saturday 9th October
At the Swan Tytherington
Starts at 19.00

G and B Training Day

8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00

October Coalpit Heath

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday
19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Please contact the Branch Ringing Master or Deputy if you intend going to Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 25th of September, we do need your help. Especially if you are experienced on higher numbers of Bells.

Note At this late stage we have spotted an error on your branch programme the October 23rd date should read the 9th. See various bits in the newsletter about the 9th

AGM Warmley

Saturday November 11th

Programme
Ringing 15.45 16.45
Service 17.00
Tea 17.45

Meeting 18.15
followed by further ringing
Please make every attempt to attend.

It was agreed at last years AGM the skittles match would be at B.A.W.A .Filton(BAC).

Unfortunately the evening we required was already booked, so we have for this year gone back to the Swan at Tytherington. We had a very good evening last year. Please come along and enjoy a good evening again.

The G and B second Training day this year takes place in Wotton Branch.

You will see we have cancelled our branch practice which should have taken place on the same day but are still running our annual skittles match in the evening ,so on the way home come in to the Swan and join in.

On Sunday the 19th of September a sponsored Cycle ride is taking place in aid of Iron Acton and Wapley bells. The route encompasses all the towers in Rural branch about 60 miles. For full information contact Martin Blanchard 01454 273456 mobile 0589 315542 or Hilda Messenger 01454 228424.

Millennium Ringing

During the next few weeks Mary York will be contacting you to see what you are doing if you know yet. We are looking for people to ring at towers which do not have sufficient ringers.



Back to School and all Branch

Youngsters returned safely to their own Towers.

During the last six weeks the junior members of the branch have met to ring every Wednesday morning under the supervision of Hilda Messenger and other senior ringers in the branch to ring followed by a social event.

The programme has included rounders on the village green, skittles, crazy golf, and an afternoon visit to Quasar in Bristol.

All the outdoor activities were miraculously blessed with sunshine. Ringing has been based mainly around plain hunting and treble to methods, though the more advanced youngsters have rung Stedman, Kent, Cambridge and London.

We would like thank all the helpers, and towers who have allowed us to borrow their bells (and Vacuum cleaners on occasions) We hope no complaints have been received after our visits.

I trust no one will object if the small profit of £1.50 that was made is donated to the IA/Wapley bell restoration funds.

Hilda Messenger

PTO for pictures and the views of one of the youngsters who attended the training.

Stedman Triples Training

Robin Shipp has agreed to run a Stedman Triples Training afternoon on Saturday the 27th of November.

He will need students and trainers, more information next month.

Headlines

1. **AGM Warmley (see programme below)**
2. **Branch Carol Service December**

Farcited Ringing

First Thursday November 4th
Compton Dando
14.30 - 16.00
and a cup of tea

The Farcited Christmas outing will be to the Salisbury area. Christmas lunch has been booked at 'Salisbury College' Ring 01454 772532 to book your seat.

Quarter Peal Week 17th - 25th October

AGM

Saturday November 13th

Warmley
See opposite



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00
Nov 12th Bitton
Dec 10th Henbury
Park in Salutation Car Park
Jan 14th Thornbury
Six Bell Surprise Practice
3rd Friday
19.30-21.00
Chipping Sodbury(6)

Millennium Ringing

During the next few weeks Mary York will be contacting you to see what you are doing, that is if you know yet. We are looking for people to ring at towers which do not have sufficient ringers.

AGM Warmley

Saturday November 13th

Programme

Ringing 15.45 16.45
Service 17.00
Tea 17.45
Meeting 18.15
followed by further ringing

Please could every tower be represented at the meeting.

Agenda items to the secretary please by Saturday 6th. I will be in Ireland all the week prior to the AGM so need to get the paper work sorted the previous weekend. Remember AOB items are at the Chairman's discretion.

