



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 304

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

Headlines

- 1 Branch Practice and BBQ - Frenchay - 21st June - 1500-1800
- 2 Branch Practice - Iron Acton - 26th July - 1500-1630
- 3 Branch Practice and Cream Tea - details to be confirmed

June - July
2025

Five months in Almondsbury

In the last five months we have had eight ringers for most Sunday services but have almost always rung only six bells. At Monday practise we have had nine or more ringers and almost always rung all eight bells.

Our Alveston contingent have continued to progress and one has rung Stedman Doubles for the first time since he returned to ringing. The rest of the band have rung a Plain Course of Ipswich Surprise Minor and Bourne Surprise Minor for the first time and have again rung a Plain Course of Norwich Surprise Minor, a touch of Cambridge Surprise Minor, and a touch of Spliced St Simon's and St Martin's doubles. The Sunday band have rung their first touch of St Simon's Doubles in 18 months. When not stretching ourselves, we have rung touches of Bob Triples and Grandsire Triples, and a Plain Course (but not a touch) of Stedman Triples. When relaxing we ring Plain Courses of simple doubles methods which are seldom rung (at least by us).

At the beginning of January a visiting Somerset band rang a quarter peal on our bells and enjoyed it so much that they will return to attempt a peal in May.

Adam Mead

Association AGM - Striking Competitions

Croome Trophy (6 bell)

The judge Cameron Waters gave a short and complementary report of the ringing at Churchdown. The bands were placed as follows:

1. Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury. Awarded the Croome Trophy

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.

2. Dursley, Wotton under Edge. Awarded the Great Peter Trophy and the Ringing Master's Scudamore Clapper for ringing Minor

3. St Mark, Cheltenham

4. Cirencester, Cirencester

5. Coalpit Heath, Bristol Rural

6. Purton, Swindon

7. Stroud, Stroud

8. Mickleton, North Cotswold

Penn Trophy (8 bell)



Bristol Rural team: Catherine White-Horne, Elaine Scudamore, Geoff Pick, Alison Holliday, Jodie Hill, Russell Scudamore with Lando, Linda Pick and Matt Johnson.

Another sunny Saturday in April found our eight ringers assembled at Barnwood in Gloucester to represent



Bristol Rural in the Penn Trophy G&B striking competition.

Six teams took part from across the G&B with four branches not represented. We rang 168 changes of Grandsire Triples for our test piece conducted by Russell Scudamore. All the while Lando was running rings around anyone who would stand still long enough, and quite a few who wouldn't, in the sunshine outside.

The judge this time was Daniel Watson, a sixth former from the Oxford area, ably supported by his parents Cheryl and Julian. Here's how they placed the teams with their corresponding number of faults:

Tewkesbury	22
Cirencester	25
Bristol Rural	29
Cheltenham	33
Wotton-under-Edge	35.5
Stroud	81

The ringers' tea was being laid up out of sight behind the meeting so, without the distraction of cake, I was able to make a recording of the judge's comments which were read out by the chairman as the Watson family had returned to their home territory to help run a quiz. Busy people indeed!

The general comments were very positive saying that the standard of ringing by all the teams was very good. Bristol Rural received no negative comments as such; Daniel used the words "excellent ringing" to describe our test piece and said that he particularly enjoyed the reverse rounds.

We are very pleased with our result which puts us in the top half this year, a further improvement on last year's performance. We have an eye on one of the trophies now which would mean coming second at least. Let's see what we can do!

Once again, we rang a quarter peal per month or so during the preceding year in order to improve our striking more consistently as a band. This level of practice is the key to Bristol Rural's promotion up the results table.

If anyone would like to join our merry band next year as we strive to maintain and (hopefully!) improve on our performance this year, please do get in touch with Bill Liebow at secbrisrural@btinternet.com who will be glad to forward your details.

Catherine White-Horne

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 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://cccbr.org.uk/photos/>.

Steve Crane

May Day Bank Holiday Outing

It was a chilly day of sun and cloud when we set off for the North Cotswolds for the Branch annual outing. We rang at towers in some delightful Cotswold villages - Compton Abdale, Withington, Lower Slaughter and Cold Aston - as well as in a couple of larger towns, Northleach and Bourton on the Water. As usual, we rang a full range of methods to suit everyone on the outing - from Rounds and Call Changes to Yorkshire Surprise Major. A good day out!

Chris Greef



At Cold Aston

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.

The Mid-week Geriatrics

The following ode was found by one of the Branch members on the website of The Whiting Society of Ringers (whiting.society.org.uk). Their website has a whole lot of interesting information worth looking at:

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.

Most bands of ringers are bereft
Of under thirties. All that's left
Are pensioners, who cannot go
On and on for years to come, so
We definitely have to see,
That all our efforts need to be:
With vigour not yet seen, in truth:
Directed now at teaching youth.

The mid-week groups of pensioners,
Who tour the land in search of towers:
The geriatric peal bands, too:
Are stuck in ruts as if with glue.
Cannot you see that ten years on,
To Heaven many will be gone.
Why do you bury heads in sand?
Those left on earth won't make a band.
What do you think you're going to do?
Ring Minimus, and singles, too?

You have to change your attitude.
We haven't got much latitude –
Although the message you deride –
Five years at most to turn the tide
Of neglect and indifference.
Wake up! And make a difference.
Wake up! Wake up! The time is now.
If you love ringing, make a vow,
Before you're all in cemeteries,
To re-think your priorities.
You'll be a hero, if unsung,
When you begin to teach the young.

You don't see why you should, you say.
Young folk taught these days do not stay
The course, as you did years ago,
When there was little else to do.
In fact, this doesn't have much clout.
It's just excuses, trotted out.
The ringing you enjoy each day
You owe to teachers passed away.
The debt you owe you must repay.
To teach young ringers is the way.

The Whiting Society of Ringers

VE Day 80 Ringing

Branch ringers were heavily involved in ringing to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. I know several who spent the day chasing around from one tower to another. I may have missed some towers if they didn't record their ringing on Bellboard but my list includes Abson, Almondsbury, Alveston, Bitton, Frampton Cotterell, Frenchay, Pucklechurch, Syston, Thornbury, Tytherington, Warmley, Westerleigh and Winterbourne. The bells at Yate and Whitehall (St. Ambrose), both outside the Branch, were also rung by Branch members. All the details and more pictures can be found on the



The Thornbury VE Day band



The Bitton VE Day band

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)

Coalpit Heath - 1260 Grandsire Triples
2000th quarter peal congratulations to Geoff Pick

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
First quarter after returning to ringing after many years -
Lawrence Roberts (5) and Julie Jackson (6)

Frampton Cotterell - 1380 Mixed Doubles (Emerald
Wedding, Plain Bob, April Day, Reverse Canterbury)
Rung to celebrate the Emerald Wedding of Gill & Chris
Greef

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
First in method for Madeleine R Jefferis (3).
Emerald Wedding compliment to Chris & Gill Greef

Frenchay - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
To celebrate the Emerald Wedding of Gill & Chris Greef