Tower Captain/ Representative n Meeting 31st March 2015 St Peter’s Frampton Cotterell

Update on the 24/05/2015 below:

Update on the position with cameras on 28/10/2015 see below:

The meeting was opened at 19.35 by the branch Chairman.

He thanked the members present for attending: the following towers had attendees:

Frenchay Winterbourne Pucklechurch Tytherington Almondsbury, Mangotsfield, Frampton, Abson, Warmley.

Apologies received from Glenys Cowie, David Haslum, Derek Smith and Ryan Price.

The Chairman first congratulated Pucklechurch for winning the 2015 Tower of the year Competition and Tytherington for winning the branch striking competition who will go forward to the Croome trophy at Langley Burrell.

The Chairman then introduced the meeting Agenda and started on the first item
There was lots of talk on each agenda item, I have only produced the major topics!
 **Training.**
The volunteer group was introduced at the 2014 AGM, it has now been involved in two training/tower practices Pucklechurch and Almondsbury, it was thought both sessions were very successful, it awaits calls from other towers to assist where and when required.
Hilda Shipp suggested that we approach Coalpit Heath tower as it seems to currently the tower with the most skill on eight bells and arrange a monthly practice for all aspiring 8 bell ringers on more advanced methods, they do meet short at times on their practice night and this might also help them out.
The Saturday morning trainings are there for anyone or tower to ask for a particular method.
Junior ringing is very important to the branch, it was suggested we hold junior ringing sessions during school holidays, perhaps combining with adjacent branches to increase the numbers? Secretary to send an email suggesting this with proposed dates for the summer holidays to gauge any interest!
This discussion came up at the end of the meeting, but I feel this is where it should be.
 At Frampton about 3 years ago we ran a “Train the Teacher” course when Steve Coleman taught a 60 year old to handle a bell in 2 hours very successfully. It was felt we might perhaps have a rerun of this course; Steve requires a student who has never handled a bell rope before. If you have a recruit who fits this perhaps you can let us/me know and we will try and set up a session with Steve dependant on how many people would like to learn to teach bell handling?
**Recruitmen**t.
Apart from people just arriving and saying they want to learn to ring the open day format seems to be the way forward. (See DoE below) at an individual tower level and as a branch activity!
**Local TV and Radio Advertising**.
With the sad loss of Sue Liebow as a press officer it was felt we should ask for a volunteer to replace her.
Bill Liebowsaid he would be prepared to help a new Publicity Officer - at the very least he could explain the scope of what Sue did.
Steve crane suggested that we approach the West of England University to see if we could find a student to produce a document we could use to advertise ringing!
**ART**.
There really was not much of a view on this as no one has any experience of the organisation. Alan Coombs our ringing master is intending to go to one of their sessions at Yatton, he will report back?
The only real comment that seemed general was that we do not want to get into a situation where only people with a certificate to teach ringing are allowed to teach. Steve Crane made the comment that Marcus Booth a ringer at Almondsbury and who works for the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company says there is no intention for this to happen at present.

**DoE learners**. (Duke of Edinburgh)
Two towers present this evening had been involved in various levels of training for this award. In both cases it was felt that the effort put in to the students was probably wasted as not one of the students in either tower became a Sunday ringer or continued coming to practice having achieved there DoE level of achievement. Frampton currently have one being trained as well as his mother, he is not yet at a level to ring for services yet or his mother. We will report back on the outcome!
Under DoE, Gary wondered whether we would retain young recruits better if we had our own proficiency certificate.
Gary Crisp wondered whether we would retain young DoE recruits better if we had our own proficiency certificate.

**The Alan Pidgeon Legacy.**After the AGM a number of ideas were put forward as to what we should do with Alan’s money, the most popular at the time seemed to be a simulator. However the secretary made a further suggestion which
he felt would probably advertise ringing to the general public. If it is possible to produce perhaps a portable system to use webcams to show the bells ringing, also in the ringing chamber to show the ringers performing with a screen in the body of the church to show the bells rotating and the ringers ringing.
The chairman suggested we went away and produced a feasibility and proposal to put to the AGM.
**Heritage Day Proposal**.
Earlier in the year we were all asked if our towers would take part in the Heritage day in September by opening ringing up to the Public? Unfortunately this idea fell flat due to the onerous limitations that seemed to be imposed on the PCC’s for each church involved, and was cancelled.
It does seem however that the rules being imposed are not intended to apply to ringing and the rules are being rewritten as we wait, we will wait until we see the outcome. The secretary proposed that perhaps we could use Frenchay tower as it does seem to meet the criteria before the rewrite. We will follow this up.
Our Chairman also proposed that next year 2016 we could perhaps also take part in the Heritage day at Winterbourne by engaging a mini ring and with permission of the Winterbourne Barn trustees install it in the Barn. This idea will also be followed up.
Whilst involved in Heritage days the secretary asked how many present had been involved in producing risk appraisals, several had, and will forward them to the Secretary, who has four appraisals produced by Linda Gittings for an open day at Abson, the four Risk Appraisals are now on the branch web site under <Branch affairs> also a page of notes for non ringing visitors!
**VE Day**.
The secretary had circulated to all tower contacts a request from the government via the Central Council to ring all church bells at 11am on the 9th of May or at some time during the weekend to celebrate 70 years after VE day.
Whilst the meeting took this on board, I received no feel as to what might happen.
**Ringing World**.
The secretary raised the point that the Ringing World the ringer’s newspaper is considering in what form to continue as its readership is now only about 2800 subscribers! It is becoming unviable in its present form unless its readership increases significantly.
Whilst I think 5 members and one tower present subscribe the general view of the meeting was it will have to change to survive!

