

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

1. Branch Open Day Saturday June 11th you can get the latest information at <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/latest/openday.pdf>
2. May Day and Farcited Outings
3. HYM information www.bristolrural.co.uk/latest/openday.pdf

Farcited Ringing May

Thursday June 2nd
Day out by Car to the Weston super Mare area
Information ring 01454 772532

Branch Ringing June

11th June
Open day all towers open
for 1hr 15 min's throughout the day
See below

Branch Practice

25th June 19.15 - 21.00
Alveston

Half Yearly Meeting and BBQ

The ringing was supposed to start at 15.45 and we eventually had sufficient ringers at about 16.10. We rang Stedman, a couple of plain courses of Grandsire triples, Bob Minor and several other methods before it was time for the service touch.

The Rev'd Phillip Rowe was kind enough to take the service and Monica Gibbs played the organ.

The service over we held the HYM in the church which started at 17.30 with 16 members present.

The only branch officer present was the secretary who asked Les Usher Thornbury tower Captain to chair the meeting. Bryn Shackleton the branch chairman had sent his apologies which the secretary read to the members. Les Usher thanked the clergy and organist and got the meeting underway. The usual agenda items were quickly dealt with.

Unfortunately we did not have any volunteers or proposals for the position of ringing master or deputy so we are still at status quo on that front.

However it gets worse, Bryn Shackleton will be retiring as Chairman at the AGM in November and Graham Hemmett also said he would also be retiring at the same time. Henry Taysom the MC rep was not present so we hope he will be continuing.

So you can see we are in a pretty diabolical state on the management team front.

We elected four new members one from Thornbury and three from Tytherington and a rejoin from Filton. I suppose that is good news, although none of the new members were at the meeting.

See the minutes of the meeting which are available at

www.bristolrural.co.uk/latest/openday.pdf

A number of suggestions were made about reorganising the way the branch is run to help with the current problems. Will email tower contacts print the minutes and ensure they are available in the towers for discussion. As I have said many times before the branch is not the committee it is the members.



The Chairman closed the meeting at 18.30 and with the map provided by the treasurer we made our way to the Inner Down at Old Down to Felicity and Graham Hemmett's who had kindly allowed us to use their garden for the BBQ. Most of the members who were at the meeting came along to Old Down and we were joined by several other members. The cooking was underway when we all arrived and everyone soon had a drink in their hands especially the men who were being allowed to fetch Flagons of beer from the local pub. There was lots of interest for children present with Toby the horse the rabbits guinea pigs and bantams. One bantam obliged and laid an egg in front of Jessica (Angel) and she was allowed to take it home with several others for her breakfast. By now the food was ready cooked by Felicity's Daughter and Husband so we all tucked in.

Everyone who attended had a great time, and it was all topped of by some of Anita Mathews Alcoholic Jelly. It really is a great pity that so many people had to drive, It would have been appreciated far more if we could have had several helpings. Luckily I do not think anyone had travelled to Old Down on their bike otherwise they might have had problems.

Everyone had a great time it was a pity the wind was so cold and we must thank Felicity Graham and their family for a very pleasant evening. Anita for the Jelly and we must do it all again next year.

Further Half Yearly Meeting information

I have asked the members of the management committee to read the minutes and let me know what they want me as secretary to do.

A point which we should have raised at the meeting was what do we do about Gloucester Cathedral this year, anyone's comments would be useful.

PTO



Open Day June 11th

Most of the tickets were distributed at the Half Yearly meeting at Olveston, with a few comments on the day.

However a further useful point may be if you can arrange it to have a couple of extra ringers around to help when perhaps you do not have enough visiting ringers to ring. If this might be a problem we may be able to get you a couple of ringers from other towers who have already had their visitors.

Frenchay May 8th

A quarter peal of Bob Doubles was rung at Frenchay Church on Sunday May 8th to celebrate the 90th birthday of Jack Bisacre (Didge's father).

1. Pauline Palmer
2. Jenny Andrew
3. Edna Cause
4. Paul Grainger-Allen,
5. John Payton
6. Richard Fox.

Conducted by John Payton.
Edna Cause Tower Secretary

Pulling power: team of bell ringers need new recruits at Thornbury parish church

Calls for help peal out from St Mary's ALL'S well with Thornbury when the bells of St Mary's peal out over the town on Sundays, highdays and holidays. But the eight bells in the church's fine 16th century tower don't ring themselves and the small team responsible for those evocative sounds is currently looking for new members.

