

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

1. Abson Treble away to be recast
2. G & B Nibley trophy 28th June no details yet
3. May Day outing report
4. Remember the Branch Young Persons training day on July 26th

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

Thursday June 5th

Bromsberrow

Eastnor

Coddington

Colwall

Arranged by Owen Barraclough

For full details see the rural Branch Website web address at top of the page.

Branch Ringing June

June 7th afternoon in Bath

Arrangements (subject to confirmation) are:

Bath Abbey 2.15-3.15 (only time available)

Bath Abbey Tower 3.15-3.45

Bathwick 4.30-5.30

St. Michaels 6.00(ish)-7.00 (only time available)

See over for full details

Branch Practice

June 21st 19.00 - 21.00 (a week early) Thornbury



G & B Ringing

28th Nibley trophy (young persons striking competition) Swindon Branch

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Branch Meeting and BBQ

Saturday May 17th

Dawn broke grey and overcast, threatening rain – just what you would expect in England when you have planned a barbecue! However, undeterred by the weather and with true British stoicism, about twenty people turned up at the Frenchay Branch practice and afterwards at the barbecue in the churchyard. After ringing, we turned to the important business of eating and drinking, chicken, sausag-

es, bacon, veggie burgers, bread rolls, salads, baked bananas, toasted marshmallows, decidedly alcoholic fruit jellies, fruit juice, beer, wine – an excellent spread. In the absence of any formal business for a half yearly meeting it simply fell to me to thank the Frenchay ringers for hosting the event.

Sadly, it started to rain towards the end of the evening. The Frenchay ringers were unanimous that it was the chairman's responsibility to lay on appropriate weather. I therefore offer my humblest apologies to the Branch for failing in my duty!

Thank you to all who turned up.

Chris Greef

May Day Outing 2008

This year we went to Tewkesbury + 5 village towers along the A38 corridor. The 1st tower of the day was Quedgeley where the ringing room is small and upstairs. At one point in a break in the ringing I looked down from top of stairs into the ringing room there was just 1 mass of heads and I counted 25 at that stage. By the time we got to the spacious ringing room at Tewkesbury Abbey numbers had swelled to 38. These bells are lovely and the ringing was quite commendable, especially as few of us were not accustomed to ringing on 12 bells or ringing together.



During the afternoon we rang bells at Tredington; At Tredington which had a wooden tower, and had the strange characters opposite looking down on us as we waited to ring. The Leigh; Priors Norton and Sandhurst – all very conveniently positioned along the A38. There was a good convivial atmosphere throughout the day and I hope all who came enjoyed themselves. Thank you to everyone who



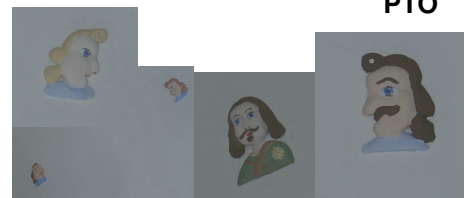
sent an email or note of appreciation after the event.

Rosemary Morgan. Deputy Ringing Master

Musings of an Elderly Slow Learner

I recently went to a branch practice. All the expert ringers who can do stuff were, as usual, very kind and helpful, and I had a lovely time. BUT... also as usual, I was by far the least competent person there. Now, I'm not particularly bothered about that; someone has to be at the bottom of the class, and it might as well be me - after nearly three years my skin has thickened up nicely (figuratively and, in some parts, literally). But I can't help wondering where all the other Not-Very-Young Non-Experts are. (I hesitate to brand them all as ESL's.) I know they exist because I've met some on Association training days. And, obviously, people have lives and can't get to all the branch activities. But you'd think one or two of them might appear occasionally. Wouldn't you? So I fell to pondering about why my habits seem to be different from the others. Could they all be shrinking violets? Or not sufficiently enthusiastic - not everyone is as sadly obsessed as I am. But you have to be pretty keen and not entirely shrinking to weather the first stages of terror and bewilderment. And embarrassment. Not to mention the despair. So I don't think it can be that. Perhaps they think that branch do's aren't a suitable place for them to be? That they're only for the experts? That was a view I held for a while, until I realised that if you're an ESL there is

PTO



a significant risk of dying of old age before getting to grips with Bob doubles unless you get all the practice you can. Which would be a pity.

Maybe they are reluctant to be the weakest link. Well, hardly anyone need fear that while I'm around. And honestly, it's actually not that bad when you get used to it. As I have.

It would be nice to meet kindred spirits for some shared hand-wringing.

Or forming a self-help group. There seems to be a huge leap between learning the thing on the page in the tranquillity of your armchair and suddenly having to remember it all without pause for thought while trying to look in several directions at once and handle the bell. I've been wondering if talking circles might provide a helpful transition. At least it wouldn't annoy the neighbours. But it would take half a dozen or so N-V-Y N-E's. And apparently there aren't that many out there. Unless someone knows otherwise.....

Many Thanks to the ESL who sent this to me perhaps we should have ESL practices only.

Abson's treble leaves the tower

Wednesday 5th of May was the day, the steps had all been repaired the holes in the ringing chamber and the ringing chamber ceiling had all been made. The wheels and clappers on the one and two had been removed, the relevant bolts had all been adequately oiled and loosened, the floor trap in the bell chamber had been opened as had the holes in the rooms below, and the insurance for the helpers had all been arranged. The helpers arrived at about 09.30 there were eight of us the most important being Mary and Margaret as they had the makings for the tea and coffee. At about ten o'clock the bell hangers/removers arrived and unloaded there van, the helpers were then busy moving wooden blocks buckets of pulleys and chains, strops and tools up the tower some were pulled up with chain and rope hoists when they were installed. It did not seem long once the bell hangers were organised before the second was out of its pit

and stacked out of the way (you can just see the second on the left of the picture) Out came the treble and down it went on to a trolley and into the van. What has all the fuss been about it was all over by 12.30 and had gone away to be recast. Whilst the bell was being taken out the clappers from the other four bells were removed and went with the bell to be refurbished by Mathew Higby .



Below you can see the crack in the treble, there are more pictures on the branch web site.



Arrangements for the Afternoon in Bath on June 7th

(subject to confirmation) are:

Bath Abbey 2.15 - 3.15 (only time available)

Bath Abbey Tower 3.15-3.45

Tea? (If you can afford it, in Bath!)

Bathwick 4.30 - 5.30

St . Michaels 6.00(ish)-7.00 (only time available)

Bathwick is 10 minutes smart walk, 20 minutes leisurely walk, from the Abbey.

The late time at St. Michaels is because June 7th is the last day of the Bath Music Festival and there is a performance of something at St. Michaels at 5.00-6.00 ish. We shall be ringing the audience out at the end. We cannot ring beforehand because the performers will be having final rehearsals during the afternoon.

For the Abbey we DO NOT meet at the normal public entrance at the west end of the Abbey (the Baths end)

BUT

at a small door at the north east end, (Orange Grove) by the taxi rank. The door will almost certainly have to be locked sometime shortly after 2.15 as it cannot be left unmanned as tourists will think they can get in that way. So, prompt arrival five to ten minutes early is essential.

Park and Ride:

Lansdown - every 15 minutes; journey time 10 minutes; bus sets down in Milsom St. Last bus back, 8.30

Newbridge - every 10 minutes (every 15 after 6.15); journey time 10 minutes; bus sets down at Westgate Buildings. Last bus back, 8.30