

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

1. Concorde Ringing
2. The Ringing Master Wants You
3. Association Training Day
4. Branch Training Days for all

Farcited Ringing February

Thursday 5th February

Day out by car

10.20 Mr Edges Cafe Tetbury

opposite the church gates

11.00 - 12.00 Tetbury St Mary (8)

Lunch the Thames Head Inn on the

main road between Tetbury and

Cirencester just before low bridge

14.30 - 15.15 Kemble All Saints (5) GF

Branch Ringing February

Branch Training Day

February 14th Grandsire Olveston

See 'Training Days' opposite

Branch Practice

Saturday 28th February

Mangotsfield 1930 - 21.00



Stedman Doubles at Last

After fifteen years of trying with numerous bands, I have finally managed a quarter of Stedman Doubles and raised £55.00 for "Children in Need".

My thanks to Fran Johnson for arranging the band and Andy for the bells at Wapley, also Sue and Steve Coleman. Canon David Sansum and Frank Byrne who helped me through the quarter.

Sue Jay Bitton

Frenchay Update

Frenchay regrets to report that Alan and Didge Freke have resigned as Tower Captain and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. Alan had the foresight to see the possibility of having bells installed at Frenchay and was instrumental in achieving this. The ring of 6 was completed in 1991 after much effort, and together with a number of helpers. Since then Alan and Didge have presided over the tower and kept the bells ringing with a combination of enthusiasm, efficiency, good humour and friendliness. We all miss them very much and hope they will soon be back ringing with us

The Frenchay Ringers

3 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

February Chipping Sodbury

Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Deputy Ringing Master.

Dave (Arch) Andrews was elected at the AGM as the deputy ringing master. If you wish to contact him

His email address is

zog@onetel.net.uk

however to contact him you will have include the word 'rural' in the subject line of the email.

for more details see the officers page on the branch web site.

The Marriage of

Rachel Shepheard - Walwyn

For those of you who remember Rachel who rang at Frampton with her Father the Rev'd John Shepheard - Walwyn, John who was blind (but an excellent ringer) with Rachel were members of the Frampton tower. When Rachel moved away to Lytham St Annes for work we lost John as well.

Anne, John's wife became to infirm to drive and could not bring him a long to our Tuesday practice nights.

What's the point of all this you might say. It was spotted in the ringing world that Rachel had become Mrs

Tuke and a quarter had been rung at St Anne - on Sea Lancs to celebrate the wedding. I am sure Rachel and her husband will not see this article but I am sure all who remember John, Anne, and Rachel will send Rachel and her Husband David our heartiest congratulations on their marriage.

Annual Carol Service

A very enjoyable evening was had by all who attended the carol service held at Bitton on 14th December. Music for the singing was played by the Bitton sextet which was a welcomed change from the usual church organ.

An introduction to each of the carols was given by the vicar, this consisted of a potted history of the origin and composer. Following the service we all tucked in to wine and mince pies which has become the traditional ending to the Branch Program for the year.

Our thanks are conveyed to Canon Paul Denyer, the musicians, and the ringers at Bitton for getting us all into the Christmas Spirit.

Bryn Shackleton

Chairman Bristol Rural



Wanted

People to try ringing handbells' to methods. Starting from absolute basics, but people with previous experience VERY welcome ! I would suggest multiples of 3 people (Doubles, Minor being the initial target). Having rung handbells to tunes, I would suggest the most important talents to bring with you are, the ability to try to do something repeatedly until successful.

Being aware that sometimes you may not be the quickest to learn, and other times you just as easily could be.

The band can only move on at the speed of the slowest member.

I have the bells, so I wait to hear from you !!!!

Monthly Quarter Peals

People who would like to be considered for ringing in a monthly branch quarter peal, please contact Fran, especially if they have a request for a particular, method, "first", celebration, etc. Support for service quarter would be the preferred choice, but all offers will be more than welcome.

Training Days

I am pleased to say that places on the 2 training days with specified subjects are already being filled. There are still plenty of places left for Stedman on 10th July, and Grandsire on 14th Feb, but don't leave it till the last moment or it would appear you may be disappointed!. (One place left) People who asked me specifically please confirm.

There will be an extra branch training on March 13th, the Ringing Master has been asked for Stedman Triple.

If you would like a place on the course call now.

Fran Johnson Branch Ringing Master

Concorde's return to Filton marked by ringing.

The return of the last Concorde aircraft to Filton on 26th November was celebrated by ringing at St. Peter's Filton church from 2.15pm. Past and present employees of Airbus / British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce attempted a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor which failed although we rang for about 40 minutes in all.

The ringers were David Haslum, Don Haskins and Eddy Welch of Airbus and John Gilbert, Bryn Shackleton and Roy Shallish of Rolls-Royce. The first five names also ring with the Farcited Company.



End of an era – Concorde 216 returns to Filton after its last flight.

John Gilbert Long Ashton
Farcited Ringer

Sent by email

Dear Tony,
Thought you might like this picture. Gary Crisp can be seen partially hidden second from the left. Fran J has an interesting theory the bells came down the Wye by barge and thence up the river Wap to the Church. Such fun.
regards,
Name and Address supplied



Gift Aid

We have this year almost doubled the number of Rural Branch Members who contribute to gift aid. Last year we had fifteen and now we are about thirty. I am sure there are a few more of you out there who could contribute. All you need is to be a tax payer and fill in a very simple Gift Aid form. If you pay your family subscriptions as well you can make the declaration a Family Gift Aid and further add to the Association funds.

