

1. **Extra Branch Training Day**
2. **Membership Form Competition input please!!!!**
3. **Towers should have received the G & B training day information by know.**
4. **Early Warning** March Branch Practice the second Saturday the 8th at Coalpit Heath not the 22nd

Bristol Rural
Association of Church Bell Ringers
February
2003
0302
News

Information for March Newsletter by
Tuesday 18th February.

Farcited Ringing February
6th of February will be two towers and a pub lunch. Horfield (5) and Frenchay (6) Lunch Golden Lion Frenchay
Branch Ringing
Monthly Meeting 22nd February Tytherington 19.30 - 21.00



Extra Branch Training Day
March 15th rising and falling and rounds and call changes
Ring the branch Ringing Master Fran Johnson on 01454 417445
Ring Now, space limited

Branch Carol Service.

Firstly we must thank the Mangotsfield ringers for arranging this years service also the Rev'd Boxall for taking the service and Monica Gibbs who played the organ. The ringers and the church had produced a printed service sheet which was very professional. We must also thank all the ringers who came along and supported the event. We had about sixty people attend the service and just a few less in the the ringing chamber which was packed to overflowing. Graham Hemmett arranged the wine although not able to attend due to family commitments, we had two very able stand ins Jill and Les Usher to dispense the wine. The mince pies were as usual provided by the the branch ringers the tea coffee and soft drinks dispensed by the Mangotsfield ladies. I think that we can say this event is one of the branches most popular events Thank you again to everybody who helped and came long and supported the service



Winterbourne Bells Continued

within the month and a bellhanger is waiting to start. Consistent with the DIY efforts on the frame in the 1980's, the ringers intend to provide some of the labouring effort in order to keep costs down. Nevertheless, it has been decided to start with just the fifth and tenor headstocks (at a cost of around £7500), because the tenor is becoming increasingly unmanageable and further delay to complete fundraising would risk it becoming totally unringable. If all goes well, the additional money (about £13000) will be sought to complete the other four bells. With luck the first phase will be complete in time for the Branch striking competition in June and you will be able to give your opinion on whether the replacement headstocks have helped!

Gill Greef

8 Bell Surprise Practices
Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319398

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00
Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Winterbourne bells are noteworthy as they constitute a maiden peal, with a tenor of about 20 cwt. All six bells were cast in 1757 by William Evans of Chepstow and none have been recast subsequently. It must be relatively unusual to have an intact set of bells of this age. Between 1983 and 1985 the wooden bellframe was replaced in steel by the bellringers and friends, retaining the existing wooden fittings including the headstocks. These fittings date, in general, from previous work done in the 1920's by Llewellyn and James of Bristol. About three years ago, it was discovered that the tenor headstock was rotten around the crown staple bolt and needed replacing. A replacement wooden headstock was installed but this has not proved satisfactory because the timber was not fully seasoned and hence it has split. The plan is now to replace the headstocks with metal. As anyone who has rung at Winterbourne will know, the bells are relatively heavy-going even for their weight. It is hoped that an additional benefit from the works will be to make them easier to ring. This will make it more possible to recruit new ringers and to retain them. At present even many adults find the bells difficult to manage and so get discouraged and leave. The ringers are determined to ensure that the bells of Winterbourne can ring out to call people to worship in the future as they have for nearly 250 years to date. The current status of the project is that faculty permission to carry out the work is expected

Young Ringers

I was delighted to receive a call from Frenchay asking if we were going to meet again this year. I had been reluctant to organise anything because of two problems we encountered last year but I would be prepared to try again if they can be overcome. Firstly we need a bigger pool of helpers - last year we had to go to City Branch for help on one occasion. Secondly, the young ringers really do have to make a commitment to turn up, and keep turning up We need to organise ringing two or three weeks ahead, but last year we had to cancel one tower twice because of lack of support - on one occasion five out of six young ringers cancelled the evening before!

If we do go ahead we will plan to organise ringing and social events on Wednesdays during Easter, and the Summer holidays. Any Young Ringer and helpers please contact Hilda or Hayley on 01454 319398 by March 14th at the latest and we will see what we can do.

Hilda and Haley Messenger

Farcited Christmas Outing

This years Christmas trip was to Worcester. We left Coalpit Heath on a very cold but sunny morning and arrived at the Royal Worcester Factory for coffee. Then on to St Swithun a redundant six which we were told had very long bells. Then on to the hotel for an excellent lunch which I am certain was enjoyed by all present. We reluctantly left the hotel to get on the coach to travel to St Johns a very easy eight. We unfortunately left four ringers in the town due to time pressures, they caught us up at the tower as it was only about a mile to walk. It was then time to go home after a very pleasant day.



St Swithuns

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Extra Branch Training Day
2. Membership Form Competition input please!!!!
3. March Branch Practice the second Saturday the 8th at Coalpit Heath not the 22nd
4. Quiz Night April 5th The Hall Downend

Farcited Ringing March

6th of March Kelston
St Nicholas 6(10.2.24)
14.30 - 6.00

April 3rd Farcited Day Out to Somerset

11.00 - 11.40 Ashcott
Coffee will be served

11.45 - 12.25 Moorlinch

Lunch Toby Inn Chilton Polden
Afternoon Towers

Cossington

Woolavington

Puriton

Branch Ringing

Monthly Meeting 8th March
19.30 - 21.00



Extra Branch Training Day
March 15th rising and falling
and rounds and call changes
Ring the branch Ringing Master
Fran Johnson on 01454 417445
Ring Now, space limited



Once again I had considerable problems getting together the Winner of the November Newsletter Competition which was won by Martin Pearson a ringer at Mangotsfield. I was finally successful at the January Branch Practice at Frampton when Martin Fran Johnson the Branch Ringing Master the camera and myself were all together. I also have to say that the branch practice was extremely well supported for the first one of the year when the ringing chamber as Frampton was full to overflowing. The Frampton ringers provided tea and biscuits which proved very successful and the proceeds were donated to the Iron Acton Bell fund.

January Branch Practice

I just wonder if we should move the branch practice to the occasional Saturday afternoon as it was so well supported. Does any one have any views on this out there!!

February Branch Training Day

The Training day at Syston was well attended, and as far as I can tell was thoroughly enjoyed.

Steve Coleman is one of the few people I know, who can make the effects of quite complex physics seem obvious, and thereby help in the understanding of "Raising and Lowering." I am sure we all came away after two hours intensive practice better able to recognise our faults, and to rectify them.