"The church has eight bells but we currently have only seven regular ringers including myself," said tower captain Les Usher during a recruitment afternoon on Saturday. He added: "You can't ring two bells at once despite what you might have seen on TV and it would be really nice to have more ringers." "Eight bells sound lovely and six are pretty good, too. But when you get down to five it can sound a bit thin."

Despite the weight of the Thornbury bells - the smallest is five hundredweight and the biggest almost a ton - when it comes to ringers, size and muscle power count for little. Mr Usher said: "You don't have to be particularly big or strong to make a good ringer and we can take people of both sexes and of any age from 12 or 13 upwards." "What you really need is a sense of rhythm and the ability to listen and count up to eight." "Basically, it's a matter of teamwork and that's where the challenge comes in. It has to be smooth, fluent and rhythmic - quite an art when you're pulling on an 18 hundred-weight bell turning through 360 degrees which you can't actually see." On Saturday a camera was set up in the belfry enabling potential new ringers to see exactly what was happening 30 ft above their heads. Mr Usher said: "You get a tremendous sense of satisfaction after a good ring - we tend not to call it a peal because that's something specific which takes about three hours and involves 5040 changes - and you go off to the pub happy. There is a real social side to it and camaraderie within the team and

there is a real social side to it and camaraderie within the team and with ringers from other churches. We often visit other towers and they come to us. The commitment is to be "ready by your rope" at IOam on Sunday mornings and also for weddings on about 20 Saturdays a year for which ringers receive a small fee. Practice evenings are on Tuesdays, Thornbury's bells were refurbished in the mid 1990's and are now hung in a robust metal frame. The frame could accommodate a further two bells. Mr Usher added: "It's a pleasant thought that one day - given the support and the enthusiasm - ten bells could be ringing out over Thornbury.

Les Usher Tower Captain



The above was an article in the local paper sent to me by Les.

May day outing to the Worcester area

Once again the sun shone for the annual branch May Day outing which this year was to the Worcester area. Most of us arrived on time at Great Comberton and we all thought the ringing room did not put Dyrham to shame, it was very old fashioned. We moved on to Little Comberton, the bells were not the easiest. Whilst we were there a group of cyclists arrived, one of which was a ringer who asked if he could ring, of course he could. He rang gave us his thanks and pedaled off into the morning with his cycling friends. We all rang or sat in the sunshine looking out over the local hills until it was time to move on to Fladbury, a nice going eight. By this time most of us were ready for lunch at the Berkeley Arms some said Spetchley others were not so sure, however all those who were taking lunch did so and the Landlord put on an excellent carvery which turned out to be a little expensive.

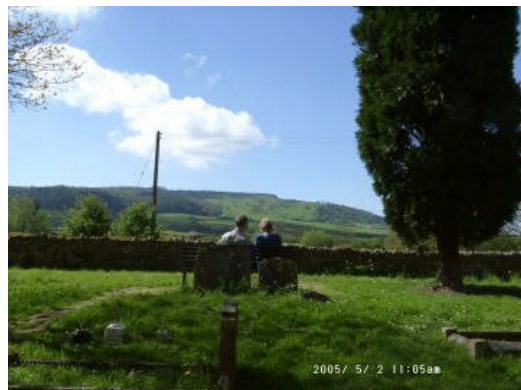
Lunch over onto Church Lench, by this time the clouds had come up and we had some rain whilst we were

having lunch.



Church Lench waiting to ring and recovering from a good lunch.

The last tower should have been Bidford on Avon but they decided to take the clappers out on the day we were to ring. Henry did a swift swap and we rang at Salford Priors instead. Thankyou Henry (Taysom) for another excellent day what would we do without you.



Taking our ease at Great Comberton overlooking the hills.

Farcited Outing To Somerset in April

This outing was quite a long time ago now but is still worth a mention, the day was organised by Gilbert Davis. We started at Pitminster where we had coffee and a ring and moved on to Staplegrove. Then to The Farmers arms at Combe Florey where an excellent lunch was provided. A short drive to the church and further ringing, and whilst walking around the church it is the burial place for the Waugh family. Finally on to Lydeard St Lawrence ringing and a cup of tea. Then it was time once again to go home.

Thanks to Gilbert Davis for organising the towers and the lunch time venue and Mary York for the coffee/tea and biscuits. I forgot to take the camera so no pictures.

Please note I have a new email address tonyyork@tiscali.co.uk as I have gone broadband my other email address ajyork@onetel.com still works