

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

1. Management Committee update for the 2012 Program
2. Quiz Night 2012 at Iron Acton Village Hall Poster
3. New Member Certificate
4. Branch Striking Competition Cromhall March 17th 14.30

### Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

2nd February

11.00 - 12.00 Mangotsfield 8 bells

12.00- 14.00. Lunch at the Rose and Crown, Pucklechurch.

14.00 - 15.30 Syston 6 bells

### Branch Ringing

February 18th Quiz Night 19.15 - late

Iron Acton Village Hall (see poster)

25th Branch Practice 14.00 - 16.00

(Activity in the church after 16.00)

### Warmley



### March

17th Saturday 14.30

Branch Striking Competition  
Cromhall

Association Training Day

10th March. Information sent to  
Tower Contacts 28/01/2012.

Chipping Sodbury Ringing  
3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

### Quiz Night 2012

This year we have a change of venue for our quiz night. The venue will be Iron Acton village hall this is situated about half way along the main street.

If your tower is coming to the quiz could you please donate a raffle prize! You can find the poster as the last page of the newsletter

### Christmas Ringing

I did go to to the Carol service with Wotton Branch at Yate but did not go on for the ringing afterwards so you may get something better from someone who did, however I would just say that the ringing at Yate was of a standard

to cover anything from 'Rounds' to 'You name it we'll ring it' although I think, if I remember rightly, that that was Cambridge and as the visitors we were made very welcome by the home branch. The service itself was taken by David Sansum and was a friendly, leisurely affair following the tradition of carols and readings. This was followed by a buffet tea and mulled wine laid on by the members of the local band. (As an aside it was a good job we joined with them as there were only 6 from Bristol Rural so Dyrham would have been a bit bleak, something to think about this year)

Re the Frampton 'Post Christmas workout' there was a good crowd and again the ringing catered for all abilities up to Cambridge. Unfortunately the exercise side of the matter was then spoilt afterwards by the provision of Christmas fayre, but this was enjoyed by all and made a nice social gathering for the Post Christmas but pre New Year celebrations, especially for those of us unable to ring out the old year.

Re the 1st Friday practice at Syston, there was a good crowd, (didn't count but from memory about 16 - 17) from both Bristol Rural and Wotton branches, we rang Rounds up to Kent and Monica, bless her, provided tea/coffee and biscuits.

*Linda Gittings*

### Frenchay Open Day

Frenchay Tower is holding an Open Day on February 4th 11am - 3pm. Any support during the day would be welcomed. Refreshments available in the Church. I think this is in aid of a screen into the ringing chamber.

### Carols at the Barn

On the Saturday before Christmas, the medieval barn next to Winterbourne church hosted community carol singing with a nativity play. Many local people chose to walk down the lane to the barn because of limited parking and, as they did so, they heard the sound of the church bells being rung by some (a few!) members of the Branch. Then, when they entered the barn itself, they were greeted by the Winterbourne St. Michael's Handbell Ringers playing carols. I don't know how many ringers there were - I was

Published on the 4th  
Saturday each month



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

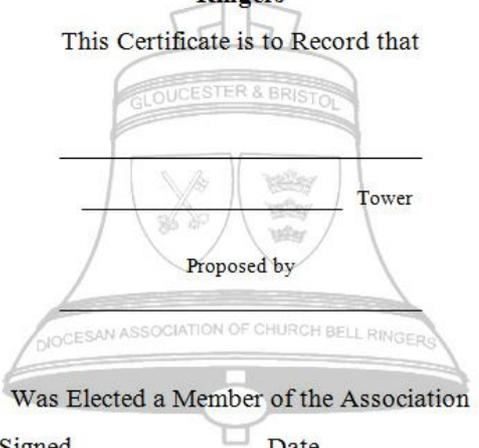
the Archangel Gabriel (!) so didn't get to the tower and also it was difficult to spot the ringers among the 500 people who came. The event was so popular that over 50 people were turned away when the site safety limit was reached. Next year there may well be two events to try to manage the numbers - how about a quarter peal or two to welcome people?

*Chris Greef*

### Member Certificate

Below you will see the certificate it is proposed we present to all new members who are elected to the the branch and the association.

Juniors who attend the meeting at which they are made members will still be presented with an association badge as well as the certificate. To be able to present the certificate at a branch practice at which you propose a new member we will require you to tell us prior to the meeting you are going to propose a new member.

	
<b>The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers</b>	
This Certificate is to Record that	
	
Tower	
Proposed by _____	
Was Elected a Member of the Association	
Signed _____	Date _____
Presented by The Bristol Rural Branch	



It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to one of the Branch's seasoned ringers H.T (Bert) Ferris (90), Retired Tower Captain of Westerleigh, and sadly no longer ringing. I asked Bert the following questions to find out more about his Ringing Career.

**1. What are your earliest memories of Bell Ringing? Do you have a history of ringing in your Family?**

Bert came from a family of ringers, his Father, Jack, was Tower captain of Westerleigh for many years and a Church Warden. Bert's Dad instigated the re-hanging there in 1932, prior to that the bells were rung anti-clockwise.

