

Headlines

1. Branch Dinner Tracy Park 22nd Jan
2. Quiz Night March 18th Downend
3. Ring in 2000 badges

Let the treasurer know if you or your tower want badges.

Farcited Ringing

Thursday February 3rd
Paulton and Radstock for details
see web page or ring 01454
772532

Branch Ringing

February 12th
Thornbury 19.30 - 21.00



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00

Jan 14th Thornbury Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday
19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Millennium Ringing

We now believe we have covered all the towers in Rural branch to ring at midday on January 1st. Only Tome will tell now, by the time you read this it will have happened.

The Branch have ordered fifty ring in 2000 badges and they are expected shortly.

Farcited Xmas Lunch

We had a very good day on our ringing outing to Salisbury. We started at Wilton St Nicholas where the rehung bells certainly go well, it should be possible to ring a quarter in about twenty five minutes. During ringing we all took the opportunity to get a cup of coffee. We then moved on to the Arts Centre St Edmunds and what a difference

to the bells at Wilton, although work has been carried out fairly recently they were very difficult bells to ring as a lot of the Farcited group found. We then walked to the Salisbury college for a most excellent Christmas lunch, I still reckon the Grapes at Stow on the Wold was best, but the meal certainly took some beating.

I guess that most people really did not want to move after lunch but we were booked at St Martins at 15.15 so had to leave. The bells went well with Mary York in charge. Then into the city centre to St Thomas to be met by an old Warmley ringer Edric Ovens who a number of people remembered and were pleased to see. Ringing was followed by a welcome cup of tea in a local cafe or two. We all wandered back to the coach. The 1999 Farcited Xmas outing over again, and thoroughly enjoyed by ringers and non-ringers alike.

Rural Branch 151st member for 1999.

At the recent Carol Service at Alveston Rural Branch elected its 151st member.



Andrew Markham is a ringer at Filton.

Carol Service Alveston.

Once again at our second Carol service and ringing we had a good turn out with over thirty ringers, and with the Alveston players we were nearer forty.

The afternoon started with Mary York in charge of the ringing the Ringing Master had flue and the deputy could not make the meeting. The members present were able to ring Cambridge interspersed with rounds and call changes and Doubles methods.

The service commenced at 17.00 and we were played into the Church by the St Helen's church music group. A traditional evening service was conducted by Lay Reader Don Streatfield and the hymns were all popular carols.

Following the service we moved to the back of the church for the now traditional Mincepies and wine, the wine was provided by the branch and the mincepies by the branch members. The branch Chairman thanked the music group and Don Streatfield for the lively music and conducting the service. Special thanks goes to Glenys Cowie for getting it all organised. We must also mention Graham Hemmett our treasure for obtaining and dispensing the wine.

The meeting was called to order and a new member (see above) was elected. I believe a pleasant afternoon and evening was had by all.



Stedman Triples Training

November 27th



'How many helpers have you got?' asked David Powell as he arrived. Well, I suppose it depends what you mean by helpers. In truth we could have done with a few more experienced ringers but they all seemed to be doing other things. Some had even fled the country. So we helped each other. There were 14 of us, including some friends from the Wotton Branch. We rang a few plain courses and then a lot of touches. Some of the touches even came round. Big smiles from all when that happened the first time. At the end we even managed a touch with a single which came round at hand stroke. David, Fran and I called the bobs (and one single). It was the first time I had ever called Stedman Triples - and they thought I knew what I was doing!

But let's be serious. I think we all enjoyed it (or else they were being kind to me). And by the end we were all doing things in Stedman we had not realized we could do when we started. That is some measure of success, I guess. Oh yes, and the Iron Acton and Wapley bell funds will benefit by £30.

We did not manage a tee-shirt but there was a book. Quite a good one I think, but I may be biased. Other people like it, though. For those who didn't come it will cost a £5 donation to the bell funds. Form an orderly queue, please.

Robin Shipp

Branch Dinner Tracy Park 22nd

Jan 19.00 for 19.30

Price £19.95.