Croome Trophy Results

- 1: St Mary Redcliffe (9.5 faults)
- 2: Tewkesbury Abbey (16 faults)
- 3: Bornwood (17 faults)
- 4: Charlton Kings (18 faults)
- 5: Wanborough (20.5 faults)
- 6: Mickleton (21.5 faults)
- 7: Thornbury (24 faults)
- 8: Dursley (24.5 faults)
- 9: Cirencester St Johns & Holy Trinity (31 faults)
- 10: Chippenham St Andrews (34 faults)
- 11: Leonard Stanley (42 faults)

The judges said that Thornbury started confidently with a lovely rhythm.

The faults occurred because:
Bells in second place after lead were clipping the bell at lead.
The bells in 4-5 dodges at calls were clipping the bells in thirds.
there was a wobble in the rhythm every time a call was made.
Notice how close the scoring was this year so Thornbury did very well, I am sure will learn by taking part.

The branch can probably learn from the result. Striking is very important and we should all concentrate on it and listen to our own bell and the others.

Wapley Bells Good News

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that Wapley bells are to be rehung and made into a six. I am told it will be early next year. I will not say anymore now but try and get a full report for the next newsletter.

That leaves us with Iron Acton and Doynton, again there is good news at Doynton, when the current project is complete the bells will be next on the list.

Bristol Rural
Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers
November
1999
No 10-99
News
Publication date
Oct 9th
<http://ruralbranch.findhere.com>

Stedman Triples Training

Robin Shipp is to run a Stedman Triples Training afternoon on Saturday the 27th of November.

He will need students and trainers. With the Newsletter you will find more information.

Announcement of the G&B Best Kept Tower Competition

Thornbury were runners up.

The judges said:

The final judging took place on Saturday, 11th September, 1999, the judges being Miss E M Bliss and Mr R S N Brown, Mr A J Cox and Dr G Groves. Mrs F Mulvey was in attendance at the two afternoon towers.

The towers visited were Lydiard Tregoze, Thornbury, Tewkesbury and Great Rissington.

General comments. The judges agreed that this year the standard was the highest as a group ever to reach the final. All the towers were of an extremely high standard and were a credit to the ringers who carried out the maintenance. The final decision was not made upon faults - these were difficult to find - but upon bonus points for ideas used to improve the surroundings of the Ringing Chamber and Belfry. After prolonged discussion the judges decided to award the first place to Great Rissington and Lydiard Tregoze jointly, with Tewkesbury and Thornbury as joint runners-up.

Thornbury. You gave the judges a headache and caused them to deliberate for a long time before finally deciding that there was just that small indefinable something which other towers had that you were lacking. Your maintenance cannot be faulted. For a competition to have any meaning there must be a winner and the judges decided that the two towers that they could not separate had that little something extra e.g having tools mounted on a board so that it was easy to spot if one was missing or left on a headstock. For a first time entrant you had achieved an excellent standard of maintenance which will be difficult for you to keep up, but it can be done as proved by the two winners who had won the competition previously. If the opportunity arises arrange to visit one of the towers that just pipped you and you will appreciate what a difficult task the judges had. All the judges wish to compliment you on your efforts.

Thanks to Thornburys web pages for the Croome Trophy and Best Kept Tower information

Bristol Rural Branch Ring at Gloucester Cathedral.

Our annual pilgrimage to Gloucester started with members of the group meeting in the 'Gloucester Taylor Pub' for a roast lunch.

We then moved on to the Cathedral where we had lots of people. We were met and up to the ringing chamber.

Whilst this year we had plenty of people we really could have done with some more senior and experienced members of the branch who had experience on the higher number of bells.

The Gloucester bells are not the easiest around the front and ringing twelve bells is an art in itself, so perhaps we did not acquit ourselves this year as well as we might or have done in previous years. However our Ringing Master Martin Blanchard kept the ringing going all though a bit noisy at times. After the bells were down we were disappointed that the 'Borden' bell was out of operation and it looked like a major job.

