

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

1. **Quarter Peal Week how many will ring a quarter?**
2. **Tower Captains and Membership Numbers**
3. **Abson Ring again on Thursday 25th September.**
4. **November is the Branch AGM at Mangotsfield**

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

Wanborough
Lunch Fox & Hounds, Wroughton
Wroughton

Details to follow from Ruth Welch

Branch Ringing October
18th/26th Quarter Peal Week
Branch Practice

25th October

Westerleigh Note afternoon practice
14.30 - 1630



Chipping Sodbury Ringing
3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Membership of the G & B

Firstly lets thank you all for your almost total return of the annual return forms on time, we only had to chase a few. We are now compiling the information which will make up the 2008 G & B report. If you are aware of any errors in the 2007 report which need correcting please let me know as soon as possible.

I have recorded two new members who qualify for the 40 year roll of honour page, one a little late Clare Wilkins-Smith who was elected a member in 1956 at Warmley and Val Woodman of Almondsbury elected 1968.

Well done those of you who downloaded the annual return form and amended them on the computer and then sent them in, This however gave me a problem as most of you did not mark the 'box A' to say there had been changes so when I saw a pristine form with no writing or markings I assumed to my cost there were no changes. I soon learnt to check every returned form! Anyway once again well done to you all.

Our G & B numbers are down by 13 for this years return, last year we recorded 163 and this year it is likely to be 150.

Tower Captains if you have ringers in your tower who ring on a regular basis and are not members is it not time you put them forward for membership? Of course if they pay tax they could and should contribute to Gift Aid as well.

Ringing Roadshow 2008

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September was the Ringing Roadshow at Stoneleigh Park. This was the first time this event was held over two days. There were a large number of displays, seminars, discovery trails and of course the 'mini rings' to look at, attend or try your hand at. There were a number of branch members attending the show on the Saturday along with myself (Keith), Elaine, Kristian and Russell. The day started at 9.30am and the weather was a bit wet so the mini rings had to wait as they were located outside away from the display area. Inside the main hall were the exhibitor stands where you could look at displays from Taylors and Whitechapel bellfoundries, a number of other bellhangers, bellringing guilds and others selling items or giving information related to bells and ringing.

On the hour there was a demonstration on a mobile 50 bell carillon which had come all the way from Holland just for the Roadshow. The carillon demonstration was given by the famous Dutch carillonneur Boudewijn Zwart, it was his own carillon. During his recital he told us that there was now a set of 8 bells hung for change ringing in Holland and that he had had a lesson in English bell ringing so that he could ring them when he returned to Holland. Also visitors would be welcome to grab this new tower, a long way to go for just one tower.

At lunchtime the rain stopped so this was a good time to go and ring on the mini rings. Russell was very keen to grab the tenors, the smallest of



which was 1 pound 9 ounces. It was only five weeks earlier that he was grabbing a tenor at the other end of the extreme scale, 82cwt at Liverpool Cathedral.

A good day was had by all looking at



the displays, meeting up with old friends and grabbing the mini rings.

KWS

St Clement's Bob Minor Training Day at Dyrham - 13 September.

The third of this year's Branch training days was held at Dyrham, and the chosen method was St Clement's. About a dozen Branch members turned up, with a good mix of those familiar with the method and relative novices. This meant each learner was able to try out the method with a good band and also a helper - always much easier to make progress this way. At the end of the morning, I think everyone felt the effort had been worthwhile.

PTO

, We also had a few unexpected visitors while we were there. It was Heritage Open Doors weekend, so Dyrham House was open free and people wandering up to the church presumably thought we were part of the entertainment!

Gloucester Cathedral Ringing

Sunday 21 September was Bristol Rural Branch's turn to ring for 3 o'clock evensong at Gloucester Cathedral. We climbed the stairs, rang the bells, then climbed further, first to see the bells (where we had our photograph taken), then to the roof of the tower. On a beautiful sunny afternoon, the views were great. We then retraced our steps, all 270 of them, back to the ground. A good trip!

Chris Greef
Branch Chairman

Abson St James the Great Rings again

If you went to Cabot Circus today you missed a treat at Abson, the new treble arrived and we had lots of people to see it baptised and blessed by the Rev'd Stuart Young, before it ascended the tower. His comment was it did not make a noise when he made the sign of the cross when he baptised it. The bell duly christened it was then



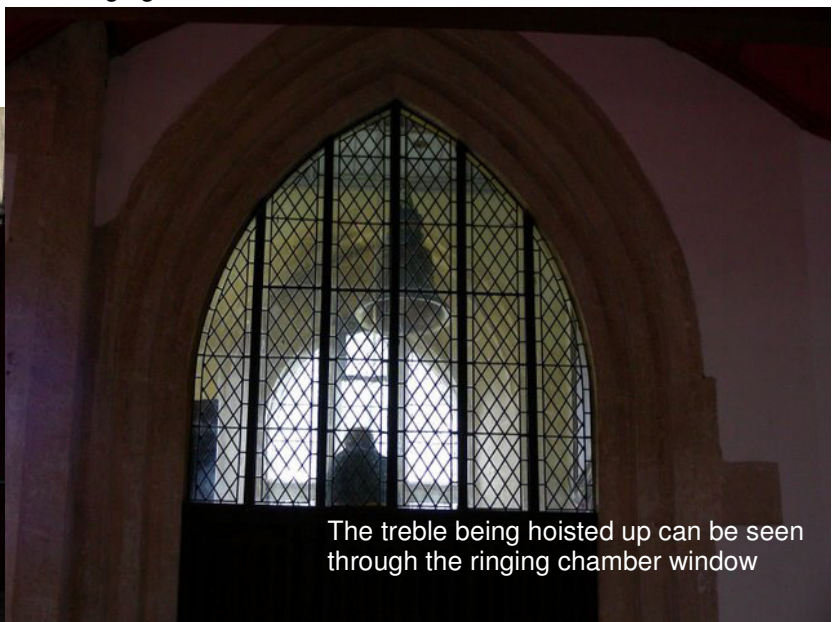
hoisted up the tower by Mathew Higby and his team of helpers, and was soon in place. The two was then replaced as it had to be taken out of its pit to allow space for the treble to be taken out and then put back again. The wheels on the one and two, the the ropes and the refurbished clappers were all reassembled and then we were ready to give them their first ring since February as a six . There is still some work to do, the pivot pin for the slider on the two has to be remade and two new stays need fitting.

The dedication service will be on Sunday November the 2nd at 14.30 and all ringers are invited to attend. There will be time after the service for some ringing before a

local band will ring a quarter. All are welcome and there will be tea and cake after the service whilst everyone who wants to has a ring. Editor

November is the Branch AGM at Mangotsfield, if you have any items for the agenda, or if you are intending to have any work to your bells which might require a grant please let Chris or myself have them prior to the meeting.

Finally
It is quarter Peal week in October



The treble being hoisted up can be seen through the ringing chamber window