



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 293

Website: [www.bristolrural.co.uk](http://www.bristolrural.co.uk) email: [bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk](mailto:bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk)

## Headlines

- 1 Far-cited Outing—3rd August—Bristol—details below
- 2 Imber Outing - 19th August - details below
- 3 Branch Practice and Cream Tea—Abson—26th August, 1500-1800
- 4 Evensong ringing—Gloucester Cathedral—17th September, 13.20-1500
- 5 Far-cited Outing—7th September—Weston super Mare area—etails below

## August-September 2023

### Barbeque at Bitton

Geoff ran the branch practice at Bitton and we rang Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples , Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge and Call Changes. We finished early as the weather was extremely hot and came down for a cup of tea and the barbecue kindly cooked for us by Bryan, Nathan and Elliott. We had an audience from the local cows in the field behind.

Julie Scudamore



Basking in the heat

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We're local too, based in Mangotsfield.

### Far-cited Outings

The far-cited ringers ventured into Worcestershire in July. We rang at three towers—Croom D’Abitot (6) on a hill in the country park now owned by the National Trust, Strensham (8) down a tiny one track cul-de-sac and, after



Superwoman Ruth at Strensham

lunch in the Old Anchor in Upton on Severn, Upton (8). August’s outing, on the 3rd, is into the centre of Bristol—St. Michael on the Mount 1000-1045, St.Mary Redcliffe 1115-1215, St. Paul Southville 1415-1500, own lunch arrangements.

In September, we are ringing at Kewstoke, Worle and Churchill.



If you are interested and would like to join us, contact a member of the committee and we will get your name added to the distribution list for details of forthcoming outings.

Chris Greef

### **Syston Bells**

Glenn Laurence sent this update on progress at Syston, ahead of installing a Keltek bell to replace the cracked one:

“We had a session clearing out the debris from Syston tower on Monday morning. We brought out 21 large bags of sticks and dust which I'm gradually burning in the garden; a good morning's work. Thanks to the volunteers Nigel, Kevin and particularly Bryan who had the worst task crawling about under the bells in the dust and debris.”

A contract for the work has been placed with Nicholson's and the work is expected to take place shortly before Christmas. To save costs, Glenn is looking for some volunteer labour to help with the installation. If you think you might be interested, please contact Glenn for further information.

Glenn's message about clearing rubbish reminds of the following article from February's Ringing World:

### **When did you last do it? Prepare for the nesting season.**

Have you checked in the belfry whether the louvre openings (and any other holes) are adequately covered to prevent birds from coming into the tower to build their nests? Heavy-gauge corrosion resistant metal mesh, with holes less than an inch (25mm) across, should be fixed securely over any louvre openings. Lighter weight chicken wire should not be used as it is not sufficiently durable. It may also be advantageous to add plastic debris netting (as used on building sites) as this will also reduce damp and debris entering the tower. You will need permission from the Tower Authorities before doing any work and (in Church of England Churches) confirm that you comply with the latest Faculty Rules.

Remember that wild birds, nests and eggs are protected by law in the UK. Peregrines reached rock bottom with about 360 pairs in the 1960s due to persecution and poisoning. Tougher laws protected them, and now there are probably 2000 pairs. In the 1970s they started nesting on buildings in addition to cliffs and mountains.

This has helped them to increase. Chicks that are born on churches often go on to nest on churches as adults.

Central Council Stewardship & Management Workgroup

### **Imber Outing**

Geoff Pick has arranged a special outing to ring at Imber on Saturday 19th August. This abandoned village on Salisbury Plain is used for army training and, other than at Christmas and Easter, can only be accessed by the general public on the annual open day. The access to Imber is by bus from Warminster Station - no other vehicles are allowed. The bus timetable is at <https://imberbus.org>.

Geoff has also arranged for ringing at two towers en route to Warminster:

Rode - BA11 6PW - 6 - 11cwt - 1015-1100

Beckington - BA11 6TG - 8 - 16cwt - 1115-1200

Imber - 6 - 2cwt (yes, two cwt) - 1445-1530

Please bring £1 per person per tower to cover donations. Names are not required, everyone is welcome, just turn up on the day.

No lunches have been arranged but there are pubs in Beckington and Warminster. Alternatively you may catch an early bus to Imber where refreshments will be on sale in the church, or have a picnic. Note that you cannot walk more than a short distance from the church.

### **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**

(This list is compiled by searching Bellboard under the G&B Association. If you don't put your ringling on Bellboard and attribute it to the G&B I won't find it. Ed)

Iron Acton—1260 Stedman Doubles

Filton—1320 Norbury Treble Bob Minor

Almondsbury—1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples

Frenchay—1320 St. Simon's Doubles

## **Big Wilf's Bell Muffles**

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