Come on lets do it

Branch Programme 2004

I hope your tower has the branch programme on display by now. It seems I missed out the times. All Branch practices start at 19.30 - 21.00. Other events please see the newsletter or the branch web pages programme copy.
www.bristolrural.co.uk
and click on the left hand side button



You should all shortly have your own personal branch programme which is small enough to go in your wallet, handbag, or pocket. Many thanks to Martin Blanchard who produced it for us.

Association Training Day

I received today the instructions for the Association Training day at Tewksbury and Cirencester on the 27th of March. It is always a very good day and you have to be very unlucky not to get something from it.

Those who feel the courses offer a challenge, get your application forms in punctually the places are snapped up very quickly.

Anyone wishing to help on the 27th let the ringing master know as soon as possible. 01454 417445

Helpers are always required

Well this has been a good month, I have only had to produce two small items. All the rest have come from contributors, many thanks to you all. Keep up the good work.
Secretary

Quarter Peal at Abson

Members of the branch were recently involved in a quarter peal at Abson to celebrate the life of Mike Rogers who died in July last year. A Quarter of Plain Bob Minor was rung on Sunday 17th January
Treble Mary Taylor 1st Quarter PBM
2. Mary York 3. Jenny Rogers

Just a point of interest

I had someone say to me recently they had not seen the minutes of the AGM at Westerleigh last November. This is true they have not been circulated as a paper copy. I usually leave this until about a month before the next meeting ie: the next half yearly meeting etc. However the minutes are always available on the branch web pages.
www.bristolrural.co.uk
and click on the left hand side button



from here you can select the the AGM minutes or the half yearly minutes at Abson, and several other subjects.

Try it

If you would like a copy of the minutes and do not have a computer get your email tower contact to print one, or give me a ring and I will print you one.

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

1. Quiz Night Westerleigh Village Hall 19.30 - 22.30
2. Branch Practice Pucklechurch note a week early
3. G & B AGM Cheltenham Branch
4. Do not forget the Mayday outing to the Sidmouth area.

Farcited Ringing April

Thursday 1st April Day out by car around Swindon

Ring 01454 772532 for details

Branch Ringing April

Holy Week

5th 11th April

Branch Practice

A week early

Saturday 17th April

Pucklechurch 1930 - 21.00

The Association AGM

is on Saturday the 24th

see details bottom right



The Ringing Masters Revelations

The Monthly Quarters are proving successful, Cambridge minor at Abson provided a couple of "firsts" for the band, and was rung in memory of two relatives of two of the ringers. Please contact me for future months attempts.

The 8 bell method practice at Chipping Sodbury has enjoyed a recent resurgence of interest. It may well be due to Arch's reminder Email a few days before each 3rd Friday of the month!

All Triples / Major ringers very welcome.

Organisation for the Branch outing is well in hand. We have made the decision about route, times etc.

It now remains to confirm the towers.

Something different for Bob Doubles callers. Try this for a "100". Really easy and not a great step onwards from calling yourself three times unaffected in fifths, which is often the first touch people all.

Called from the 5

Bob to run out when you would have made 2nds and led again.

Then Bob in 5ths unaffected.

Repeated. Comes round after the Bob as you lie in 5ths.

Called from the 2

Bob in 5ths unaffected, then Bob to run in when you would have dodged

3,4, down.

Repeated. Comes round as you run in to 2nds place after calling the Bob.

Quiz Night 2004

Westerleigh Village Hall
19.30 - 22.30

All towers should have received a poster for this annual event.

Just a few details.

Again this year it is in Westerleigh Village Hall it starts at 19.30

It will cost you £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for juniors (in full time education) not £150 as I mistakenly put on some of the posters. You can bring a team, or come along and join a team.

Drinks and refreshments
First drink in the ticket price.

See you there

Farcited ringing March

The Farcited ringers visited Kingston Seymour a very pleasant Somerset tower in March. We almost had a lockout but a quick mobile phone call found the key and we were in. Soon after the bells were ringing a very apologetic local ringer arrived. Whilst the sun was shining it was very cold and we soon had the tea and biscuits on the go and David Yeo did a good job arranging the ringing



8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

April Keynsham (Simulator) Good Friday

Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

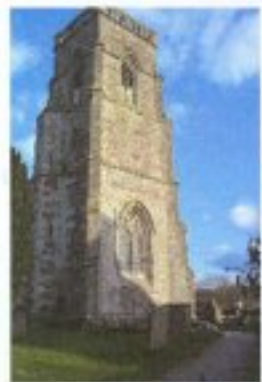
3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,



Where are these towers?

An idea submitted by the Ringing Master
No prizes for the correct answer but it should get you thinking.



G and B AGM

Cheltenham Branch

Saturday April 24th

Penn and Croome trophies the same day details sent to towers by G & B secretary.

Details

Route 1 Route 2 Route 3

10.00-11.15

R1 Childswickham SP074384

R2 Woolstone SO961303

R3 Colesbourne SP004134

10.45-12.00

R1 Toddington SP035331

R2 Bishops Cleeve SO961277

R3 Elkstone SO967123

11.30-12.45

R1 Winchcombe SP023283

R2 Swindon Village SO934248

R3 11.20-12.00 & 12.30-1.00

Charlton Kings SO964204

R2 12.15-1.00 St Marks SO928220

R1 12.30-1.15 Prestbury SO970240

2.00-3.00 Ringing at St Christophers, Warden Hill SO932204

Service touch by St Christophers band

3.00-3.45 Service at St Christopher's

3.45-5.00 Meeting

5.00-5.45 Tea, in the church hall

6.30-8.00 Ringing at Cheltenham,

St Mary's SO948225

Your tower will have received this information by separate cover.

