



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 262

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

- 1 Far-cited outing - around Bibury - 7th February
- 2 Branch Quiz - Iron Acton village hall - 9th February - 1900-late
- 3 Branch striking competition - Caldicot - 23rd February - 1400
- 4 Association training day - Cirencester area - 9th March

February 2019

Editor's Note

The festivities are over and I hope you are looking forward to a good 2019, in spite of the B..... issue! What are you hoping to achieve ringing-wise this year - learn some new methods, ring a first quarter peal, attend more Branch practices, help a struggling tower? Ringing needs you and it needs your support if it is to thrive into the future, so keep at it!

Chris Greef

Frampton Cotterell Practice - 28th December - with Mince Pies

In what has become a tradition over the past few years, the annual post-Christmas practice with mince pies was held at Frampton Cotterell again. There were 27 ringers there and a wide range of methods was rung: in Doubles there was Grandsire, Stedman, Reverse Canterbury, St. Simons and two seasonal methods, Noel and St. Nicholas; and in Minor we rang Plain Bob, Cambridge, London and spliced Cambridge and Norwich. There was a good spread of food too, not just mince pies, as if everyone hadn't eaten over Christmas! Thanks to the Frampton ringers for laying the ringing on, to all who brought food and to all who came.

Chris Greef

Stedman Triples Training Day - 5th January

At the initial request of a Branch ringer, there was a training session devoted to Stedman Triples at Bitton on the raw and cold first Saturday of the New Year. There were 16 of us present and those who wanted to practise plain courses had several opportunities as did those who wanted touches and those who wanted to try calling touches. It was a useful exercise: it is always good to have a go, then think or talk to someone about it, then have another go straight away rather than having to wait for the next Branch practice in a month's time.

So if you think you could benefit from a session focussed on a single method, let a member of the Committee know and we'll organize it for you. And it doesn't matter what level it's at.

Chris Greef

Quiz Night

Don't forget to book your team's place for the Quiz Night at Iron Acton on February 9th. Winterbourne are the quizmasters and Mary York and team are doing the catering. The choice is either

Beef Bourguignon or Lamb & Apricot or Vegetable Bake all with crusty bread

Please let Linda Gittings have your supper choice on 01452549922/bruralsec@gmail.com.

Bring a dessert to share and your own alcoholic drinks.

Bristol Rural Branch Six Bell Striking Competition Rules

Looking ahead a bit, our Branch striking competition is coming up on February 23rd, and this year it will be at Caldicot, Gwent. So now is the time to get your team together and practice your test piece. The rules for the competition are simple:

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 judge will be a very nice person and will only say nice things about the teams.
4. The teams will consist of six ringers - 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. The initial rounds up to one minute will not be marked, but 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 some scratch teams will be set up.

Chris Greef

Digital Bells at St. Michael's Stoke Gifford

After decades of silence, the sound of church bells will soon once again ring out across the village green at Stoke Gifford.

Rev Canon Simon Jones, of St. Michael's church commented:

"The installation of a digital bells system is a unique marriage of a medieval structure and 21st century technology. We will now be able to call parishioners to worship, celebrate weddings, mark funerals and herald local and national celebrations in a quintessentially time-honoured fashion."

Three years ago, local residents were told that the existing bells, one of which dates back to 1450, were



unsafe and beyond economic repair or renovation and were invited to hear a trial of electronically-reproduced bell sounds from the church tower. The feedback from this trial was overwhelmingly positive.

The church authorities are taking a great interest in the project as St Michael's is the first church in the Bristol Diocese to install such a system. It has, therefore, taken time to gain the various ecclesiastical permissions, to make safe and preserve the original three bells and to evaluate a modern, state of the art, digital sound system, which will be installed in the newly re-roofed and refurbished church tower.

Once the system is in place (4th December) there will follow a 15-month appraisal period, after which an application can be made to retain the system permanently.

Rev Jones added:

"The new digital bells will be in operation in time for our annual Carols on the Green service on 8th December, when the hundreds of people who attend this popular event will be able to hear – many for the first time – the sound of bells ringing out across The Green."