Bert's Mother and his sisters Bet and Mary also rang. His maternal Grandfather was Tower Captain at Kilsby Northants, a 4 bell Tower.

Bert started to ring at 12, and was also in the Choir and pumped the organ. He rang the tenor at Redcliffe at 13.

Bert recalled ringing at Westerleigh for Sunday Service, then going into Bristol to ring at The Cathedral, regularly by bus. Also ringing for 4 weddings in a day, travelling between Westerleigh and Wapley by bike for alternate weddings. He also rang regularly at Dyrham, and called a peal of Stedman Doubles there. Bert told me about going on outings by bike, in his youth.

Bert's wife Annie was a non-ringer.

Both Bert, and his father Jack, have taught many ringers who still practice the art today.

**2. Have you always rung at Westerleigh?**

Bert took over as Tower Captain in the 1970's when his father retired the position. He has since handed over to Martin Blanchard a few years ago. Achievements at Westerleigh include a peal of London, and regular touches of Cambridge Minor for Sunday Service in 2004.

Bert is a member of the College Youths. He has not kept written records of his achievements and grabs, but has rung peals with the likes of Geoff Dodd from Highclere. He rang 2 peals of Stedman triples in a day, several times. He has rung at heavy rings such as Queen Camel and Westbury. A peals at Wells Cathedral and Bristol Cathedral. (an interesting fact the 4<sup>th</sup> is lighter than the treble). He has rung at St Paul's.

Though Bert has kept no records of his ringing achievements, he can remember ringing at towers throughout the country, giving interesting facts about the bells, their weights, and much more.

Bert is a member of Moonrakers and with them rung at all the towers in Scotland, and several other interesting towers, including East Bergholt.

**3. What changes have you seen in ringing over the years?**

He remembered when the whole of Bristol was all in the same Branch. He said there were a lot more women ringing today, there was discussion about female ringers from the area. Both his Mother and Sisters were ringers, way ahead of their time!

**4. What jobs have you done during your working life?**

Bert worked as a gardener in Lacock, under his Uncle, living with the family, for a few months. The rest of his working life was spent working for Parnell Aircraft, now Indeset, with a 10 year gap working for the Railway, as a result of his having pneumonia and pleurisy and needing a change of career.

**5. Any other memories you would like to share with us?**

To help with my own research, I asked Bert about his memories of the work on the Warmley bells in 1976. He recalled ringing in both the last peal at St George before the bells were moved, and the first peal after re-hanging. He said as a personal friend of Rita

Lampard and her late husband Bill, he had given some help with the project. He also recalled ringing Double Norwich on the new bells.

My thanks go to Bert for allowing me to interview him. If you would like to hear more of his stories first hand, you can find Bert in the Olde Inn in Westerleigh enjoying a glass of wine.

**Sue Liebow**

**Cambridge Training Day – 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Following requests from a couple of Branch ringers, our first training day of the new year was devoted to Cambridge Surprise Minor. Twelve of us met at Abson and spent a very useful morning, some trying to master the plain course and others getting plenty of practice filling in around the less experienced ringers. We even managed a few bob courses!

Thanks to Mary Taylor for the use of the bells. It was mentioned to me that some ringers would like another elementary training session (basics, call changes and plain hunting). Please let a member of the committee know if you would be interested and we'll try to arrange something to suit you in the next month or so. Please also let the committee know if you would like training on some other method.

**Chris Greef**



If you know what this is Gary Crisp our bell advisor has a supply at 23p each.

The spec is Lumatic Hydraulic grease nipple 1/8th inch BSP straight, Cat no HP2

Contact Gary for information

## **The 2012 Branch Program an update**

At the AGM in November there were a number of program items which were deferred for the branch committee to deliberate on before advising the towers in the branch.

A meeting took place in mid January to discuss the outstanding program dates.

St Georges Day.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Olympics Ringing.

Combined branch practice.

(with Wotton branch)

Additional branch practices, and

Young Ringers practice.

### **St Georges Day**

**April 23rd**

This is on a Monday

For the last three maybe four years there has been a move to make April the 23rd St Georges day a day of ringing. Because of the difficulties of ringing on a working day it has been suggested that we all ring at 18.00 in the evening, but that is up to each individual tower its members and tower captain to decide. The branch in 2009 had a tower outing on the day organised through the Wednesday morning ringers at Abson. This year 2012 Linda Gittings the Twig for the East group of towers will be organising a tower outing within the branch too which all those who can are invited, details will be circulated nearer the date.

If a tower would like to ring on St Georges Day at any time during the day the branch will encourage it, if you are short of ringers to ring let the Ringing Master know!

### **The Diamond Jubilee**

**June 4th and 5th.**

Monday and Tuesday

There have not been any suggestions made about what ringing should be carried out nationally for the Queen's diamond Jubilee, your committee are suggesting that each tower rings to fit in with what your local village or area are organising.

Please consider ringing a peal or quarter peal to celebrate this momentous event.

Contact Bill or Steve if you would like help in putting a strong band together to achieve this.

