

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Branch Practice and Ringers Christmas Service  
Frampton Cotterell **Not Alveston**
2. Branch Management changes
3. 2009 Branch Program approved at the AGM

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday  
4th December

Christmas Outing to Cheltenham  
for details ring Ruth Welch

Branch Ringing December

13th December

**Branch Practice and  
Ringers Christmas Service  
Frampton Cotterell**

Come along Gary said its going to be  
different they will even have a blue  
guitar.

Ringling 15.30 Service 17.00

Followed by Mincepies, tea, coffee or  
wine.



**27th December**

Christmas Branch Practice  
Thornbury 14.30 - 16.30

All Welcome

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

### Rural Branch AGM

22nd November Mangotsfield

Brief notes on the major changes, the  
full minutes can be seen on the  
branch website under branch affairs  
and are available now .

The main change is the branch man-  
agement committee. Gary Crisp the  
Ringing Master has become the Dep-  
uty Ringing Master and Rosemary  
Morgan the deputy RM has become  
the Ringing Master so they have just  
swapped around. We wish Rosemary  
every success in her role as Ringing  
Master. Secondly Arch Andrews the  
Twig for Far West has been replaced  
by Rosemary Ruddick who rings at  
Olveston and is now twig for Al-  
mondsbury Filton Olveston Alveston  
and Tytherington,

We had 11 towers represented, we  
had no representatives from Abson,  
Almondsbury, Alveston, Puck-  
lechurch, Thornbury, Tytherington,  
Warmley, or Westerleigh.

We did have apologies from a couple  
of those towers.

The 2009 program was approved and  
will be published shortly.

Finally the May day outing will be to  
the Cheltenham area organised by  
the Ringing Master and Deputy.

### Have your Say

At the AGM the Ringing Master Gary  
Crisp produced a form for branch  
members to be able to comment on the  
way the branch is run. A number of  
ringers at the meeting completed the  
forms and returned them. To give all of  
you the opportunity to have your say I  
have put the form on the branch web  
site from where you can download a  
pdf copy or a word copy. All you have  
to do is go to the web site select  
recent changes, look for the date  
20/11/2008 and either click the date  
for the pdf copy or read the line and  
select click here for the word copy. I  
have also attached the form to the  
email I sent the newsletter to you all  
with.

Do take the opportunity to give your  
views and return the word version via  
email to Rosemary Morgan or Gary  
Crisp, or take it along to a branch  
practice and hand it over.



A pleasant but sad event took place for  
the branch when the Chris Grief  
made a presentation to Paul Grainger-  
Allen of a small gift for all his hard work  
in the branch through the years, Paul is  
about to leave us for good when he  
emigrates just before Christmas to  
New Zealand. I am sure we wish  
Lorene and Paul well on this momen-  
tums move.

He will be missed in the branch.

*I received the following from Paul.*

### My last rural branch AGM

As many of you will probably know by  
now I will emigrating to New Zealand  
just before Christmas so Saturdays  
AGM was the last one that I will be  
attending. Last week I was not sure I  
could face going as I am not good with  
farewells especially such a final one.  
However I am glad that I did go say  
goodbye to those who were there.

I was also extremely surprised and  
pleased to receive the plaque, it will  
get pride of place on my desk when it  
gets set up in our new house. I would  
very much like to thank those  
members of the branch that have  
worked so hard to produce such an  
attractive and meaningful item.

I started ringing 26 years ago after I  
gave up Scottish dancing ( the legs  
could not take it any more) and I have  
enjoyed my ringing very much. Bell  
ringing is quite a unique hobby and  
that means it seems to attract a  
unique, interesting, likable and  
companionable bunch of people. The  
other day someone asked me if there  
was anything I was going to miss and I  
have to say that I don't think there is  
except my ringing and the great  
companionship of the friends I have  
acquired in the branch. Thankfully with  
email I hope to be able maintain  
contact and I can also access the  
branch web site to keep up to date with  
your ringing activities. Best wishes to  
you all.

Paul Grainger-Allen.

**PTO**

## Abson St James the Great Bristol Rural Branch

All Souls Day November the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 was a special day at Abson South Gloucestershire; it was the day the recast treble was dedicated.

The story started back in early 2007 when the treble bell cast in 1802 and rehung in 1926 was heard and found to be cracked. The crack was getting bigger and bell hanger Matthew Higby was engaged to advise, and suggested the bell was recast. This gave rise to a number of problems which required solutions. The first was the money required to recast the treble. The local church committee with local ringers started on this task. Secondly floors did not have traps to remove the bell, and thirdly the Abson tower steps

painting by hand.

July 11<sup>th</sup> was the day four ringers went to see the new treble cast at Whitechapel, the new bell incorporated part of the old bell metal.

Whitechapel said the metal was like aero chocolate when the old bell was broken up.

With the frame painting and bell chamber cleaning complete the bell fittings were replaced, the wheels were repaired with new shrouds, new soles and garter holes where required, as well as new slider ends which were all produced by a local pattern maker and ringer.

The 25<sup>th</sup> of September was the date the treble was returned and put back in its home after being blessed and christened by the local clergy.

All Souls day 2008 was the big day when the treble was rededicated at a special service conducted by Canon David Sansum with over seventy ringers including a number of ringers from days gone by and locals attending the dedication service. After open ringing a quarter was rung to celebrate the event by local ringers.

Abson St James the Great Bristol Rural Branch  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Mary Taylor
  2. Jennifer Rogers
  3. Brian Angell
  4. Bryn Shackleton Conductor
  5. Paul Grainger-Allen
  6. Mary York
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter after the recasting of the treble,  
Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Taylor  
Husband of Mary Taylor the treble ringer.



Above are two ex ringers at Abson Edward Mould and Nigel Smart, there were several others whose pictures I did not get Barry Angell and Linda Gittings(Stowe) look at the history file on the web site.

This is the last newsletter of 2008 so may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the the Rural Branch Management team and hope to see you all at a branch activity in 2009.



were almost unusable having been severely worn over the years. The repair of the steps was started in June 2007 and over fifty steps were repaired by November by the ringers. By this time about £8000.00 had been raised or promised, and a faculty to replace the bell had been obtained, so the go ahead was given remove the bell. The bell fittings were removed from the treble and the two. The two had to be taken out of its pit to allow the treble to go down, and at the same time the clappers from the other four bells were removed for them to be refurbished. Parishioners' in the meantime had made openings in the floors to allow the bell to be lowered. When the bells became un-ringable due to the work being carried out, the regular Wednesday morning practices moved to the local church at Wapley to who we were most grateful.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 the bell was removed for recasting. While the bell was away it was decided to have the frame grit blasted and repainted. A salutatory warning if you intend to have this done: be aware it makes a terrible mess, but when you have cleaned up you finish up with a far better job than

Below the ringers at Abson.



**SEASONS  
GREETINGS**