

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

1. May Day Outing
2. The Frampton 50
3. Mangotsfield Tower ringing has resumed until further notice.
4. Poster for the Branch Practice and BBQ at Abson attached

Farcited Thursday, 6th June

11.00- 12.00 Knowle, Holy Nativity 8

BS4 2AG ST602714

12.00 - 14.00 Lunch

Toby Carvery, Whitchurch, about 3 miles up the A37

14.00- 15.00 Brislington, St. Luke, 6 code

BS4 5AZ ST621708 Parking in front of the church and the church hall across the road

Branch Ringing

12th Training Day Wednesday evening

22nd Branch Practice

Abson and BBQ (poster attached)

15.00 - late



Chipping Sodbury Ringing
3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00



Dear Secretaries and Branch Secretaries,
There is no doubt the campaign has had its best year and all thanks to your support through your Guilds and Associations encouraging your wonderful ringers to take

part. It is slowly, but very surely, capturing the imagination of the public and the correspondence I received was always positive.

The response from the media was also of surprise that such a delightful idea existed and, fortunately, many took up the challenge and ran with it. We had very good coverage from regional BBC radio stations where they did live broadcasts and indeed I was involved in several live interviews. With other radio stations and the odd local tv network and regional newspapers we were covered remarkably well. This is why I request the towers that are going to participate so that I can encourage the media to take an interest. Also I am able to put them in direct contact with the appropriate ringer who then, as often did happen, was given a live interview.

The only disappointment was from the national media. I fail to understand why they could not see this as a most happy and positive event

joining communities together across the nation in celebration through the generosity of such a wonderful network as your ringers. There was one glimmer of hope in that Chris Evans in his Breakfast Show did call his listeners to go out and join in the campaign.

I am enormously indebted to you all for making this a growing event that is beginning to capture the public's imagination and hope you will continue such stalwart support into next year and help develop the campaign into a truly national event. With My Very Best Wishes and Gratitude
– Libby Alexander

Libby Alexander

Ringing for England Campaign

www.ringingforengland.co.uk

Contact : 07799 23 04 23

Alan Coombs Birthday

A big 60th birthday surprise for Alan Coombs

When the Bath ringer Alan Coombs climbed the steps to Marksbury tower on 5th March, he was expecting to find a band assembled ready to ring a quarter peal with him in honour of his 60th birthday. Alan had no idea that his family had been making plans for the events of the evening for several months and his quarter peal attempt was the last thing they had in mind! It all started back in November when Alan's daughter Sarah contacted Nicki Williams, one of her dad's fellow Marksbury ringers, to say that the family thought that that it would be a fantastic surprise for Alan's 60th if they could ring with him and asked if it would be possible to teach them all. Nicki enlisted the help of tower captain Robert Perry and the secret ringing lessons began for

the group of five Alan's three children Simon, Steve and Sarah, along with Sarah's partner Ant Webb and Simon's partner Kirsty Kneale. They worked hard, made very fast progress and quickly moved on from the initial 'tied' sessions, even visiting some other nearby towers to practice on different bells. Simon and Ant were also able to help out with Sunday service ringing at Marksbury when they knew Alan would not be there. All this took very careful management so that Alan would not find out or get a suspicion that anything strange was going on, especially as Alan is the steeple keeper at Marksbury and often pops up to the tower if he is passing by, to check on things.

Everyone half-expected him to turn up out of the blue one night but the weeks went by



and the secret stayed safe. Alan's wife Lesley was invaluable in helping with babysitting and keeping a check on Alan's whereabouts and put her own ringing lessons on hold so that the secret wouldn't leak out. Marksbury ringer Jon Storey also came along to join in and help as the group progressed. Alan's face was a picture when he walked into the tower on the evening of his birthday and initially he looked a little puzzled when the bells suddenly started. Then he looked around the tower, slowly took in the fact that his family were all ringing and could hardly believe his eyes! It was such a proud moment for them all to be able to ring some call changes together and as Alan said afterwards, a moment he will never forget. The birthday quarter peal attempt that 'never was' paled into insignificance! It was a perfect evening.

The new recruits lowered the bells and the party headed off for a birthday meal where Alan was surprised for the second time that evening by the appearance of a huge 'bell' cake and everyone breathed a huge sigh of relief that the secret had stayed under wraps until the big day!

NICKI WILLIAMS

April 19, 2013 The Ringing World – 393

David Perrett at 90

David at his 90th Birthday Party, with the Bitton Ringers who rang for him. David was a Bitton Ringer for many years and also a long term member of the Farcited group.



Frenchay Outing to Whitechapel Bell Foundry

On April 27th a party of 25 ringers and friends set out by coach from Frenchay Church. The weather was kind to us and remained dry for our early lunch stop at Chiswick Gardens, where there was a chance to look round the grounds and either have a picnic or lunch in the restaurant. We drove along the embankment at snail's pace, owing to road works at Vauxhall Bridge – a good opportunity for seeing the sights - and arrived at Whitechapel just in time for our slot. We were given a very interesting one and a half hour tour by the owner Alan Hughes – who was willing to answer any questions. We were amazed that the workshop passed health and safety standards – BUT they are still in business after 583 years, and 443 of them on that site! I guess they should know what they are doing by now!

Our driver elected to take us back through the city rather than along the embankment again, and so our London sightseeing tour continued. Congratulations to Sheelagh and Stewart Duncan who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary by coming on our trip.

