



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 302

Website: <https://bellsgandb.org.uk/bristolrural/> email: bristolrural.branch@bellsgandb.org.uk

Headlines

- 1 Branch Quiz - Iron Acton - 8th February, 1900 onwards
- 2 Branch Practice - Winterbourne - 22nd February - 1500-1630
- 3 Association Training Day - 8th March - see G&B website for details
- 4 Branch Striking Competition - 15th March - details to be announced
- 5 Branch Practice - St. Ambrose - 22nd March - 1500-1630

February - March 2025

Editor's Note

I start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2025! I know most people will have made their New Year's resolutions and now long forgotten them, but what have you decided to do ringing-wise in 2025? Maybe you want to learn a new method, improve your striking, ring your first quarter peal or peal, conduct a touch.... the list goes on. Whatever it is you can't do it by yourself, so just ask someone to give you a hand. I know what I want to do: I have been going to a monthly Surprise Minor practice at Cromhall and I'd like to ring some quarter peals in the methods we've been learning - any takers?

A New Bristol Rural Website

I am pleased to say that we now have a new website, thanks to the efforts of Steve Crane, who has volunteered to take on the role of webmaster. It looks good and has been got up and running in double quick time. Do have a look at it and read Steve's article below - thanks Steve!

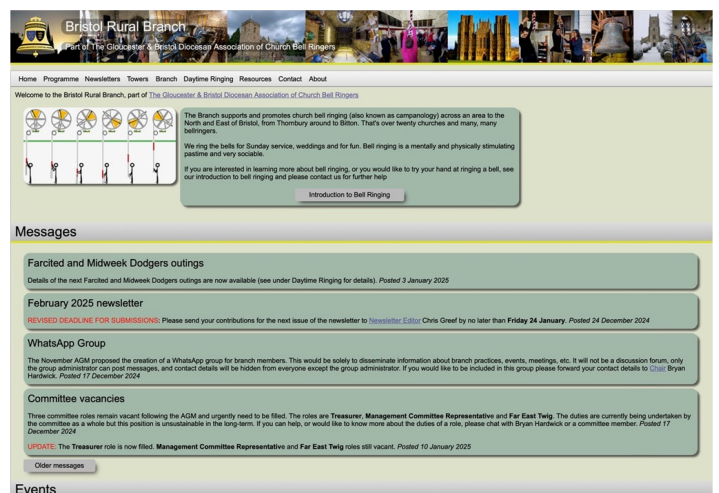
Over twenty years ago Tony York created the Branch's first website. Tony maintained and developed the site for the next two decades, as secretary and later as webmaster, until sadly he passed away in October last year. Tony accumulated a fascinating collection of information, from photographic memories of Branch events to records charting the Branch as it evolved. The challenge now is to find the best way to preserve this archive. Our first step has been to refresh the website, now hosted by the G&B, which means we have a new

web address (see below - please bookmark, and please share because Google search probably won't pick it up for a while). In due course we aim to add additional content including practice and training hints 'n' tips. We see the website as an important resource for all members, and with this in mind we're keen for you to help us shape it with your comments and suggestions. We'd be grateful if you could please take a moment to check the information for your tower and report any errors, especially your Sunday/practice ringing times.



<https://bellsgandb.org.uk/bristolrural/>

Stephen Crane (Almondsbury) / Branch Webmaster
PS - Steve has now put a link on the old website to direct you to the new one. Ed.

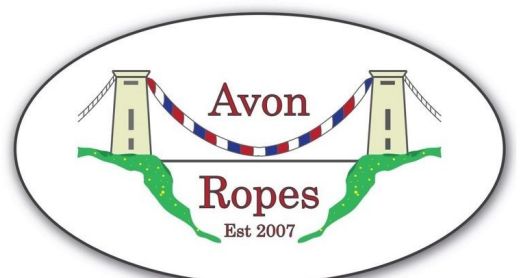


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Three Months in Almondsbury

In the last three months we have rung six of our eight bells for every Sunday service and have usually rung all eight at our Monday practise. We also rang for all the Christmas services at Almondsbury.