The digital bells system will take a few days to install and commission. Over this period they will be tested at various times in order to perfect the sound and decide which of the many available peals will be appropriate for St Michael's.

Among the many advantages of digital bells is that they are relatively inexpensive, easy to operate, virtually

maintenance free, faithfully reproduce pre-set peals – and do not require bell ringing practice sessions!



Exciting times for *Let's Ring!*

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our very own method: *Let's Ring! Delight Minor*.

For the last few months we have been on a special mission. Inspired by Andrew Ward, we took on the challenge to adopt an unclaimed delight minor method which we could call our own.

The *Let's Ring!* crew set to learning the blue line with the goal of ringing an extent during the Christmas school holidays. With the help of our experienced supporters we got to grips with our brand-new method, amidst much talk of its delicate rear-end (tricky backwork).

On Thursday 3rd January we achieved our objective. Check it out (and 'Like' it) on BellBoard here: tiny.cc/LR-D6.

The touch was composed, rung and conducted entirely by *Let's Ring!*

Here's the band from left to right:



Ben White-Horne, age 18, composer;

Zoe Bonnett, age 14;

Alistair White-Horne, age 16, conductor;

Catherine White-Horne, treble;

Ed Miller, age 18 and

Yuhan Jiang, age 16.

The average age of the inside ringers is 16 years and the average 'ringing age' of the whole band is 2½ years.

Many thanks to Andrew Ward, John Cornock, Alison Holliday, Robin Shipp, Jeremy Sargent and everybody who has helped us in this venture.

“Go! Let’s Ring!”

Catherine White-Horne

Almondsbury Bells Restoration Project

Twenty four Almondsbury residents and bellringers braved the elements before 9am to board the Applegates 35 seater coach on Wednesday 16th January to go see our bells at John Taylors foundry in Loughborough. We



had lunch at the Three Nuns in Loughborough and arrived at the foundry in time to start a one and a half hour tour of the works, museum and foundry, hosted by George Dawson and assisted by Clarke Walters. So much interest was shown by the group particularly in the tuning shop that it fell well behind

schedule and lasted another one and a half hours. There was just enough time to have a quick ring of rounds and call changes conducted by Adam Mead on the back 6 of the 12 bell ring in the John Taylor belfry. We saw our



bells. They look very splendid indeed having been sand blasted and refurbished with resin caps. The Treble and 7th have been tuned and we are told they have all responded well to the work that’s been done on them. Unfortunately we learnt during the tour that the return of our bells has been delayed due to the oil fired Iron furnace, which is used to cast our new headstocks, has developed a hole in its bottom and needs repair or replacement. Only 2 of our 8 Iron headstocks have been cast and work is held up because of the furnace problem. A new date has been given and we are now expecting

work to commence in Almondsbury on Monday 18th February. We would expect that the bells will come back to the church a couple of days after that. A blessing of the bells and a gathering is proposed the evening before the bells are hoisted back into the refurbished belfry, with work hopefully completing within 2 weeks.

Gerry Anniss

Ringling Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested: The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - £3 each.

Diagrams (blue version – the line for large numbers of methods given) - £12.

G&B badges - £5.

Tony York

Circulation Lists

I had a glitch on my laptop recently which meant I had to update. When updated I had lost my Bristol Rural and FarCited circulation lists! I did have backup copies and have reconstituted the lists from those lists (they were about a year old). At the same time I decided to rationalise the lists and take off names I no longer recognised, or thought would no longer require the newsletter. So if you did previously receive the newsletter personally and do not now, please send me an email asking to go back on the lists, or failing that you can always get it off the branch website every month!

Tony York

Branch Ringling Achievements

Tytherington - 1320 Jarrom Surprise Minor - a birthday compliment to David Matthews.

Abson - 1260 Doubles - first in method away from half hunt bell (3). Also wishing to be associated with this quarter - Adrian Gittings (one of the 1400). The quarter is dedicated to the conductor Linda Gittings and Adrian, as they celebrated their ruby wedding earlier in 2018. They were married at Abson in 1978 when the bride rang for her own wedding.

Thornbury - 1344 Plain Bob Triples - a birthday compliment to Catherine White-Horne, first inside on 7 for Yuhun Jiang, first on 8 (Chris White-Horne) and first as conductor in method (Ben White-Horne).

