



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 249

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## Headlines

- |                           |               |                         |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Far-cited outing        | 2nd November  | South of Tewkesbury     |
| 2 Branch training day     | 4th November  | Bob Doubles at Frenchay |
| 3 AGM and Branch practice | 25th November | Almondsbury             |

# November 2017

## Editor's Note

I just want to emphasise the importance of the AGM (see details below). If you can't come yourself, try to ensure that someone from your tower is present. And if you or someone you know would be interested in joining the committee, please put your hand up!

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is coming up on 25<sup>th</sup> November. It is at Almondsbury this year and the timetable for the day is:

Ringling 14.30 – 16.00

Service 16.00 – 16.45

Tea 16.45 – 17.30

Meeting 17.30 – 18.30

Further ringling 18.30 onwards.

Please do come to support your Branch and help your committee put together the programme of ringling events you would like to see.

We are looking for some new committee members this year. Alan Coombs is standing down as Ringling Master, Tony York as Secretary, and Rachel Parker as PR representative. Thanks to all of them for their contributions. Now would you or someone you know be willing to take on one of these Roles? Please let us know - the Branch can't operate as a Branch without its officers.

Please remember to renew your tower members' subscriptions before the AGM too. The tower return forms are on the Branch website:

<http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/page10a.htm>

## Branch practice - Keynsham - 23<sup>rd</sup> September

There were nine ringers present. Methods rung included call changes, plain hunting, plain bob doubles, grandsire

triples, single Canterbury minor and Cambridge surprise minor.

## Branch Practice - Westerleigh - 28th October

Only eight ringers this month (where were you all?) but to compensate we rang eleven different methods - 6 doubles, 2 minor and 3 surprise, something for everyone.

## More on Lignum Vitae

In response to the article last month about rebushing a clapper, the following was received:

It was interesting to read of Chris Greef's experience with Lignum Vitae in a clapper at Winterbourne. Lignum Vitae is a very hard and dense wood. These properties mean that, among other uses, it was employed for bearings. The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine had one of its main shaft bearings made out of the stuff. The wood contains natural oils that make bearings self-lubricating. I suspect that the Lignum Vitae at Winterbourne was the original bearing and has simply been retained as a backing to a later repair. I doubt that a wood as hard as this would prevent vibrations being transmitted.

The new Central Council booklet "Manual of Belfry Maintenance"\* mentions Lignum Vitae bushes and says that, in spite of the self-lubricating properties, these bushes need additional lubrication. However, it also says that the material is no longer used because the timber has been exploited to the point of extinction - trade in Lignum Vitae is controlled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES). Because of these restrictions, a worn Lignum Vitae bush should be replaced with a modern alternative. Of course, this doesn't prevent Winterbourne from retaining a worn one as a backing piece!

This is an excellent new publication from the Central Council which can be obtained for £12.00 from

<https://cccb.org.uk/shop/>. Every Steeple Keeper should have one! For full disclosure, I have no interest in the publication apart from reviewing it for The Ringing World.

Robin Shipp

### Far Cited Outing

It was a beautiful autumn day for October's far cited outing. We were visiting Ken Webb's part of Wiltshire – Hilmarton (15cwt), Bremhill(18cwt) and Bromham (17cwt) were our towers, all nice 6's. We rang Plain Hunt, Bob Doubles, Stedman, St. Simon's, Bob Minor, St. Clement's and Cambridge, something for everyone. We were met at Bromham by Dennis Powney, who remembered Jack Ferris (Jack came from Bromham originally) and recalled Jack talking about travelling on the canal boats with his father, who was a bargeman. Dennis also remembered ringing with us in our first quarter peal (Grandsire Doubles at Cromhall in 1972) and recalled Gill's name without prompting!

Chris Greef

### CCTV Cameras at Corston

Our eight bells at Corston All Saints were given by a family in the village, in memory of their son "Fritz" who died in the 1st World War. A stipulation was made that the bells be rung on his birthday 23rd September, something which has been carried out every year. 2017 being the centenary of the bells, we thought we would have a celebration afternoon.

And what a day we had:

- Alan Coombs installed the CCTV cameras and we had the screen down stairs for all to see
- The local ringers rang a new method now named Fritz Bartelt
- There was open ringing from 2pm
- The church was open for all to see, bells on the screen, lots of history to browse and lots of people
- The children had a go at the hand bells
- We had one of our famous ringers' teas!
- There was a service to celebrate the centenary of the bells led by Reverend Daile Wilshire our rector accompanied by Reverend Mark Jackson Master of Bath of Wells.

It really was a fantastic day so all our thanks to Alan and you Chris for allowing us to use your cameras/screen.

Many thanks.

Jenny Burton

### Affiliation to the G&B Association

Most of you will not be aware that your tower in 2017 was affiliated to the Association and has been for many years! You can find out if you are affiliated by looking in the G & B annual report, under your tower, in branch details, you will see an 'A'. All Rural branch towers in 2017 were affiliated, even Doynton!