We have a few seats left as I write this. Ring Mary York if you would like to go. Hilda Messenger is thinking of organizing a minibus if enough people are interested, if you are interested give her a ring on 01454 228424 †

Headlines

1. May Day outing to Wilts/Dorset

Borders Leave Coalpit Heath 08.00

2. AGM at Horseley

Farcited Ringing

Thursday April 6th

Day out by car to

South Somerset

South Cadbury

Maperton

Horsington

Templecombe

Milborne port

ring 01454 772532 for details

Branch Ringing

Saturday April 8th

Olveston

19.30 - 21.00



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

April 14th Thornbury

May Henbury

June St Ambrose

July Thornbury

Aug. St Mary Redcliffe

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Junior members Dayout

I have asked Hilda to defer the junior day out as it is only five days before the Branch May day outing, to which we would cordially invite all our junior members. It has only been postponed it will take place at a later date.

Errors and Mistakes.

I apologise as always for any errors or mistakes you might find in any 'Rural News'

G & B Annual returns

With this newsletter is the annual return for your tower. Please correct any errors that I have introduced and return to Graham Hemmett the branch treasurer as soon as possible.. Cheques for returns should be made out to Bristol Rural Branch.

May Day Outing

Monday May 1st by Coach

Avon Valley Pewsey to Amesbury

Pewsey	Coffee
Upavon	
Enford	Lunch
Fittleton	
Netheravon	

The coach will leave Coalpit Heath at 08.00 and return about 19.30 Please book your seat for this popular yearly event.

The distance as the crow flies between Pewsey and Amesbury is about 14 miles.

Price next month

Branch Sponsored Cycle Ride

Would you like to take part in a fund raising cycle ride. It is proposed that a cycle ride around the Avon Cycle way which is about eighty-five miles takes place at a date to be decided. The proceeds to be in aid of Iron Acton Bells.

If you are interested in taking part contact Hilda Messenger or Martin Blanchard.

January 1st 2000 Ringing

We are compiling a list of all the ringers in the branch who rang at midday on January 1st 2000. We hope to publish this shortly.

Tower Affiliation

With this newsletter you will find the latest affiliation cards. You will be pleased to hear that all the Rural Branch towers are affiliated and this year they were all in on time.

Association Members

The Association has more members this year than in the history of the association.

Rural Branch has 151 paid up members who will shortly receive the 1999 annual report.



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

Wapley bells are now out of the tower, the old five has been sold to someone in Hongkong. The other four and two more will be back in May or June and hopefully ready for ringing for the Wapley Flower Festival.



Broken Gudgeon Pin from the five Last month I showed you the top picture here is the rest of it.

Training

At the recent branch officers association meeting at Gloucester, the Association Ringing Master said he was disappointed that the branches had not asked the association to provide more training than they had. The offer of training on any ringing subject is available at reasonably short notice. So if you would like specific training ask the Branch Ringing Master or his Deputy who now have an additional arrow to their bow to provide training for all the branch members. Martin is currently looking at running a listening course, as well as treble bob, and Kent treble bob. Tell him if you are interested.

Headlines

1. May Day outing to Wilts/Dorset

Borders Leave Coalpit Heath 08.00

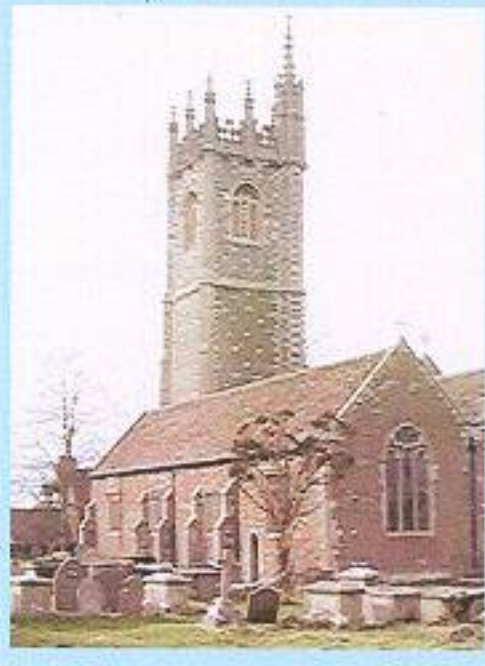
2. Branch Half Yearly Meeting & BBQ

Farcited Ringing

May 4th Slimbridge
14.30 - 16.00 plus cup of tea

Branch Ringing

Saturday May 13th
Westerleigh
Half yearly meeting and BBQ
15.30 to 16.45 Ringing
17.00 Service
17.45 Meeting
Then BBQ at Broad Lane



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00

May Henbury
June St Ambrose
July Thornbury

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday
19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Branch Striking Competition

This year it is at Frampton and after last year when eight teams entered I am sure we can do better than that. Would Tower Captains like to start to put their teams together.

