

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

1. 2009 G & B AGM Colapit Heath St Saviours
2. Ringing Road Show 5th - 6th of September

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

Thursday August 7th

Two Towers

11.00 - 12.00 Wraxall

Lunch

14.00 - 15.00 Tickenham

Branch Ringing August

Branch Practice **August 23rd**

St Ambrose Bristol(10)

19.00 - 21.00



Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

An apology

I am sure that more than one of you spotted my deliberate mistake last month when I put a picture of Mangotsfield not Pucklechurch on the ringing list. I have given myself a slapped wrist. Many thanks to the one person who told me about it.

Ringing Roadshow 2008

Have you booked your tickets for the Ringing Roadshow at Stonleigh Warwickshire for the 5th and 6th of September. if you book by post they are £6.00, £8.00 on the day.

G & B Young Persons Competition

The Young Persons' Striking Competition took place on Saturday at Rodbourne Cheney in the Swindon Branch. The weather was sunny, lots of teams entered and the standard of ringing of every single team was high. The administrative arrangements made by the Swindon Branch - including the tower, refreshments, skittles, evening catering, etc - were superb, and we all had a great time. Darren Ricks - who is himself genuinely young compared to most of us - was a kind,

hard-working and accurate judge. Amazingly, one of the teams consisted of ringers, all of whom were under eleven years old, and we believe this to be a new world record.

If you've never been, you'll shortly be able to see on the Association website some photographs of the accompanying social activity. Attached is one of the - optional - all-age skipping to give you an idea.

Of course, in my view *every* team was a winner. But in case you'd like the full results, here they are.

1. Swindon Branch 'Pick and Mix'
2. Wotton-under-Edge Branch and Friends
3. The Sarah Meaden Invitation Band
4. The 17's and under
5. Swindon Branch Girls
6. Cheltenham Branch and Friends
7. The 15's and under
8. The 10's and under
9. Swindon Branch Boys
10. The 13's and under
11. Gloucester Branch
12. The 11's and under The *Barnwood Trophy* for the highest placed band

with the most ringers from one tower, was won by the *Swindon Branch Girls*, all of whom came from Wanborough. But there was another entire - and very young - band from a single tower. The Gloucester Branch band all came from Barnwood.

And as for next year, we've received a kind invitation from the Wotton Branch.

Steve Coleman

2009 G & B AGM

The 2009 G & B AGM will be at Coalpit Heath St Saviours on Saturday April 29th 2009. We will be ar-



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Information for the next News letter the Tuesday prior to the 4th Saturday

ranging with your help a number of open towers during the day for the G & B members who will be coming to the AGM. We will also have to select two towers for the Penn and Croome trophies, an 8 bell and a 6 bell

Abson Treble recast

I was privileged to be asked to attend the recasting of the new Abson treble at the Whitechapel foundry on Friday July the 11th by the tower captain Mary Taylor. Four people attended the occasion, and along with Mary Taylor, Margaret Gorley and Brian Angell the other invited Rural Branch member we had an interesting day in London. Brian and myself caught the train at Parkway and arrived in London and went on the tube to Aldgate East, then walked to the foundry to make sure we new where it was. We then moved on to a local hostelry where to my surprise they had 6X on tap. We had a good lunch and arrived back at the foundry at about 14.55. Mary and Margaret had arrived by this time, whilst we waited for the bell metal to be heated we wandered around the foundry shop and made several purchases. Mark Backhouse the works manager had said the casting would be delayed until 15.45 so we had time to wander down the road to

Starbucks coffee house where we ordered four teas. By the time we had our tea it was 15.40 so we went back to the foundry . We waited a few more minutes when Mark Backhouse explained the workings of the foundry and where we would have to stand when we went in to see three bells being cast one of which was Abson's. **PTO**

The old Abson bell metal which Mark explained was like aero chocolate had been broken up and was in the mix for the three bells they were casting this afternoon, so Abson were probably getting a third of their metal back again. (The original Abson bell was cast at Whitechapel) The other two bells were for a new ten in Sussex, in the picture the Abson bell is nearest to us and is being poured into the mould.

Margaret Gorley took a couple of video's with her camera, one of the bell metal being heated and one of the Abson bell being poured . I am trying to put them on the branch website but at the moment Microsoft Frontpage is winning and I have not achieved it. We were surprised at the number of people actually at the casting who were working, we counted ten, and we really could not see what responsibilities some of them had. The atmosphere as you can see in the picture was extremely smokey during the casting. When the casting was complete we had to leave for a few minutes whilst the remaining metal in the was poured into ingots for future bells. We returned to the foundry and had our picture taken with the Abson bell, this was followed by a quick tour of the works, we saw a bell being tuned and the workshop where a 32 bell carillon was being built along with a number of other projects bell frames and bells. By this time it was 17.15 and time to leave as the foundry was shutting down for the weekend. Mark told us the mould would be opened on the following Monday and the casting cleaned down ready to be tuned to the other five bells at Abson. This would probably take two weeks when it would be ready for Mathew Higby to collect. At the time I am writing this the bell is ready for collection if it has not already been collected.

Brian and myself returned to Paddington to catch the 18.45, Margaret and Mary could not catch a train until 20.15 so went to Soho for a Chinese. The train we caught being a Friday was totally packed with people sitting on the floor in the aisles, we were fortunate to get a seat.

We arrived back at Parkway at 20.10 having had a very interesting day out. The current state at Abson is that all the wheels and woodwork have been removed for a grit blaster to clean and paint the frame, that is being completed this week. The wheels for the one and the two are back having been repaired by Brian Angell, and all the



woodwork that needs any work is now also with Brian, who has kindly agreed to carry out the work and repair the remaining wheels where necessary and the slider ends which have a lot of rot and woodworm.

The Abson ringers who currently practice at Wapley on Wednesday mornings 10.00 - 11.30 are going along after practice next Wednesday (30th) to do painting and wood worm treatment. Anyone who would like to help can contact Mary Taylor on 01179 372920. You will need to take a paint brush, a wire brush and some cleaning cloth. All are welcome, but check with Mary first.

Tony York