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

1. Dyrham House 300th Anniversary Peal
2. Report from the Central Council Meeting
3. Young peoples striking competition.

Farcited Ringing July

Thursday 1st July
Tortworh St Leonard TBC

Branch Ringing July

Saturday July 10th
Branch Training Stedman
Venue Abson
Ring the Ringing Master for information

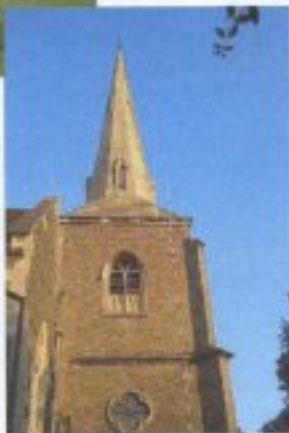
Saturday July 24th
Branch Practice Olveston
19.30 - 21.00



A reminder to those of you at who are available on the 4th Sunday evening of each month, there is an evensong at Dyrham which we try to ring for if we can get sufficient ringers.
17.15 - 18.00
Please ring before turning up they do occasionally change the date.
01454 772532

The Ringing Masters Revelations

Two more towers for you to think about.
Answer next month



Information Required Please

I don't know if anyone in the Branch can help me but I have found a 2 1/2 circular piece of what looks like bell metal with the initials GH either side of a bell. In 1936 we had 2 new trebles added at Bitton and I think my great grandfather George Hillier may have been Tower Captain at the time.



Does anyone know whether this piece may have been made for him when the new bells were cast or has anyone seen anything similar?
Sue Jay
Bitton

Young Peoples Striking Competition 2004

Over the page you will find a full report on the young peoples' day produced by Steve Coleman the G & B Ringing Master.

So how did Rural Branch do? Henry Taysom when he was deputy ringing master said he would arrange a team which he duly did, with a practice at Wapley the Saturday before. However on the Friday evening before the competition when he rang around to ensure everything was ok he found that two participants had other activities on the day so could not attend. Henry thus had to reluctantly ring the rest of the team members and cancel. Lets hope for better luck next year. Turn over for full report.
At the top of the next column you can see the over 11's team with the one Rural Branch member who was there, Clare Willis.

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

Publication date
June 27th

Bristol Rural News

July 2004
0604
No 83

Information for July Newsletter by
Tuesday 20th July



Central Council, May 2004

Robin Shipp

I recently attended my first Central Council Meeting. It was at Colchester. Lovely place: as the Bishop said in his dinner speech, it's Lovejoy Essex, not Birds of a Feather Essex. In spite of it being my first meeting I found I knew a lot of the people there which I guess shows what a close knit community we ringers inhabit.

There was a lot of detail in the meeting and it's difficult to pick out the main threads. One proposal which resulted in a lot of discussion was to set up a Ringing Trends Committee to identify, evaluate and record trends in church bell ringing for the purposes of guiding Council policy'. The main argument against this was that we all know what the trends are and should be spending our time trying to reverse them. But the proposal was carried. Given all the recent discussion on child protection, I was surprised that it hardly got a mention at the meeting. I did get pressed into acting as postman to deliver copies of the CC Guidelines to the G&B. The box of leaflets is still cluttering up my office at the moment: I discussed it with Steve Coleman and he wants to coordinate issue with the issue of the G&B Guidelines (due soon, I believe). Light relief was provided when a motion was proposed asking the band who rang ':-) Treble Place Minor' to rename it. I had sympathy with Don Morrison who proposed letting sleeping dogs lie, lest we appear to be grumpy old men (my interpretation of his words), but the motion was passed, without my vote.
We also heard a lot about the current state of the 'Ringing World'. It's healthy at the moment but the good old Post Office are going to change the way they charge for posting it and that could be a problem.

The first ever Young Persons Striking Competition -

The Nibley Trophy - took place at North Nibley on Saturday. The weather was sunny, the company was convivial, the atmosphere was friendly and supportive, and - just as importantly - the ringing was of a very good standard indeed. In fact, many people felt that all the bands rang to a standard that would do well in - or even win - many Branch competitions. There were nine teams - albeit with a hint of *mixing and matching* at the end - and top, National Twelve Bell Competition judge, Alex Byrne, placed them as follows:

- First The Chippenham Branch
- Second The Cheltenham Branch
- Third The Clare Willis Invitation Band
(Clare's Bristol Rural)
- Joint Fourth The Forest Branch
- Joint Fourth The Wotton under Edge
Branch

- Joint Fourth Dursley Tower
 - Joint Fifth The Cirencester Branch
 - Joint Fifth The Under 13's
 - Joint Fifth The Over 11's
- Every team received a framed and illuminated certificate - hand painted by Rachel Coates of the Forest Branch - and the winning team received *The Nibley Trophy* - a wooden bell on a slab of Nibley oak, presented jointly by Bob Bennett of the Cheltenham Branch and Derek Carr of the Bristol Branch.

Derek Carr also acted as "Official Photographer", and photographs of all the teams will be available shortly - I'll send you details. Young people from eight of our twelve Branches, took part, and there were over forty supporters and spectators. Then - for those who could stay - there was food and skittles afterwards, organised by Wynne Holcombe of the Wotton Branch.

Anyone who missed it, missed a treat! Look out for it next year.

