



Bristol Rural News



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

0217 No 241

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

1. Striking Competition Grittleton Starts 14.00 with the draw.
2. 8 Bell Practice Mangotsfield 25th March NOT the 18th
3. A Word of warning

March 2017

Published on the 4th Saturday

Farcited Ringing

March 2nd Note the change over

10.30 - 11.15 Ebrington St Eadburgha
6(12cwt)

GL55 6NH SP183400

11.30-12.15 Saintbury St.Nicholas
8.12cwt GF.

WR12 7PX SP118394

12.30-2.15 Lunch Details
Menu to Follow.

14.30-15.15 Willersey St Peter 6(12cwt)
WR12 7PN SP107397

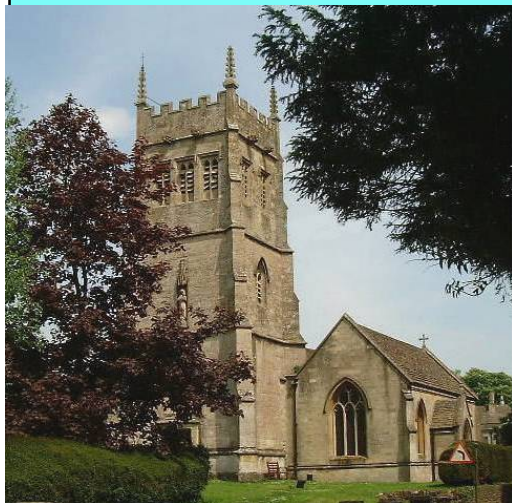
Branch Ringing

18th March

Striking Competition

Grittleton see Newsletter

Start 14.00



Branch Practice

No Branch Practice in March

Branch 8 Bell Practice

25th March

Mangotsfield 10.00 - 11.30

Branch CCTV Cameras

Do not forget to book the cameras for your Church Fete or any event you have in your church or tower? They are for your use!

Alveston Branch Practice

The January Branch practice at Alveston was very well attended, however we had a set back, upon raising the bells we all went to set our bells but the 3rd didn't have a stay, so naturally it went over and the rope went flying up, fortunately young Alistair was uninjured, he was shaken but not stirred.

We soon had the stay bolted back on again and normal ringing resumed,

At this point I must emphasise to everyone: NEVER set a bell with a coil in your hand.

Our methods for the day included Bob Minor, Stedman, Grandsire, Bob Doubles, Plain Hunting and Call Changes.

Alan Coombs

RM.

The 2017 Striking Competition

The 2017 Striking Competition for Rural Branch Towers will be at Grittleton, Wiltshire. S Mary the Virgin. 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 competing tower please bring along a cake or cakes for the refreshments please.

In case you are worried that the striking competition 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 entering a team.

Alan Coombs

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Quiz Night 2017

We had 90 booked but I suppose that we only had 83 turn up on the night was quite good, I think we could have probably managed two more tables comfortably but we may have then run out of chairs!

All the reports that came back said we had a good quiz from Chipping Sodbury as quiz masters although two of the quiz masters or mistress were rural branch members and one from Chipping Sodbury, thank you Allison, Robin and Antony Gay.

As ever we had loads of compliments on the quiz night mid break when the ladies served up Chicken and game pies red

cabbage and mixed vegetables, along with mushroom stroganoff. Followed by a host of different sweets and puddings all supplied by the quizzers!

Tea coffee and soft drinks were on tap all evening and those who wanted something stronger brought their own.

So to the many thank you's, firstly the people who provided the quiz questions this year, then the ladies who slaved away in the kitchen providing the supper, all of you who came along and provided a sweet or a pudding and finally those of you who came along early and help set up which is not an easy task and then again those who stayed behind to clear up the room after the event. Those who provided the technology the PA system and the over head projector.

However I have missed one thing, the winners of the quiz this year were Almondsbury, not sure which team they had two. Almondsbury do not have to run next years quiz as we now take the top six teams and roll a dice, so next year the quiz will again be run Chipping Sodbury who were unlucky with the dice throw!

The room is booked for next year so put it in the diary, and once again thank you to everybody who came along and was involved.



