



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 256

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

July 2018

Headlines

- 1 **Branch practice and joint social with Wotton Branch Tytherington 21st July, from 15.30**
- 2 **Wotton Branch Outing - see poster - 28th July**

Editor's Note

I don't think I had ever thought about opera and bellringing as being linked in anyway. Well, it is now, with what sounds an exciting project to write an opera about Almondsbury Bells. As a way of raising the profile of bellringing amongst the local schools and the community in general, this kind of thing is top notch. Read Clare Jefferis' article below for more detail.

Clare tells me she would be happy to have a preliminary discussion with other tower bands contemplating major restoration projects and then provide advice if wanted in her professional capacity as a fund raiser.

Chris Greef

Branch Practice and Barbecue at Abson

Firstly I was late due to a wedding commitment but on arrival about an hour after the start of the practice there were 12 ringers in the tower. My immediate thoughts were 'what am I going to do with all the food?' I'm pleased and relieved to say that we were joined at the BBQ by at least another 12 people to help eat it. However I think if we are to continue with the event it will need to be names beforehand plus an allowance for a few extra as it was only thanks to the generosity of



Enjoying the view

those there who were prepared to give donations for the unused food that we got rid of nearly all of it. We charged £4 per head and this has made us a small profit (happy face Lucy!).



Host Mary Taylor with Bryn Shackleton

Now for the good bits. The weather was great for such an event. Mary Taylor had worked hard to arrange her home and garden to accommodate us and supplied any amount of wine/beer, coffee and soft drinks, unfortunately for her this left loads of washing up but the whole event was very convivial. We drifted away about 7.30ish which worked out well as by the time I rang Mary later that evening the hay in the field by the cottage had been baled so we missed the dust bath as well.

Oh and the ringing ranged from Call Changes to Cambridge.

Linda Gittings

Almondsbury Rehangng

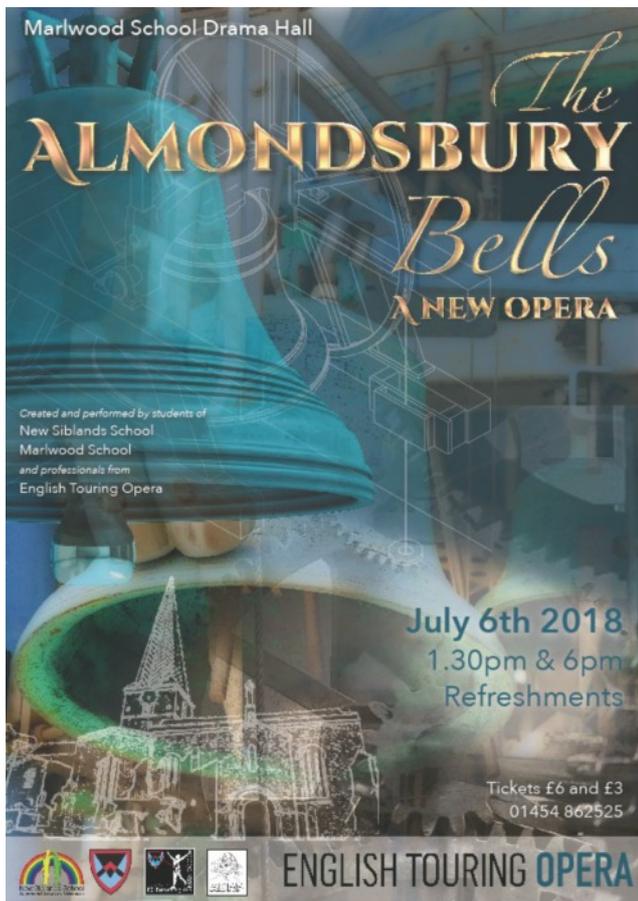
Bespoke opera to be written about the Almondsbury Bells Restoration Project

Because Almondsbury Bells Restoration Project (ABRP) has funding from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), we must engage local people and schools with the project.

