



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 284

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Headlines

1 BRANCH RINGING EVENTS RESUMING!

2 Far-cited outing—Wapley, Chipping Sodbury and Frampton Cotterell—3rd March—details below

2 Branch practice—Coalpit Heath—26th March—14.30-16.30

**February
-
March 2022**

Editor's Note

At long last I am able to write that we are resuming a Branch ringing programme. The first event is a Far-cited outing at the beginning of March and then our first Branch practice will be at Coalpit Heath at the end of March. Details of the Far-cited outing are below and the Branch programme for the whole year will be circulated in the near future, as soon all the tower arrangements are confirmed.

We have deliberately chosen ground floor rings for our first two Branch practices to enable social distancing. This will I hope make it easier for people to ease themselves back into ringing if they have not been used to mixing in larger groups for the past two years.

The ringers at Coalpit Heath have agreed to represent the Branch in the 6 bell striking competition at the Association AGM in April. You may recall that they won our Branch striking competition in February 2020, just before the first Covid lockdown, so they didn't get the opportunity back then.

Chris Greef

Ringling is appreciated!

As we left the monthly Surprise Minor practice at Cromhall, we found a note that had been left on the floor. Peggy Collett contacted the writer and sent this message to attendees.

"To all those who rang this afternoon (13 January) at Cromhall I thought you might like to know that a note was left saying

'It was a delight to hear the bells ringing as I walked down into the valley by the river.'

The lady left her phone number as she wanted to know if we regularly rang on Thursdays. I phoned her back and she told me that she had just taken her husband of 50 years into a nursing home. She was feeling down but listening to the bells was just what she needed as it lifted her spirits.

I thought I would share it with you, as I was really pleased that our ringing had helped her."

Peggy

Far-cited is back—3rd March

The first outing since Covid is local, to encourage ringers to get back into the habit. There is a poster attached to this newsletter to display in your tower, but the arrangements are as follows:

10.15 - 11.15 Wapley - Tea/Coffee available - bring your own mug

11.45 - 12.30 Chipping Sodbury

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch - The Dog Inn Old Sodbury - menus available on their web-site (Lunch and Main)

14.15 - 15.15 Frampton Cotterell - Tea/Coffee available - bring your own mug.

Please let Linda Gittings winzig.weg@googlemail.com know if you are intending to come by 28th February and check the Branch website shortly before the event in case of late changes.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sunday 6th February 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II's accession. Churches will be holding a special Evensong service to mark the actual day the Queen will have reigned for 70 years. Whilst the main celebratory events are planned for June, the opportunity to mark this day with collective bellringing would be welcomed by the Church of England. A BellBoard event has been set up, [70th Anniversary of HM Queen's Accession](#), to record your ringing on this day.

The main Jubilee celebrations take place over an extended Bank Holiday, with the late May Bank Holiday being moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June. The four-day celebrations will feature an extensive programme of events that showcase the best of British ceremonial splendour and pageantry.

Whilst the whole weekend lends itself to plenty of celebratory ringing, in collaboration with the Church of England and the Royal Household, it has been agreed that a focus for collective bellringing should coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's on Friday 3 June.

The timing of the Service has not yet been confirmed but is likely to be in the morning. As more definite information is released, it will be shared across the usual

formats. Again, a BellBoard event has been set up, [Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for HM Queen](#), where you can record ringing over the course of the weekend's celebrations.

If you are looking for inspiration for what to ring, there are plenty of options listed in the [Composition Library](#) such as Jubilee Court Bob Triples, Royal Jubilee Surprise Royal, Queen Elizabeth II Surprise Minor, Queen Elizabeth Treble Bob Major, Platinum Bob Triples, Platinum Surprise Major, and many more.

After the Bank Holiday weekend, details of the ringing that took place for both the Accession Day and over the Jubilee Weekend will be collated and presented to Her Majesty with the grateful thanks of the bellringing community for her unique service to the nation and Commonwealth.

Thank you to those who have contacted me with stories recalling bellringing that took place on Coronation Day, there have been some really fascinating stories. They are being collated and will form part of press releases to engage the media with this rather unique take on the day and shared with you over the coming months.

Vicki Chapman

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
Public Relations Officer

New Bells at St. Mary's, Hawkesbury

(edited version of Ringing World article)

St. Mary's Church, Hawkesbury has always had bells to call the faithful to services from the days when it was the lead church in this area for the Benedictines of Pershore Abbey. The original oak bell frame, which remains in the Tower, dates from the 14th century and is one of the best-preserved 14th C bell frames in the country. It originally housed five bells but four of them were removed in the past, most probably by the Boteler (or Butler) family who owned the Manor of Hawkesbury following the Reformation. Today only four complete pits remain. The tenor bell is thought to have been around 28 Cwt. which made it probably one of the heaviest rings of five in the country at the time.

