



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers
The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

0316 No 229

Headlines web site www.bristolrural.co.uk email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

1. Striking Competition Change of Venue Compton Dando not Stinchcombe

March
2016

Published on the 4th Saturday

Farcited Ringing

March 3rd. Maps 171 172 182
10.30 - 11.15 Clapton in Gordano St. Michael
6 (8) cwt (GF) T BS20 7RQ 467735
11.45 - 12.30 Tickenham St Quiricus & St.
Julieta 6 (14) GF T BS21 6SX 457714
Lunch Ring of Bells Nailsea Menu later.
14.30 - 15.15 Nailsea Holy Trinity
6(10) T BS48 4NG.466699.

Branch Ringing.

19th Striking Competition
14.00 - 16.30(Branch) Compton Dando
Compton Dando Map 172 ST646647
Post Code BS39 4LB



No Branch Practice in March
20th - 26th Holy Week

Tower Captain Meeting

Make sure you are represented at the
tower Captain meeting at the end of
March 22, 23, or 24th, probably the 22nd.
Most people who have responded are
available on that date, so that **your** views
are represented.

Chipping Sodbury Ringing 3rd Friday.

Association Training Day

March 12th Cirencester

What is a Twig!

I thought it might be of interest to our ringers
how the TWIG became established and why!!
Back in 2003/4 the then Ringing Master re-
signed due to personal circumstances and at
the time we were unable to find a replace-
ment.

The branch management committee ar-
ranged a tower Captain meeting, after a long
debate we divided the branch into areas with
approximately the same number of towers in
each, then appointed four volunteers to act
as a liaison for the four groups.

The name of Twig was coined by Gary Crisp
being part of a branch and it stuck.

The role might be:

1. To be a contact from the group of towers
to the branch committee.
2. To visit on an irregular basis each of the
towers in their group.
3. To ascertain with the tower captain the
towers needs on:

- a. Training requirements.
- b. Make arrangements with the Chairman,
Ringing Master or Deputy as appropriate
a suitable tower for the groups training days
and the methods, in consultation with the
tower captains.
- c. Any special needs of a tower.
- d. Any difficulties a tower might be experi-
encing. . Bring these observations to the at-
tention of the branch committee.

4. Twigs would occasionally produce input
for the branch newsletter on the activities
training days or outings of the towers in their
group.

Twigs would attend the Branch committee
meetings which are held as and when re-
quired but primarily in October to prepare the
following year's program and arrange the
annual branch AGM agenda.

Tower Groups

Bitton, Warmley, Syston and Mangotsfield.,

Sue Elliott

Abson, Dyrham Pucklechurch, Wapley and
Westerleigh. **Mary York**

Frampton, Coalpit Heath, Winterbourne, and
Iron Acton **Gary Crisp**

Almondsbury, Filton, Tytherington, Thorn-
bury, Alveston, and Filton **Steve Crane**

Branch Striking Competition 2015

You will see we have changed the venue for
this years striking competition! Its not quite as
short notice as last year but here are a couple
of reasons for the change. Over the last cou-
ple of years several people have said to us
why do you not choose towers with a loo, and
facilities ie a kitchen. Whilst perhaps a branch
practice can take place in a tower without facil-
ities if you are going to be about for two or
three hours perhaps in this day and age they
are essential. Our ringing master visited the
tower recently at their practice night and
thought the parking was not adequate for per-
haps the numbers who might be attending and
the nearest loo would have been a mile away
in the village hall even if it had been open? So
we made the decision to change even though
the Stinchcombe bells are excellent and ring
well!

The 2016 Striking Competition for Rural
Branch Towers will be at Compton Dando the
Blessed Virgin Mary Church 6 (14) in the Bath
Branch 14.00.

We will be pleased to see all branch towers
on the day and will be sending an email to all
tower correspondents a little nearer the time
so that you can give us a positive "yes" that
your tower this year will be taking part.
There will be teas coffees and cake etc:
throughout the afternoon. Would each compet-
ing tower please bring along a cake or cakes
for the refreshments please.

In case you are worried that the striking com-
petition will be too high powered for you, be
assured it's meant to be fun. The rules are
very friendly and easy:

1. The weather will be crisp and spring like.
2. Everyone will have fun and not get upset
even if they have a really bad day.
3. The judges will be a very nice person(s) and
will only say nice things about the teams.
4. The teams will consist of six - but towers
who are short of ringers are welcome to join
together with other towers.
5. Three minutes can be spent practising and
rope adjusting.
6. Three whole pulls on the treble will be the

signal for the test piece.

7. The test piece will be 120 changes of any method or four minutes of Call Changes - composition up to you, initial rounds up to 1 minute will not be marked all finishing rounds will be marked.

8. Everyone will encourage everyone else and wish them luck. Note: in particular that you can ring call changes if you wish, and you can take part even if you haven't got a complete team - just turn up on the day and we will make up a scratch team if necessary. If you need directions let me know

Do let the Ringing Master know if you are en-

Rung in celebration of Terry Jefferies 80th birthday, which also marks 70 years of ringing.

Jon Storey
Tower Contact

Horton Annual Lunch

I have been contacted by the Wotton branch secretary Anita Matthews to say she has Tickets for the Annual Horton Lunch at Horton village hall on the 13th March at 12.30 for 13.00.