The next Branch Training Day is on May 10th, subject and venue undecided. Ring me soon if you have a request. Fran. 01454 417445.

The Ups & Downs of Ringing

Steve Coleman led the practice in his usual enthusiastic style, and we all learnt (or were reminded of) the intricacies of ringing up & down - the mysteries of the tail flick, the pull-in, and even the down knot all became apparent. There is not point trying to explain what we found out because as one participant admitted next morning, he had rushed home and re-read the chapter on raising and lowering in Steve's tome - and it's all in the book. I even managed a blister after several false starts.

Rumours have it, the next course will be on Getting up for ringing!
Gary Crisp Frampton



8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319398

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00



Publication date
February 28th
Information for April Newsletter by
Tuesday 18th March



Thornbury Golf Club was again the venue of the Rural Branch Annual Dinner. Over fifty branch members and friends attended the evening. The speaker for the evening was Charles Pipe-Wolferstan who amused us with his ringing and organ playing anecdotes. Several branch members have said the venue should have been at the eastern end of the branch, we have had considerable problems identifying a venue for the dinner in the Warmley Bitton part of the branch which is not pub based. Anyone who can come up with a suitable venue in that part of the world will be suitably rewarded. We are always looking for suitable speakers for such events and if you have come across someone who you think would make a suitable after dinner speaker please let us know.

That apart the dinner was a huge success once again, enjoyed by all those who attended, apart from the green peas. Thank you too all who attended and made it the success that it was.

May Day Outing

The May Day Outing is to Wiltshire and we expect to have a full coach, so put the date in your diary

Monday MAY 5th

Quiz Night

I hope you are all winding yourselves up for the annual quiz night challenge This year the Quiz Masters will be Frenchay.

Lets have a team from every tower in the branch this year, it is possible. Or if you do not have enough for your own team come and help make up a team. It can only be a good laugh.

Its a Fun Evening

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Quiz Night April 5th The Hall Downend
2. G & B AGM April 26th Chippenham Branch Malmesbury
3. May Day Outing to Vale of Pewsey book your seat May 5th
4. Rural Branch Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ Abson May 24th
5. Membership Form Competition input please!!!!

Farcited Ringing
April 3rd Farcited Day
out to Somerset
11.00 - 11.40 Ashcott
Coffee will be served
11.45 - 12.25 Moorlinch
Lunch Toby Inn Chilton
Polden
Afternoon Towers
Cossington
Woolavington
Puriton

Branch Ringing
No Branch Practice in
April its the G & B AGM
at Malmesbury(see opposite)
See details opposite and there
is information in the tower
about ringing during the day
on the way to the AGM.

Ringling for May early Warning
at Abson.
Its the Half Yearly Meeting
and BBQ



Saturday the 15th March was an additional branch training day based at Dyrham.

The session was intended to give some of the trainees extended rounds and call changes and some individual rising and falling practice.

It did not quite work out like that but I think most people got something of what they wanted. There were 14 people present and it started with coffee and biscuits and then down to the hard work. Many thanks to Martin Blanchard who led the session and all the helpers.

This session was specifically asked for by a ringer and as you can see we can do it **If Asked**

8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319398

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

I have been very remiss in that I did not thank Martin Blanchard for producing the pocket size branch program for the branch for 2003.

Martin please accept our belated thanks.

G & B AGM details

14.30 - 15.00 Service Malmesbury Abbey
15.15 - 16.30 Meeting Malmesbury Town Hall
16.30 - 17.30 Tea in Malmesbury Town Hall

followed by ringing at
Malmesbury (8) 17.30 - 19.00

followed by
Colerne (8) 19.00 - 20.00

For parking in Malmesbury see instructions in your tower.

The details of the towers in Chippenham Branch which are open prior to the Service and the AGM have been circulated to all towers.

Towers if going from Rural Branch

10.00 - 11.00 Nettleton 5

10.30 - 11.30 Alderton 6

11.15 - 12.15 Grittleton 6

11.45 - 12.45 Yatton Keynell 4

12.15 - 13.15 Kington St Michael 6

Suggested donations 50p per tower



Information for May Newsletter by
Tuesday 18th March

Gift Aid

How many of you pay tax but do not participate in the G & B Gift Aid scheme. Rural Branch were once again reminded at a recent meeting of G & B officers that we have the lowest subscription too Gift Aid in the Association, just 15%. (Its not for the want of trying)

I know that it is a personal matter whether you contribute or not, but would it be possible for the tower correspondent to do a straw poll to see how many pay tax but do not participate and let me know the numbers (Secretary). It may be that all who can already do participate Some PCC's I know pay the subscription so members cannot take part.

Quiz Night

Saturday April 5th

Its a Fun Evening

Will you be there. Bring a

team, come along and help

make up a team.

Usual Venue the Hall Downend

19.30 - 22.00

Quiz Masters Frenchay

midquiz snack and drinks

available.

Seniors £3.50

Young Ringers £1.50



Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. May Day Outing to Vale of Pewsey book your seat May 5th
2. Rural Branch Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ Abson May 24th
3. Branch Striking Competition
- 4.

Farcited Ringing
May 1st
Weston Bath 14.30 - 16.00
Branch Ringing
Abson Half Yearly Meeting



Ringing 15.45
Service 17.00
Meeting 17.45 in the church
BBQ Collins Farm opposite
Agenda below
the church courtesy of
Mary and Peter Taylor

June Ringing
Saturday 28th
Branch Striking Competition
The Venue for this event is
not yet settled. It should be
Winterbourne but the bells
may not be ready.
We are working on it.

Half Yearly Meeting Proposed Agenda

Chairman welcomes the members
Apologies for absence
Acceptance of AGM Minutes (Olveston)
Reports from Committee members
New Members
AOB at the chairman's discretion
Chairman closes the meeting

As you can all see I have a very bare newsletter this month. Having been away for five weeks, not having any input and getting home on the 24th did not give me much time to get up to date. Hope to have bit more for next month.

**Input for the Newsletter is always
welcome**

8 Bell Surprise Practices
Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
May 9th Thornbury
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375
Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Branch May day Outing 5th May

The Outing is to be by Coach Leaving Coalpit Heath at 08.15 prompt.

All Cannings
Bishops Cannings
Urchfont
Potterne
Eddington Priory

Lunch is at 13.00 at the Stage Coach at West Lavington
Details sent out by email to all branch email contacts and branch members with email addresses.

