



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 299

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk

email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

- 1 **Branch Practice and Cream Tea - 24th August - to be confirmed**
- 2 **Gloucester Cathedral ringing - 15th September - 13.20-15.00 - to be confirmed**

**August -
September
2024**

I am sorry to have to report the deaths of two branch ringers in the past month. Our thoughts are with their families.

Mervyn Gibbs

Mervyn was a ringer at Siston and St Ambrose, and tower captain at Siston until he retired at the end of 2022. He passed away on 7th July after illness over the last few months. His funeral was on 25th July at St Ambrose followed by a burial at Siston.

Terry Jefferies

Terry died on 18th July. He was a bellringer and tower captain at Winterbourne for many years and also rang at Mangotsfield. He was instrumental in projects to rehang Winterbourne bells and to get bells installed at Frenchay. He was a keen handbell ringer, ringing 4 in hand with Winterbourne St Michael's Handbell ringers. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association in 1995, in recognition of his work at Winterbourne and Frenchay. Details of his funeral will be circulated in due course.

When did you last do it? Reduce the risks of fires

Fires can and do break out in churches so ringers should consider how they minimise the risks of a fire breaking out or reduce its severity. The tower itself may act as a chimney so church buildings may be especially vulnerable. Fire prevention measures in churches vary significantly and should be considered by the church authorities, but ringers should check the areas they use. More information is available here: <https://runningatower.cccbr.org.uk/docs/healthsafety/fireprevention/>

Tips include having an up-to-date 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) notice and ensuring all alarms are audible and visible while the bells are being rung. Emergency arrangements should also be in place, and ideally practised. <https://runningatower.cccbr.org.uk/docs/emergency/>

From the Stewardship and Management Workgroup of the Central Council

From a Bellringer

Sometimes you unexpectedly come across a nice quote in a novel! I especially like:

"...you look at a bell, and you do not only see a cold and metal object. You think of the people over hundreds of years who have heard it, what it marked for them, how their lives were lived and changed in the shadows of a belltower, **how the song tied them all together, across years.** You seem to — to somehow *feel* it." (Emphasis mine.)

From 'All the Lost Places' by Amanda Dykes

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.

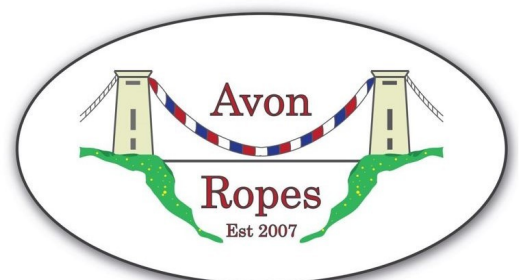
Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - some left at £3.50 each.

Avon Ropes proudly sponsors Bristol Rural News

Contact us for bell ropes, light pull bell ropes, and a 2-week bell rope repair service.

Please see our website, www.avonropes.co.uk, our Facebook page or phone on 07946 605 963.

We're local too, based in Mangotsfield.



Branch Ringing Achievements

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

Olveston - 1260 Grandsire Triples
Rung to celebrate the 100th birthday of Jean Pane

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
For D-Day, a belated wedding compliment to the ringer of the 2nd (Adrian Cooper) and in memory of Bill Tudor, best man and brother in law of the ringer of the 6th (Gerry Annis)

Frampton Cotterell - 1260 Grandsire Doubles
First in method for Sarah Morley (2) and James Wood (4)
In memory of Katy Murdoch-Davis, a good friend of all and ringer, who sadly passed away on 4th May 2024

Filton - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
First minor James Wood (1), first in method Phil Quartly (5), first minor for 56 years Robert Slack (3)
For the wedding on 25th May 2024 of Amy and Geoffrey Fairman, daughter and son in law of Robert Slack

Frenchay - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Rung on the day of the Memorial Celebration for the life of Catherine 'Katy' Murdoch-Davis, an enthusiastic and much loved member of the Frenchay Sunday Service band, of both the Farcited and Dodgers mid-week bands and of the Bristol Rural Branch. She will be greatly missed!

Filton - 1260 Grandsire Doubles
Rung following Revd Elizabeth L.A Gregory's last Mass as Rector of Filton

Syston - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
In memory of Catherine Murdoch-Davis (Katy), a band member, who died suddenly whilst on holiday.

Almondsbury - 60 Various Doubles
10 sets of 60 changes rung inconsecutively to celebrate the Conductor's 60th birthday (Marcus Booth)

Big Wilf's Bell Muffles

proudly sponsors Bristol Rural News

We have Velcro fitting Bell Muffles at over 1000 churches and we're now based in Mangotsfield.
Please see our website, www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk or our Facebook page or phone 07946 605 963.