Methods rung have been plain courses and touches of Plain Bob Doubles, Minor, Triples, and Major; plain courses and touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples; plain courses and touches of spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor and Major, Stedman Doubles, St Simon's Doubles, Reverse Canterbury, and of Cambridge Minor. We have also rung plain courses of Stedman Triples as well as Plain Hunt, Call Changes, and the occasional plain course of simple but unusual doubles and minor methods.

Ringling highlights have been a visit from Frenchay which enabled us to rung touches of Cambridge, Yorkshire, and Bristol Major which are otherwise beyond our reach. We are also fortunate to have the regular attendance of three ringers from the revived tower at Alveston. These three are using the greater experience of our band to knock the rust off old skills and to learn new ones.

Ringling firsts have been a first touch of Grandsire Doubles for one member and a first touch of Cambridge Minor for another.

Adam Mead

Why not send me a story of what's been happening in **your** tower recently? Ed.

A Far-Cited Outing

After what seems like weeks of wet and gloomy weather, especially depressing at this time of year when daylight is in short supply anyway, it was good to wake up to a bright, sunny and cold January morning for the first Far-cited outing of the year. The first tower was St. James



St. James, South Wraxall

South Wraxall, a nice ground floor 7 ½ cwt six with the bell ropes arranged in a circle around the font in the west end tower. On a cold morning, it was especially welcoming to have the heating on! As usual we started with tea, coffee and biscuits before getting down to some nice ringing. The next stop was St. Michael and All Angels Melksham, a 1925 18 cwt Taylor's eight that went very well but perhaps not our best ringing. Fighting our way out of the town through the traffic was a bit of a pain, but we soon arrived at The Old Ham Tree at Holt which was our lunch stop for the day. The beer, food and conversation were all good – there's always time for plenty of talking – before we walked a couple of hundred yards to St. Katharine's Holt, a 9 cwt six, for our final ring of the day. The steep, narrow stairs were a challenge, but the bells themselves rang very well. It was



St. Katharine's, Holt

interesting to see the total transformation in the church since I last rang there. Instead of the standard pews, the whole place was laid out cafe-style with small tables and chairs, plus a kitchen area, children's corner and a whole lot of electronic music stuff. It's probably not to everyone's taste, but a local lady I spoke to said that it attracted a lot of people who would be put off by traditional set-ups. All-in-all, it was another good outing with ringing to suit the range of abilities of all those present – thanks to Ruth Beavin for making the arrangements.

Chris Greef

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

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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.

Ringling in the Stroud Valleys

Not our patch but some ringers may be interested in a new book about ringling in the Stroud valleys. The book will be ready later this year and will deal with the history of some two dozen towers in the area. It promises 500 pages including photographs. If you are interested, contact the author Ian Bucknell (ianbucknell3@gmail.com).

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 - 2024 was a year of progress for the Frenchay team with our first outing for some time and the introduction of a monthly pub session after practice. Several of the newer members advanced in method ringling and three people completed first quarters, the latest of these being Peyipey Gerard. Peyipey kept our tricky treble under control for a well rung quarter peal of Bob Doubles. Congratulations!

Frenchay

Sunday, 8 December 2024 (4-1-3 in E b)

1260 Doubles (2m)

Grandsire and Plain Bob

1 Peyipey Gerard

2 John Payton (C)

3 Linda Pick

4 Peter Robson

5 Taisia Bennett

6 Geoff Pick

First Quarter - 1. Most methods - 4,5.

Abson, Glos. 11 Dec, 1340 Doubles (5m):

1 Peggy Collett (C)

2 Robin Screen (C)

3 Linda Pick (C)

4 Geoff Pick (C)

5 John Payton (C)

6 Linda Gittings

Rung in Memory of Tony York who passed away recently. This was rung by members of the Far-cited ringling group, past & present, who Tony & his wife Mary organized for a number of years & at a tower Tony spent many hours in, both ringling & using his never ending DIY skills to keep us going.

Coalpit Heath - 1260 Grandsire Triples

Frenchay - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

First minor for Taisia Bennett (3) and Peter Robson (6).

First ever quarter peal of Minor by a local Frenchay band.

Winterbourne - 1299 Grandsire Doubles.

Rung in memory of Geoff Marchant.



L-R: Pete, Taisia, Peyipey, Linda, Geoff, John