Edna Cause

Frenchay Tower

May Day Outing 2013

Monday 6th May 2013 was a beautiful sunny day, wonderful for a bell ringing outing. The first tower visited was Shepton Mallet, an eight bell tower. Parking was quite difficult. The tower was unusually shaped and very



Whitechapel

detailed, with a top that looked like a little pyramid. As this was the first tower of the outing I counted the number of ringers and we set the fee at £4. One ringer, Dan, was

It was quite small despite having ten bells, and there wasn't really enough space for everyone to move around. It was also unusually decorated with yellow painted walls, and curtains, like in



Bruton

cycling all the way between towers! Pilton, also with eight bells, was the next tower, and the weather was getting a lot warmer. But Chris, the Chairman, nearly didn't make this tower because when our "organiser" (Dad!) asked him to be in charge he told Chris the wrong tower and number of bells! Apparently Don (Haskins) once rang a peal here and had to lean against the wall to stop his trousers falling down! At Evercreech, tower number three, it was a very different ringing room.

a house, covering the windows. The main church down below was also very colourful with high ornately painted ceilings. After a one hour lunch break everyone arrived at Pylle, tower number four. The ringing room in this tower was very much like Almondsbury. The spiral steps went higher than the room, and then you had to come down some steps to get to the ropes. Pylle had just six bells.

At church number five, Ditchat, there was plenty of room to move around. Near to the church was a pub with



Three more at Bruton

several recognisable faces outside it having a drink! Ditchheat had eight bells. The stairs up to the tower had no lights and the outside of the church was covered in gargoyles with funny faces. The tower rocked quite a bit, and just as the ringing ended a rope broke! The last tower on the day was Bruton. It had six bells, a very large ringing room and plenty of light. The bells at this tower were VERY HEAVY! This is where we took the photograph of all the ringers. And we saw a bat flying around in the church.

In the end everyone went home smiling after a wonderful day out. And special thanks to Sue Jay for being a very nice person, which of course she is, and I promised I would tell everyone

Julia Crane (12)

May I add a thanks to Steve, Julia's Dad for organising the whole day and getting the weather exactly right!

Will you do it again, please.

The Frampton 50

A big Thank You to all Branch Members, Friends, Choir, Organist, Vicar, and Ringers past who came to the Frampton50 Celebration on Saturday May 18th.

Two successful quarters were rung as planned to open and close the event. Between the quarters the opportunity to go to the top of the tower was made available.

There was plenty of ringing with several long lapsed ringers refreshing their skill at bell handling and those who had never tried to handle a bell before gaining a new experience. Refreshments were available throughout the day and were enjoyed by all.

Handbells were available for those wishing

to try, as was a DVD introducing bell handling available to be watched!

A magnificent tea followed the service with lots of chatting among people who had not crossed paths in a long time. Members of the Drew family were present. The Drew's were actively involved with fund raising and practical work during the rehang in 1963, they attended "The Bristol School of Bell Ringing" Organised by a Mr. Bennet at St. Johns in the Wall Church in Bristol.

It was disappointing that more Branch Members were not able or wanted to come. It would appear RSVP on an invitation is no longer the done thing as the number of replies received were very few. Donations from our Frampton 50 Year are being given to Church Funds, to date we have given £650.00.

Thank you to everybody taking part by ringing quarters or joining in with the quarters in which Frampton ringers have been sponsored.

The number of quarters rung will be well up to 30 by the time you read this newsletter, so if you or your tower would like to have a quarter in the Frampton 50 please book as soon as possible!

The Frampton Ringers

Quarters 23 and 24 and pictures.

Frampton Cotterell St Peter's
Saturday, 18 May 2013
1260 60 Stedman, 240 St Simon's,
240 St Martin's, 240 Reverse Canterbury, 480 plain bob doubles

- 1 Linda Gittings
- 2 Sue Jay
- 3 Steve Crane
- 4 Martin S Pearson
- 5 Bill Liebow (C)
- 6 Richard Sleeman

Rung by the Bristol Rural Branch officers for the Frampton 50 celebrations day. 100th quarter for 4.



Frampton Cotterell St Peter's

Saturday, 18 May 2013

1260 Stedman Doubles

1 Steve Coleman (C)

2 Hugh Evans

3 Martin S Pearson

4 Sue Coleman

5 Hazel Bridges

6 Phillip Twentyman

Rung by the officers of the Gloucester and Bristol Association for the Frampton 50 celebrations.

Gift Aid Small Donations

If you would like information about the GASDS scheme for gift aid it is available on the branch website under Branch affairs and letters received by the secretary!

Mangotsfield Ringing

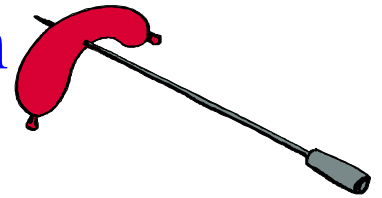
Ringing is taking place at Mangotsfield tower again until the repairs to the steeple are started!

Many Thanks to the contributors to the newsletter this month.

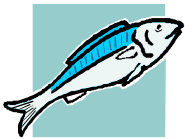
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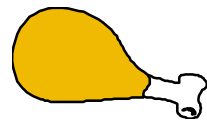
Bristol Rural Branch



Branch Practice and BBQ



Abson



Collins Farm

Thanks to the Taylor Family

Saturday June 22nd 2013

Ringling 15.00 - 17.00

BBQ 17.00 -