P.S. And in case you're interested the bands - in order of ringing - were:

Team 1

1. Nathaniel Hitchings (Cheltenham)
2. Jeremy Hitchings (Cheltenham)
3. Rachel Chadwick (Cheltenham)
4. Max Drinkwater (Cheltenham)
5. Liz Evans (Cond.) (Cheltenham)
6. Matthew Greenaway (Cheltenham)

Team 2

1. Liz Evans (Cheltenham)
2. Francesca Cinderey (Forest)
3. Sophie Kinder (Forest)
4. Wendy Farr (Forest)
5. Matthew Greenaway (Cheltenham)
6. Lisa Hinton (Cond) (Forest)

Team 3

1. Laura Jordan (Wotton)
2. Richard Pope (Wotton)
3. Stuart Wray (Wotton)
4. John Ware (Wotton)
5. Philip Wray (Cond) (Wotton)
6. Katherine Ross (Wotton Branch)

Team 4

1. Laura Jordan (Dursley Tower)
2. Emily Lyons (Dursley Tower)
3. Faye Clark (Dursley Tower)
4. Dan Pope (Dursley Tower)
5. Sophie Clark (Dursley Tower)
6. Richard Pope (Cond) (Dursley)

Team 5

1. Ben Wheatland (Chippenham Branch)
2. Duncan Higgins (Chippenham Branch)
3. Matthew Vater (Chippenham)
4. Chris Amys (Stroud)
5. Sam Griffin (Cond) (Chippenham)
6. Alex Heath (Chippenham)

Team 6

1. Matthew Illman (Cirencester)
2. Kristian Scudamore (Bristol Rural)
3. Lisa Hinton (Forest)
4. Megan Hester (Cirencester)
5. Tom Robinson (Cirencester)
6. Joe Tresadern (Cond) (Cirencester)

Team 7

1. Joe Tresadern (Cirencester)
2. Stuart Wray (Wotton)
3. Clare Willis (Bristol Rural)
4. Max Drinkwater (Cheltenham)
5. Chris Amys (Stroud)
6. Wendy Farr (Forest)

Team 8 (The Under 13's)

1. Kristian Scudamore (Bristol)
2. Emily Lyons (Wotton)
3. Faye Clark (Wotton)
4. Jeremy Hitchings (Cond Cheltenham)
5. Nathaniel Hitchings (Cheltenham)
6. Ben Wheatland (Chippenham)

Team 9 (The Over 11's)

1. Clare Willis (Bristol Rural)
2. Francesca Cinderey (Forest)
3. Rachel Chadwick (Cheltenham)
4. Sophie Kinder (Forest)
5. Megan Hester (Cirencester)
6. Matthew Illman (Cirencester)



Rural Branch take part in the crazy skittles match in the evening

Central Council Meeting Continued

I got myself elected onto the bell restoration committee, which assists with fund raising. I'm still feeling my way a bit but please get in touch if you need help in that area. The G&B elected me as a CC Representative to replace Ian Hill and so I feel a special responsibility for the Southern part of the Association, even though Representatives are not appointed in that way. Please contact me if you want to discuss any CC matters, or if you want me to raise anything at next year's meeting at Harrogate. You can reach me at 01454 319375 or robin@robinshipp.org.uk.

Farcited Outing to Deepest Somerset

Once again the sun shone the bells rang, and 31 Farcited members rang at 6 towers during the day with a superb lunch at the New Inn Dowlish Wake. I think a good day was had by all.

Dyrham House 300th Anniversary

18th June 2004



On Friday the 18th June Dyrham house celebrated its 300th Anniversary. Back in January when the Rector of Dyrham was the guest speaker at our annual dinner in conversation he mentioned this occasion, and we said we should ring a quarter to celebrate this event at Dyrham, which was converted into a peal in a later mad moment. You do not know how difficult it is to get six peal ringers all together on a working day yet alone six Rural Branch ringers. However in the end we found six volunteers who wanted to take part in celebrating this event. They all arrived at the tower at the appointed time, the bells were raised and on the dot of 14.00 started their peal.

The band

1. Julie Miles
2. Will Willans
3. Bryn Shackleton
4. Martin Blanchard
5. Frank Byrne
6. Derek Carr Conductor

at 17.04 they came into rounds having rung 5040 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor

We must thank them all for their efforts and making themselves available on the day. Well done to you all.

A comment in the visitors book during the ringing. "Lovely Church, very interesting, and the icing on the cake the bells ringing"

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

1. Farcited ringing August Frenchay **not** Pucklechurch
2. G & B Training Day information
3. Just a reminder that we are booked for Gloucester Cathedral in September

Farcited Ringing August

Thursday 1st August
Frenchay St John the Baptist 6(4.0.0)

Note the change

It should have been Pucklechurch but the tower contact had said there was possibly work taking place and as we are on holiday we thought it best to change and we will schedule Pucklechurch at a later date

Branch Ringing August

Saturday August 28th
Branch Practice Syston
19.30 - 21.00



A reminder to those of you at who are available on the 4th Sunday evening of each month, there is an evensong at Dyrham which we try to ring for if we can get sufficient ringers.

17.15 - 18.00

Please ring before turning up they do occasionally change the date.

01454 772532

G & B Training Day October 2004

I hope by now you have all seen the information for the G & B training day in October.

Many of you will not know but we are trying to send out G & B information by electronic means and this was our first attempt. I must admit it did not go well in the first instance as the data arrived in a format for which some tower correspondents do not have the software to read and print the information. It has been converted to PDF format and sent again.