If you require any further information please ring Mary or Tony York 01454 772532 or email ajyork@onetel.co.uk

Quiz Night April 5th

With having been away for the last month I am really not up to speed with what has been happening in the Branch.

I understand the numbers were down at the quiz night with 44 people attending, last year we had 60. From the telephone conversation I had with Alan it seems although the numbers were down the evening was enjoyed by those who were there.

The winning team comprised Henry Fran Jo and Sandra from Thornbury and Martin and Benny from Westerleigh. Henry when I spoke to him said "I suppose that means we have to do the quiz next year" so we said "Thank you very Much" Many of you who went along will not know what happened when they came to lock up. The key that opened the door would not lock it, so Eddy Welch and a few others had to run around to find a key that would. We must thank them for all the trouble they went to.

Publication date
April 26th

Bristol Rural
May
2003
0503

News

Information for June Newsletter by
Tuesday 20th May

AGM Striking Competitions April 26th

I am sure we wish the members of the Westerleigh team best wishes in the Croome Trophy at Sherston. Also the Branch Members who are taking part in the Penn Trophy at Tetbury.

The Best of Luck to you all

- 1. Branch Striking Competition** Lets have lots of teams entering. I reckon that we probably have 15 towers who have sufficient numbers to enter. There will be drinks tea and cake available. Could we ask members who come along to bring a plate of sandwiches a cake or cakes to donate The proceeds go to the tower holding the event. The vicar has offered the use of his garden for a picnic if it is fine.
- 2. May Day Outing to Pewsey Vale**
- 3. 80 Years Young**

Farcited Ringing for June

Coleme 14.30 - 16.00

Branch Ringing June

Striking Competition at Alveston Draw at 16.00 If you have problems in getting their for the draw ring Fran Johnson



G & B AGM Malmesbury

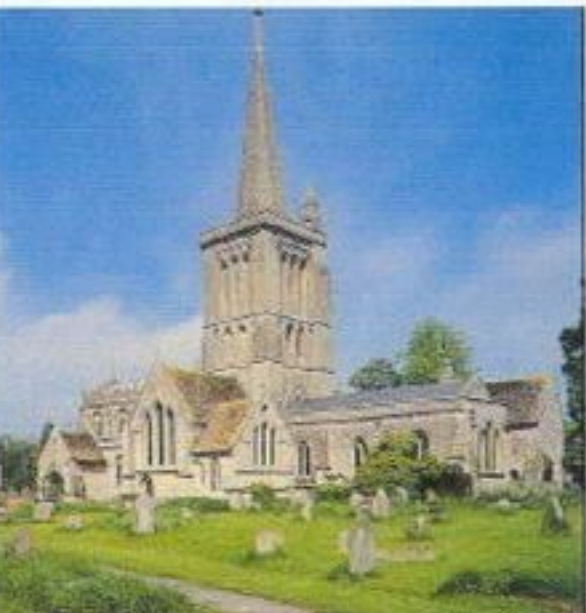
I attended the AGM at Malmesbury and will give a report next month, the MC rep will report at the half yearly meeting, I ran out of space this month

May Day Outing Thanks

From the position of a novice Ringing Master, the Branch outing to the Vale of Pewsey, couldn't have been better. With plenty of ringers, some who stayed all day, and some that came late, or left early.

Good.... no Great weather, and an interesting assortment of towers. But best of all I hadn't had to do a thing!!

Henry, many thanks for all your hard work beforehand. Mary, where would the the branch be without you, and your knowledge of outing organisation, and finally all the "Catering Division" who kept us fed and watered at just the right moments. Thank you all !!!!



8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

June Chipping Sodbury

July Mynyddislwyn

Contact Hilda Messenger for details

01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Branch May day Outing 5th May

With the sun shining brightly on the Vale of Pewsey, I arrived at Bishops Cannings to the sound of Grandsire Triples ringing out over the gathering in the car park. Wonderfully sounding bells, which as Eric Sutton with his local knowledge suggested, would make a good beginning to the rest of the tour.

Coffee and biscuits as we left, set the well organised feel to the day.

Next All Cannings, where a busy schedule ensured a ring for every one that climbed the tower. A nice village 6 Then to Urchfont! Well what can you say, I didn't see any crows did you? The village was jammed with people, cars, marching piper bands, scarecrows, and to top it all visiting ringers.

The ground floor ring meant good viewing to the interested public, and long, stretchy, ropes ensured plenty of entertainment for all!! Next lunch in West Lavington, where the spacious seating meant that everyone could sit with whom they chose. Pity about the great coffee cup hijack that meant no caffeine for those that needed it, and no "puds" either.

With a leisurely lunch over we headed to Potterne, where a vast beamed ringing chamber, held all of us easily. The six bells went well and we rang, Rounds, Call changes, Doubles, and Minor. We rang all those, we didn't finish any!!!!!!!

The Fourth was an absolute education to those who rang it, and those who watched in amazement as it regularly slipped wheel and then righted itself. As far as I can remember, it only behaved itself when it felt the no nonsense grip of the Belfry Advisor. Next to Edington Priory, where a few paces across the leads took you to the ringing chamber of the central tower. Here we rang triples and caters, and rounds to give everyone a chance to ring ten bells. These had obviously had some work done on sound deadening and acoustics, because they were not as deafening as previously advertised. A good fall on the ten rounded off an excellent day.

Afternoon tea as we returned to the body of the church absolutely hit the spot. Thanks to everyone who was there on the day, and whatever part you played.



It is with great regret we have to announce the death of two ringers in the branch.

Sue Goodwin and Anne Cunliffe of Pucklechurch and Bitton respectively.

Sue Goodwin

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of the Pucklechurch ringers 'Sue Goodwin' Sue and her husband died in an accident in Mexico during the Easter holiday.

The funeral and thanksgiving service held on the 9th of May at St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch was a moving tribute to them both, and the numbers of people present was indicative of how special a couple they were and the extent that their lives had touched others. They were involved with many village activities, and will be much missed for their contribution to the church life of the village.

Sue had been a faithful member of the ringing team for many years and Rick a member of the music group 'Charisma'

We extend our sympathy to all who knew, and will miss them, but very especially to the three children Martin, Paul and Heather at this sad time

Trevor Williams Tower Captain Pucklechurch

Also Anne whose father celebrated his 80th birthday recorded below.

Anne died on the 16th of May, after a long illness. Rural Branch members will I am sure extend their sympathy to the families and friends of them both

Four members of the Perrett family celebrated David's 80th birthday by ringing a quarter of Bob Doubles on the 8th of April at St Mary's, Bitton.

