



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 288

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Headlines

- 1 Tower Captains' Meeting—Frampton Cotterell—7th October, 1930
- 2 Peal/Quarter/First's fortnight—15th-30th October
- 3 Branch Practice—Tytherington—29th October, 1900-2100
- 2 Branch AGM—Olveston—26th November, 1430-1900

October - November 2022

Editor's Note

This last month has been dominated by all the events surrounding the death of Queen Elizabeth II. These events have given a significant amount of publicity to the importance of church bell ringing in our country. Operation London Bridge has detailed protocols for ringing during the period, with muffled bells after the announcement of the death, open bells on the day of accession of the new monarch King Charles III, and then muffled ringing till after the Queen's funeral. It is obvious that bellringers across the country have taken these matters seriously: when I last looked there were over 2300 entries on Bellboard in memoriam for the Queen or for the proclamation of the new King. I wonder, did every tower in the Branch manage to ring at some point? Perhaps you could let me know what you did.

Chris Greef

proud of our Youth Team and hope they enjoy working towards ringing at York Minster in 2023.

Julie Scudamore



Bristol Rural Branch ringers

Ringing World National Youth Contest

On the 2nd July 2022 five members of the Bristol Rural Branch were selected to represent the Gloucester and Bristol Association in The Ringing World National Youth Contest held in Exeter. Over 20 teams from all over England entered and competition was very stiff. Two teams were entered by Gloucester and Bristol and were placed in 5th place (6 bells) and 2nd place (8 bells), piped for the win by half a point to Essex. All ringers received a medal to commemorate the day.

As a special treat all the youngsters were invited to ring the beautiful Cathedral bells of Exeter. It was a very enjoyable day for over 200 young ringers. We are very

So, if you are a young ringer and would like some of the action:

The G & B Youth Team is Recruiting!

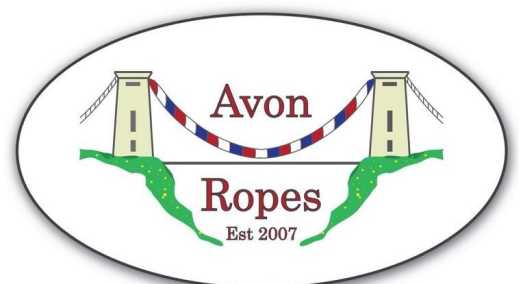
Any young ringer in the G & B is invited to join the G & B Youth Team. We understand that for a young inexperienced ringer, this may be a big step, but you will be made to feel very welcome. Practices are open to young ringers who will be under the age of 19 on August 31st, 2023, who can confidently and competently ring Call -Changes and maybe even more - on 6 bells or more,

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unaided and with a tidy ringing action. All youngsters must be accompanied by a responsible adult – although not necessarily a ringing adult as the G & B Youth Team is supported by a group of experienced adult ringers who provide necessary coaching and support. The G & B Youth Team exists to allow young ringers to ring with each other and to work as a group to improve their striking. Also, the G & B Youth Team attends the annual festival which is the Ringing World National Youth Contest and, in 2023, this will be held in York.

For more information, please contact Ian & Carole Bucknell on 01453 884250 or email ianbucknell3@gmail.com

Branch Programme for 2023

Our tower captains' meeting this year is being held on Friday 7th October, 19.30 at Frampton Cotterell. We will be talking about a draft programme for 2023. So put your thinking caps on and brief your tower representative with ideas. Next year will be a busy one for us, because it is our turn to host the Association AGM.

Chris Greef

Branch practice at Alveston.

We were a select band, nine of us at the Alveston practice in July. They aren't the easiest of bells to manage, especially the back ones, and this is probably not helped by the fact that the bells are not rung at all on a regular basis. In spite of this, we rang a full range of methods to suit the group of ringers present: Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman, All Saints, Plain Hunt Minor, St Clements and Cambridge.

Chris Greef

Cream tea at Syston

It was another sunny day for the Branch practice and cream tea in August. About 30 people turned up, no doubt encouraged by the prospect of cake and scones. We rang a good range of methods, from Bob Doubles through to Cambridge Surprise and then tucked into scones and cream with a choice of more than half a dozen types of jam, ten or more different types of cake and plenty of tea and coffee to wash it all down. There was plenty of chat too: Gary Crisp had arrived in state with his mum, by Rolls, and the running board provided a useful place to sit.

These sorts of events would not succeed without the loyal help of Branch members. In this case, we are grateful to the Syston ringers for hosting the event and



managing tea and coffee, to Adrian and Linda for producing the scones and most of the jams, and to others who provided all the cakes.

Chris Greef

When did you last do it? Check for the effects of dry weather

Many bell installations in England at least, have suffered from an extended period of extremely dry and very hot weather. For wooden frames, this may have resulted in the wood shrinking as it dried out. Bolts may have become loose so these will need tightening before damper conditions return. It is a good time to tighten tie-bars, too. Other wooden parts will have dried and perhaps loosened or even distorted - wheels, stays and sliders. In particular check that the bolts are tight on wheels and also that the small wooden wedges that hold the 2 halves of some wheels together are still firmly in place. Natural fibre ropes from the sally upwards to the bell wheel will have dried out, causing the sally to have dropped. If these have been adjusted upwards to original height, they will require adjustment again downwards once the atmosphere becomes wetter again. After the first significant rainfall, it will also be worth checking for the ingress of water through the tower roof, guttering or pipework. It will be easier to see damp patches on dry surfaces.

From The Ringing World

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.

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Branch Ringing Achievements

Almondsbury—1260 Plain Bob Triples

Rung as a farewell and thank you to Rev. Philip Rowe on his retirement and also to Alison for their 25 years' service to Almondsbury church and parish and their support for the ringers.

First triples inside—Caleb Jefferis

Westerleigh—1260 Doubles (4 methods)

Rung half muffled to celebrate the life of Brenda Hudd, former ringer at Westerleigh and mother of the conductor Sean, on the day of her funeral.

In memoriam Queen Elizabeth II and/or for the Accession of King Charles III

Thornbury

Almondsbury

Filton

Iron Acton

Coalpit Heath

Frampton Cotterell

Winterbourne

Bitton

(These entries are taken from Bellboard so don't include any towers that rang but did not register)