Students

If you have not seen the information ask your email tower contact, or I can provide the odd copy.

If you want to go on any of the courses get your name in early.

Helpers

Also remember they always want lots of helpers and I expect the ringing master will be asking you all for names, so why not volunteer before he has to ask you!!!!

June Branch Practice

We met at Dyrham on one of the very wet evenings that June seemed to give us.

The highlight of the evening was the lack of lights, for some unknown reason the lights in the entrance, tower steps and ringing chamber were not working and we were unable to find a fuse panel to check it out.

We finished up ringing, with the illumination being provided by a couple of church candles and a torch Gary Crisp fortunately had with him. This did not stop the eleven people who attended, ringing Stedman, St Simons and the usual Bob Doubles and Grandsire methods. I went back to Dyrham the following week just to check, as we had installed two new fluorescent lights in the bell chamber about a month before. The only thing I could find was a failed bulb in the tower steps, Claude Amos the tower contact had reset the trip at the fuse panel I have known a bulb blowing to cause a trip to fail in the past.

Branch Web Site

Well the inevitable has happened I have run out of space, the Rural Branch web site started in 1999 with 50 Mb, and I am afraid I have had to start deleting some of the older information to put in the latest newsletter. I have started with the Farcited information which is mainly pictures of outings.

Perhaps in the next and subsequent newsletters if space allows I will give some examples of what is to be found.

In the meantime perhaps you can all have a look and give me your comments on what you think is useful and what you think would be useful and interesting to the Rural Branch members after all that is what it is there for.

3 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

August Keynsham TBC

Contact Hilda Messenger 01454 319375

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,



The Ringing Masters Revelations

Last Months mystery towers were Kingswood Bristol, and Fishponds

Just a single line which caught my eye, and is very pertinent for ringers.

" I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it " Pablo Picasso.

This months "Hidden Treasure" is next to the manor house for the parish.

Bells ? well I don't know, but I bet Arthur Robbins can tell me



Branch Training Day July 10th

The branch Stedman training morning went well this month.

With only 3 learners, we were able to give each a good length of time actually ringing. My thanks go to the helpers, and to the learners for having looked at the book before they got there!

Fran Johnson
Ringing Master

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

1. Branch Practice Stroud a week early 18th of September
2. Ken Weeks HLM Bristol Rural Branch
- 3.

Farcited Ringing September

Thursday 2nd September

Day Out by car

Shirenewton (TBC) Penhow and Magor

Branch Ringing September

Note a week early

Saturday September 18th

Branch 10 Bell Practice Practice

Stroud St Laurence 10(20.0.0)

19.30 - 21.00

Sunday 26th September

Gloucester Cathedral

Ringing Masters invitation details from the Ringing Master.

A reminder to those of you at who are available on the 4th Sunday evening of each month, there is an evensong at Dyrham which we try to ring for if we can get sufficient ringers.

17.15 - 18.00

Please ring before turning up they do occasionally change the date.

01454 772532

Ringing Master's Revelations

G & B Training Day October 2004

Helpers

Remember they always want lots of helpers and I expect the ringing master will be asking you all for names, so why not volunteer before he has to ask you!!!!

The mystery tower in August was

Elberton, and it has a single bell, hung for full circle ringing

The bell is a medieval Bristol bell probably 14th Century if I remember correctly, and weighs between 10 and 15 cwt. About fifteen



years ago whilst looking at the "lesser towers" of our Branch with David Cawley, we did ring the bell full circle and it sounded great. However, the churchwarden said that the architect had told him that the bell should not be rung as the frame was unsafe. It looked good to us!!

Alan Freke

8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30 - 21.00

September Thornbury TBC

Contact Arch Andrews 01454 417776

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

Kenneth George Weeks

1939 - 2004

Ken was born in Clifton Bristol and his early years were spent in Stapleton, from where his father a fireman and mother moved to West Harptree. It is said that this move in his early life instilled in Ken his life long passion for fishing, with the views over Chew Valley Lake.

Ken's Mother and younger sister Janet now live in Castle Cary.

Ken's early years were formed in the Chew Valley and he was apprenticed as a motor mechanic to Henley's in Bristol and we are told he travelled daily to work on his motor bike. He later moved to Dunlop as a vehicle inspector where he worked for about thirty years, he also drove coaches for National Express and during this time other private coaches for outings for Kingswood Holy Trinity and Warmley churches. Many of our members will also remember him driving the coach for our branch outings and some of the escapades such as getting stuck in country lanes and heading for red traffic lights through the cones at a high rate of knots. Ken set up on his own in business in Warmley repairing and preparing vehicles for their MOT. Ken's introduction to ringing was in 1963 when his ringing girlfriend Dian Rogers took him along to a Warmley Practice and subsequently Tony Gibbs taught him to ring, Ken and Dian were married in August 1964 but sadly they split up some 25 years later. It is said that the Warmley ringers were at their peak at that time under the tower captaincy of Tony Gibbs and consequently Ken as the only learner made rapid progress.

His first peal was at Warmley St Barnabas on Monday 9th April 1965 when he rang the third for Plain Bob Doubles. There were five first peelers in the band, and they were all Sunday service ringers. He also rang the tenor for the local band to ring a peal 118 doubles variations a year later.

Over the years Ken had an interest in many of the local towers perhaps the first involvement in a rehang would have been at Warmley when the Warmley six were replaced by eight from St George in east Bristol. This was carried out in 1976 by the bellhanger Arthur Fidler, aided by



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No 25

News

Information for September Newsletter by
Tuesday 21st September

Tony Gibbs the tower captain and his Warmley team. Later Ken was instrumental in having Syston's bells rehung and shortly after this Ken was made an Honorary Life Member of Rural Branch.