After ringing most of the ringers retired to a local teashop for tea and cakes, before making their way home.

Many thanks to all those who made the effort to come and ring at Gloucester.

'Thankyou'

Training

It is likely that the Association training day on 9th October will be duly completed by the time these notes are published.

Thanks to those in the Branch that helped on that day. I hope that the pupils on the various courses benefit from what is normally a well run training event.

Martin Blanchard
Ringing Master

Rural Branch Second Carol service

This years now annual Carol Service is to be held at Alveston.

The format similar to last year ringing followed by the carol service and then mincepies and wine or perhaps tea and coffee and further ringing if required.

Ringling 16.45 - 17.50

Service 18.00

followed by mincepies and drinks.

Sponsored Cycle Ride

To help restore ringing at Iron Acton and Wapley there was a Sponsored Cycle Ride on Sunday 19th September. Five sponsored cyclists completed the ride that visited all towers affiliated to the Bristol Rural Branch. The two callow youths, two mature people and one old fool completed the 55-mile trip in approximately 5 hours and the funds raised are estimated to be in excess of £500.

The funds will be split equally between the two churches. While the rain was unpleasant for short periods of the ride, the stillness of the weather was perhaps more welcoming than sunshine. Watch out for the final total of funds raised in a future Newsletter.

Thanks to the numerous sponsors, the excellent support crew (Brian Angell), the encouragement given at lunchtime, the welcome tea and sandwich at Wapley and the dogged determination of the intrepid five cyclists.

Martin Blanchard

One of those mentioned above guess which?

Australia seems a popular place to go at present.

Nathan Fear a ringer at Frampton is taking time out before going to University to travel to Aus. He is off to Perth for six months or more.

Abson Ringers Lunch

As you are all probably aware Abson are ringing again on a regular basis with their own ringers and friends. On October 6th 1999 the Abson ringers invited their friends to lunch after their regular Wednesday morning practice.

Mary and Peter Taylor on the first picture below invited us to their home for lunch. Some of the ringers present could remember going to their house many years ago for ringers teas, so they are continuing a tradition.

The lunch was prepared by Mary and Angela Robb (second picture) ably assisted by Peter, Marys husband. As is usual with ringers meals it was a superb spread which took some three hours to consume.

We all missed Margaret Gorley a ringer at Abson who is currently in hospital at the time I write this, having developed pneumonia after having a bout of flue. Her husband Tony says she is now doing well and will be out of hospital soon, hopefully in time for their forthcoming trip to Australia.

The bottom picture is the assembled ringers at lunch.

Thankyou Abson from the Abson Friends for a super lunch.



Headlines

1. Ringers Carol Service Alveston
 2. New Years Day Ringing
 3. Branch Dinner
- A Merry Christmas to all our Ringers

Farcited Ringing

Thursday December 2nd
The Farcited Christmas outing is to Salisbury. Christmas lunch has been booked at 'Salisbury College'. Coach leaves Coalpit Heath Church

08.00 sharp.

Ring 01454 772532 to book your seat.

Towers Wilton (6)

Art College (8)

St Martin (8)

St Thomas (8)

Ringling December 11th

Ringling and Carol Service
Alveston (6)

Ringling 15.45 - 16.45

Carol Service 17.00

followed by mincepies and wine



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

DEC 10th Henbury

Park in Salutation Car Park

Jan 14th Thornbury

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Millennium Ringing

During the last few weeks all the towers but two have been contacted and too late only two are not ringing on 1st Jan. at 12.00. Syston and Dyrham. We hope to put together a band for Dyrham and also Syston. If any ringers feel they can offer their services to ring else where do let us know ASAP. We have contacted local papers to see if anyone is having visitors who can ring, who can also offer their help. By the time you read this the AGM will probably have

taken place. We hope to have some examples of items being produced for the millennium ringers. A certificate to say you rang, a car sticker, and also a medal/badge in brass(below)