Below the link to the notes from the Tower Captain Meeting on the 31st March at St Peter’s Frampton.

<http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/branchminutes/2015/Tower%20Captain%20Meeting%20March%202015.docx>

An update on the actions that I took the liberty of allocating to Branch Officers!

Hilda approaches Coalpit Heath Tower re a monthly  session on a Wednesday!
Closed, email; circulated and information in the May newsletter!

Secretary sends out an email about young ringers ringing in the school holidays!

Email sent out no responses to this yet

Secretary advertises for a publicity officer replacement, but feels a direct approach to
someone who is suitable would be the best way forward, any suggestions for a replacement?

Poster placed in the May Newsletter, but please canvas people you think might be suitable!

Secretary advertises a ”Train the Teacher” course for any takers?
Arranged a Course, this will take place on the 30th May at Frampton Cotterell 09.45 – 12.15

Chris approaches the West of England University re advertising ringing!
In Prgress

DoE Alan Coombs reports back on the ART course he expects to attend!

No information yet

Mary York and Gary Crisp report back on the DoE student at Frampton! (May be some time)

As above could be some time?

Secretary and treasurer investigate the possibility of displaying ringing to the public via cameras in the bells!

Have found a suitable WIFi camera we think will do, still under investigation.

Heritage days Alan investigates an open day 2015 at Frenchay with Edna Cause!
No information to date

Chris investigates Heritage Day 2016 at Winterbourne Barn.

Under investigation

Secretary to advertise the VE day ringing on May 9th

Information in the May Newsletter and email sent out previously.

If you feel you have input to any of the actionees above do please contact them?
If you have an update to your action please copy it to all branch officers to keep them in the loop!
Regards
Tony

**Cameras 28/10/2015**

Just to put you all in the picture about cameras.

At the 2014 AGM ideas were asked for to use the Alan Pidgeon donation, one of the suggestions was to try and put together a camera system which was portable to move around the Rural Branch towers to use at events in which ringing was involved to advertise to the general public who generally only hear bells and normally do not see the ringers so have no idea at all what is involved.

Below is where we are with this proposal:

Back in early August I purchased two WIFI camera’s and a termination box to feed a TV screen.
From the off the camera’s appeared to give a poor picture which was very purple, not at all like the ones that I had seen in use and the reason for buying these particular ones.
Alan Coombs and I tried the cameras out at Frampton where WIFI reception to the ringing chamber from the bells was almost nonexistent; this was from above the bells and frame with three floors or ceilings between the transmitter and the receiver to the TV screen.
Not to be to outdone we then went to Mangotsfield where the WIFI signal from above the bells and frame to the ringing chamber was acceptable with only one ceiling, though again the picture was very purple and did not display colour very well.
We then on another day went to Wapley where e we had hoped to have our first public airing at the Agincourt celebrations on October 25th. Again the WIFI signal to the ground floor ringing chamber was not too bad, but again we felt the picture quality and colour loss were not good this at Wapley was from above the bells and bell frame and two ceilings in between.

The outcome of this was I returned the camera’s to the supplier and had a full refund less the postage!

We discussed this at the Branch officers meeting in early October and it was obvious that with out purchasing the equipment we would never know how camera’s would perform.

Subsequent to the meeting Alan Coombs went to Maplin’s and purchased a two camera wire system which, included two camera’s, two by 50ft cables and a computer based termination unit to feed a TV or a computer, this was quite a bit more expensive than the previous two camera WIFI system.
We tried this out at Wapley recently, from above the bells with the cable running down the steps of the tower to the termination computer the camera definition was very good even when just used with the infra red facility, the bells were extremely clear, and with the lights on the red headstocks were clearly defined, and camera definition was extremely good. After this test we did purchase two more 50ft cables.

Prior to the Agincourt celebration on the 25th October we installed the camera’s ran the cables down the tower steps to the computer termination unit and the TV.

On the 25th of October the system was left on all day at the tower and gained a lot of interest from the public who attended the celebrations. The bells were rung at Wapley from 10.00 – 1030 to start the day, a quarter peal at 13.00 and for service at 17.15 – 18..00.
We could perhaps have made more of the day by having leaflets available and perhaps tying a bell and giving demonstrations this was suggest early on in the arrangements but did not actually happen.