He also held various branch officer posts over the years which included one year as ringing Master two sessions amounting to five years as chairman, and two sessions as MC rep amounting to seven years. Ken became a member of the Bath branch of the Bath and Wells Association in 2000 and held officer posts as Chairman, Ringing Master and bell maintenance contact up until his death. He was also instrumental in putting together a band at St Nicholas Kelston for the millennium ringing. Ken had other interests including playing skittles, which he played on a regular basis and as we alluded to earlier, his life long interest in fishing on the Blagdon and Chew valley lakes, he spent a considerable amount of time right up until the last few weeks at the lakes.

Ken died after a long illness which he fought very bravely and thought he had won, but unfortunately it returned.

We all have a lot to thank Ken for, his unbounded enthusiasm for ringing and all its subjects, the number of people he taught to ring over the years which must go into dozens, most of them probably being younger ringers, the help and guidance he has given to all of us and the memories he has left with us for ever.

Ken leaves a daughter and two sons Kate, Andrew and Martyn.

I am sure the members of the two branches Bath and Bristol Rural will all offer their heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends in their sad loss?

Tony York
Secretary Bristol Rural Branch

The branch have rung three quarters to celebrate Ken's life at Dyrham Wapley and Westerleigh and a further quarter was rung by a City branch band at Warmley.

Whilst producing Ken's obituary I produced a chart from the records I have of the branch members who have held branch office from today back to 1921 (when my records stop) This can be found on the branch web site under branch affairs. I hope you find it useful or interesting.

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

1. Quarter Peal Week 18 -26th October
2. Minutes of Half Yearly Meeting on back of Newsletter
3. Quarter Peal week 18th - 26th October (Depends on your half term week)
4. AGM at Coalpit Heath (Agenda items in writing please)

Farcited Ringing October

Thursday 7th October
Day Out by car
Lymsham St Christopher
Berrow St Mary Magdalene
Lunch Berrow Inn
Brean St Bridget
Bleadon Ss Peter & Paul
Loxton St Andrew
For details ring 01454 772532

Association Training Day

October 9th
Wotton - u - Edge

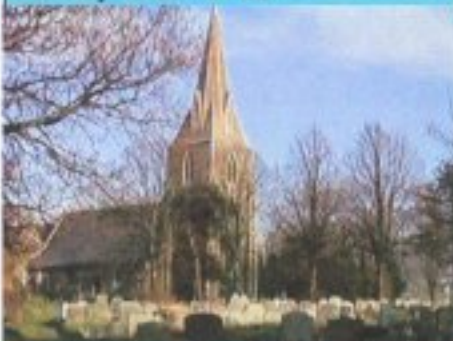
Branch Ringing October

18th - 24th October

Quarter Peal Week

Branch Practice

Saturday October 23rd
Warmley 19.30 - 21.00



November Farcited Ringing

Chipping Sodbury St John the Baptist
14.30 - 16.00

Branch Ringing November

Saturday November 13th

Branch Training Day

10.00 - 12.00

Limited to about 20 people

Listening and Handling

Venue Thornbury

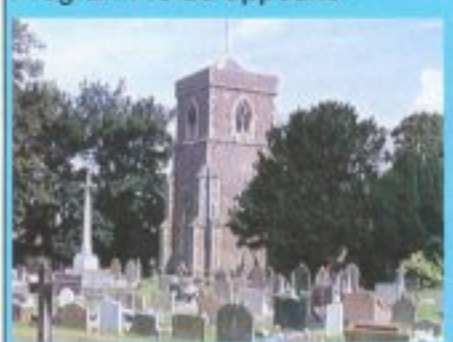
See over for Steve Coleman's aims for the morning.

Branch AGM

Saturday November 27th

Coalpit Heath

Programme as opposite



Quarter Peal Week

18th - 24th October

Depends upon your half term week
I hope all active towers are considering ringing a quarter peal for this year's Quarter Peal Week. If you require help please give the ringing master a call. If you do ring a quarter please ensure you send it promptly to the ringing master for inclusion in the branch return to the Association Ringing Master Steve Coleman.

AGM Coalpit Heath

15.45 - 16.55 Ringing

17.00 - 17.30 Service

17.35 - 18.30 Meeting

Standard Agenda

Chairman Welcomes Members

Apologies

Approve Half Yearly Minutes

(on back of Newsletter)

Matters Arising

Committee Reports

New Members

2005 Programme

Mayday Outing 2005 Suggestions

AOB at the Chairman's discretion

Chairman Closes the Meeting

Tea

Followed by further ringing

Items for the Agenda in writing please to the Chairman or Secretary in writing before or at the meeting.

As is normal AOB items will only be accepted at the chairman's discretion.

Could all tower correspondents please ensure tower members see the half yearly minutes please, they are on the back of the newsletter.

Your Management Committee will be holding a meeting at the end of this month, if you have any points to raise please let them know. Your management committee members are :-

Bryn Shackleton 01454 325528

Fran Johnson 01454 417445

Arch Andrews 01454 417776

Graham Hemmett 01454 415979

Henry Taysom 01454 311001

Tony York 01454 772532



November Newsletter

I will be away for all of October and most of November in Australia staying with our daughter in Sydney, I will be back for the AGM.

No emails during this time as I will not be able to pick them up so phone calls only please.