G & B Training Day

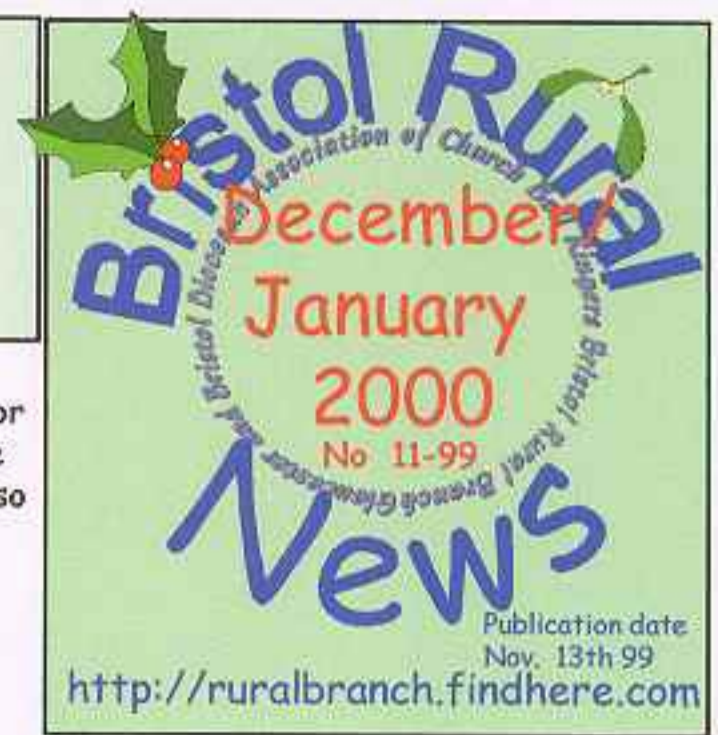
The training day at Wotton-u-edge was well subscribed by the rural branch, both with students and helpers. In fact several local helpers were able to go home. This was caused by people turning up as trainers without saying they were going! That does not however detract from a well organized and planned day. It started off very well with the North Nibley ringers providing breakfast for anyone who felt peckish. The smell of frying bacon from the kitchen as you arrived in the hall at the school made everyone want a bacon butty and a cup of tea or coffee if they had had breakfast or not.

Breakfast over it was down to the theory, the group I was in had Steve Coleman who brought a breath of fresh air to the session.

Then off to our respective towers for the practice. The morning session was at Long Newton near Tetbury for me. An excellent pub lunch at the 'Troublehouse on the Tetbury Cirencester Road and then on to Cherrington, a new tower for me. Then back to Wotton for tea and cake and ringing if you had not had enough. A very good training day which will be difficult to follow.

Branch Skittles Evening

I am afraid this year we had to cancel due to apparent lack of support. It was probably wrong to try and run it on or after a training day. In the three or four days before we had a number late bookings which might have just made it break even. The moral is let us know early if you are coming, last minute decisions to come do not allow us to make the right decision to let it go on or cancel



Annual Branch Dinner January 22nd

After the success and turn out for last years dinner lets see if we can do the same again this year. We have booked a room at Tracey Park for fifty to sixty. During the coming weeks we will be collecting names for the 22nd of January 2000

Stedman Triples Training

Robin Shipp is to run a Stedman Triples Training afternoon on Saturday the 27th of November at Thornbury. Information was with your last newsletter.



Rural Branch Ringers around the World

Following the report that Nathan Fear was in Aus I received the following from Robin Shipp.

Did you know that Robert & Rachel Thompson are now in New Zealand? They travelled there on a cargo boat through the Panama Canal. I have been in email contact with them while they were on the boat and the last message came just after they had landed in Auckland and had rung there. The text of their email is on the Thornbury web page - follow 'Robert & Rachel in NZ' under 'Recent News' on the home page

www.btinternet.com/~firecrest/thbells.htm

You can get their from the Rural branch web page as well.