Bitton - 1260 Plain Bob Minor -first quarter for Nigel Scudamore - dedicated to the memory of Maureen Perrett.

Westerleigh - 1260 Doubles - to celebrate the life of Bett Smith, past ringer at Westerleigh.

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

web site www.bristolrural.co.uk

**February
2019**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

07-02-19

10.30 – 11.15 Bibury St Mary	6 91/4cwt	GL7 5NR	118065
11.30 – 12.15 Coln St Aldwyn Decollation St John	8 7cwt	GL7 5AD	144052
12.30 – 14.30 Lunch TBA			
14.30 – 15.15 Hatherop St Nicholas	6 71/2cwt	GL7 3NB	154051

Branch Ringing

February 9th Quiz Night Iron Acton Village Hall 07.00 All Welcome
See Poster with February Newsletter

23rd Branch Striking Competition Caldicot. Llandaff & Monmouth D A
SS Mary & Bartholomew. 8 bells, tenor 12-3-10
ST483886 Maps 171,172 Poster attached
No Branch Practice in February

March 14th G & B Spring Training Day

From 26 January – applications are open for the Spring Training Day. Please let all your members know. The online form is at www.bellsgandb.org.uk/course where helpers can sign up too.

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.30 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

If you would like to use the Branch CCTV cameras in your tower, just ask a branch officer?

"If you want some help with a practice, some assistance to learn a new method, a special training session, or if you have any other query, please contact one of the Committee members.

web site email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

As this is a pdf form you can click any web address or email address

Ajy July 2017

Come and challenge your brain



Bristol Rural Branch Quiz Night

Saturday 9th February 2019; 7.00p.m. till late

Iron Acton Village Hall

Bring a tower team or come and join a team on the night.



Cost £5.50 per head (juniors £3) Inc.

Hot  + tea/coffee/squash provided

Each Tower Please Bring a **Pudding** and **Raffle Prize**



If you require alcohol please bring your own



BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH 2019 CALENDER OF EVENTS

January	26 th	Branch Practice	Olveston	14.30 – 16.30
February	9 th	Quizz Night	Iron Acton	19.00 – til late
	23 rd	Branch Striking Competition	Caldicott	14.00 – 16.30
March	2 nd	Branch Officers Meeting	Barnwood	Morning
	2 nd	Management Meeting	Barwood	Afternoon
	9 th	Ass. Spring Training Day	Cirencester	All Day
	23 rd	Branch Practice	Frenchay	14.30 – 16.30
April	6 th	Association AGM Inc. Penn and Croome Trophy	Forest	To Be Notified
	15 th - 20 th inc	Holy Week		
	23 rd	St Georges Day	Own Thing	
	27 th	Branch Practice	Alveston	19.00 - 21.00
May	6 th	Branch Outing	Hereford area	All Day
	25 th	Branch Practice	Thornbury	19.00 – 21.00
June	22 nd	Branch Practice & BBQ	System	15.00 – Late
July	27 th	Branch Practice	Iron Acton	19.00 – 21.00
August	24 th	Branch Practice/Cream Tea	Dyrham	14.30 – 16.30
September	15 th	Cathedral Service Ring	Gloucester	13.30 – 15.00
	28 th	Branch Practice	Warmley	19.00 – 21.00
October	12 th	Ass.Autumn Training Day		
	26 th	Branch Practice	Westerleigh	19.00 – 21.00
November	23 rd	Branch AGM	Coalpit Heath	14.30 – 20.00
December	28 th	Post Mince Pies Practice	Frampton Cotterell	14.30 – 16.30

BRISTOL RURAL STRIKING COMPETITION



WHERE?

CALDICOT

(NP26 4LU)

on

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2019

2.00p.m. TIL 4.30p.m.

BRING A TEAM FROM YOUR TOWER

OR

COME AND JOIN A TEAM



LISTEN TO SOME GOOD RINGING

RECEIVE HELPFUL FEEDBACK FROM THE JUDGES

Tea



Coffee



Provided

EACH TOWER TO BRING A CAKE

