



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 247

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk

email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 Far-cited outing | 7th September | Somerset |
| 2 Gloucester Cathedral | 17th September | details below |
| 3 Branch practice | 23rd September | Keynsham |

September 2017

Editor's Notes

With the holiday season in full swing, there is not so much happening on the ringing front but, if you're travelling around the UK yourself on holiday, do you ever take the opportunity to join a local band for practice or for Sunday morning ringing? You'll always be welcome.

Talking to a ringer about the last 8 bell BMW practice (Mangotsfield this time) I gather support was very limited again. In contrast, advanced 8 bell ringing in the Branch is progressing by leaps and bounds: the last Chipping Sodbury joint practice ran to 5 spliced surprise major. So come on, you aspiring 8 bell ringers - what will make you turn up?

Chris Greef

Frenchay Village Fete

Frenchay tower had their annual open day at the Village fete on Saturday 15th July, it turned out to be a great success and was busy throughout the afternoon. All the bells were up bar one which was purposely left down so that this one could be chimed by the younger children. The tower was open for tours and talks about the bells and a small group of people were taken up at a time where they could see the bells being rung. Once they had a tour of the tower they were invited down to have a go at ringing the bells under the supervision of an



Display at Frenchay

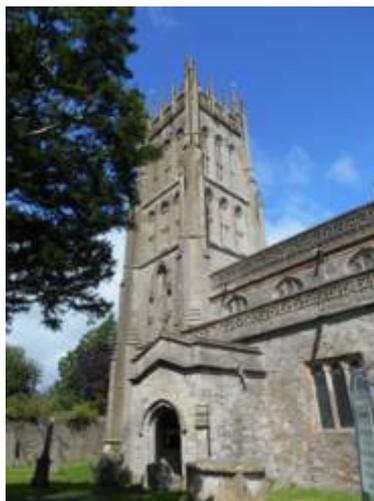
experienced ringer, the younger children who were too small to ring were under my supervision and we got them to do some chiming which brought great beaming smiles to their faces whilst their parents took pictures.

We had quite a lot of interest from people wanting to learn to ring and we also had information boards and objects of interest to show people, which went down well.

We would like to thank the following people for their time and dedication in making this tower open day happen:- Alan Coombs, Lynda Winter-Alsop, Martin Winter-Alsop, Lynda Gittings, William Liebow, Edna Cause.

Lynda Winter-Alsop

Far-cited outing to Mendip – 3rd August



Leigh on Mendip

The weather for August's outing was appropriately like summer, a good start. The first tower was Leigh-on Mendip, one of those splendid ornate Somerset towers so characteristic of the county. The church is in the middle of a massive (£750,000) renovation and refurbishment project, which includes the rehanging of the bells. The oak frame is apparently in good shape,

so will be retained with some additional strengthening. The bells will have the existing crown staples removed, they will be retuned and then hung on roller bearings. It is hoped to install a simulator as part of the project.

The next tower was Binegar. There is no band here, which probably explains why the bells were reluctant to

go up right. However, once raised they rang perfectly well.

After a good pub lunch at The Horse & Jockey in Binegar, we travelled to our third tower of the day, East Harptree.

There were a good number of ringers on the trip and we had some nice ringing. Thanks to Mary York as always for organizing another excellent day out.

Chris Greef

Dyrham Branch practice and cream tea - 19th August

Having commented above in my Editor's Note that things were quiet in August, I have to say that the Branch practice at Dyrham really bucked the trend. I reckon that there must have been a good 40 ringers present, covering everything from call changes to surprise minor. There was a lot of chatting going on too, especially during the cream tea after the ringing. The tea, organised by Mary York and helpers, was excellent, with cups of tea, scones, jam, clotted cream and all sorts of other cakes to try. I think visitors popping in to the church from Dyrham House next door were rather jealous! Thanks to Mary for the tea and to Alan Coombs for managing the ringing all afternoon. An event to be repeated, I think.

Chris Greef



Cream tea at Dyrham

Ringling achievements in the last month

Publow - 1260 All Saints' Doubles - prior to rehangling

Mangotsfield - 1260 St. James Bob Doubles - for Patronal Feast day

Frenchay - 5040 8 spliced treble dodging minor

Wapley - 1260 St. Clements Bob Minor - to commemorate the battle of Passchendaele, and first in method for Rachel Parker

Mangotsfield - 5024 Rasputin Delight Minor

Clutton - 1260 Plain Bob Minor - for the 40th wedding anniversary of Ken & Pauline Webb

Mangotsfield - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - for the baptism of Ezra Pollard

Wapley - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - for the 80th birthday of David Cole (Lyn's father), Lyn Winter-Alsop's 10th quarter peal and Alan Coomb's 350th



Wapley quarter peal band + the Coles

Bath St. Stephen - 1320 Grandsire Doubles - first in method for Julie Scudamore, and for her 3rd granddaughter

Frenchay - 1260 mixed doubles - for the Holland family

Branch Ringing at Gloucester Cathedral – 17th September

If you would like to ring at Gloucester Cathedral for their evensong on September 17th 2017, these are the arrangements. Parking has in past years been in the Cathedral precinct, but unfortunately this has now been withdrawn so you now have to make your own arrangements. The nearest car park I think is in Park Street (Post Code GL1 2DA) which is/was a pay and display and is only so say 4 minutes walk to the Cathedral. There is also a large Tesco car park on the ring road (St. Oswald's Road, GL1 2SG) where you can stay for 3 hours, it is 15 minutes walk to the Cathedral. When you arrive at the Cathedral Precinct go to the small door at the end of the South Transept (*Editor's note - the precinct yard is currently under excavation but the door can still be reached, or it least it could on the 21st August*). You should be at the door **no later than 13.35**. You can also get to this door from the inside of the Cathedral – it is in the South Transept. When we have ascended the tower the tower steps door is locked behind us. Ringing commences when we get into the ringing chamber, the Rural Branch Ringing Master Alan Coombs will organise this. Ringing finishes at 14.50 at which time you should be able to see the Cathedral

Bourdon Bell chimed mechanically. Weather permitting, there should also be an opportunity to go to the top of the tower for a panoramic view of Gloucester and the surrounding countryside.

