



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 261

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk

email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

- 1 Far-cited Christmas outing - 6th December - Somerset towers
- 2 Post mince pies practice - Frampton Cotterell - 28th December - 1430-1630
- 3 Stedman Triples training - Bitton - 5th January - 10-12
- 4 Branch practice - Olveston - 26th January - 1430-1630

December 2018



Editor's Note

The festive season is rapidly approaching, so I would just like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. I hope you have time to fit in some ringing in the next month and I look forward to seeing you at some Branch events in 2019 - maybe the annual quiz night in February?

Chris Greef

Annual General Meeting

Bitton hosted our Branch AGM this year. About 30 were there and we rang Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. After the service we enjoyed an excellent tea prepared by the Bitton ringers and helpers. At the meeting, it was good to welcome a number of new members, including some Ringing Remembers recruits.

Two Committee members stood down after many years of service: Martin Pearson as MC representative and Mary York as one of our 'Twigs'. Many thanks are due to them both for their efforts on behalf of Branch members. The Committee for the coming year is Chris Greef (chair), Linda Gittings (secretary), Lucy Bailey (treasurer), Sue Elliott (ringing master), Matt Johnson (deputy ringing master), Tony York (webmaster), and Julie Scudamore, Bryan Hardwick, Gary Crisp & Matt Johnson (twigs). The post of MC representative is currently vacant, so if you would like to act as the link between the Branch and Association (just 3 or 4 meetings a year), let a Committee member know.

Chris Greef

Armistice Day Ringing

(as published in The Ringing World 16 November.)

"We remembered" – a message from the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we were called to "look to" and take part in a most momentous commemoration. Being so intimately linked in to our local communities, it was no surprise that bellringers everywhere stepped forward to participate, collectively and individually, in such a solemn centenary.

And it is entirely right and fitting that bells gave voice to the deep and lasting emotions felt so widely at this time. So many today owe so much to our forebears for the



Armistice Day Band - Syston

freedoms and liberties that we enjoy one hundred years on. As bellringers, we are the "external choir" that calls

out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service.



On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I wish to thank all who participated in this historic event. The Ringing Remembers campaign, promoted by the Central Council, has claimed some inspiring headlines – towers silent for many years have rung out once more; hundreds of bands have been augmented with new learners; tens of thousands of ringers mobilised to ring in thousands of towers – not just in the UK, but across the world; ringing featured strongly in local, national and international media; and the BellBoard website went into meltdown!



Our campaign sought to recruit 1400 new ringers, to symbolically replace those ringers who fell in the First World War. At the most recent count, new ringer registrations for the recruitment campaign totalled 2792 – close to 200% of the original target. The Council's newly-stated mission is, among other things, "to promote an environment in which ringing can flourish". Last Sunday we witnessed what "flourish" looks like – more of that please.

Whilst it is impossible to thank all key individuals by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vicki Chapman – Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator, Colin Chapman – Coordinator's "roadie", Alan Regin – Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour, Andrew Hall – developer and administrator of the Ringing Remembers web platform, and Bruce & Eileen Butler – who linked

thousands of enquirers to guilds, districts and towers. And there are so many others...

My thanks go also to all those who have come to ringing through this route – may you continue to develop in skill, and gain many happy years of fulfilment in your ringing. And to that widespread army of ringing teachers who have risen to the challenge of training so many enthusiastic learners – well done!

Last Sunday was a day of reflection, a day of commemoration, a day of participation. Bellringers everywhere were able to say – "I was there – I remembered".

Christopher O'Mahony

Branch Training Days

As a Branch we have for a number of years organized training days to help ringers learn new methods and generally improve their ringing skills. If there is something you would like to learn anew or just get more practice, contact any member of the Committee and we will arrange it - it doesn't matter what level, from bell handling upwards.

As an example, we had a St. Simon's Bob Doubles morning at Wapley at the beginning of November, with four students and enough helpers to provide a secure band and someone to stand behind the ringing student. And coming up we have a Stedman Triples session at Bitton on 5th January, so if you want to take part please let me know. We need helpers of course, so again let me know if you can lend a hand.

Both of these sessions have been set up at the request of Branch members, so do let us know what you would like to practice.

Chris Greef

Abson road now fully open

A message from our secretary:

Please can you spread the word that Good News has arrived for Abson ringers and residents - after 9 months of closure the Pucklechurch to Wick racetrack through the centre of Abson and directly in front of the church is OPEN; thereby making it easier to get there to ring.

Linda Gittings

Steve Bateman

I am aware that over the years many of you will have both rung with, and got to know, Steve Bateman from the Bristol Branch. Steve had been ill for some time and has now sadly passed away. I would be grateful if you could pass this information to your tower members.

Linda Gittings

Ringing Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested: The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - £3 each.

Diagrams (blue version – the line for large numbers of methods given) - £12.

G&B badges - £5.

Tony York

Branch Ringing Achievements

Frenchay – 5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (9 methods).

Iron Acton – 1296 Wells Surprise Minor.

Dyrham – 1260 Doubles - Rung to mark the death of Private Reginald Bertram ELLIS, aged 30 years, 100 years ago this day (1st November 1918).

Abson – 1260 St. Simon's Bob Doubles.

Thornbury – 1344 Plain Bob Triples - Rung half-muffled to remember William John Carter, Pte 99472 33rd Btn Machine Gun Corps, who died of war wounds in France on 10th November 1918, age 26. Past bellringer at this church.

Westerleigh – 1400 Doubles - Rung open to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, and to remember the 1400 known ringers lost in that war.

Tytherington – 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor - Rung to commemorate the Centenary Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Filton – 1260 Grandsire Doubles - Rung half-muffled, on Remembrance Sunday, for the centenary of the Armistice of the First World War.

Dyrham – 1260 Doubles - Rung after the Remembrance Service to mark the ending of hostilities at the end of WW1.

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

web site www.bristolrural.co.uk

**December
2018**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

6.12.18

10.30-11.15 Ashwick St. James

6 7cwt GF(T) BA3 5BG 733476

11.30 – 12.15 Whatley St George

6 11cwt (GF) BA11 3LE 733476

12.30 – Christmas Lunch The Centurion Radstock BA3 4BD

Branch Ringing

December 28th Christmas Practice 14.30 - 16.30 (Post Mincepies) Frampton
The only branch ringing in December.

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.30 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

2019

5th January

Stedman Triples training session Bitton, from 10 till 12.

If you would like to use the Branch CCTV cameras in your tower, just ask a branch officer?

"If you want some help with a practice, some assistance to learn a new method, a special training session, or if you have any other query, please contact one of the Committee member.

web site email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

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Ajy july 2017