Pictured are Martin Blanchard, Peter Walker, Ruth Perrett, David Perrett, Sue Jay, Sarah Perrett, John Ware and Rachel Freestone.

This was Rachel's first quarter congratulations Rachel.

Anne Boulton

Tower Correspondent Bitton



1. Have you made your request for training on July 12th?
2. New Deputy Ringing Master
3. Your tower should have received information about the October training day!
4. Who are the handsome couple below



Information for August Newsletter by
Tuesday 24th June

Farcited Ringing July

Coach Outing to Lymington
Plenty of space on the coach
Four towers and a Lunch
Coach leaves Coalpit Heath at 0845
prompt
Ring 01454 772532

Branch Ringing July

Training day July 12th

Branch Practice

Wapley Saturday July 26th

19.30 - 21.00 Wapley



They are of course Joan and Don Haskins photographed on their wedding day, 23rd May 1953. Fifty years on, their Golden Wedding anniversary was celebrated in traditional bellringing style. Two quarter peals were rung in their honour; one by members of Don's tower, Almondsbury plus some regular visitors on 18/05/03 and the second by the Farcited Group on the 23/05/03. The bells were also rung by the Almondsbury band before and after the renewal of Joan and Don's vows at Almondsbury church on 25/05/03. This was in recognition and thanks of Don's extended service as tower captain, ringing master and all the other roles he fulfils for us. I know you will all join us in wishing Joan and Don many more very happy years together.

Clare Jefferies

Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ



With the resignation of Mary York as Deputy ringing Master here we have the new incumbent Henry Taysom on the right with Fran Johnson ringing master at the Half Yearly meeting and BBQ at Collins Farm Abson.

The ringing at the meeting was well attended and 18 were present at the meeting. Apart from a new deputy ringing master and three new members, two from Westerleigh who were at the meeting and were presented with their G & B badges a new innovation in the branch, you will shortly be able to see the

Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ Continued

minutes on the branch web site. One further point from the BBQ to thank all who provided the food, Anita for bringing the famous jelly. Peter and Mary Taylor for providing the venue and the weather which this year was kind to us. Not forgetting Bryan and Martin for their efforts in the kitchen.

Footnote

Mary tells me the barbeque made a profit of £60.00 which has been donated to branch funds.

Whoops Many of you may notice this newsletter is the second July issue this year. Last month's should have said June don't ask me how it happened I do not know!

G & B AGM Malmesbury

I attended the AGM at Malmesbury. This took place in the magnificent Malmesbury town hall, which unfortunately has rather poor acoustics, and as I was seated towards the rear of the hall it was very difficult to hear some of the G & B committee members. I counted at least four other Bristol Rural Members present. The meeting started promptly at 15.15 after the service in the Abbey and was very well attended. The meeting commenced with the results of the two striking competitions, the eight bell Penn trophy was won by Swindon, the six bell Croome trophy was won by Bristol Cathedral. The business section followed, I will leave this part of the meeting to Don Haskins the MC rep to report at the half yearly meeting.

The meeting was followed by the usual ringers tea in a further room of the town hall, which in my view would have been far more suitable for the meeting.

A further point last year the results of the striking competitions were recorded on flip charts, which was very helpful, this year they were not and thus the results became confusing at times.



Winterbourne Tenor and five get new headstocks. Here they are being delivered on Saturday 21st June.

The ringers are holding a Barbecue in aid of the bells on Saturday 19th July.

All are welcome

19.30 at 11 West Ridge Frampton Cotterell (undercover if wet)
Tickets £8.00 from Gill or Chris Greef
01454 774479

8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
Friday 11 July: Mynyddislwyn (off M4 J28, about 8 miles north of Bassaleg, OS ref ST193939)
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375
Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Your tower should have received information about the October training day!

2. Branch striking competition

Pictures of the teams who entered are on the web site on the individual tower pages.

Farcited Ringing August

Thursday August 7th

North Nibley

14.30 - 16.00

Branch Practice August

Thornbury

Saturday August 23rd

19.30 - 21.00



Ringing September

September 27th

19.30 - 21.00

Branch Practice

Bathwick 10

September 28th

Gloucester Cathedral

Service Ringing

14.00 - 14.50

Ringing Master to advise

Treble Bob" Training day. 12th July Olveston

The villagers of Olveston were treated to some very creditable ringing from the training day team on Sat 12th.

With varied targets, from Trebling to a course of minor, through to touches of Kent Major inside, we were able to maintain concentration and interest for the whole 2 hours.

My thanks to the helpers, AA. MB. AF. PGA. BH. TJ. HT.

and my congratulations to the improvers FC. DF. WF. MP.

Thank you Paul for the bells.

Fran Johnson

Ringing Master

8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

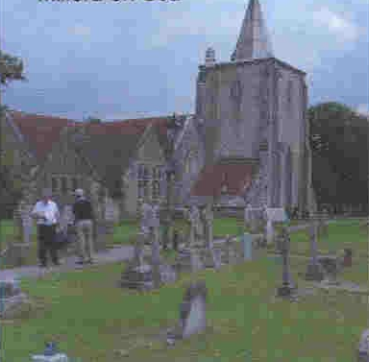
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Marion and Arthur Herbert



Milford on Sea



Farcited Day out to the New Forest

Once again the sun shone as Allan our driver arrived at Coalpit Heath for the Farcited's day out to Lyndhurst Lymington Milford on Sea and Ringwood. This day out was arranged by Arthur Herbert who back in 1989 started the Farcited group and who has recently moved to Lymington.

Unfortunately we were late arriving at Lyndhurst due to the amount of traffic around Salisbury. This meant we only had time to ring and not indulge in coffee and cakes before the ringing started. We were almost on time at the lunch venue, although Allan the driver did have trouble getting around the car park with the coach.

The lunch was fine, served proficiently and nice and hot, but invariably someone is last and this time it was David Haslum.

We then moved on to Lymington St Thomas to ring on the eight. The non ringers with us wandered around the town and when they returned to coach asked if we had been ringing? Yes we had but on the simulator which was a first for some of our members. Then to Milford on sea a very pleasant country side church, where everyone had plenty of time for a ring.

