



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

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Headlines

- 1 **Platinum Jubilee weekend—2nd-5th June**
- 2 **Branch Practice—Bitton—25th June, 1900-2100**
- 3 **Branch Practice—Alveston—30th July, 1900-2100**

June
-
July 2022

Editor's Note

When you receive this newsletter, we will be just a few days short of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. I hope you are planning to do something special on your bells at some point.

On a sad note, Derek Wilkins-Smith, the tower captain at Warmley, died suddenly at the end of April. There is a short obituary below.

Chris Greef

Ringling Outings are for All

Want to get away? Fancy a day out? Why not join us on one of the regular monthly outings to ring at some towers a bit further away. The Far-cited ringers meet on the first Thursday of the month and the Mid-week dodgers on the third Thursday. In both cases we ring in the morning, have a pub lunch at a suitable hostelry and then ring again in the afternoon. There is usually a cup of tea or coffee available at some point during the day too.

We are often visiting interesting churches in pretty villages surrounded by glorious countryside, and there is plenty of time to chat with other ringers or those who have come along 'for the ride'. The bells themselves are always interesting too. There are the places you feel you could ring all day long, they go and sound so well, and at the other extreme those you vow never to visit again – and everything in between.

The April Far-cited outing was in Wiltshire. We started at Dauntsey, a 5 bell tower and a last minute replacement for Brinkworth, where there was a funeral. Dauntsey has an impressive Pre-reformation Doom painting over the chancel arch and a challenging set of bells – two of the ropes are literally one foot apart! The second tower was Purton, a one ton 8. They were good



Dauntsey ropes

to ring, but we struggled to get the speed right – the front 4 seemed to want to ring faster than the back 4. After a good lunch at the Baker's Arms in Somerford Keynes, our last tower was Oaksey, a very comfortable 6. Mid-week dodgers usually meet in Gloucestershire but in April two of our members, Graham and Harry who come from Petersfield, arranged for us to visit Hampshire and Sussex. It was a beautiful Spring day and the trees just coming into leaf and the settings of the churches under the South Downs were magic! We started in Buriton, the type of 6 you wish you could bring home. We then visited South Harting and Rogate both 6's with long drafts – South Harting in particular was quite a challenge but as we agreed that doesn't spoil the day – if all towers were equally easy, the day wouldn't be as memorable. After lunch in The Royal Anchor in Liphook we rang at Milland, another nice 6, and then finally Trotton, a 4 but very nice sounding. And here there was some more medieval painting too, this time of the 7 deadly sins and the 7 virtues.



Ringling at South Harting

The May Far-cited outing was to Devizes, where we rang 3 towers in the town and had lunch at The Hourglass on the banks of the Kennet and Avon canal. It provided the opportunity to renew acquaintance with David Powell and wife Sue, who moved to Devizes from Coalpit Heath during Covid times. David is now established ringing in the town but is still learning his way around and is hoping to have a new guide dog as soon as he's identified all the common routes he needs to follow. The day also

enabled us to celebrate Mick and Sheila Lewis's Diamond Wedding anniversary on the exact day: we were proudly shown their card from the Queen.

If you want to join us, or just try it out, contact me and I'll put you in touch with the organisers who will keep you posted with details of the next scheduled trip.

Chris Greef

Siston Ringing

Mervyn Gibbs has asked me to let you know the Siston Friday morning practices have now restarted. Ringing is between 10.00 and 11.30 followed by refreshments.

Derek Wilkins-Smith

Derek Wilkins-Smith was born on 31st January 1945. He started ringing at Warmey in the early 1960's under the leadership of Tony Gibbs. During his time in ringing, he rang many quarter peals, his first on 10th November 1963 on the Tenor and his first inside on 9th May 1965, both of Plain Bob Doubles at Warmley. He rung his first of Grandsire Triples on 6th January 1966 at Marshfield. His last was at Kelston on 14th October 2017.

His first of many peals was of Plain Bob Doubles on 19th April 1965 at Warmley by a local band, he later rang the Treble on 11th April 1966 to a peal of Doubles in many methods/variants. When the bells at Warmley were augmented to eight in 1976, he rang in the first peal on them on 17th July 1976. He then went on to ring many more peals and quarter peals in Doubles, Minor and Triples methods.

During the mid 1990's he became Tower Captain at Warmley, taking over from Ken Weeks, and remained there for the rest of his life.

His other interests included being a member of the church choir and of the Warmley Players Drama Group. He was also a keen fisherman.

He passed away in the morning of 26th April 2022 from a suspected heart attack.

Bill Liebow

Horton Lunch

The annual Horton lunch is on 12th June this year—12.30 for 13.00—and tickets are still available. They cost £15 and may be had from Richard Needs (01454 329890) or Rex Isaac (01454 311701 or 07786301233).

Terry Chivers

Ringing 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.

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

Branch Ringing Achievements

Wapley—1260 Plain Bob Doubles—first quarter peal at first attempt (on the 2) for Fred Willington, aged 69

Frenchay—1260 Doubles (3m) - rung on the day of the Diamond Wedding anniversary of Mick and Sheila Lewis