Fundraising for urgently needed tower repairs and a new ring of bells started in 2015. Eventually, with all the necessary permissions in place and with £300,000 raised, work on the joint project could proceed. This included the installation of a new set of bells, the building of a new ringing chamber, the redesign and refurbishment of the vestry and substantial structural repairs to the outside of the Tower. Mathew Higby and Co. was contracted to install the newly cast eight bells. The bells were cast by Emanuele Allanconi in Milan to a standard English profile and using traditional methods. In spite of Covid, the project proceeded without undue delay and everything was ready for the installation of the new bells by March 2021.

The bells are all named after saints in a similar way to the one depicted on the image which shows St Wulfstan. St.

Wulfstan is the local saint because he was the senior priest in Hawkesbury in the 11th century. Before installation the bells were placed in the Nave of the Church where they were decorated with flowers for a blessing service and to enable the community to view them. There were hundreds of visitors from all over the area including the pupils from the local CofE primary school. Following installation and testing, the dedication service was conducted with a packed church on 10th September in the presence of the Right Reverend Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester. At the end of the nave the Bishop dedicated the newly built vestry, the refurbished church tower and the new set of bells. The bells were then formally handed over to the tower captain. The bell ringers' prayer was recited and the Hawkesbury bellringers rang out the first "official" rounds of bell ringing. The service was followed by change ringing by an invited band of bellringers who had all helped with the bells project and in training the new local band.



PS— the first peal on the bells was of Cambridge Surprise Major on 22nd January, dedicated to St. Wulfstan and in thanksgiving for the life of Stephanie Appleby.

Post-Covid Ringing—How Are You Doing?

Most of our towers are now back ringing but I know that a number have lost ringers. Maybe you don't now have enough for practice night or even Sunday ringing. At my home tower Winterbourne we are currently alternating practices with Frampton Cotterell and the ringers there are also joining with Coalpit Heath to get a band for service ringing. If you are similarly struggling and haven't been able to link up with a neighbouring tower, contact a member of the Committee to see if we can help. It may be that your problem is not numbers but the loss of a key ringer who enabled you to progress. Again, the Committee may be able to help, so just let us know.

Chris Greef

Ringling Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - some left at £3.50 each.

Tony York

Branch Ringling Achievements

Wapley—1260 Plain Bob Minor—for Advent

Winterbourne—1296 Lightfoot Surprise Minor

Mangotsfield—5024 Spliced Surprise Major

FAR-CITED RETURNS

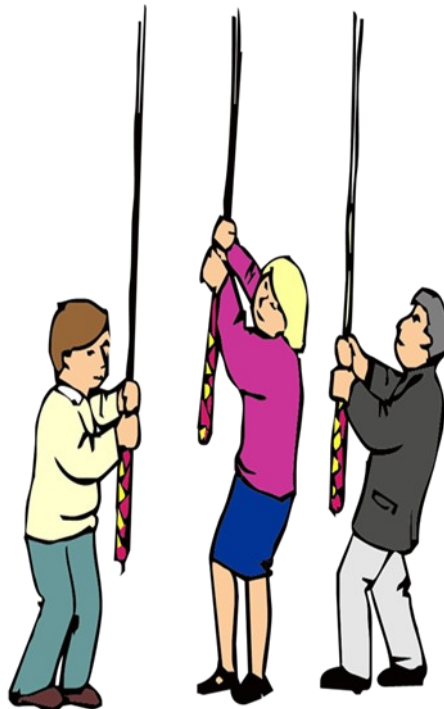
WE'RE BACK ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022

Covid permitting - in other words NO new restrictions

THE PROGRAM PLANNED IS

10.15 – 11.15 MORNING COFFEE/TEA AND BELLS @ WAPLEY
(Bring your own mug) NO Toilet

11.45 – 12.30 BELLS @ CHIPPING SODBURY



12.45 – 14.00 LUNCH – TABLE BOOKED @ THE DOG, OLD SODBURY
(menu available on their web-site)

NUMBERS REQUIRED PLEASE TO - winzig.weg@googlemail.com BY 28/02/22

14.15- 15.15 AFTERNOON TEA/COFFEE AND BELLS @ FRAMPTON COTTERELL
(bring your own mug)