Abson's repaired headstock

Yearly the Association treasurer writes to your PCC asking if they wish to affiliate for the coming year, that will currently be 2018. However, there is a change this year, agreed at the

Association AGM in April, in that the affiliation fee will rise from £10.00 to £20.00.

What does your PCC and church get from affiliating to the G & B? Briefly, if your tower has any major work carried out to the bells or the fittings or any repairs to the same, your tower can apply for a grant to the G & B bellfund to cover some of the cost, up to about 10% of the cost. (Almost all your annual subscription goes into the bellfund).

Abson's recent headstock repairs received a £40.00 grant (see picture).

When affiliated the tower receives a certificate which you should see if you look in your church porch or on the church notice board. This contains information about your practice night, when you ring for services, who is the Tower Captain or contact for the ringers and a means of contacting them. It is important that this certificate is kept up to date by your Tower Captain so visiting ringers know when you ring. It can also lead to an enquiry from potential new ringers as happened recently at Dyrham.

The format of the affiliation certificate had been very dull, but several years ago the format was changed to a coloured A4 document which is much more visible, a change prompted by myself at an Association Branch Officers' meeting..

Your tower's affiliation certificate can be found on the branch website under <Branch Affairs> and it can be downloaded and amended as required. So do make sure it is up to date and on display.

Tony York

## Cornwall 2017

Year 4, just South of Camelford.

Slowly we are working our way up through Cornwall with about another 4 years worth of towers left to ring at.

On day two of the trip, whilst just being nose around one of the churches, we found a challenge had been thrown down by the ringers there in that they had rung with a band whose age in years totalled 444 with the youngest being just 60; with a beer or three that night we began to think, 'well what could we do?'. The next day at St Mabyn (8.75 cwt 8) we put our two bands together according to age. Our 'Golden Oldies' made the total of 603 years and our 'Bouncing Babes' 477 years. Sandra was very, very grateful to Tony York, the eldest there, as he came out of hibernation to ring with the 'Oldies' which



Golden Oldies

meant that she could be placed, with her husband Roger, in the 'Bouncing Babes' group. She would never have lived it down back in her home tower if she had been considered old when he was still a 'Babe'.

Thursday was a Saint's day ringing at St Mabyn, St Kew, St Minver, St Endellion, St Teath, and St Breward all of which were nice bells followed by a lovely meal in the pub at St Mabyn.

A good trip this time and no really challenging bells, roll on next year.

Sue Elliott



Bouncing Babes

## Branch Ringing Achievements

Filton - 1260 Grandsire Doubles - for Taize.

Kelston - 1300 Doubles - to commemorate Sgt. John Barrington, died 9th October 1917.

\*Filton - 1280 Grandsire Doubles - first inside for Lucy Tutton.

\*Iron Acton - 1260 Cambridge Surprise Minor - for the diamond wedding of Rachel Parker's parents.

\*Yate - 1260 Surprise Minor.

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

\*Dyrham - 1260 Bob Doubles - for evensong.

\*Abson - 1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles.

\*Winterbourne - 1260 Grandsire Doubles - for Gill Greef's 70th birthday.

\*Wapley - 1260 Cambridge Surprise Minor.

\*Dyrham - Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

\*Filton - 1280 Grandsire Doubles - for Taize.

\* For G&B peal and quarter peal festival - not a bad total, but a pity more towers aren't represented - maybe more in the pipeline?

# Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

**November  
2017**

What's on this month in the  
Branch

## FarCited Ringing

2-11-17

10.30-11.15 Treddington St. John the Bapt., 6 8 cwt. GF GL20 7AB SO 905295

11.30-12.15 Deerhurst St. Mary 6.11cwt (T) GL19 4BX SO 870299

12.30-2.30 Lunch Details to follow.

2.30-3.15 Tirley St .Michael & All Angels 6 10 cwt GF GL19 4HH SO 840285

## Branch Ringing

### November 4<sup>th</sup> Branch Training Day.

10.00-12.00 Frenchay Plain Bob Doubles Contact Branch Chairman to enrol as student or helper.

## November 25<sup>th</sup>

### AGM Almondsbury

Ringing 14.30 - 16.00

Service 16.00 - approx 16.45

Tea approx 16.45 - 17.30

Meeting 17.30 - approx 18.30

Ringing if required Approx 18.30 -

## Kelston Ringing TBC

**First Saturday** 14.30 - 16.30

## Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.00 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

## Program Dates for 2018 (AGM Copy) 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 <sup>st</sup>	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		Area TBA
	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		Wotton
	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	1st	Branch Practice	14.30 - 16.30	Winterbourne
	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)
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	19.30 - 21.00	Olveston 8 (Next March 18)

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