Finally through the South coast rush hour traffic to Ringwood arriving just as all the shops and cafes were closing so once again no tea and cake. We all rang and some of the members met a ringer from Alveston of many years ago Liz Davey (Starling) Back to the coach via Waitrose for something to eat and drink arriving back at 19.35 after a very pleasant day out, apart from missing our tea coffee and cakes at the appropriate times.



Publication date
July 25th

Information for September Newsletter by
Tuesday 19th August

Westerleigh receive the
Trophy



The winning team
Westerleigh (the small one
did not ring)



Striking Competition Alveston 2003

Phew what a scorcher, the sun was out with a vengeance when we all arrived for this years striking competition at Alveston.

The Ringing Master Fran Johnson had installed the judge in the rectory garden with a table and umbrella and plenty of liquid to keep him going. It was then time for the draw this duly completed the ringing commenced. The first team on were Almondsbury, and whilst they rang the rest of us were able to drink tea and laze in the sunshine. Next team up were Tytherington followed by Westerleigh Thornbury Frampton and Wapley. The final band was the ringing masters scratch team who unfortunately broke the rope on the 5th which ended the day. The judge Will Willans then did his stuff pronouncing Westerleigh the winners. Well done to all who entered and thanks to Alveston for the refreshments and all those who contributed to the refreshments.

1. AGM at Westerleigh Minutes of half yearly meeting on reverse of the newsletter
2. Quarter Peal Week 19/27th October dependent on half term week
3. Farcited day out to Somerset.
4. Frampton Cotterell and Friends Tower Outing



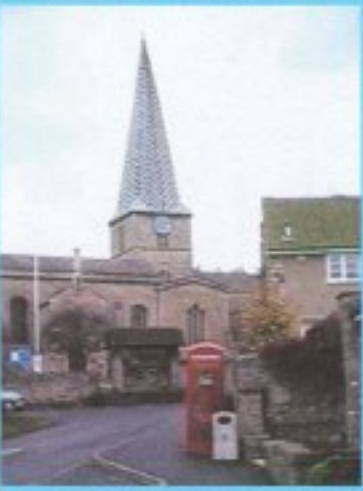
Information for November Newsletter by Tuesday 21st October

Farcited Ringing September

Thursday 2nd October
Day out by car to Somerset
First tower Marston Biggott 10.45

Branch Ringing September

Branch Practice October
19.30 - 21.00 Almondsbury



A new ringer at Almondsbury

7th September Caleb Richard 6lb 10ozs to Clare and Tim Jefferies.
We wish them all well

Note from the Ringing Master

This Sat's training day came and went without anybody asking for anything, though we did have a small raising and lowering session at Wapley a couple of weekends ago which went quite well.

Training Day 8th November

Get your requests to the ringing Master **NOW**

Quarter Peal Week

19th - 27th October
Well will we score any quarter peals in the branch this year?

Last year our score was a total of zero.

AGM Westerleigh November 22nd

The schedule for the AGM

15.45 - 16.55 Ringing

17.00 Service

17.45 Meeting

Proposed Agenda

Chairman's opening remarks and thanks

Apologies

Acceptance of the half yearly minutes

Officers reports

Election of Officers for 2004

New members

Members items

If you have items please send them in writing to the secretary.

AOB (note we only accept AOB items in writing and at the chairman's discretion)

Chairman closes the meeting

Tea

followed by further ringing

Not the Two Towers epic but

Two Towers and a Pub lunch
The Farcited September day out to Bath

We had intended the day to start at Bathampton but fortunately we were not allowed due to the church being too close to the local school. This meant we had to find an alternative tower and went for Larkhall. This was extremely fortuitous as very nearby the Larkhall church was the Cornerstone Coffee shop where we all congregated before ringing.

Good Coffee and cakes and free refills, this was my sort of coffee shop. I am afraid I will have to recommend it to you all its well worth considering before or after a shopping trip to Bath. There is plenty of parking or there was in the week.

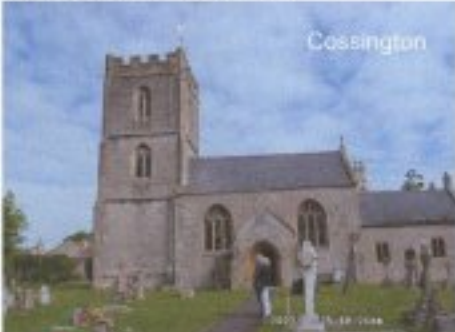
Coffee over the ringing commenced on the Larkhall 8.

Several of us could not get over the fact that Edna Cause a ringer at Frenchay arrived on her bicycle having cycled to Bath along the Bath to Bristol cycle path. Good for her, we should all have done it.

We then moved to the George at Bathford for lunch where about 40 of us sat down which we had preordered as the pub said they were normally rushed off their feet on Thursdays. It turned out it was lucky the Farcited were there as the venue was certainly not over subscribed when we arrived or left. That said the food and the service were excellent and the price being two meals for the price of one made it even more attractive.

Lunch over we drove or wandered up the road to the church and under the eye of John Gilbert some reasonable ringing took place whilst most people between rings sat out in the sun and enjoyed a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Frampton Cotterell and Friends Tower Outing 2003 to Somerset



Being a Bank holiday Monday we were all quite bothered that there would be heavy traffic on the motorway. But by all accounts it was an easy journey and some of us even went into Bridgwater to buy cake for tea later in the day.

Then it was on to the first tower at Cossington. Most people had arrived by the starting time of 10.00 and were all welcomed by coffee or tea and biscuits, before getting down to the serious part of the day the ringing. I think we were all amused by the coffin shaped box in the middle of the ringing chamber. Gary Crisp tower captain at Frampton was in charge. Then on to Moorlinch which was a ground floor ring, and one of the bells you stood on a couple of steps on a set of stairs to ring, which was not easy.

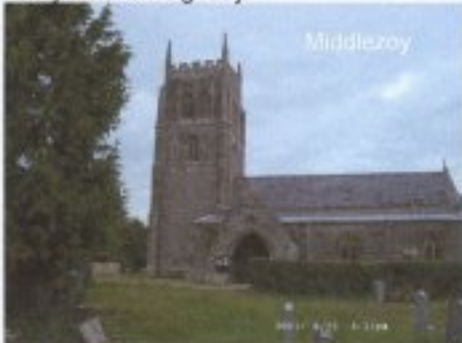
Lunch at a very efficient pub in Moorlinch where 33 of us sat down, we cannot remember its name, but its the only one.



On to Chedzoy through the narrow Somerset country lanes.