The Branch Sick and getting better List

Bill Lampard from Warmley has had a Quadruple bypass operation, he is doing well and has started driving again.

Tony York has been in hospital and has fully recovered.

Congratulations Sandi and Bryan Hardwick and Family as they have a new baby boy named Elliot Matthew born 22nd August.

Annual Return to the G & B

Each year we have to send a return to the Association Treasurer which defines any work which towers are thinking of carrying out that may qualify for an Association Grant. To qualify for a grant you PCC must be affiliated (You get from the Association Secretary an affiliation card each year) Could you please let me know as soon as possible if your tower is thinking of carrying out any major works.

Last Year I submitted

Almondsbury, Alveston, Thornbury and Iron Acton

The work at Almondsbury is now funded so no grant is required. Thornbury are not upgrading to 10 bells. Iron Acton fund raising has not progressed and I am not aware that anything is happening yet at Alveston.

Gloucester Cathedral Ringing.

Spare a thought for our ringing Master About two and a half weeks ago the tower contact for Gloucester Cathedral rang and said a VIP was to be at the Gloucester Cathedral for the service we were to be ringing for.

1. The ringing would finish 20 minutes before the service started to get the bells down and get out of the tower before the VIP arrived

(Continued over top right)

PTO

Minutes of the Bristol Rural Branch
Half Yearly Meeting at Tytherington
Saturday 15th May 2004

The Meeting commenced at 17.31 with 27 members present.

1. Chairman welcomed the members and visitors to the meeting. He thanked the Rev'd Pat Lyes-Wilsden and Mrs Pat Baker for officiating at the service and for playing the organ.

2. Apologies for absence.

The only apology was from Fred Scudamore he was at the Police ringing guild at Malvern

3. Approval of the AGM minutes at Westerleigh

The Chairman gave the members present time to read the AGM minutes. These were accepted as a true record Proposed by Ruth Welch Seconded by Graham Hemmett Matters arising

3.1 Thornbury upgrade to 10 bells.

The meeting discussed the proposal again and it was felt that unless the Tower itself was to front the update it would not be possible for the branch to take on the commitment. This was proposed by Bryn Shackleton (Chairman) Seconded Fran Johnson (Ringing Master) the meeting voted unanimously to this proposal, the proposal was dropped until Thornbury come forward with their own proposal.

3.2 Bitton's request for the striking competition to be prior to the G & B competitions. It was reported that the G & B are to continue holding the Penn and Croome trophies on the morning of the AGM. It was proposed that the Rural Branch Striking Competition be held in February or March prior to the AGM and it was decided to hold it in March on a suitable Saturday providing hot soup and bacon roles to those attending. Proposed by Sue Jay (Bitton) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury) Carried unanimously

4. Reports from officers .

Not printed they can be seen on the branch web site, there will be copies at the AGM on November 27th at Coalpit Heath

5. New Members

The following new members were proposed and elected.

Steve Crane Senior Almondsbury
Derek Rosser Retired Almondsbury
Gladys Macleod Mrs Senior Thornbury

proposed as new members by Don Haskins (Almondsbury) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury) Gladys Macleod was presented with her G & B badge by the Branch Chairman and welcomed to the Association (It has now been the branch policy for about three years to present members who are present at the meeting with a G & B badge, see following notes)

It was stated by the branch treasurer that the Association has decided not to purchase any more G & B badges as they do not sell that well and it is seen as a bit old fashioned to wear a button hole badge. The Secretary asked the two MC reps present if they were aware of this policy and they were not aware of it.

The secretary proposed we take this back to the G & B for clarification and when the decision was made without the view of the members.

Proposed by Pauline Palmer (Frenchay) Seconded by Don Haskins (Almondsbury) carried.

6. Branch Striking Competition

Covered in matters arising above.

7. Branch Annual Dinner

This was raised at this meeting to give the organizers more time to find suitable venues rather than the panic after the AGM. It was also agreed that the dinner would be moved to the second Saturday and away from Burn's night which is always on the fourth Saturday. This will also allow the branch practice to be on the fourth Saturday at its normal time. The change was proposed by Mary York (Frampton) and Seconded by Les Usher (Thornbury) Carried.

8. AOB at the chairman's discretion

Fran Johnson raised the issue of the Child protection act for ringers. After some discussion we will await Steve Coleman's discussions with the Gloucester and Bristol Diocese representatives. However currently the situation has not changed from the statement given by Steve Coleman at the G & B AGM at Cheltenham in April

9. Chairman closes the meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked the members for attending, invited them to the BBQ next door and closed the meeting. Meeting closed at 18.27

Branch Annual Dinner

Saturday 22nd January 2005

We have booked the Ramada Grange Hotel Winterbourne for the above date The cost will be about £18.00 / head

Gloucester Cathedral Ringing.

Continued

2. All ringers would need a security pass and would have to meet in a local car park as the parking at the Cathedral was not available so they could collect their passes.

3. Their would only be 14 passes available but this might be negotiable. Remember this was only two and a half weeks ago.

So our ringing master made his arrangements, went back to the tower contact to say we will need 'X' passes, to strengthen the band he had arranged a number of local ringers who ring at the Cathedral to help out. However the tower contact had been unable to obtain any extra passes so Fran had to select his band, put off the Gloucester ringers and a number of Rural branch ringers who would have been prepared to go to help out.

Who is saying being ringing master is easy .

By the way the VIP we understand is Princess Anne, she is the Patron of the British Legion who are attending the service.

Note :-

Passes will be available at about 13.20 at the gate to the Cathedral car park.

