



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 248

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk

email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Far-cited outing | 5th October | Wiltshire |
| 2 G&B training day | 14th October | see G&B website |
| 3 Branch practice | 28th October | Westerleigh |

October 2017

Editor's Note

Just a plea. Please send articles for the newsletter. This month, with one exception, all the copy is mine! If I don't get more, I'll run out of inspiration and you'll get bored.

Chris Greef

Branch CCTVs in Action

Our Branch CCTVs have been busy in the past month:

Bitton: Bitton borrowed the cameras for the annual Fete, and the monitor was set up in the entrance to the Church along with the ringing boards which give a little more detail about ringing. Also on display was a clapper, muffs, broken stays and a small bell frame to give more of an insight into the bells, the weight of the clapper was quite a surprise to those who tried to pick it up.

We had allotted timeslots which gave the other bands in the church and on the field a breather whilst we rang. The porch was a buzz whilst we rang with lots of people commenting how lovely it was to see the ringers and the bells in action, especially for those who are unable to climb the steps. Hindsight is a wonderful thing but perhaps it would of been nice to put a camera on the roof to capture the view from the top. After the cameras were set up on Friday night and the lights turned off, one final check of the monitor on the way out to see the ghosts of Bitton at play!!

I am so glad we borrowed the cameras.

Sue Elliott

Winterbourne: Winterbourne borrowed the cameras for Heritage Open Doors weekend, when we get lots of visitors coming from the medieval barn next door because of the shared history of the two buildings. Over the two afternoons nearly 200 people visited the church and saw the static displays and monitors on the bells and

ringing chamber. I was upstairs in the ringing chamber most of the time and it seemed I must have seen a good proportion of the 200 too. Those who came were fascinated and the children all excitedly had a go at chiming a bell – not easy with bells of Winterbourne's weight. When things were a bit quieter I even had the opportunity to let a few people have a go at ringing backstroke.

A worthwhile exercise!

Chris Greef

Our thanks go to Alan Coombs who set up the equipment and to the ringers who helped him and manned the bells. The cameras also had an outing to Corston at the end of September.

Let Alan or Tony York know if you would like to borrow the cameras for your bells. They always attract a lot of interest and certainly help to get a better understanding of bell ringing out there among the general public

Far-cited Outings



Wanstrow

September's outing was to Somerset, a very nice light 8 at Marston Bigot and 6's at Wanstrow and Nunney. Afterwards I attempted to conduct a quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury at Whatley: everything was going totally smoothly, but perhaps too smoothly because half way through (it appeared) one of the ringers suddenly woke up to discover they were ringing bells but had no idea what they were trying to do. And I wasn't on the ball well enough to put things right – never mind!

October's outing (Thursday 5th) is to Wiltshire – Hilmarton, Bremhill and Bromham – come and join the group if you're free.

Chris Greef

Gloucester Cathedral Ringing

Our annual outing to Gloucester cathedral to ring for evensong was somewhat affected by closure of the M5 motorway, which certainly prevented our Ringing Master and probably others from getting there on time. Nevertheless about 20 ringers turned up and in the Ringing Master's absence Matt Johnson organised the ringing. He made sure everyone had a ring whilst properly taking account of the general lack of 12 bell experience of most of those present to ensure we made the best possible sound. Thanks, Matt!

After the ringing there was the usual opportunity to go up onto the roof to see the view over Gloucester and the hills.

Chris Greef

Rebushing a Clapper

Checking the general state of the bells at Winterbourne revealed that the clapper on the 3rd bell had developed rather more lateral play than we would like, so we decided to rebush it. One of our ringers has the expertise and a lathe to do the work so we saved some money by doing it ourselves.

On dismantling the clapper we found that the bearing construction was not as we expected. There was a lignum vitae insert in the clapper shaft and inside this a steel tube. To attach the clapper to the crown staple the fixing bolt, complete with lubricating hole, fitted inside the steel tube. The excess play was between the lignum vitae and steel tube and was easily fixed by turning down the steel tube enough to enable a tight fitting brass insert to be fitted between the two parts. The clapper has now been refitted to the bell and all seems fine. Whilst at the job, we took the opportunity to retighten the crown staple bolts on a couple of the other bells.

The mystery is - What is the lignum vitae for? Someone suggested that this should be the bearing surface, but then why the steel tube and lubricated bolt? Is it perhaps evidence of a previous rebushing exercise? The other possibility is that the lignum vitae wood helps prevent unwanted vibrations being transmitted between the bell and clapper. Any ideas?

And the moral is - Do check the state of your bells and frame periodically. If you are not confident about doing this, contact any member of the committee to arrange for our local belfry advisor to pay a visit.

Chris Greef

Branch Ringing Achievements

A quiet month this time:

Filton - 1260 Grandsire Doubles - Lucy Tutton's first quarter - congratulations!

Iron Acton - 1260 Plain Bob Minor - to commemorate Private Alfred George Wollen, died 30/8/1917, aged 20.

Don't forget that it's quarter peal fortnight from 14th to 29th October. Let's see how many quarter peals we can ring in as many towers as possible.

Subscriptions Reminder

To repeat the Secretary's message from last month, please remember to renew your tower members' subscriptions before the AGM in November. The tower return forms are on the Branch website:

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

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

**October
2017**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

5-10-17 A Day out with Ken.

10.30-11.15 Hilmarton St. Lawrence 6.13cwt (T) SN11 8SE SU 019753

11.30- 12.15 Bremhill St. Martin 6 17cwt GF SN11 9LA ST979730

12.30-2.30 Lunch Venue and Menu to Follow

2.30-3.15 Bromham St. Nicholas 6 15cwt SN15 2JQ ST963651

Branch Ringing

14th G & B Training Day Wotton

14th - 29th Quarter Peal Week

8 Bell Practice

21st October

Bitton 10.00 - 11.30

TBC

28th Branch Practice 19.00 - 21.00 Westerleigh

Kelston Ringing

7th October

Early Warning Branch AGM at Almondsbury

November 25th

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 -

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.00 - 21.00 Unless notified differently.

The Branch CCTV cameras will be at
Frenchay for the Frenchay Rainbows