Quiz Night

Horton Lunch 2017

I have had the following information from Anita Matthews the Wotton Branch Secretary that the annual Horton lunch will be held on March 12th at Horton Village Hall as in previous years
Lunch 13.30 Adults £15.00 Juniors £7.50
Telephone Anita Matthews
01454 416680 who has tickets available.

A Word of Warning

The information below was circulated by the Association Secretary from a ringer in Swindon.

Please can you make ringers aware that I had my handbag stolen whilst ringing for evensong last Sunday evening. A man came into the tower pretending to be interested in ringing, we made him welcome and gave him a brief explanation about the bells and ringing. When we were all ringing he took my bag from under one of the seats and left with it down the spiral staircase. I didn't notice that it was missing until we finished ringing. It's been a real pain: my iPhone has gone, my credit/debit/store cards/ my purse/ my glasses/ keys etc. We have just paid out to get our house locks changed.

I am normally really careful with my possessions but I suppose I had a false sense of security in the belfry. I want to publicise this so we can all be more aware of this risk.

Rhythm in Ringing

I circulated to all email branch members information about a course to be run in Frome

Branch "Rhythm in Ringing" two of our branch members attended and this is the view of the course by Sue Alexander to whom I am grateful for the input!

Frome Branch recently had a discussion about rhythm and striking. These are a few thoughts it provoked in one who learnt to ring late in life, and can manage rhythm when singing or playing an instrument, but loses it when ringing a bell!

It seems to me that there are several quite different causes of poor striking.

One of them is a basic lack of rhythm. Some people naturally have good rhythm, others don't. I don't know if those who don't can actually be cured, but they can presumably be helped and improved, and that can be done anywhere, sitting in a group, without bothering the neighbours.

A second problem is difficulty hearing your own bell amongst all the others, not helped by the sound of the bell being some time after the rope is pulled. (Is this more of a problem for older beginners? Learning to ring is very like learning a language. If you start early enough it's like learning your native tongue and the refinements come naturally. If you start late you have to use the thinking bits to do what the native speakers do without conscious effort, and there may not be enough brain capacity to do everything – perhaps some of us will always ring with a funny foreign accent?) Obviously this can only be addressed by ringing a bell.

Third, but not least, come deficits in handling. We all know people who strike beautifully, but look dreadful, and that's fine if it works for them. But for some of us (who may have been ringing for years) throwing our rope, pulling too hard or not hard enough, and all the other things that can be done wrong, can result in lamentable lumpiness.

Then there's ropesight. Blind ringers manage without it. Could it be that for some people too much emphasis on ropesight is at the expense of rhythm. Or is this a heresy too far?

Handling and striking issues can be worked on up to a point in a home tower practice, but could occupy the whole practice. As different ringers strike badly for a variety of reasons, would it make sense to try to analyse what each person's problem is, then gather together those with a similar difficulty to thrash it out? Bath and Wells have an Education Officer, as do their branches. We don't do that in the G&B. Perhaps we should? Perhaps Bristol Rural could be a pioneer?

Sue Alexander

FarCited Ringers please note the change of program! that Ebrington is the first morning tower and Willersley is the afternoon tower.



Bristol Rural Branch

What's on this month in the Branch March 2017

FarCited Ringing **Note: First and last tower have been switched over.**

March 2nd 2017

10.30-11.15 EbringtonSt Eadburgha 6(12cwt) GL55 6NH SP183400

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12.30-2.15 Lunch Details Menu to Follow.

14.30-15.15 Willersey St Peter 6(12cwt) WR12 7PN SP107397

Branch Ringing

18th March Striking Competition Grittleton

Start 14.00 Names for teams to the Ringing Master.

For the rules and location see March newsletter

Branch Practice

No 6 bell branch Practice in March

Branch 8 Bell Practice

25th March

Moved from the 18th , it was the same day as the striking competition.

Mangotsfield 10.00 - 11.30

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

That we publish a poster of the months events was suggested at the recent Tower captains's meeting,. Tower contacts/tower captains please print and display in the ringing chamber for all your ringers to see!

This is the first.

If you have any comments please let me know?