Tony York - Branch Secretary

It's that time again

I am afraid it is subscription time again, the tower return forms for 2018 are on the branch web site:

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

Tower contacts, tower captains or unattached members can select their return at the page address above. Rural Branch returns should be with the Branch Treasurer no later than the date of the Branch AGM at Almondsbury on Saturday 25th November. Do not forget to send your remittance with the form.

Tony York - Branch Secretary

From the Ringing World issue 5543 July 21st 2017

When did you last check your woodwork?

With the warm and (sometimes!) dry summer weather it's a good idea to keep a close eye on the woodwork in your tower. As the timber dries out it will shrink and you may need to tighten the bolts on stays and wheels to stop them becoming loose. If your tower has timber headstocks or a wooden frame, check regularly that clapper staples, crown-bolts, cannon straps and gudgeon plates are not getting loose and beware of frame movement increasing. Later in the summer when everything has been well dried by the warm weather set aside some time to tighten frame bolts and tie rods if required. Tie rods should be tightened evenly by working outwards beginning at the centre of the frame.

Look out for signs of woodworm too, 1 to 2.5mm holes especially with fine dust around them are a bad sign and should be investigated and treated as soon as possible to avoid the infestation spreading.

And while you're up in the tower, carry out a thorough inspection of your whole installation. You'll then have time to schedule your cleaning, maintenance or repair work while the tower is still warm and dry!

From the Ringing World issue 5544 July 28th, 2017

Check your louvres

Louvres should be designed to let the sound of bells out to the world, but not permit anything to get in. Are they firmly secured to the tower walls? Are they in good condition with no loose parts? Do they let inclement weather in? Is the bell chamber wet after rain? Dampness can cause rot in wooden frames and fittings, and lead to corrosion of metal components. Can

livestock gain entry? Birds can bring in nesting materials, a fire hazard that should be removed as soon as possible. Squirrels and the like are known to feast on bell ropes. Bats are a more contentious problem, but making sure they cannot gain entry to other parts of the church is a sensible measure, such as by fully closing doors to all access routes.

Good quality small-gauge mesh backing the louvres will ensure security provided it is robust. Stainless steel or heavily galvanised material is suitable but chicken wire is useless. Should you find faults, report them to the PCC, as it is their responsibility to maintain the fabric. You should consider backing the louvres with 'Galebreaker' or similar water impervious but air-permeable material. In fitting, make sure that the bottom of it directs the water outside the tower.

If you need more information or any advice, contact the Association Belfry Advisors or the CCCBR Towers and Belfries Committee, who will be happy to help:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/services/towers-belfries/>

Tony York - Secretary - taken from the Ringing World with thanks

Bells as a symbol of Church and community

Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical is launching a campaign to raise awareness of the contribution of churches to the local community, beyond their religious duties alone. The sound of church bells is synonymous with a feeling of community spirit and togetherness, so the campaign would like to include bell ringing in its plans, to remind the public of the role that churches play in their local area. Churches provide vital community services free of charge such as food banks, mother and toddler groups, shelter services for the homeless, activities for the elderly and simply a place to go if you need a chat and some company.

The campaign coincides appropriately with the 2017 Heritage Open Days, and therefore they are asking that as many of us as possible ring our church bells during the period from 7 – 10 September 2017. Please consider helping them keep the role of churches alive this September, and ring your bells to remind your local community of your church's presence!

To let the public know that church bells will be ringing in unison across the country, Ecclesiastical will be engaging with the media to promote the event and the important message behind it. Have a look on the Heritage Open Days website to find out more about the wider concept of the open days, including a nice spotlight on bells and ringing: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk/news/spotlight-barrow-bells>

Notice Board

Bristol Rural Branch

**September
2017**

What's on this month in the
Branch

FarCited Ringing

7-9-17

10.30-11.15	Marston Biggot St Leonard	8 (7cwt)	BA11 5DE	ST755449
11.15-12.30	Piglet Tower (Not Confirmed)	8 (0-0-20-11) GF (T) TBC	BA11 5PB	ST769443.
12.30-2.30	Lunch Venue/Menu to Follow			
2.30-3.15	Nunney All Saints	6 (12cwt)	BA11 4LW	ST737457

Branch Ringing

8 Bell Practice

16th September

Warmley 10.00 - 11.30

17th September

Gloucester Cathedral see newsletter for details All Welcome. There is no Parking now available at the Cathedral, click the web address for info

<http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/gandb/VISITORS%20INFO%20RINGERS.pdf>

23rd Branch Practice

19.00 -21.00 Keynsham

Kelston Ringing

2nd September

No ringing in September due to a wedding

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

Third Friday 19.00 - 21.00 Unless notified differently

The Branch CCTV cameras will be at

Bitton Saturday 2nd September.

Winterbourne 9th and 10th September Heritage weekend.

Corston 23rd September