



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 250

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk

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Headlines

1 Branch Practice	2nd December	Filton
2 Far-cited Christmas Lunch	7th December	North Nibley & Stinchcombe
3 Mince Pie Practice	27th December	Frampton Cotterell
4 Branch Training Day	6th January	Bitton
5 Branch Practice	27th January	Pucklechurch

Dec/Jan
2017/8



Our Annual General Meeting - Some Highlights

Our AGM was hosted this year by Almondsbury and I thank their ringers for looking after us and providing a grand tea. Members of other towers also contributed some rather fine cakes - I sampled the rock cakes, fruit cake and meringues, all very moreish.

There were some changes to the Committee. Tony York stood down as Secretary after 22 years: he has done an excellent job throughout his tenure and all Branch members should be grateful to him. He is not retiring totally and will remain as Webmaster. Linda Gittings has taken on the role of Branch Secretary. Alan Coombs also stood down as Ringing Master after three years: his enthusiasm and dedication have been a great encouragement to many ringers. Sue Elliott has stepped up to be Ringing Master, with Matt Johnson as Deputy. However, they will be sharing their duties with the area Twigs, so you will see a number of different people leading our Branch practices and training sessions. I think this is no bad thing: as well as making the task easier for those responsible, the ringers will get to experience different approaches to leading practices, teaching and advising learners (at whatever level). We all have our own ways of thinking about ringing and what one person says about a particular aspect may click with you in a way that what another says makes no sense at all.

We also heard about various tower works in hand or in the planning stage. Iron Acton's clappers are currently

away for rebushing and should be back in early December: the hope is that, along with other minor remedial work on the frame, this will make the bells easier to handle. The Diocesan Belfry Advisor has inspected Doynton's bells and concluded that they are not ringable without a major rehang: the PCC is due to meet shortly to discuss what to do. Almondsbury's bells also need major works: the frame is sound but the bells themselves need turning because of the excessive thinning of the metal where the clapper strikes. Most of the running gear (wheels, bearings etc.) will also be replaced. It was good to hear that the ringers have already completed a number of jobs in preparation for this work, although they have a long way to go with fundraising. So far they have raised about a quarter of the £50,000 they need.

Chris Greef

Thanks from Almondsbury

We were extremely grateful for the generosity of the ringers who made a donation at the AGM tea on Saturday. Thanks to them we raised £105 for the restoration of our bells.

Adam Mead

Your New Committee

Chairman & Newsletter Chris Greef 01454 774479

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Children in Need

Did your tower do anything for Children in Need this year? If so write something to go in next month's newsletter. The one thing I am aware of is that a course of Pudsey Surprise Major was rung at November's monthly Chipping Sodbury practice. The ringers at the practice also contributed financially and I believe about £40 was sent to the charity - thanks to Rachel Parker for organising this.

Chris Greef

Gift Aid

A number of Branches have asked me to explain again how they can take advantage of GASDS - which in case you don't know, stands for the *Gift Aid on Small Donations Scheme*. It's a system for claiming Gift Aid on what are known as "bucket collections."

Essentially, if a Branch makes a collection for Branch funds and then banks it separately, you can - extremely simply - arrange for Philip Twentyman to claim Gift Aid on the whole amount on your behalf. You don't need to do any paperwork, you simply tell Philip the amount and he claims the Gift Aid for you and credits it to your Branch.

So for example, if one of your Branch towers wants to provide a free tea - as many towers do - you can make a Branch collection in lieu of a tea charge and then claim Gift Aid on the whole amount under GASDS. Equally, you can make collections at Branch practices. Our members are normally extremely generous if they know that 25% will be added by HMRC, and some Branches have raised significant sums this way.

Equally, if a Branch Officers doesn't want to take their expenses, they can create even more money for the Branch by using Gift aid. Simply claim your expenses and then immediately donate them back under Gift Aid. That way, the Branch ends up with more money than it started with, and once again, Philip will do all the paperwork. All the General Officers already do exactly that.

Steve Coleman

A Message from Martin Pearson

A couple of things for the Branch newsletter:

As agreed at our Branch Management Meeting, I've created a Google Calendar for the Branch Programme. Although it's public, people will need to be signed into a Google Account to access it: <https://tinyurl.com/BristolRuralCalendar>

I'm currently storing the Branch's display boards but I'm not able to do so long-term, so could someone please volunteer to take them - I'm happy to deliver them. There are eight boards, each 80cm x 100cm, and the stack of eight is 20cm deep, plus two bags of legs (sufficient for erecting the boards in two separate sets of four).

