

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

1. 10th March Branch Skittles Match The Swan Tytherington

Starts 19.30 Let Val Johnson know if you are going telephone no and email address over. The Tytherington tower will be open from 18.30 for ringing for an hour before the skittles match.

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

March 1st

Two Towers and a Pub Lunch
Rowberrow and Shipham
Lunch at Penscott Inn Shipham
See Farcited program on the web or phone Ruth Welch

Branch Events/Ringing March

March 10th Skittles

The Swan Tytherington
Start 19.30 see below

March 24th

Branch Practice
Iron Acton 19.30 - 21.00



Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

G & B Ringing

March 17th

Training Day at Cirencester and Tewkesbury.

I hope all branch trainees are booked but helpers are still required at both venues

If **you** can be a helper please let Gary Crisp know telephone no 01454 774479

Thanks to Martin Blanchard for again producing the pocket size branch program. It will be available from the secretary at branch events, the first being at Frenchay on Saturday February 24th.

Abson Coffee Morning

As you can see opposite Abson have some work do on their bells, and they are embarking on a fund raising exercise to do this .

On the 4th of April (Holy Week) there will be a Coffee morning with a bring and buy sale at Collins Farm (Mary Taylor's home) Abson. 10.00 - 12.00 Please all who can, come along and support this event. They are also holding a weekly draw at their Wednesday morning practices.

Cracked Bell at Abson

As many of you know already, (and will have heard) the treble at St James the Great Abson is cracked. The Bell had not being sounding normal for some time, and a few months ago a crack became visible.

St James ring of six, tenor 10-1-24 in F, has three listed bells: the 3, 5 and 6, according to the Diocese of Bristol's Schedule of Bells for Preservation. The treble is not a listed bell. An old notice in the ringing chamber gives the treble as being of 28 inch in diameter, by Thomas Mears of London fecit 1802.

We are continuing to ring the bell, but at the same time, monitoring the crack regularly. This is in line with advice from the diocesan bell adviser who recently made an inspection. Of the options open to us, it seems that the best one to pursue, and indeed, financially, the most feasible one, would be to repair the existing bell by getting it welded. We are extremely grateful to several ringers, in particular Bryan Hardwick, who has offered to get the bell out and transport it Soundweld in Suffolk, and then re-hang it.

Fund raising has already begun in a small way (if you are lucky, you might be receiving an invitation to a 'reducing' dinner!). We will also be looking into the availability of grants from various sources. We will also be contacting the Keltec Trust, in case a good match is available as a replacement bell.

We will keep you posted, in the meantime if you have any comments and helpful suggestions, could you contact Margaret Gorley, at magorely@btopenworld.com
Mary Taylor
Margaret Gorley
(Abson's two branch members)

Ringing Books

The branch stock of books has diminished recently and we are considering replacing the most popular ones, If you have any comments or would like us to purchase any particular books please let us know in the next couple of weeks, you can see what we hold on the branch web site.

The Branch Secretary

Published on the 4th Saturday each month

Bristol Rural
March
2007
0207
No 120
News

Information for the next news after the Tuesday prior to the 4th Saturday

Branch Practice Frampton January

The meeting was quite well attended, the Frampton ladies served tea coffee soft drinks and biscuits. At the end of the meeting a new member was elected although not present, Mr Roger West who will be a ringer at Wapley was elected a member of the G & B.

Branch Striking Competition Warmley

February the 10th was the date and it was wet and cold when we arrived for the start, Bill and Rita Lampard were the locals who met us to let us in, unfortunately the heating was not on. The ladies soon had the kettles on, coffee tea and cake was soon being enjoyed. However this was the striking competition not a tea party and so the Ringing Master Gary Crisp officiated at the draw and the seven branch entries new their start position as follows , Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heat, Wapley, Westerleigh, Tytherington, Abson, and Dyrham, plus a scratch team.



The judges Robin Shipp and Hilda Messenger were ensconced in their car in the car park and the competition commenced. Teams came and went, and eventually having provided tea and coffee for the judges we were able to say that all the eight teams had rung. Whilst the judges were conferring more tea and cake was consumed ,we even had to send out for more milk.

PTO



The Judges have deliberated and are ready to give the results.

Robin Ship made several relevant points, He was happy with the overall quality of the ringing that he had listened to during the afternoon, and also very pleased that the branch had been able to raise seven bands to take part. He was also cheered by the fact that he had found one band had a number of very young ringers taking part.

