



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 300

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

## Headlines

- 1 Association Autumn Training Day - 12th October
- 2 Peal/Quarter/Firsts Fortnight - 12-27th October
- 3 Branch Practice - Bitton - 26th October, 14.30-16.30
- 4 Branch AGM - Pucklechurch - 23rd November, 14.30-19.00

## October - November 2024

Again I have to start the newsletter with the report of the death of a ringer from the Rural Branch. Graham Hemmett was a ringer at Almondsbury and was Branch treasurer from 1997 to 2005. I believe he subsequently moved from the area, but those who were ringing then may remember him. Our thoughts are with his family.

### Ringling World National Youth Contest

This years national youth competition was held in London, on Saturday the 6th of July. It was a well represented event, with 36 teams in total, competing to be the best in either 6 or 8 bell ringing. The Ancient Society of College Youths organised this special event. The base for the day was at Cheapside, St Mary-Le-Bow church, where all 36 participating teams had a chance to ring on the famous 12 bells.

The G&B this year entered a team, in the 8 bell method competition, ringing plain hunt. They had a busy day,

navigating around London by foot and public transport. After visiting 4 more churches, they rung their competition piece at St Olaves, London Bridge. St Olaves is one of the few churches which survived the great fire of London in 1666. It is also the final resting place of Samuel Pepys, who documented the fire in his famous diaries.

All 36 teams congregated at St Pauls Cathedral for the results ceremony. The G&B team were ranked joint 3rd in the 8 bell method group, where all young ringers received a medal for their efforts. Bristol Rural Branch were represented by 2 young ringers, 1 in the 8 bell team, and the other as reserve.



The G&B Youth Team



At St Pauls

The G&B youth team practice regularly throughout the year at numerous towers within the association. They can be contacted via the G&B website.

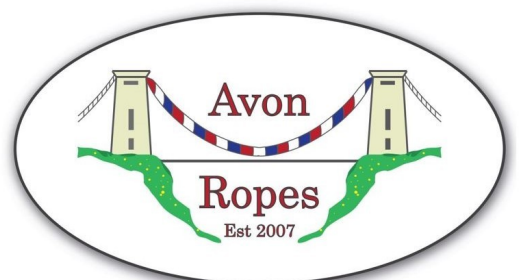
Nigel Scudamore

### Avon Ropes proudly sponsors Bristol Rural News

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Please see our website, [www.avonropes.co.uk](http://www.avonropes.co.uk), our Facebook page or phone on 07946 605 963.

We're local too, based in Mangotsfield.



## Cream Tea - Abson, 24th August

We had 16 ringers at the cream tea this year and rang the usual range of methods to suit the abilities of those present. There was an excellent spread of scones and cakes too, which all enjoyed. Thanks to all who came, especially those who provided cakes, and in particular to Linda and Sheila, who managed the catering for us.

Chris Greef



Linda and Sheila

## Working in the belfry - advice from Ecclesiastical insurance

### *Lone working:*

Avoid if at all possible.

Where lone working cannot be avoided, there are some simple precautions you should take:

1. Carry a mobile phone
2. Tell someone where you are going, what you are doing and when you expect to be back, and let them know when you get back home. This person should raise the alarm if they cannot get hold of you when they expect to be able to.

### *Work within your capabilities.*

There are many contractors/bell hangers who offer maintenance contracts if there are jobs you are uncomfortable carrying out.

### *Be careful when working at height.*

Avoid this where possible.

Ensure that work is properly planned in advance.

Use existing places at height to work from where these are suitable (i.e. they have safe access, protected edges etc.)

Use suitable access equipment depending upon the nature and duration of the work (e.g. scaffolding, access towers, ladders, stepladders etc.).

Use ladders only where there is no alternative.

Make sure access equipment is properly used (e.g. avoid overloading or overreaching).

Do all you can to prevent objects falling from height (e.g. make sure tools are placed somewhere sensible and will

not be knocked off the frame onto people working below).

Make sure access equipment is periodically inspected for wear or damage and is properly maintained.

See <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/bell-ringing.pdf> for further guidance.

Ecclesiastical Insurance has over 130 years of experience insuring churches and the people who work with and care for them. They insure over 90% of Anglican churches and cathedrals in England, Scotland and Wales, and they liaise regularly with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers to discuss matters of mutual interest, cooperation and support for ringers. They are owned by the Benefact Trust and all profits go to supporting charitable causes through grants. These have included bells and ringing societies in the past.

*The Ringing World 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024*

## 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

(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)

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

In memory of John Jefferis. First inside of doubles for Madeleine R Jefferis (3).

Westerleigh - 1260 Doubles - 2 methods

In memory of Maxwell Elvins, Father-In-Law of Ian Robson (tenor).

Thornbury - 1344 Grandsire Triples

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Triples

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

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