Tidy Tower Competition

This Association competition is drawing nigh and any aspiring towers who would like to enter should contact Bryan Hardwick who has agreed to be the branch contact.

Dont forget your yearly return.
please send to Graham Hemmet at
the address on the form

May Day Outing

Get your booking to Mary York
Monday May 1st by Coach
Avon Valley Pewsey to Amesbury
Pewsey Coffee
Upavon
Enford Lunch
Fittleton
Durrington

The coach will leave Coalpit Heath at 08.00 and return about 19.30
Please book your seat for this popular yearly event.

The distance as the crow flies between Pewsey and Amesbury is about 14 miles.

Branch Quiz Night

The Abson ladies and helpers were quiet worried on the quiz night they catered for sixty and almost eighty turned up, however they managed. Once again we had a hilarious evening with Jenny Rogers as quiz mistress aided and abetted by Mike and Angela Robb and family. Margaret Gorley and Mary Taylor were the Chefs in residence, with Tony Gorley looking after the bar and Mary's youngest son helping in the kitchen and with collecting the answer forms. It must be said we all had a tremendous evening. I also counted twelve young ringers who came along. It is my understanding that a n Almondsbury team were first and the wooden spoon went to !!!!!!! Well done Abson a hard act to follow. By the way only four ringing towers in the branch were not represented.



Branch Chairmen and our Speaker Rev'd David Pole and guests

Ringing Master, Bitton and Westerleigh



Frampton and Almondsbury Ringers

Bristol Rural
Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers
May
2000
No 04-00
News

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April 8th 00

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

Penn Trophy May 20th Swindon

Yes its that time again. The Ringing Master will be collecting his team together and organizing an eight bell practice.

G & B Training Day Cirencester and Tewksbury



The branch were certainly well represented at this years training day at both Cirencester and Tewksbury. Above are most of the group and friends who went to Cirencester, here they are back at Cirencester after a very tiring day, for their welcome cup of tea and a biscuit. I am sorry I do not have a picture of the Tewksbury contingent, you may be glad I didn't.

The Farcited Groups official photographer has been out and about again and has sent me some pictures taken at the Annual dinner in January.

Headlines

1. Branch Striking Competition

Frampton Cotterell

2 Penn Tropy Swindon

Farcited Ringing

June 1st North Nibley

rehung 6

14.30 - 16.00 plus cup of tea

Arthur's Outing

July 6th

Coach leaves Coalpit Heath at

08.15

Branch Ringing

June 10th

Branch Striking Competition

Frampton Cotterell

17.00 to Finish



Junior Ringing

Hilda Messenger has organized a further ringing session for the branches younger members for the summer holidays. I understand the towers have been circulated. Please send in your forms to say you will be attending.

8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

May Henbury

June St Ambrose

July Bitton

Aug. Thornbury

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

Branch Striking Competition

Saturday June 10th

This year it is at Frampton and after last year when eight teams entered I am sure we can do better than that. Would Tower Captains like to start to put their teams together. Let Martin Blanchard know if you are taking part 01454 273456 Teas will be served in the Church.

Proceeds in aid of Iron Acton Bell Fund. Please could each tower donate a cake, plate of sandwiche/rolls. Let me know if you can help.

Mary York 01454 772532

Don at the AGM



At the recent G & B AGM at Horsley where seven branch members attended Don Haskins was elected the branches fourth Honorary Life Member.

The other three Honorary members are

Ken Weekes

Terry Jefferies and

Bert Ferris.

I am sure we all welcome Don to this well deserved group.

