



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 294

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Headlines

- 1 Association Training Day—14th October
- 2 Peal/Quarter/Firsts Fortnight—14th-29th October
- 3 Branch Practice—Filton—28th October—1430-1630
- 4 Branch AGM—Frenchay—25th November—1430-1900

October- November 2023

Editor's Note

I hope you have had a good summer, maybe with some ringing at a tower whilst you've been away on holiday. Autumn is now approaching and with that the Association training day, peal, quarter peal and 'firsts' fortnight and also our Branch AGM.

If you've been meaning to arrange a quarter peal of a new method, or get that developing ringer to ring their first touch of Bob Minor or whatever, why not use the firsts fortnight as the reason to arrange it now?

Our Branch AGM is in November and I did announce at our last AGM that I intended to stand down this year. I took over as Chairman in 2005 at the same time as Steve Coleman stood in as Ringing Master when the Branch was struggling to recruit committee members. Eighteen years is long enough, so I think it's time for someone else to take over the reigns and perhaps inject some new ideas into the way the Branch does things.

Chris Greef

A Thank You from Chirton, Wiltshire

I was passed this item from the parish magazine in Chirton, Wiltshire:

I was working at home on church accounts on the Bank Holiday Monday, a beautiful day with the window open about 4pm and was thrilled to hear the bells ringing. It's not very often we hear the bells in the village so I went to investigate and found the 'Bristol Rural Branch Ringers' on their May Day outing.

.....it really was such a lovely sound, something we haven't heard for a long time. Quite a number of people in the village commented on the sound, especially over

the coronation weekend, absolutely fabulous.

Alison Dredge, PCC Chirton and Patney

Far-cited Outings

August's far-cited outing was close to home with three towers in Bristol. The ringing highlight had to be St. Mary Redcliffe where we rang a light eight. Hector, the dog in the photograph, is a Romanian rescue dog who learnt very rapidly how to manage spiral staircases and also that the only thing to do when the bells start ringing is to go to sleep.



Far-cited at St Mary Redcliffe

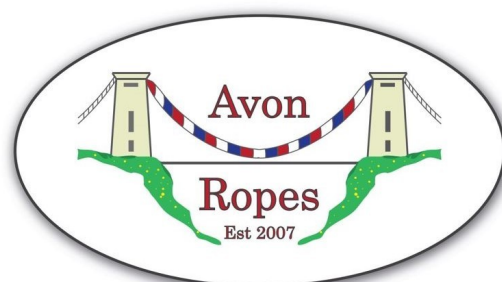
September's trip was to the Weston-super-Mare area, where we rang at Kewstoke, Worle and Churchill, all sixes, with lunch at The Swan Rowberrow. The first two towers proved to be very easy going—we were told that

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Kewstoke bells are the best in the Weston area—and we were treated to tea, coffee and cake at Worle, courtesy of the church. Churchill was more of a challenge, but a good day was had by all.

Chris Greef

An outing with a difference

It started in the usual way, meeting at Rode (11cwt 6) and then Beckington (16cwt 8) for some ringing. After this though, things changed. Our instructions were to find our own lunch and then make our way to Warminster Station to catch one of a fleet of old London buses – this provided a great opportunity for those of us who grew up in London to reminisce about our childhood! As it turned out, it seemed that everyone else had heard about the trip too, so the queue for the bus was enormous, nearly 2 hours for us. However, we eventually got on board and started the half hour trip, firstly to the outskirts of Warminster and then into the military training area on Salisbury Plain, eventually arriving at the deserted village of Imber, right in the middle of the training area. The journey across the training area was interesting with little evidence of military activity apart from a few old tank hulks used for target practice, just 1000s of acres of mainly grassland and a herd of cows at one point.

weight 2cwt 2 quarters 15 pounds) which rang very easily. Many of the visitors to the church were intrigued by what we were up to and a few ringers amongst them rang with us. After ringing we caught the bus back to Warminster, although some of the party spent the rest of the afternoon touring round the military area and eventually returned in the final bus convoy of the day, nearly 30 buses apparently.



The bus convoy

It was a memorable day out, on one of the few days in the year when the training area is open to the public, so thanks to Geoff Pick for doing the organising.

Chris Greef



Ringers at Imber

Having arrived in Imber we found little of the village apart from the church. The villagers were moved out in November 1943 and have never returned, apart from a concession that residents had the right to be buried in the churchyard. The original 5 bells were removed in the 1950s but then a 6 was installed, mainly in the old frame, in 2010. The church was jam-packed with visitors but we managed to fight our way through to the ground floor ringing chamber. We rang the delightful bells (tenor

Abson Practice and Cream Tea

As if Imber wasn't enough excitement for the month of August, the next weekend saw a Branch practice and cream tea at Abson. A good number of ringers and some non-ringers arrived, so there was plenty of ringing and a vast quantity of cake and scones to try. There were about 12 different types of home-made jam on offer, far too many for me to sample them all. Thanks to Linda Gittings and her helpers for organising the catering.

Chris Greef

When did you last do it—"spring clean" your ringing room?

Well, it is not spring (in the northern hemisphere) and it is getting dark earlier in the evening. After summer holidays is a time when many people have a fresh start, with renewed enthusiasm, new classes or activities. We may recruit new and returning ringers so what impression is created by the ringing room where we normally ring? Does it appear clean, tidy and welcoming or does it look dark, dusty and full of clutter? That fan used during the covid pandemic and hot summer, is starting to gather dust in the corner. Where has the electric heater gone? As you put the fan away

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and look for the heater, what's that muddle under the chair in the corner? And the pile of books stacked "temporarily" by the Church Warden – will they be used now the service is projected onto the screen at the front of the church? It may be worthwhile looking around the ringing room to see what unused items and rubbish have collected on shelves, under chairs and tables, in boxes and elsewhere. What can be thrown away, stacked more tidily or put into good use again? You may come across old peal records, handbells, muffles, spare ropes and other useful even valuable items so be cautious before throwing everything away. For items related to ringing, if in doubt, take advice from longer-standing band members or your local ringing society. For church property, speak with your Church Wardens and remember, that the majority of towers with bells are church property and Faculty legislation applies regarding disposal of items.

CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup
(The Ringing World 28_10_2022)

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)

Frenchay – 1260 Plain Bob Minor

First of minor for Katy Murdoch-Davis (treble)