



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 260

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

Headlines

- 1 Far-cited outing - 1st November - local towers
- 2 Branch training - Wapley - 3rd November - 10-12 - St. Simon's Doubles
- 3 Armistice Day ringing - All towers? - 11th November
- 4 Annual General Meeting - Bitton - 24th November - 1430 - 1900

November 2018

Editor's Note

November 11th sees the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. Most churches seem to be doing something special to commemorate this event. I hope you as bellringers are playing your part by ensuring that your bells are rung at least once on that day, whether for a Remembrance Day service, as part of one of the nationally promoted campaigns or for a peal or quarter peal attempt. If you don't think you can raise a band, let the Committee know: we will ensure that your bells are rung on that special day.

Chris Greef

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM this year is at Bitton:

Saturday **24th** November (**not the 25th!**).

The programme is:

Ringling from 14.30

Service 16.00 - 16.45

Tea 16.45 - 17.30

Meeting 17.30 - 18.30

Ringling 18.30 onwards.

Details, including Officers' reports and a draft programme of Branch ringling events for 2019, are on the Branch website.

Please could each tower make a contribution to the tea by providing a cake or similar?

Chris Greef

Gloucester Cathedral Ringling

Sunday the 16th of September was the date of this year's annual Rural Branch visit to Gloucester cathedral to ring for the evensong service. I arrived slightly early and on the far side of the south door by the staircase I found Will Ruck, past association ringling master and I was introduced to Dave both members of the cathedral band. After a quick chat members of the branch were congregating around and upon looking outside the south door again there was a group of ringers waiting. With everyone ready it was time to ascend the staircase travel through the roof space and then begin the climb up the tower.

Once we were all gathered in the ringling chamber and ready it was time to raise the bells, a difficult task to take up all 12 in peal successfully so a much more manageable approach of taking them up in 2 groups of 6 was taken on Will's recommendation. It was great to see such a good representation of the Branch there to ring, from long standing members to a strong group of younger ringers, some looking forward to ringling on 12 for the first time.

The bells at the cathedral are not renowned for being easy to ring in terms of striking them well as it takes some getting used to the very different pace of ringling that comes with 12 bell ringling. Nevertheless by utilising all members' best strengths good quality ringling was achieved for the service, mainly in the format of rounds and call changes to give best chance for people to concentrate on the handling of the bells, the pace of ringling and to listen for good striking. Plain hunting on 9 bells was also attempted with good results.



Gloucester Cathedral Bells

Lowering the bells is a long and tricky process taking 10 minutes or more to lower the whole 12 in peal so again on the tower captain's recommendation a easier approach of lowering the back 10 was the choice. The very different speed of lowering on higher numbers was a new challenge to some of the ringers and caught a few out, but a respectable lower was achieved all the same.

With the bells down we were just in time for the tolling of Great Peter, with the bell frame sitting on the same floor as the ringing chamber. This makes for quite a spectacle as you are stood right in front of the bell as it swings and at just under 3 tons it's an impressive sight and a very loud sound as well. Next floor up is the bell chamber and it's another interesting sight to see the entire 12 only occupying one corner of the huge tower.

The final climb brings you to the tower roof where this year we were met with a very average slightly gloomy day but visibility was still perfectly good enough to enjoy the fantastic views available from the top of the tower. With views stretching across much of the county and also into neighbouring ones, this is very often a highlight of people's visit and makes for a wonderful photo opportunity.

So at the end of this years visit, the Branch put on good ringing for the service and I hope everyone that came along enjoyed the ringing and the trip as a whole. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Matt Johnson

Almondsbury Bells

Almondsbury's bells have left the tower. The operation began with Gerry Annis and two other members of the band (Nigel Waters and David Smith) removing the stays, clappers, all nuts and bolts from the wheels and splitting them apart. That done Steve Crane joined the team which cut and rejoined the primary RSJ so that the bells were ready for Taylors to take away on Monday 8th October. Steve Westerman the senior bellhanger from Taylors arrived that afternoon and he and Gerry Annis lugged his 1 tonne block and chain and all his equipment up into the ringing room. The next day they were joined by Robin Shipp and the three of them opened the hatch in the ringing room floor whilst Steve got his rig set up in the belfry. Together they got the treble, 2nd, 4th, and 5th out and into the church by the end of Tuesday. Nigel Waters joined in on Wednesday and the four of them lowered the 3rd, 6th, and 7th into the church. Lots of people came to see the operation including all of Almondsbury Primary School and some pupils from Marlwood. Clare Jefferis attended to look after the



media and set up a display whilst David Smith arranged the projection of pictures from the belfry onto a screen in the church. We lowered the Tenor on Thursday morning when the BBC arrived to shoot a lot of footage. All the bells were then loaded onto the truck and bound for Loughborough by 2pm on Thursday 11 October.

Gerry Annis



BBC Radio Bristol have a short piece on the renewal of the bells at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/play/p06m2tr2>. It should stay up until 12 November. The piece begins 1h45m50s from the start of the programme and runs until 1h54m18s. There is also a story with pictures at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-45851611> which should stay up for longer.

Annual Returns Forms 2019

I have produced the annual return forms for 2019, they are on the branch web site under <Branch Affairs>, <Membership Information Page>, <Then select the relevant file from the drop down box> or go straight to the page <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/page10a.htm>

Tony York

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.

Tony York

Branch Ringing Achievements

Mangotsfield - 5152 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major.

Westerleigh - 1260 Doubles (Grandsire, Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury) - to celebrate the life of Elvira (Babs) Ballard, Sandra Godwin's Mum.

Iron Acton - 5040 Surprise Minor (London, Norwich, Ipswich, Bourne, Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge) - rung for Harvest Festival at this church, and for G&B Peal & Quarter Peal Festival - first peal of 7 Surprise on the bells.

Frenchay - 5760 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (147 Methods).

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

web site www.bristolrural.co.uk

**November
2018**

What's on this month in the Branch

FarCited Ringing

1-11-18

10.30 – 11.15 Abson St James the Great. 6.10cwt (T) BS30 5TT 706749

11.30 – 12.15 Pucklechurch St Thomas 6 12cwt (T) BS16 9RB 700765

12.30 – 14.30 Lunch Rose and Crown Pucklechurch, Information sent to all FarCited Group

14.30 – 15.15 Dyrham St Peter 6 13cwt SN14 8EU 741789

Quarter Peal Remembering a Dyrham resident Mr R. Ellis who was the rector's batman and lost his life on this day in WW1.

We will a £5.00 deposit again this year per person for the Christmas Lunch, we will start collection of your menu choice and deposit at the November meeting on the 1st November.

You can see the Christmas Menu on the Farcited Program at

http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/fctd_2019/FarCited%20Program%20November%20-%20April%202019.pdf

Branch Ringing

11th November Ringing Remembers Towers ring during the day to suit your own time.

24th November

AGM at Bitton starting at 14.30

Service at 16.00.

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 -

Documents for the meeting can be found on the web page below:

<http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/page10d.htm>

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.30 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

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

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

Ajy July 2017