I think this tower made us all appreciate our own towers. We met Tony Purcell an ex Frampton ringer who organised the last four towers of the day,

as he now lives at Middlezoy and rings in all the towers. The next tower was Weston Zoyland, a very pleasant, 6 and finally on to Middlezoy another ground floor ring. Whilst the ringing took place tea and cake was available rounding off a very entertaining day.



8 Bell Surprise Practices
Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00
October Henbury
Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375
Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00
Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc. **PTO**

AGM Frenchay 2001 Bristol Rural Branch

Meeting Minutes

Bristol Rural Branch Half Yearly Meeting

24th May 2003 Abson

The Meeting Commenced at 17.40 with 18 members present .

Chairman's opening remarks

The chairman welcomed the branch members to the meeting . He thanked the Cannon David Sansum for conducting the service and the Abson Organist Alfred Howell for playing for us.

The Chairman asked all to stand in remembrance of Ann Perrett and Sue Goodwin ringers in the branch who have recently passed away.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from

Felicity Hemmett, Mary York and Henry Taysom who joined us later.

3. Acceptance of minutes from AGM at Olveston.

The meeting was given time to read the AGM minutes from Olveston. The minutes were then accepted as a true record of the meeting proposed by Les Usher and seconded by Paul Grainger-Allen.

Matters arising a further advert on Gift Aid as the branch always gets in the neck from the G & B Secretary for having one of the lowest gift aid contributions. It is hoped towers will try and increase the number of people contributing to Gift aid, it really is very easy. Forms available from the treasurer.

4. Committee members. reports not included.

copies will be available at the AGM if needed.

4.1 Chairman No report

4.2 Ringing master/Deputy

4.3 Treasurer Only gift aid raised and that funds are currently adequate. no report

4.4 MC rep

4.5 Secretary Publishing the newsletter electronically and saving on printing, sending a newsletter to all known branch members with an email address. No report.

5. Election of Officers

The Chairman reported that Mary York wished to stand down as deputy ringing master as she currently does not have time to carry out the duties. The chairman said he had talked with the ringing master and Henry Taysom was willing to be deputy unless anyone else would like to carry out the task. This not being the case Henry was proposed by Bryn Shackleton and seconded by Paul Grainger-Allen and was carried unanimously. Henry Taysom was elected.

6. New Members.

The following new members were proposed by their respective towers.

Sandra Goodwin (S) Westerleigh

Kit Derek (S) Westerleigh

Proposed Les Usher seconded Fran Johnson

Tom Curry (J) Mangotsfield

Proposed Ryan Price seconded Eileen Price

As the two Westerleigh new members were present they were presented with their G & B badges.

7. Gloucester Cathedral Ringing

Brief discussion on that we had arranged to go to Gloucester on September the 28th Ringing Master to organise.

8. Report on Branch Activities

8.1 Branch 6 Bell striking competition.

The secretary raised the point that the branch striking competition was at the wrong time of the year now that the Association hold the competition at the AGM. This was arranged for three years to see how it worked out, and next year is the 3rd year.

The MC rep was asked to see if the AGM could be moved to a later date to allow the branch competitions to take place in warmer months.

This will be reviewed at the branch AGM.

8.2 Tidy Tower Competition.

Frenchay entered in 2002 and were not successful in the inter-branch round.

Thanks to Frenchay for making the effort to enter.

8.3 Training days.

Covered by the ringing master in his report.

9. AOB at the Chairman's discretion

There were no AOB items

The chairman thanked the members for attending and invited everyone to the Barbeque at Collins Farm.

Meeting closed at 18.20

1. AGM at Westerleigh November 22nd starts 15.45
2. Thornbury Tower Outing to the Bath area on the second page.
3. **Early Warning of the Annual Carol Service this year at Bitton**
4. Abson ringers need never be late again!



Farcited Ringing September

Thursday 6th November

Abson 14.30 - 16.00

Branch Ringing November

AGM Westerleigh November 22nd

The schedule for the AGM

15.45 - 16.55 Ringing

17.00 Service

17.45 Meeting

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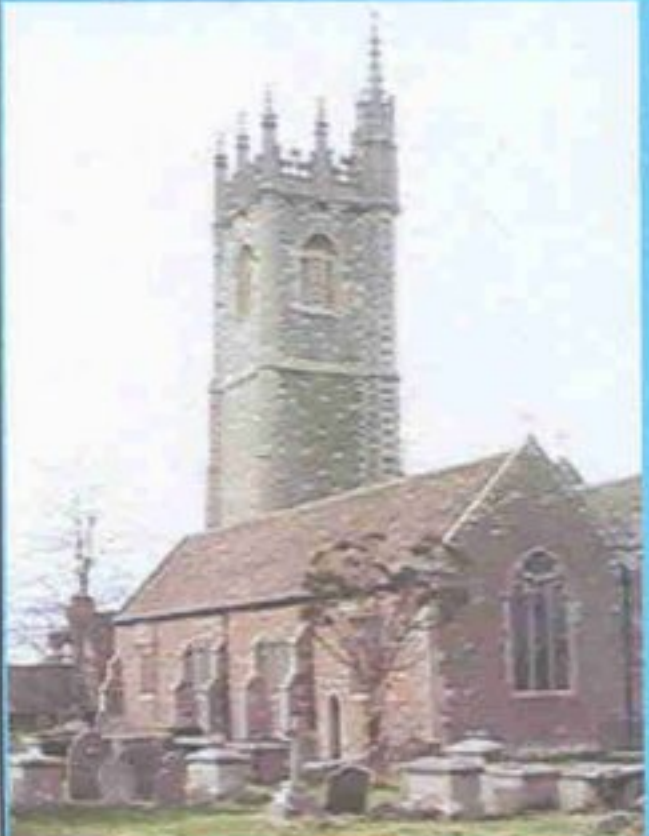
If you have items please send them in writing to the secretary.

AOB (note we only accept AOB items in writing and at the chairman's discretion)

Chairman closes the meeting

Tea

followed by further ringing.



Farcited Christmas Outing December 4th

Hereford by coach

Two towers and a Christmas lunch

Leave Coalpit heath at 08.15

Coffee booked at the Green Dragon

Hereford

Ringing All Saints

Christmas Lunch the Green Dragon

Ringing St Nicholas

for details ring 01454 772532 or email

mary.s.york@dial.pipex.com

BRANCH CAROL SERVICE
at BITTON on
DECEMBER 13TH
Note it is a week earlier
than our normal
practice night the third
Saturday not the fourth

Ringling at Gloucester Cathedral

I would have put an article about the ringling at Gloucester Cathedral here , but I did not receive one, and we were away. Oh Well!