MAYDAY 2000 - AVON VALLEY OUTING

After the wettest April on record May 1st dawned dry and sunny as members and friends boarded the coach at Coalpit Heath for our annual outing. Everyone was on time (yes it's true) and at eight o'clock Tony completed the 'head count', gave the word to our now familiar driver Len, and off we set for our first destination - Pewsey at the head of the valley of the Wiltshire Avon. The journey, initially on the M4 then through beautiful countryside bursting with spring greenery, was uneventful, and we arrived at our first church - St John Baptist, ahead of time. Fortunately our hosts arrived shortly after and soon Martin Blanchard had a 'band to raise' organised and the 12 cwt six up and running to a respectable touch of Stedman to set the standard for the rest of the day! Whilst the various groups were in the tower the rest found St Johns an interesting church to explore. Of particular interest: the frontal of the High Altar - a 'patchwork' interpretation of the Avon Valley skyline, and the glass fronted Nave Altar enclosing an Easter tableau. The North Aisle is sensitively screened from the Nave and it was here that our hosts provided the company with refreshment - drinks and a mouth-watering selection of cakes. Travelling on to Upavon the 14 cwt ground floor ring of six at St Mary the Virgin at first seemed daunting, particularly when informed by our host there that we were looking at 60 feet of rope! However 'Bryn' Shackleton our 'manager' for the tower reminded us that as learners we were all taught to ring with a tight rope and so long as we remembered that there wouldn't be a problem - and he was right.

Bristol Rural News

June

2000

No 05-00

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Ringling for Weddings and Special Occasions

Several of the Thornbury Young Ringers would like to offer their services to the branch to ring for weddings and special occasions.

If you would like to avail yourself of their help, please ring Alison Bertram on 01454 885265 and she will do her best to accommodate you.

There is not room this month for pictures of the Mayday outing, you can see them on the branch web pages. I have also compiled the list of millennium ringers which is also on the web pages both under 'Events'

Tummies beginning to rumble, our next stop was 'The Swan' at Enford for lunch. Tony and Mary had done an excellent job advising the Landlord in advance of our individual selections from their comprehensive menu - and it worked a treat for most were served before finishing their first pint! Ongoing entertainment was provided by the system there whereby the kitchen announced each persons dish over the PA - mispronunciation of some names proved hilarious. A short walk from the Inn took us to the Church, All Saints, a 13 cwt six. These bells were rated 'good' by the experienced and less so members of the company, and under the management of Don Haskins this time everyone had opportunity to 'work down' their lunch! The last two towers: All Saints, Fittleton (8½ cwt/6), and All Saints, Durrington (11 cwt/6) proved more difficult to manage for Gary Crisp and Alan Pidgeon respectively. With limited space in the ringing chambers it wasn't possible to ensure that the best mix of skills were present there at any given time. However with a little 'shuttling' of bodies up and down the spiral stair everyone was accommodated. In the course of the day a good selection of methods were addressed. As well as the usual learners exercises Doubles included Stedman, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, and St Simons. Minor - Cambridge, St Clemants, Plain Bob, and maybe more when the author wasn't present. Our thanks to the conductors who with patience guided our sometimes erratic courses! Lynn Angell and Joan Haskins served the tea and cakes provided by Mary in the church after the last ring, after which the then by now slightly weary company settled down for the ride home arriving at Coalpit Heat just after half past seven. Don Haskins

Headlines

1. Ringing at Wapley again

2 I have recently had a few problems with my computer so the web pages will take a little longer to get up to date. Also could any of you with email addresses please email me as I lost most of my email addresses during the fiasco. et57@dial.pipex.com

Farcited Ringing

Thursday July 6th

Arthur's Outing

Coach leaves Coalpit Heath

Church at 08.15 prompt

The Thames Valley

Proposed towers

Wokingham

Maidenhead

Marlow

Wargrave

Carvery Supper at Newbury on the way home.

Branch Ringing

July 8th

Rehung Wapley

19.30 - 21.00



8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

July Bitton

Aug. Redcliffe

I hope I have got it right this month

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

The Train Trip

Frampton Westerleigh and Friends

Tower outing

On June 3rd 38 ringers and friends travelled to Somerset with some difficulty due to a Motorway accident to ring at four towers, a cream tea and dinner on the train between Bishops Lydeard and Minehead. We rang at Halse(6), Ash Priors(6), cream tea at Lydeard St Lawrence then Combe Florey(6) and then at the super sounding bells of Bishops Lydeard(8).

Once again a very good outing.



