



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 301

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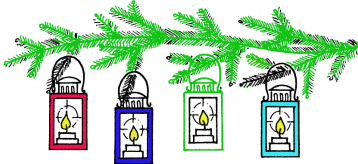
Headlines

- 1 Mince Pie Practice—Frampton Cotterell—28th December, 1430-1630
- 2 Branch Practice—Olveston—25th January, 1430-1630
- 3 Branch Quiz—Iron Acton—8th February, 1900 onwards
- 4 Branch Practice—Winterbourne—22nd February, 1430-1630

Christmas

2024

HAPPY



CHRISTMAS

Obituaries

It is with great sadness I record the death of Tony York. I don't have all the details of his ringing history, but he was a loyal member of the Branch for very many years and also Secretary, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor for 20-30 years. This is an outstanding record of service to ringing and his dedication will be greatly missed. His funeral was at Westerleigh Crematorium on 22nd November and many ringers from the Branch and further afield attended, a testament to his contribution to ringing.

Tony Boulton, a ringer at Bitton has also died.

Kathleen Crisp's funeral was held at Westerleigh on the 22nd too. Although not a ringer herself she was to be seen at Branch social events in recent years, always happy to chat and having been transported there in son Gary's Rolls Royce.

Our thoughts are with all the affected families.

Chris Greef

Branch AGM

Our AGM was held at Pucklechurch this year. As usual, we started with ringing before a short service. Then it

was time for tea, the usual grand spread of sandwiches, snacks, cakes galore, tea and coffee. Finally we had our AGM meeting. The Secretary Bill Liebow will be circulating the minutes in due course but key things to note are:

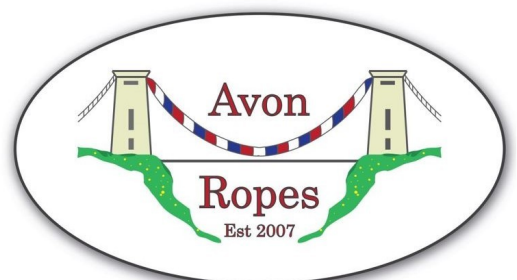
1. Branch subscriptions are now due. As noted below, the rates were increased at the Association AGM. Our Treasurer Alison has stood down, so the Committee will circulate a new subs form with all the relevant information.
2. The draft programme for 2025 was approved, subject to confirmation from all towers as to their availability. Possible different venues for the Barbecue and Cream Tea are being sought. Please let the Committee know if you think your tower could help.
3. Geoff Pick will organise the May Day outing, possibly in the Cotswolds.
4. Having been told that members generally found this newsletter useful, I asked for towers to please send an occasional article for inclusion - a successful open day, new recruits, a good tower social, notable tower achievements, basically anything. An accompanying picture would be good too.

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5. It was suggested that the creation of a WhatsApp group for the circulation of reminders about forthcoming events to all members would be a good way of ensuring that everyone got the information. What are your views?
5. The Chairman (Bryan Hardwick), Secretary (Bill Liebow), Ringing Master and Deputy (Matt Johnson and Geoff Pick respectively) were re-elected to the Committee. Steve Crane has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Webmaster, but a replacement Treasurer, MC Rep and Twig for the Far East are required. Again, if you think you can help, please let the Committee know. On behalf of the Branch I would like to thank Angela at Pucklechurch for hosting the meeting this year.

Chris Greef

WhatsApp Group

It has been proposed that the Committee create a WhatsApp group of branch members for the express purpose of disseminating information about branch practices / events / meetings etc. This would not be a discussion forum with messages only being sent to members from the committee. In addition, contact details would remain hidden to all members (except group admins of course). If you would like to be part of the group to receive advance notice of meetings etc, please forward your contact details to the Chairman."

Bryan Hardwick
bryan.wingreen@gmail.com

A First Quarter Peal

Two young engineers walked into the ringing area at Frenchay in November, 2023 and started to learn to ring. A couple of weeks later they brought two more young engineers along. The original couple soon disappeared but their friends, Taisia and Peter, threw themselves into ringing with enthusiasm. Both Pete's father and grandfather had been ringers in Yorkshire but Pete had never had a go. The nearest that Taisia had ever been to bells was the Tsar Kolokol in Red Square in Moscow where she was brought up. After two lessons they were both ringing a bell unaided.

Almost one year later they are competent ringers and have rung at over 20 towers including Gloucester Cathedral. They ring at Frenchay and Winterbourne/Frampton Cotterell each week with the 4cwt and 20 cwt rings giving a taste of all weights of bells. Pete is 6' 5" so has had to cope with the long ropes and also the minimal arm movement needed at Frenchay. A number of Doubles methods including Grandsire and Stedman have been mastered and Minor and Triples are work in progress.

It was a great privilege to help them to ring their first quarter peal at Wapley where they both rang well. This will no doubt be the first of many. They have attended most Branch Meetings this year so look out for them at future events. We are very lucky to have them, and several other improving learners, at Frenchay.

Wapley, St Peter, Saturday, 26 October 2024

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Catherine N C White-Horne
 - 2 Linda Pick
 - 3 Taisia Bennett
 - 4 Peter Robson
 - 5 John Payton(C)
 - 6 Geoff Pick
- 1st Quarter Peal 3,4.

Geoff Pick



L to R: Linda, Catherine, Pete, Taisia, Geoff, John

Subscriptions for 2025

The membership fees for the G&B Association were increased at the AGM for the first time since 2016. They will now be:

Senior: £20 of which £12 goes to BRF, £4 to General Fund and £4 to the Branch

Other fees remain as before:

Junior: £2.50 of which £1.50 goes to BRF, 50p to General Fund and 50p to the Branch

Associate (non Ringing) Members: £10 of which £9 goes to the BRF, 50p to the General Fund and 50p to the Branch

Non Resident Life Members (NRLM): remains at £10

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Dodgers' Outing

November's Dodgers' outing was to Hereford and Monmouth. First stop was Garway, a difficult rustic 5 in a detached tower at the end of a muddy lane. The church itself is notable as an ex-Templar church and the foundations of the original circular building are visible outside the current nave. Next was Monmouth's 8, sadly little rung now. This factor, the long draft and springy ropes made for another tricky ring. After an enjoyable pub lunch with plenty of chat amongst the 18 or so ringers, we repaired to Dingestow, where the one remaining ringer treated us to tea and biscuits, in spite of there being no running water in the church - again, not an easy 6, but the building looked lovely in the late afternoon sun. Our final tower was Usk, an 8 which enabled us to have a good ring at last.



Dingestow

It may seem disappointing to have rung poor bells, but the variation in quality and the interesting places visited always make for a good day out. Why not join us some time?

Chris Greef

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

Frenchay - 1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob)

Most methods for Neil Evans (4).

Siston - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Rung in memory of the former Tower Captain of 25 years Mervyn Gibbs who passed away during the summer.

Iron Acton - 1296 Spliced Surprise Minor (2m)

Wapley - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

First quarter peal for Taisia Bennett (3) and Peter Robson (4).

Frampton Cotterell - 1260 Doubles (Plain Bob, Stedman, All Saints and Reverse Canterbury)

In memory of Tony York who passed away on 26 October. He served for over two decades on the Bristol Rural Branch committee and will be missed.