Late Newsletter

Sorry this news letter is late but we have been away for a three weeks, the week I should have sent the newsletter out we were with out a telephone on the Island of Islay. For those of you who do not know Islay there are eight distilleries on the Island and we did not visit one of them , so I cannot blame that for being late.

Editor

A Beach on Islay



Tidy Tower Competition

I emailed to all email tower contacts the details of the 2004 Tidy Tower Competition about three weeks ago. I hope by now all towers have received this information, if not I can send it again.

I hope we are going to have an entry this year and you are all thinking about it. In the last two years we have had both Mangotsfield and Frenchay enter.

Note

I am always happy to amend any errors or omissions if you let me have them. As I am always happy to receive articles for the newsletter on related ringing subjects.

Editor

8 Bell Surprise Practices
Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375
Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00
Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

No Excuse for being late at Abson

Abson have a new time keeper, no one need be late for church or ringing again, as long as the sun is shining.

This is the old one with the end of the gnomon rusted away, and the poor state it was in before restoration. It does however show very well the shadow cast to tell the time, below you can see the restored sun dial.



To Tell the time

Read the shadow of the straight top edge of the gnomon. Then add nine minutes 47 seconds to the time shown for Greenwich Mean Time. Bear in mind the Equation of time, which accounts for the earth's elliptical orbit around the sun and tilt of its axis. Add or subtract accordingly. In summer time add an hour. Check your watch



PTO

The Planning Phase:

Once again, the Tower Outing was organised by the Deputy Tower Captain with some (considerable?) help from Helen Floyd. He says that having done this task for 2 years running, and having also run out of friends called Helen (see last year's report where Helen Beaufoy helped as a "consultant") he hopes that someone else will be volunteered next year! No chance Arch!

The Voice of the Bells (VOTB) actually volunteered for the task this year, e-mailing some excellent comments about the bells, however he/she wishes to remain anonymous.

Corston

Our first tower was All Saints at Corston, a 9cwt eight. There were lots of ladies decorating the church for Harvest Festival. They were very friendly and even directed our band to some welcome sanitary relief! (So early in the day too!) Arch led the ringing. We rang Rounds and Call Changes, Grandsire Triples (which cracked round a bit at tremendous pace), Plain Hunt Triples, some slightly lumpy Bob Major and some very satisfying Plain Bob Triples. We all enjoyed this tower with its really nice bells and short draught.

The verdict from the VOTB stated "one of my favourite light 8's. We gained an "OK" from Betty Parfrey H.L.M. of the Bath and Wells High Praise!!

Off we went past the Globe Inn to Holy Trinity, Newton St Loe a 9cwt six.

Les ran this tower. We rang Rounds and Call Changes again, followed by some Grandsire Doubles, Norwich, Plain Hunt, Stedman and a touch of Bob Doubles. VOTB described this as a lumpity bumpity 6 with ropes for midgets. The 3 in particular was very long indeed, and had a tendency to poke one in the eye. ("One" is not the treble you understand, merely any person, as representing people in general. Definition from The Concise Oxford Dictionary Ninth Edition)

Jill found an interesting gravestone. Wandering around churchyards can be quite illuminating!

Next was a 12cwt eight - All Saints at Bath Weston. My short term memory is going as I can't remember who ran this tower, and it was only last week!

Anyway, whoever it was made us ring Rounds and Call Changes twice, (both called by Les as he is one of the few people in the band who can call confidently on eight) with some Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples to follow.

The ringing chamber was rather cramped and the 4, 5 and 6 had to ring by standing on the steps leading into the church, which for those who don't like ringing on boxes would find rather off-putting.

VOTB said Weston had a spitefully odd

spectators who watched us through the open West door.

Lunch was just a short walk across the road to the Old Crown pub on Crown Hill, Weston. The building was a bit like Dr Who's TARDIS. No it wasn't a Police Box, but the apparently small building as seen from the outside was deceptively large inside.

Arch and Helen had taken our order to the pub before we rang at Weston. We had a large alcove reserved for us and the food was excellent, although we would remind all restaurants that hot food should be served on hot plates, and cold food on cold plates. Arch collected the money and well done everyone, he had exactly the right amount to pay the bill. In case our readers think us rather mean, we did leave a tip too.

After lunch, it was St Matthew Widcombe. Well what does one say about this. Arch collected the key from the Church Warden who is the Tower Contact, but when we got into the tower, we found that 3 bell ropes had been padlocked together, and no key in evidence. We telephoned the mobile number on the chalk board in the tower and the person on the other end was less than sympathetic!! (An understatement!)

We made the decision not to upset the local ringers and left, but not before trying the Church Warden again who, unfortunately, had gone out. This spoiled an otherwise excellent day for all of us, and was particularly disappointing for one of our band who is a student and had travelled some distance to ring in this tower.

Perhaps Mr X on his mobile will refund his train fare, but I doubt it!

The VOTB had a comment though - 3, 4 and 5 difficult to strike at tail!

Afternote: The Church Warden rang Arch later that evening, and was very apologetic, and will investigate and has returned our donation!

Having killed a bit of time watching a narrowboat go through Bath Deep Lock at the beginning of the Kennett and Avon Canal, we drove to St Saviours at Larkhall, where we were joined by Will Willans from Bath Abbey. We were met by a very pleasant lady who let us into this very attractive church.

Gemma Weston was asked to lead the ringing on this 10cwt eight, and we rang Rounds and Call Changes (called by Les again) Grandsire Triples and Single Oxford Court Bob Triples. The latter method certainly got the brain cells working for those who rang!

Once again, the sanitary facilities were much appreciated by several members of the band. Too much beer at lunchtime! VOTB said nice bells spoiled by the loud 7 and 8.

Finally (well not really) off to Swainswick, a 6 cwt six. Once again, the church had been decorated for Harvest Festival with some excellent input from the local school. John Ware ran the Tower and we rang Grandsire Doubles, Rounds and Call Changes, Bob Minor, Cambridge and London. VOTB described this as a delightful hidden

We then went off to the Pulteney Arms in Sutton Street, Bathwick. It sells Smiles, 6X, and of course Bellringer! It also does bar food which was very necessary for those brave souls who were planning to continue to the Bristol Rural 10 Bell Branch Practice at St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick. My brain was maxed out, so I didn't stay after my first drink, but the remaining outing members made up the majority of the Branch Practice band. I understand, however, that none of them stayed for a drink after Branch Practice!