Tickets are £15.00 each, the profits will

it for your event. The original camera's were fixed focus focus, we have now purchase a varifocal camera which at the latest outing at Frenchay was able to view almost all six bells with one camera, at the previous events at Wapley Frampton and Westerleigh we had to use both the original camera's to see all six bells.

We were pleased with the response we recently had at Frenchay on their open day with the interest the viewing of the bells had.

So once again if you have an event and would like people to see your bells in operation book your date now.

Farcited February Outing

I cannot say the day was fair, in fact apart from a brief display of the sun the day was quite overcast. This however did not stop some quite moderate ringing to some very good touches during the day at Chew Stoke, Hinton Blewett, a reasonable lunch at the Druids Arms at Stanton Drew followed by further ringing at Stanton Drew. We had a good turn out of ringers for the day with 22 for lunch and probably 6 others who came along but did not participate at lunch



tering a team.

Alan Coombs

01179478114

alancoombs1@hotmail.co.uk

Compton Dando

Map 172 ST646647

Post Code BS39 4LB

Mangotsfield, Gloucestershire

St James

Tuesday, 2 February 2016 in 0:43 (7-1-16 in B)

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed by Andrew Johnson

1 Clare Jefferies

2 Alan J Coombs

3 Gillian H Greef

4 Antony J Jefferies

5 Terry Jefferies

6 Christopher P Greef

7 Jonathan D Storey (C)

8 John S Turner



go to Horton

Church and the raffle profits to Wotton Branch. Contact Anita for tickets on 01454 416680



Do you have an event or Open Day this year?

If you do we can now show your congregation and visitors the bells in action with the branches CCTV equipment. If you have an event please book the kit so we can install

time.

The picture of Stanton Drew St Mary and the stones known as the Cove.

Frenchay Tower

held a very lively Open Day on

January 30th. There is currently an exhibition about the bells in Frenchay Village Museum, and several families made it a village outing, going to the museum and then coming to see and try the bells. Climbing the ladder to see the bells still proved popular, in spite of having the excellent camera system set up by Alan Coombs and Tony York demonstrating the bells in action on a monitor in the ringing chamber below. We lost count of how many people went through, but there were queues! Thanks to John Payton and Alan Coombs, everyone who wanted to - "had a go". In the evening Alan Freke gave his entertaining talk on how Frenchay acquired its' ring of bells – which was also well attended. We have 2 new ringers and 1 returning learner as a result of the day – which was rated a definite success.

Edna Cause
Tower Captain

Quiz Night 2016

Quiz night came and went again for 2016, once again it was held in Iron Acton village Hall and was again well attended.

Bitton were this years quiz masters and provided a challenging set of questions

At the end of a very interesting evening Almondsbury were the overall winners with team Bel-Air. Almondsbury did field three teams who came first second and seventh.

As is now the plan in the branch the six top teams are put into the hat or a dice is rolled and the team who came out of the hat this year were Chipping Sodbury who have the honour of organising the quiz in 2017 assuming it is on the program for 2017!

After round four of the quiz supper was served and was again much appreciated by all present from the m,any comments made to me after the event.

The quiz prizes were awarded and the raffle draw was made, which closed the evening

The branch chairman made closing re-



marks and thanked Bitton for running the quiz, Mary York and her helpers for providing an excellent supper as is now usual, he thanked all of the towers and tower members who provided the sweets and the raffle prizes, and all the branch members and friends for making the evening such a success.

St Georges Day 2016



This year St Georges Day is on a Saturday the 23rd April.

The branch will not be organising a mini outing and lunch as it is on a Saturday, and ringing will be up to each individual tower in the branch if it wants to ring!

The Ringing Master Alan Coombs will be contacting your Twig to see what is [happening in your area nearer the date.](#)

Note for Tower Correspondents!

Some time ago I asked you all if I could include on the branch website your tower contact email address suitably encoded so the crawlers are unable to find them. Most of you gave me that permission and I included those who gave me permission!

As you are aware these things change and I have had an email saying that some of the email addresses are not working and they are perfectly correct they are not working when I tried them. Would you please check on the web site if your tower email address is cor-

rect and let me know if not and I will correct it at no expense! They can be found on the [<Practice Night Page>](#)

100 Years Ago

The Ringing World, 1 8 February, 191 6
DEATH OF THE REV. CANON
ELLACOMBE

REMARKABLE FAMILY RECORD

On Monday, February 7th, at Bitton Vicarage, Gloucestershire, there passed to his rest, Henry Nicholson Ellacombe, within eleven days of his 94th birthday. Though not himself a ringer, like his father, the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, he took a great interest in bells. both from an antiquarian point of view, and as musical instruments of God's House, and was always ready to give sound, practical advice as to their care or restoration. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe became curate-in-charge of Bitton, residing at the Vicarage, in July, 1817, and Vicar of the parish in 1835. In September, 1850, he was succeeded by his son, the Rev. H. N. Ellacombe, and went to the family living of Clyst St. George, where he ended his days at the good old age of 95. Thus the parish of Bitton has been, in charge of father and son for ninety-eight and a half years. It would be difficult to estimate the number of ringers ho, during that period, have visited the tower of St. Mary's Church and enjoyed a pull on its fine-toned ring of six, with a walk round the beautiful Vicarage garden, which, for at any rate the last fifty years) has been one of the most wonderful in England .