



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 285

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Headlines

- 1 Association AGM—Wotton Branch—2nd April—details below
- 2 Far-cited outing—Brinkworth, Purton and Oaksey—7th April—details below
- 3 Holy Week—10th-17th April
- 4 St George's Day—23rd April

April
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May 2022

Editor's Note

I am pleased to report that the first post-Covid Far-cited outing was well attended, pretty well up to pre-Covid levels—thanks to Linda Gittings for organising this. Some ringers are still understandably cautious but it is encouraging that the majority feel confident enough to get back to regular ringing. I hope that the number of Covid cases will reduce as the season progresses and enable others to resume their ringing.

I was very disappointed to hear from Glenn Laurence that ringing at Dyrham has had to stop pending work on the tower. Having to stop ringing is always a disappointment but especially so in this case as Glenn has been trying to establish a local band. I hope that it won't be too long before ringing there can restart.

Chris Greef

Achievement of the Year Award

Congratulations to Abson and Frenchay for winning this year's G&B Association competition for achievement. The theme was 'During and After Covid—Keeping Ringing Going'. They will be presented with the Bliss Trophy at the G&B AGM on 2nd April. Here is their winning entry:

Covid lockdown brought an abrupt and sudden end to the ringing of church bells which resulted in many ringers losing not only their hobby but also a main part of their social life. As a result of this, two members in particular, from Abson (Bill Liebow) and Frenchay (John Payton) researched and explored the option of using Ringing Room and Zoom to allow for, not only practising method ringing skills, but also to keep in social contact.

So began 3 online practices throughout the week. As the weather improved and the regulations changed, allowing small numbers of people to meet in the open air, the same persons began to organize handbell ringing in various churchyards and on village greens. Being visible meant that this in turn engaged the general public in conversations concerning the ringing of bells; Christmas carols in June by the canal certainly made for funny looks and fun conversations!

The ringing might not have been to the standards of the purists, but it allowed us to keep the knowledge of the blue line to the fore and in many cases improved ringers' ability to 'count their places'. And of course, the ability to socialize remained open, not only to a number of the Bristol Rural Branch membership, but ringers from other branches who also wished to join in. This meant members from at least 6 branch towers plus others from outside the Branch enjoyed not only practising methods but also tune ringing, and more importantly keeping in contact with each other on a very regular basis. (Coffee and biscuits supplied; bring your own mug and picnic!).

This was in addition to two of the previously set up Zoom/Ringing Room sessions each week which allowed for those who are not retired to remain part of the group. When the further lockdowns hit, the Zoom/Ringing Room sessions came into their own again (so much so that a licence was purchased) with the same two members leading on this matter. On some occasions it was not unusual for a predominantly '6 bell branch' to be ringing! on 12 Ringing Room bells! at least twice a week.

The efforts shown have meant that now, even though both towers have reverted to ringing, with restrictions, handbell ringing still takes place, allowing those ringers who are more infirm and feel insecure on tower bells or making it up/down the tower steps to still join in with ringing and to continue with their enjoyment of the noble art. Plus, experience has shown what a good training medium this is as you can actually say 'stop, I need to think about this!' Coffee and biscuits still supplied but bring your own mug and picnic.

Dyrham Bells

Sadly, ringing at Dyrham has had to stop because of structural problems in the tower. Here is Glenn Laurence's note about it:

Ringing at Dyrham is on hold now until further notice following receipt of a visual inspection report undertaken by a firm of structural engineers for Dyrham PCC. I had

hoped to get some regular (ie monthly or fortnightly) ringing in the calendar for Friday mornings at St Peter's but this is now not possible. The church warden is concerned that, having received this report, should anything fail whilst ringing the bells the insurance would not cover it. I understand it's likely to be several months, if not longer, before we can ring due to shortage of funds to do the work.

Yours, disappointed

Glenn Laurence

Association AGM—Saturday 2nd April

This year's Association AGM is being held in the Wotton Branch. The full programme can be found on the G&B website and the schedule for the day is included at the end of this newsletter.

We have been asked to notify the Horton ringers if we intend to take tea at the AGM. It is always difficult to estimate numbers for catering purposes but this year it is especially so: not only has it been three years since the last AGM tea, but some ringers have retired, few new ringers have been taught, and Covid infections are rising sharply again.

So if you'll be taking tea on 2 April, please, please help our friends in the Wotton Branch by clicking on the following link.

<https://forms.office.com/r/h5CHBYTv1s>

as soon as possible.

Far-cited Outing—Thursday 7th April

10.00-10.45 - Brinkworth, 6, 18cwt - SU013844, SN15 5AD

11.15-12.00 - Purton, 8, 20cwt - SU097872, SN5 4EB

12.30-14.00 - lunch at The Baker's Arms, Somerford Keynes, GL7 6DN

Pre-orders are required, please. Send details to cgreef@btinternet.com by Monday 4th April. Please note there will be a new menu by then. I will advise when this becomes available on the pub's website.