So what did we think of the day?

The towers - Thank you to all the tower contacts for allowing us to ring in their towers, even the Tower Contact at Widcombe who was very helpful in difficult circumstances. And we went to some lovely churches in delightful locations - what a good excuse to discover these little secret corners of England.

Lunch - I can recommend the food at the Old Crown at 1 Crown Hill, Weston, Bath. The ringing - We had some good raises and lowers, and some good striking. Thornbury ringers are getting better. Many thanks to everyone.

The organisation - Many thanks to Arch and Helen for organising an excellent day, in particular the detailed directions from one tower to the next.

Sorry no pictures I have not had time to download them, but you can see them on Thornbury's excellent web site.

www.thornburybells.org.uk

Editor



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

Publication date
November 22nd

Bristol Rural
Association of Chartered Surveyors
December
2003
1203
News

Information for January Newsletter by
20th January

*Season's
Greetings*

A large, stylized red bow tie with a silver buckle at the center.

Farcited Ringing

December 4th

Day out to Hereford by Coach

Leave Coalpit Heath Church promptly at 08.15.

Arrive Hereford approx 10.00

Coffee in the Green Dragon Hotel

11.00 ringing at Herford St Nicholas (8)

12.30 Christmas Lunch

Green Dragon Hotel

15.15 ringing Holmer St Bartholomew (8)

January 8th 2004

Note second Thursday

Mangotsfield

14.30 - 16.00

Branch Ringing

December Saturday 13th

Note the third Saturday a week early

Carol Service and Ringing

Bitton

Ringing 15.45

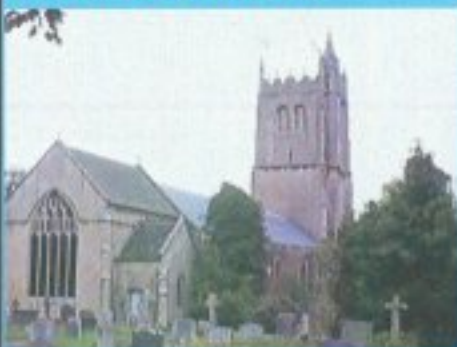
Carol Service 17.00

followed by

Wine and Mince pies Tea coffee

available

Further ringing if required



2004

January 24th

Winterbourne (TBC)

14.30 - 16.00

Note time change due to branch

Dinner in the evening.

Branch Dinner January 24th 2004

We have started looking for a venue for this popular event.

We try to spread the venues across the branch. We have been in the past to Tracy Park to suit Warmley Syston Abson and Bitton, Henfield Golf Club in the middle of the branch and Thornbury Golf club in the west of the branch. The Thornbury and Henfield golf clubs have been very successful but the Tracy Park meal was very poor, although the surroundings were very pleasant.

We have continued to look in recent years for another venue in the eastern part of the branch with out a lot of success. If you know of a venue for a dinner please let us know as soon as possible. We will email the email tower contacts as soon as we have any information for the venue and cost.

Branch Training

Well the November training day came and went with no requests for training.



Winterbourne

B Bell Surprise Practices, Second Friday

19.30 - 21.00

January 9th Pip 'n' Jay

details from Hilda Messenger on 01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Headlines

<http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Branch Carol Service at Bitton 13th December 15.45 start.
2. Farcited Christmas Outing to Hereford 4th December
3. Branch 2004 Programme for comment

G & B Quarter Peal week

Comments of the Association

Ringling Master

Never a year passes without the Festival having its own unique character, and this year's had a decidedly homely and folksy feeling to it. "When I look again at the ones we got," writes Fran Johnson of the Bristol Rural Branch, "they are all by their own Sunday bands - albeit with a little help. There are several firsts, and no overlapping of ringers, so even though it was basic ringing, I feel really pleased with the result." Absolutely! And that sums up the feeling of all the Branches.

Of course, there was a smattering of the exotic and the eccentric too, with a record number of handbell quarters, while in the Tewkesbury Branch a band, all aged 17 or less, rang one of Grandsire Triples. So with 13 first quarters, a handful of peals, 4 first pealers, and a huge bucketful of firsts of all sorts of other kinds, it was yet another magnificent Festival.

Splendid!

STEVE COLEMAN

Ringling Master Gloucester and Bristol

Tytherington S/Glos 19 Oct.

1540 doubles (3m)

S Heaven 1, V Johnson 2, J Bennett 3,

A Williams 4, F Johnson 5, (C) P Coward 6.

For evensong.

Olveston S/Glos 19 Oct. 1260 P.B. Doubles

F Webster 1, F Hemmett 2, J Usher 3,

A Friskney 4, P Grainger-Allen 5, (C),

S Rylie 6. For evensong.

1st Quarter 1 & 6, 1st inside 3.

Bitton S/Glos 21 Oct 1260 P.B. Doubles

R Freestone 1, P Midgley 2, S Jay 3,

M Blanchard 4, (C) P Walker 5, T Boulton 6.

In memory of Anne Cunliffe,

and for Maureen Perretts 80th birthday

(Mother of Anne, and Grandmother of 1.)

First inside 2.

Frenchay S/Glos 20th Oct 1260

P.B. Doubles

A Freke 1, G Greef 2, R Roberts 3 W Fo

C Greef 5 (C), R Fox 6. To mark birthday

2 & 6. First quarter 3.

Almondsbury S/Glos 19th Oct

1260 P.B. Doubles

K Crane 1, A Heber 2, D Haskins 3,

S Crane 4, T Jefferis 5 (C), G Annis 6.

A compliment to Philippa Ann, a daughter

for Kay and Steve Crane.

Wapley S/Glos 1260 P.B. Doubles

G Lawrence 1, J Shackleton 2,

A Shackleton 3, M Shackleton 4,

B Shackleton 5 (C), A Fox 6.

First quarter 3, First inside 4.

Jessica has had her operation

Brian Angel rang last Friday the 14th from Birmingham to say that Jessica his granddaughter had her liver transplant and was doing well.

They were hopeful that she would be moving out of intensive care into a normal ward the next day.

I thought those of you who know Brian Lyn and Michelle would be pleased to know things were going well when he telephoned us, and wish them all well.

Rural Branch 2004 Programme

I have emailed the provisional 2004 branch programme to all the email tower contacts for comment. It will be discussed at the AGM and distributed shortly.