Half Yearly Meeting at Westerleigh



Whilst it can't be said that we had hundreds at the half yearly meeting we did achieve twenty-five at the meeting and fifteen to twenty at the ringing before, which was run by the branch ringing master Martin Blanchard. The service was conducted by the Rev'd David Wilcox who welcomed the ringers to Westerleigh. The organ was played for the service by Brian Clark. The service was followed by the meeting when the Chairman Bryn Shackleton thanked the Rev'd Wilcox and Brian Clark for conducting and playing for the service. The meeting was over fairly quickly the minutes can be seen shortly on the branch web pages. The assembled ringers were then invited to the now annual BBQ, this year at the home of Bert Ferris the tower captain at Westerleigh. The BBQ had been well stoked up by Bryan Hardwick who was ably assisted by Martin Blanchard. The drinks were being dispensed by Andy Fox with quite a pleasant brew from the local brewery at Wickwar. It was a good job we had a BBQ as Westerleigh had a prolonged power failure during the evening. The Branch secretary demonstrated to a number of the branch members the branch web site and what it contains, whilst everyone tucked in to the delicacies on offer. I believe a good time was had by all and we must thank Bert for hosting the event, and Brian, Martin and Andy for being the willing workers. Thanks to all.

Bristol Rural

Association of Church Bell Ringers Bristol Rural Branch Gloucestershire

July 2000

No 07-00

News

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Penn Trophy 2000 Swindon

Last year we held several practice sessions but this year I decided on a different strategy. So a single practice was arranged for Tuesday 9th May at Bitton.

This was a good practise although we did not get the quarter peal of Grandsire Triples we attempted. The band did start to achieve a rhythm towards the end of the practise and I was comfortable with the way the striking improved over the evening.

Come the day of the competition(20th May) the Band(David Powell, Hilda Messenger, Martin Blanchard, Bert Ferris, Gary Crisp, Henry Taysom Fran Johnson and Bryn Shackleton the conductor met and drew the first position the 15.00 - 16.00 slot.

The five minute practise session enabled us to get used to the weight of the bells and to settle into a pace that was suited to us as a band. After that, the two whole pulls on the treble and we were into our test piece.

Rather than make my own comments I will précis the judges comments

'A measured piece of ringing, holding back a little towards the end, as if tiring, Leading was a bit variable, and the second place striking could have been more consistent. On the whole a good piece of ringing'

The announcement of the results gave the following:-

- 1st Wootton with 10 faults
- 2nd Tewksbury with 20 faults
- 3rd Bristol Rural with 24 faults
- 4th Gloucester with 25 faults
- 5th Cheltenham with 26 points
- 6th Cirencester with 27 points
- 7th Swindon with 35 points.

Just as last year there were a group of closely marked teams. This year we were top of that group, whereas last year we at the bottom of it. That said I was very pleased with the band's efforts and thanks to all of them. The improvement in position from (from 7th to 3rd) over last year was most satisfying.

Martin Blanchard

Headlines

1. Sorry its two months together this Month

Farcited Ringing

Thursday August 3rd
Abson St James the Great
14.30- 16.00 and a cup of tea
Thursday September 7th
Day Out

Charlton Map 173 959889
Coffee in the Church 10.30
Ringing 11.00 - 11.45
Pub Lunch details later
Minety Map 163 009912
Ringing 14.30 - 15.30

Branch Ringing

August 12th Bitton



September 9th Mangotsfield



September 24th

Gloucester Cathedral

This year the ringing is to be managed by the Ringing Master and Chairman with invited ringers.

8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday
19.30 - 21.00
Aug. Redcliffe

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday
19.30-21.00
Chipping Sodbury(6)

Branch Stiking Competition

The Rural Branch Millennium year Striking competition took place at Frampton Cotterell on June 10th. This year we had seven teams from seven separate towers enter, plus a scratch team from six of the towers. The draw took place at 17.00 which had to be slightly rigged as one team had members who had to leave early and one team which could not arrive until late and then some members had to leave immediately afterwards, but Martin the Ringing Master managed this well without any major problems. The ringing commenced at about 17.15 and whilst the first team were ringing the rest of the assembled ringers availed them selves of the excellent tea which was being looked after by a group of willing helpers. The proceeds which amounted to £56.00 were donated to Iron Acton bell and tower restoration fund. Many Thanks to all the people who donated cakes and sandwiches Below is a very poorly focussed picture of the Westerleigh team this years winners. Well done to all the teams who took the time to enter this year For lots more pictures see the Branch web site.