14.15-15.00 - Oaksey, 6, 10cwt - ST991936, SN16 9SZ.

Chris Greef

G&B Youth Team Outing to the Rural Branch

The G&B youth team, ably led by Ian and Carole Bucknell, is having an outing to our Branch this Easter. The purpose of this group is to encourage young ringers by enabling them to meet, practise and socialise with others of the same generation. It is intended for ringers of all standards, so if you know someone who might be interested, contact Ian or me for further details. The plan for the day is

G&B Youth Team Outing – Easter Monday 18 April 2022

9.45- 10.30 Coalpit Heath 8 bells 10cwt

10.45- 11.30 Wapley 6 bells 8cwt

11.45-12.30 Warmley 8 bells 15cwt

Lunch

14.45-15.30 Bitton 8 bells 15cwt

16.00-16.45 Colerne 8 bells 14cwt

Chris Greef

Ringling room emergency lighting.

When did you last check the Ringling Chamber emergency lighting? Was it before the pandemic?

Check with your churchwarden first and then trip the circuit breaker for the tower lights. Your ringling room light should stay on, even if all the other lights on the circuit are blacked out. This is especially important during the dark evenings of winter months. I remember once, we were ringling for a Carol Service; it was cold; the vicar arrived and switched everything on at once. The main circuit breaker tripped and the entire church was plunged into darkness - except the ringers! You can only imagine how it could have been with the ringers all trying to catch their sallies and set their bells safely in total darkness.

What's that I hear you say? No emergency lighting?! Some towers have an emergency torch, but that does not help when you are ringling and suddenly plunged into darkness. You need what is sometimes called a "power-fail" light. "Exit lighting" is probably too dim, although it is good to have some on the stairs. You can now get "power-fail" light fittings in LED rather than fluorescent which used to be standard. The "power fail" light fitting looks identical to your ordinary light with the batteries hidden inside. Technology is now developing fast so there are even newer products on the market. Your electrician can advise. The key thing is that when the main feed into the ringling room goes dead, either from a power cut or tripped circuit breaker, the light automatically turns to battery and gives similar brightness. Good emergency lighting will stay on for several hours. Check the specification with your electrician. Also, if the switch is outside the ringling room, consider moving it inside and put it above shoulder height so it cannot be operated accidentally if someone leans on it!

Tony Crabtree

CCCBR Stewardship
and Management Workgroup

Ian Unsworth—Dursley

I received this note from Tony Chivers in the Wotton Branch.

It is with sadness that I write to inform you that Ian passed away on Wednesday 9th February. It was a sudden collapse and with no prior warning. He was 74. Ian was a great friend to so many people and a very accomplished ringer and teacher. He loved his ringling and rang many peals and quarter peals. Ian held various

offices in the Branch and he was the immediate past chairman.

If you wish to organise some ringing in his memory, be aware that he had expressed a wish for bells to be rung half muffled. Not in muffled sadness but because he liked the sound.

Terry Chivers

Ringling Books Available

Bill Liebow 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.

Branch Ringling Achievements

Tytherington—240 Grandsire Doubles—for the 70yh anniversary of the Queen's accession

Frampton Cotterell—1380 Doubles (5 methods) - for the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession

Tytherington—1296 Sandiacre Surprise Minor—in memoriam Ian Unsworth

Iron Acton—1320 Wooler Surprise Minor—with get well wishes to Dave Matthews

Almondsbury—1260 Grandsire Triples—Rung to celebrate the life and contribution of Don Haskins, our tower captain 1964-77, 1990-2006; steeplekeeper 1964-77

Bitton—1312 London Surprise Major

Wapley—1260 Doubles (2 methods) - in memoriam Ian Unsworth and with best wishes to Tony York



The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association
of Church Bell Ringers

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd April 2022
Wotton under Edge Branch

Overview of Programme

09-00 (Start) Croome Trophy Competition

Cromhall St Andrew

10-00 (Start) Penn Trophy Competition

Chipping Sodbury – St John the Baptist

10-00 to 11-00 Open Ringing

Tytherington - St James the Great

11-00 to 12-00 Open Ringing

Dursley - St James the Great

12-00 to 13-00 Open Ringing

North Nibley – St Martin

13-30 to 14-30 Open Ringing

Hawkesbury - St Mary

14-00 to 15-00 Open Ringing

Horton – St James the Elder

15-00 Church Service

Horton – St James the Elder

16-00 AGM and Tea

Horton – Village Hall

18-00 to 20-00 Open Ringing

Hawkesbury - St Mary