Hilda Messenger then gave the points awarded to each tower and concluded that Westerleigh had the least number of points and were the winners on the day.



Each participating tower was presented with a certificate to say they had taken part in the 2007 competition, then Martin Blanchard the Westerleigh Tower Captain was presented with the the Rural Branch Trophy for 2007 and will represent the branch in the Croome Trophy in April

Thanks must go to Bill and Rita Lampard of the Warmleigh tower, all the ringers who came along on this cold wet afternoon and took part, the people who helped with the tea and coffee and those who brought along those wonderful cakes, and finally our two judges Hilda and Robbin. Thank you everyone.

March 10th Skittles at Tytherington

This years early event is a skittles match for all members at the Swan Inn Tytherington. Where our hosts will be the Tytherington ringers who were the winners last year at Frampton. I have been asked to make a couple of announcements on this, at this date the heating in the skittle alley is

not working as it should, so could all of you who come along bring an extra jumper or sweater just in case it is still on the blink.

The cost will be £4.00 per head juniors £2.50 and includes a light buffet. If you intend to go please contact Val Johnson on 01454 417445 or email valjohnson2@tesco.net It is important to let Val no the numbers for working out the catering, by the 6th of March.

So please all of you book this date and come along with a team or come on your own with your friends or partner and join a team, I am sure it will be a great evening as ever.

Obituaries for two long serving Ringers

The branch lost two long serving servants in the last months of 2006, both of them Coalpit Heath ringers over the years, this is the first time I have been able to record their obituaries both written Fred Scudamore

Frederick George Gillett **1933 - 2006**

George Gillett of Coalpit Heath died in 2006, he was born in 1933

George was born in South Somerset in October 1933, becoming a resident of Coalpit Heath village following his National Service in the Parachute Regiment, and a period in the Bristol City Constabulary. He became attached to St Saviour's Coalpit Heath in the late 1960's joining the band of ringers as an adult learner.

George entered the aircraft industry with Rolls Royce, serving as an instructor on the shop floor and in the training school with responsibility for the use of computers in aircraft engine construction. George's experience in industry was to help Coalpit Heath at the time of the augmentation of the bells to eight.

George was able to move from six bell ringing to that of eight without much difficulty, his main interest being that of ringing the tenor. He was capable of ringing Stedman and Surprise methods, with limited interest in peal ringing. He did ring three peals, including one of forty two(42) doubles methods. He was also interested in the Coalpit Heath ringers activities in competition ringing.

His health in recent years had restricted his travel movements and ringing activities with the Farcited midweek group, although he made appearances in the Coalpit Heath ringing chamber up to two weeks before his death.

George was in Frenchay hospital for only five days before he was called to other duties above.

George wished that the funeral service be marked with open ringing to Stedman Triples, this was carried out by local ringers and the Bristol Rural Branch, as George entered and left St Saviours for the last time.

George was a Good Servant – May peace be with Him.

Thank you George

Fred Scudamore

Gerald Walter Daniel Smart **1908 -2006**

Gerald Smart of Coalpit Heath died in 2006. He was born in 1908.

Gerald was born in Coalpit Heath village in April 1908, and had a lifelong connection with St Saviours Parish Church as a choir member – Cross Bearer – and Bell Ringer. A life-time service to the 'Church' of 89 years.

One of his proudest moments was being awarded the 'Queen's Maunday Money' for services to both church and community in April 1989.

Gerald left school at the age of 14 years, entering the coal industry at the local collieries. During the war years he served in the fire service with his duties in the Bristol City area. following the closure of the local collieries he joined the Local Authority School Meals Service.

Gerald was one of the original ringers at St Saviours in the early 1920's when there was a peal of four (4) bells. He became a good six bell ringer taking part in a number of peals up to Surprise Minor. In 1975 the bells were augmented to eight, this caused Gerald problems, and he found great difficulty in moving into eight bell ringing. Gerald was a member of the G & B from 1952 – 1976.

His main interest then turned to singing and he joined the Frampton Male voice choir, although he did ring when their were not sufficient numbers to ring for Sunday service. In recent years he attended the Farcited midweek group for some of the monthly outings. He carried out his choir duties to within weeks of his death. Gerald hoped to live to reach a 100 years, but this sadly was not to be. The funeral service was well attended by the local community. The bells were rung 'open' by Rural Branch members and local ringers, before and after the service.

Gerald was buried within the hearing of the tower –

Well done thou good Servant.

Fred Scudamore