



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 303

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

Headlines

- 1 Association AGM - Gloucester - 5th April (open towers listed below)
- 2 Branch May Day outing - 5th May (details below)
- 3 Branch Practice - Filton - 24th May - 1500-1630

April - May
2025

Branch Striking Competition

This year's Branch striking competition was held at Sherston on a sunny Spring afternoon. Ringers from 5 towers gathered in the church, where there was tea and cake whilst people awaited their turn to ring. The purpose of the afternoon was serious of course - to find the team that could ring the best 120 changes - but the atmosphere was as always very convivial.



Sherston

The judge for the day was Peter Harris, ringing master in the Cirencester Branch. His comments on the ringing were constructive and relevant to ringing in general, not just striking competitions:

- some of the ringing was a bit slow and not a consistent speed. Peter suggested it would be good to start the practice ringing with plain hunt, so the bells could be moved along at a good even pace.
- leading was sometimes too quick and the lighter bells were sometimes too close to the heavier ones.
- some teams had a problem with the tenor tending to

run into the other bells (this bell seemed to be the only one where handling was not totally straightforward - Ed) In commenting on striking competitions, Peter suggested that the best ringers should be put on the treble, 2 and tenor to maintain good even striking.

And the order of the teams?

6th - scratch team

5th - Bitton

4th - Thornbury

3rd - Syston

2nd - Frampton Cotterell

1st - Coalpit Heath

Congratulations to Coalpit Heath who go on to represent the Branch at the Association striking competition and thanks to Matt Johnson who organised the day, Val Johnson who master minded refreshments, Peter Harris for giving up his afternoon and all the ringers who made the effort.

Association AGM

The Association AGM is on Saturday 5th April and is hosted by the Gloucester Branch. Full details are given on the Rural Branch website. There are plenty of towers open for general ringing in the morning (see list at back) and the AGM itself is at St. Mary-le-Crypt, starting at 14.15 with ringing prior to the service, meeting and tea.

Publicity photographs

Have you ever needed a general photograph of bell ringing for a poster or publicity - or a website? It's often difficult to find one, and when you do there can be issues of privacy and ownership. Well, thanks to a competition

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run by the Central Council, we now have a selection of digital photographs available for anyone to access and use. There are 290 high quality and engaging photographs across five categories: In the Community; Ringers in Action; Bells in Art; Bells and Installations; Ringing throughout the Seasons. Check them out at <https://ccabr.org.uk/photos/>.

Steve Crane

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 May Day Bank Holiday Outing

This year's outing is to the North Cotswolds. There are 6 towers included. Thanks to Geoff Pick for making the arrangements:

10:15–11:00

Compton Abdale, St Oswald;

GL54 4DS; 6 (6 cwt)

Do not park on the grass verges at the bottom of the church path. There is usually plenty of space around the square on the road.

11:15–12:00

Withington, St Michael;

GL54 4BG; 6 (11 cwt)

12:15–13:00

Northleach, SS Peter & Paul;

GL54 3EH; 8 (18 cwt)

13:15–14:30

LUNCH Own arrangements

14:30–15:15

Bourton-On-The-Water, St Lawrence;

GL54 2AW; 8 (12 cwt)

There are two large pay and display car parks which are open all year round, one located in Station Road (GL54 2EN) and the other Rissington Road (GL54 2BN). Both are just a few minutes' walk from the centre of the village. Station Road car park accepts cash (coins only) or payment by card or app. www.paybyphone.co.uk Car

park ID 806323. The Rissington Road car park will accept payments using the PayByPhone parking app or by card. It is advised to download the app prior to your arrival.

15:30–16:15

Lower Slaughter St Mary;

GL54 2HY; 6 (6 cwt); ground floor

Park in the church precinct at the front by the river.

16:30-17:00

Cold Aston, St Andrew;

GL54 3SW; 5 (6 cwt); ground floor

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)

Thornbury - 1260 Grandsire Triples

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Reverend Joy Ludlow and Mr Mike Vaughan.

Frampton Cotterell - 1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob, St. Simon's and St. Martin's)

Rung half muffled in memory of Kathleen Crisp and Anthony York on the day of their funerals.

Wickwar - 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Frenchay - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

To celebrate the life of Pauline Palmer, former ringer at this church and mother of the tenor ringer Kate.

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Towers Open for General Ringing

Time	Tower	Number of bells	Postcode	Facilities
09:00 - 10:30	St Mary the Virgin, Frampton on Severn	6	GL2 7EH	Toilet
	Ss Andrew and Bartholomew, Ashleworth	6	GL19 4JA	No
	St Swithin, Hempsted	8	GL2 5LH	In the hall next door
	St Lawrence, Sandhurst	8	GL2 9NP	Opposite the village hall, code 6789
	St George, Brockworth	6	GL3 4QU	No
10:00 - 11:30	St Andrew, Whitminster	6	GL2 7PN	No
	St Giles, Maisemore	6	GL2 8EY	No
	St Leonard, Upton St Leonards	8	GL4 8AN	Yes
	St Stephen, Morton Valence	6	GL2 7NB	No
11:00 - 12:30	St Nicholas, Hardwicke	6	GL2 4RP	Yes
	St James, Quedgeley	8	GL2 4PN	No
	St Mary the Virgin, Great Witcombe	6	GL3 4TT	No
	St Nicholas, * Westgate St, Gloucester	6	GL1 2PE	No See note below before attending
12:30 - 14:00	Cathedral, Westgate Street, Gloucester	12	GL1 2LR	Yes

Although there is no ringing, St Mary de Lode, St Mary's Square, Gloucester GL1 2QT should be open to visit.

Some of the morning open towers will provide refreshments and to that end a CASH donation would be welcome.

* By kind permission of The Churches Conservation Trust, the 15cwt ring of 6 at St Nicholas, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2PE will be available from 11:30 until 12:30. These bells are **extremely challenging** and are **not** to be attempted by inexperienced ringers. Donations towards the upkeep of these bells will be greatly appreciated; all ringers that ring at this tower will be encouraged to leave a donation.

Striking competition

Tower teams



Frampton Cotterell



Coalpit Heath



System



Thornbury



Bitton