Branch Ringing Achievements

*Dyrham - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - for Evensong.

*Filton - 1280 Grandsire Doubles - for the opening of the Aerospace Museum.

Winterbourne - 1260 Grandsire Doubles - in memory of Mary Marston (nee Harrison).

Westerleigh - 1260 17 M/V Doubles.

Iron Acton - 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles.

Dyrham - 1308 Grandsire Minor.

*Wapley - 1260 Cambridge Surprise Minor - first in method for Ben White-Horne.

*Westerleigh - 1260 Doubles - remembering Janet Derrick, Mary Beese, John Booth.

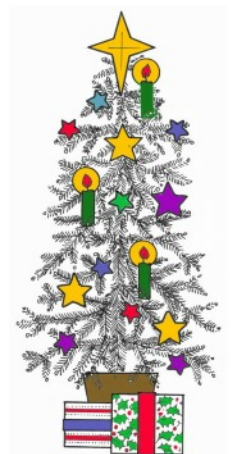
*Filton - 1280 Grandsire Doubles - Gill Greef circled tower for quarter peals.

Olveston - 1260 Grandsire Triples - for the licensing of Revd. David Moss.

Filton - 1299 Grandsire Doubles - half-muffled for Remembrance.

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Minor - in memory of local WWI victims.

*For G&B peal and quarter peal festival.



Notice Board



Bristol Rural Branch

**December/
January 2018**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

December 7th

10.30-11.15	North Nibley St. Martin 6 9cwt (T)	GL11 6DJ	ST736961
11.30-12.15	Stinchcombe St Cyr 6 10cwt	GL11 6BQ	ST730988
12.30-1pm	The Gables Hotel Falfield	GL12 8DL	Christmas Lunch

Branch Ringing

December 2nd Branch Practice 14.30 - 16.30 Filton

27th Christmas Practice 14.30 - 16.30 (Post Mincepies) Frampton

January 2018

No FarCited in January you are invited to join the branch Mince Pie Practice at Frampton on the 27th of December (see above)

6th Training Day Bitton (Cambridge/ Treble Bob, Minor & Major)

27th Branch Practice 14.30 - 16.30 Pucklechurch

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.15 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.



Program Dates for 2018 **Bristol Rural** **Branch and Association**

Month	Date	Event	Time	Notes/Venue
January	6th	Training Day		Bitton
	27th	Branch Practice	14.30 - 1630	Pucklechurch
February	10th	Quiz Night	19.15 - late (Quiz Masters C.Sodbury)	Iron Acton
	24th	Officers Meeting	(Morning)	Gloucester
	24th	Branch Practice	14.30 - 16.30	Filton
March	10th	Association Training Day		Cirencester
	17th	Striking Competition	14.00 - 16.30 (Branch)	Queen Charlton
	25 - 31 st	Holy Week		
April	14th	Association AGM, Penn and Croome trophies		Swindon
	23rd	St Georges Day (Monday)		
	28th	Branch Practice	19.00 - 21.00	Olveston
May	7th	Mayday Outing		South Herefordshire
	19th	Branch Practice		Warmley
June	2nd	Training Day		Saturday
	23rd	Branch Practice and BBQ	15.00 - late	Abson Collins Farm
July	21st	Branch practice	19.00 -21.00	Tytherington
August	18th	Branch Practice	14,30 - 16.30 (followed by a cream tea)	Dyrham
September	16th	Gloucester Cathedral	(Sunday)	Gloucester Cathedral
	22nd	Branch Practice	19.00 -21.00	Syston
October	13th	G & B Training Day		TBA
	13th - 28th	Quarter Peal Week/Fortnight		
	27th	Branch Practice	19.00 - 21.00	Thornbury
November	3rd	Training Day		Saturday
	24th	Branch AGM	14.30 - approx 19.00	Bitton
December	28th	Christmas Practice	14.30 - 16.30 (Post Mincepies)	Frampton
January 2019	5th	Training Day		Saturday
	26th	Branch Practice	14.30 - 16.30	Almondsbury
	Monthly Practices	All Welcome to all monthly practices		
	1st	Wednesday	19.30 - 21.00	Henbury (8)
	3rd	Friday	19.30 - 21.00	Chipping Sodbury(8)

Branch Web site <http://www.bristolrural.uk> Always check the Branch Newsletter for the latest information

Branch Officers 2018

Chairman & Newsletter	Chris Greef	01454 774479	cgreef@btinternet.com
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	West Gary Crisp	01454 773902	Far West Matthew Johnson 07837 254561