The Farcited summer Outing

This years outing to Wokingham Maidenhead Marlow and Wargrave has come and gone. some forty ringers took to the coach in low cloud expecting to



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

be wearing raincoats all day but guess what we had sunshine from Maidenhead and in fact it was almost to warm. After the ringing the returning ringers enjoyed an evening meal at the Hilton Hotel at Newbury, arriving home at exactly 10.00 after an exhausting day. It was for me anyway.

HRGB South West Region

I have received information from Ryan Price about several concerts by the 'Handbell Ringers of Japan' Locally there are concerts in Bath Bristol and Stroud. Further afield at Devizes Caerphilly and Taunton.

The local ones are on
Monday 7th of August
The Assembly Rooms Bath
Tickets £6.00

For tickets ring
01179 862858

Tuesday 8th of August
Bristol Cathedral

Free Admission but a collection will be made.

For further information please contact Ryan telephone no

I could do with the occasional article for the newsletter from branch members on any ringing subject or outing they have taken part in.

To get an idea on size of an article just count the number of words in an average newsletter item and aim for that. Your written input would be appreciated.

Wapley Bells

Wapley bells are rededicated and ready for ringing.

Headlines

1. Gloucester Cathedral
2. Association Training Day
3. Annual General Meeting Pucklechurch

Farcited Ringing

Thursday October 5th

Gilberts Day in Devon

Clayhidon

Uffculme

Sampford Peverell

Tiverton 6

Tiverton 8

For details ring Mary York

01454 772532

Branch Ringing

October 21st Filton



September 24th

Gloucester Cathedral

This year the ringing is to be managed by the Ringing Master and Chairman with invited ringers.

8 Bell Surprise Practice

Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

Oct St Ambrose

Nov. Thornbury

Six Bell Surprise Practice

3rd Friday

19.30-21.00

Chipping Sodbury(6)

No news yet on when they will be an 8

AGM Pucklechurch

I will publish times in next November's News letter but just a couple of points. Remember we do not allow ad-lib AOB items, so if you want to raise any items at the AGM you should send it to the Chairman or Secretary in writing before the meeting.

Do not forget to propose your new members at the meeting. We do not want to fall back on membership now that the millennium push has stopped.

Now is the time the Secretary has to start compiling the data for the next years G & B Report I have noticed a number of errors in last years report, would each tower please check the 1999 report for any errors that may be present.



Summer 2000 Holiday Ringing

Once again the youngsters of the branch have met regularly on Wednesdays to ring and engage in social activities, yet due to the shortness of this years summer break, we were only able to meet on four occasions.

Attendance and ringing varied dramatically. We had a quiet start at Wapley with only 3 youngsters, but by the end of the summer 12 joined us at Syston + Mangotsfield.

It is encouraging to see so many faces from last year and to realise that many of those struggling to ring Plain Hunt Doubles can now competently hunt on 7 and ring inside to Bob Doubles. Kent and Stedman Triples have been regular features for the more advanced ringers together with spliced Surprise Minor and a course of Yorkshire Major. Our Social events have gone well. The first visit was to Piglet where we had a most enjoyable afternoon ringing (Or trying to). Even our 'lapsed' and non ringers were reluctant to leave.

The second visit involved a drive across the Severn Bridge to Puzzle Wood, a very intriguing maze in the Forest of Dean, fortunately we didn't lose anyone and returned home on time. Our third visit was to last years favourite, Quasar in Bristol. Funny how the prospect of 'shooting' one's fellow ringers can get the best attendance of the Holiday!!

A Big Thank You to all helpers for making the events a success.

I am hoping to organise a similar day of ringing with Ice Skating or swimming on Wednesday 25th October, all welcome, further details next month or phone Hilda/John on 01454 228424

Bristol Rural

Association of Church Bell Ringers Bristol Rural Branch Gloucestershire

October 2000

No 09-00

News

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Sept 9th

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



Thanks for the pictures. You will find a couple more pictures on the Rural Branch web pages under events as well as the article provided by John and Hilda Messenger.

The Association Training day is on the 14th October you should have your applications to attend in by now. Anyone who would like to help should contact the Ringing Master on 01454 273456

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.