### **The Olympics**

**Friday July 27th**

A musician or comedian by the name of Martin Creed had a potty idea, that on the day the Olympic Games open on July 27th at 08.00 in the morning the whole country make a noise for three minutes, this to include ringing church bells bicycle bells and so on. When the proposal was made no one who rang church bells had been approached or asked if this was possible. To cut a long story short as there will perhaps be a perception that church bells will be rung to assist in making this noise on the day, your committee feel that we should join in

and ring, even if your tower only rings a single bell or chimes for the three minutes.

There is no reason that your tower you should not ring a peal or a quarter to celebrate, or even if your tower decides to ring at some other time during the day, it's entirely up to you and your tower members.

Prior to the opening ceremony in London the Olympic torch will pass through our area on Tuesday May 22nd on its way from Bath to Bristol passing through Bitton, so perhaps our branch towers could also ring to celebrate this. On the 22nd the schedule shows the torch passing through Bitton fairly late in the day. Our press officer Sue Liebow will be contacting the local press to advertise the church bell ringing at 08.00 in the morning so that people who have not heard what is happening do not think world war three is breaking out. It is also suggested that this ringing is advertised locally to avoid problems.

### **Branch Event**

**June 9th**

#### **Combined Branch Practice**

You probably remember last year we had a joint ringing practice with Wotton branch followed by a walk and skittles.

This year it is the Rural Branch turn to host this event, it will be on Saturday the 9th of June. Ringing at Frampton Cotterell a treasure hunt local to the church followed by skittles at a local hostelry.

Further details when available.

#### **Additional Branch Practices**

The Branch Management agreed to trial additional weekday evening practices. The idea is that each month one tower will host a practice at the same time as their normal practice night. The hope is that this will

1) give the hosting tower a boost from having extra ringers along, and

2) give those branch members who can't always get along to a daytime or weekend event, or the regular monthly Chipping Sodbury practice, a chance of some extra ringing. This is a trial, and we'll review how it goes later in this year. Of course the downside of this flexible arrangement is that it will be more challenging to communicate to all members when and where the next month's practice is, but that's something we'll just have to figure out.

#### **Young Ringers Practices**

Currently in the branch we have twenty members who are classed as young ringers. The general idea is that the branch will arrange during the summer holiday 2012 ringing days for our young ringers.

All the young ringers in the branch are invited to come along, as well as any of their ringing parents who are available.

If you as a young ringer would be interested in helping organise these days during the holi-

days do let one of the branch officers know or just send me an email and I will pass it on.

[bellringing@bristolrural.co.uk](mailto:bellringing@bristolrural.co.uk)

The branch practice on August the 25th has been highlighted as Young persons and Family ringing on the 2012 program. Further information will be available later in the year.

#### **Ringling World National Youth Contest**

As you may have recently read, on the 30th June 2012 the second Ringling World National Youth Contest is to be held in Birmingham. This is an 8 bell striking competition for Ringers under 19. This seems like a really interesting opportunity to develop some of our Young Ringers and wondered if you had any members in your Branch who you think might be interested? Initial ideas would be to have a couple of practices where any keen Young Ringers could come along and then from that select a band that could go on to represent the G&B. They would then have the opportunity to ring and practice further together as a band.

Ian Bucknell (Stroud Branch) & Mark Edwards (Swindon Branch) have come forward to drive the plan. So, if you have any members who may be interested perhaps you could let me know by the beginning of February so I can send you further details or they can email me directly.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Bridges

Association Ringing Master

Contact Bill Liebow if you are interested in taking part in this competition.

#### **Branch Striking Competition**

**2012**

This will take place at Cromhall on the 17th of March starting at 14.30.

I hope your tower will again consider entering a team.

It would be very useful to know prior to the day if you are going to enter the competition this year, let the Ringing Master know please.

Refreshments will be available all afternoon, it would be helpful if your tower is entering you would like to provide a cake. Look forward to seeing you there.

#### **The Credit Card Size 2012 Program**

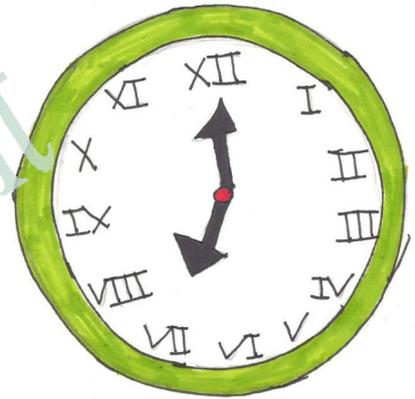
Once again Martin Blanchard has produced the small pocket size program for us all. This will be available in your tower shortly.

If you do not see one do ask a branch officer.

**Many Thanks to Martin Blanchard.**



# Bristol Rural Branch



Annual Quiz Night  
2012

7:30pm

Saturday 18th  
February 2012



Bring a team of  
four, or just come  
along and make  
up a team on the  
night

Raffle available on the night



Iron Acton  
Village Hall

Questions set by the  
Almondsbury Quiz Masters

Adults: £4.00  
Juniors £2.50



Food  
included in the price



Tea, coffee and soft drinks  
provided  
(bring your own alcohol if you wish)