The 8 Almondsbury bells will be taken out of the tower and sent to Loughborough for refurbishment on 17th September 2018. Two bells will be retuned. The ringing

room and bell chamber will be redecorated and a soundproofing system installed before the bells are replaced in 2019. Further, we hope to refurbish the Ellacombe chimes.

The English Touring Opera (ETO) are coming into two local schools to work with singers, musicians, actors, stage crew, technicians, costume designers and set designers (to name a few) for one whole week in July, to create and perform an opera in a week. ETO bring such incredible professionalism and creativity to everything they do - the week certainly promises to be a massively enriching and rewarding experience for all those involved. They are also bringing a wonderful percussionist. Tom Highnam was a BBC Young Musician Finalist a few years ago and will be a huge asset. <http://englishtouringopera.org.uk/education/>



During each project the director, Tim Yealland, works with the schools to create the libretto around a loosely predetermined theme. This year Tim has agreed to take the theme of **Almondsbury Bells Restoration Project** as the basis for the opera. This idea seemed to be the perfect subject matter to create a musical composition, rooted thoroughly in the fabric of the local community. There are many directions Tim Yealland may wish to take this; however, it guarantees to be an extremely exciting project, benefitting not only the students, but the Bells project too.

Tim Yealland, Education Director at ETO has ideas buzzing already and we can confirm that the new Opera will be called 'The Almondsbury Bells'! They've already

composed a big 'Almondsbury Bells' song, which incorporates the names of the schools in the lyrics.

Tim Yealland says: *In terms of the story we will be making something which I hope will be exciting and fun to be part of for all our large mixed ability cast, so there will be some liberties in terms of the specifics of Almondsbury. Also the process of making the opera is a creative one, so we will be inventing both the story and the lyrics with the group throughout the week, and we will begin with the spirit of creative freedom. But if you can gather any tasty morsels from your ringers in the meantime do let me know and I'm sure we can find ways of incorporating them. I think there's a lot here to play with, and that will make an interesting and authentic opera. As always a lot will change when we start work with the group.*

Clare Jefferis

Pucklechurch to Wick Road Closures

The rolling road closure programme on the Pucklechurch -Wick road continues and will do for the rest of the year. Linda Gittings tells me that the current closure is still south of Abson with no indication of any northward move, so you can get to the regular Abson practice from the north (Pucklechurch side).

Ringling 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

Joint Social with Wotton Branch

We have arranged for our annual get together with the Wotton Branch to fit around the Branch practice at Tytherington on 21st July. As a result, the practice will start earlier, with ringing from 3.30 till 5.00pm, so we can repair to The Wheatsheaf pub in Thornbury at 6.00pm for skittles and a ploughman's. Details will be sent out later, with a request for choice of food, but please make a note in your diary now.

Branch Ringling Achievements

Tytherington - 1269 Cambridge Surprise Minor - for the Royal Wedding.

Filton - 1296 Spliced Surprise Minor (12 methods).

Almondsbury - 1260 Plain Bob Minor - first inside for Caleb Jefferis and first on the treble in method for Marcus Booth.

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch
web site www.bristolrural.co.uk

**July
2018**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

5/7/18

10.30-11.15 Huish Episcopi BVM	8.15cwt.	TA10 9QR	ST427266
11.30-12.15 Long Sutton Holy Trinity	6(16cwt)	TA10 6DS	ST469263
12.30-2.15 Lunch Details later			
2.30-3.15. Muchelney SS. Peter & Paul	5.171/2cwt.	TA10 0DQ	ST428249

Branch Ringing

Branch Practice and with Joint Meeting see poster

15.30 - 17.00 Tytherington

Thornbury The Wheatsheaf, Skittles and Ploughmans

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.15 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

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

Branch Secretary email bruralsec@gmail.com

web site email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

As this is a pdf form you can click any web address or email address

Ajy July

Joint Bristol Rural/Wotton Branch Practice and Social
Saturday 21st July 2018

Ringing from 3.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.

@

Tytherington

followed by

Skittles



+

Ploughmans Supper

@

The Wheatsheaf, Thornbury



Come as a tower or as an individual and join the fun

The postcode for the pub is BS35 2BJ
there is easy parking at or close by.