Listening, Striking and Handling

On Saturday 13 November from 10.00 to 12.00, Steve Coleman, the Association Ringing Master, will be leading a Listening, Striking and Handling morning in Thornbury ringing chamber.

Steve says:

"No one at all has perfect striking, not even the best ringer in the world. We're all just trying to do the best we can with the skills we've got, and we're all trying to get a little bit better. So on Saturday 13 November we're going to look at all sorts of ways of getting that little bit better, and we're going to try them all out too.

It'll be a bit of theory and a bit of practical, and we'll be making the journey towards better striking together. I guarantee it will be relaxed, non-judgemental and fun, but I think you'll find it really will make a difference. Absolutely all levels of ringing experience are welcome, and I look forward to seeing you there." Steve Coleman

If you would like to attend ring the branch ringing master.

8 Bell Surprise Practices

Second Friday 19.30-21.00

October/November Thornbury

Contact Arch Andrews 01454 417776

Chipping Sodbury Ringing (8)

3rd Friday 19.30-21.00

Method ringing Plain bob, grandsire etc.,

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

1. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our Readers
2. Branch Carol Service at Thornbury December 11th
3. Branch Dinner Ramada Grange Hotel Winterbourne
4. Striking Competition at Bitton on February 12th

Farcited Ringing January

Thursday Jan 6th

Cromall 14.30 - 16.00

Branch Ringing December

Branch Carol Service

Thornbury

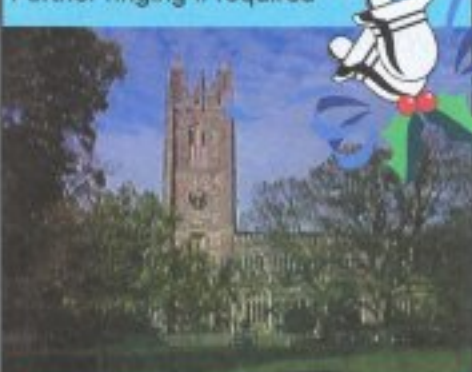
Saturday December 11th

Ringing 15.45

Carol Service 17.00

Wine and Mince-pies etc follow service

Further ringing if required



Branch Ringing January

22nd January 14.30 - 16.00

Branch Practice Almondsbury

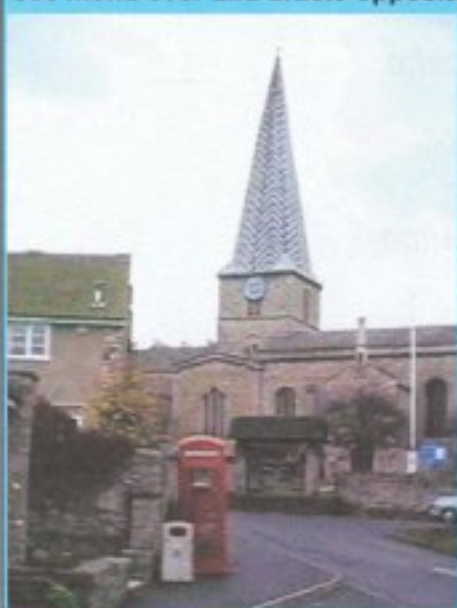
(Note time change)

22nd January

Branch Dinner 19.00 for 19.30

Ramada Grange Hotel Winterbourne

See menu over and article opposite



February Ringing

February 12th Branch Striking

Competition at Bitton

See article opposite



We
wish you a
Merry Xmas
and a
Prosperous
New Year

and above all

Enjoy
your
Ringing

AGM Coalpit Heath

I will say very little about the meeting, the minutes will be available shortly.

Thirty one people were at the meeting and thirteen towers were represented. Where were the other tower representatives? and how can they expect to have a voice and participate in branch activities if they do not help formulate the plans and ideas.

An important point you should all be aware of is that we currently do not have a Ringing Master or a Deputy they both gave up their posts, and we had no nominations from the floor.

Lets hope we can address this problem at the half-yearly meeting, unless we have volunteers prior to the meeting.

The minutes are are on the branch web pages now.

Go to 'Branch Affairs'



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January
2004
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No 99
News

Information for February Newsletter by
Tuesday 18th of January

Branch Training Day November 13th

"Training Session was an Ear Opener"

Entertaining, informative and confidence boosting - such was the handling and listening morning with Steve Coleman at Thornbury recently.

About ten listeners and four helpers who were listening gathered together.

We were all amazing Steve told us, to be able even to avoid clashing since there is only a fraction of a second in which to strike.

Encouraged by this we all had a creditable go at various exercises, notably double rolling dodges, and were told how well we had done (a teacher must give praise)

A big thank-you to Steve and the helpers from the branch.

We all felt we had benefited, and are all keen for more.

I know some ringers could not attend this time and would like to go to any future training sessions.

Mary Taylor

Abson

Branch Striking Competition 2005

Note that the branch striking competition will be on February the 12th this year as agreed at 2004 half yearly meeting.

Those towers which can, please be considering entering a team. As we have no ringing master please let the branch chairman know if you intend entering a team or the branch secretary.

Branch Dinner January 22nd

We hope you will all be able to come to the branch dinner this year. The venue will be the ' Ramada Grange Hotel ' North Woods Winterbourne

The cost will be £18.00 per person.

We will have the pleasure of:

"The Winterbourne Hand bell ringers" for the after dinner entertainment.

The menu is available on the back of the Newsletter, we do need to pre-order.

If you can come let us have your menu selection. 01454 772532

Look forward to seeing you all

PTO