

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Skittles Evening 11th March (Copy of Poster on the back)
2. G & B Training Day Helpers required.
3. The Queen's 80th Birthday.
4. Branch Striking Competition (Wish I had been there)

Farcited Ringing March

Thursday March 2nd

Day Out

10.00 - 11.00 Dauntsey
No Coffee bring your flask
11.15 - 12.15 Great Somerford
Lunch Rose and Crown Lea
14.00 - 15.00 Charlton
15.15 - 16.15 Long Newton
Cup of Tea
Map OS 173

Branch Ringing February March 28th

Branch Practice

Westerleigh 14.30 - 16.30



G & B Training Day

Cirencester and Tewkesbury
If you can help let the Ringing
Master or Chairman know now

Steve Coleman 01452 831197

Chris Greef 01454 774479

The Ringing Master Writes

Have you ever been to an
Association AGM?

Perhaps not, because the very
phrase has a dry and dusty feel to it,
and you imagine being bored out
of your mind while a crowd of stuffy
old ringers drone on about matters
of complete irrelevance.

Who knows, perhaps Association
AGM's were once like that, but I can
assure you that these days they most
certainly aren't. In the morning, a
host of towers are open, and ringers
from all over the Association travel
around them ringing. The ringing is
always relaxed and easy-going, and
everyone is welcomed and catered
for no matter what their ringing
expertise or experience.

At the same time, the Association
Striking Competitions - the Croome
Trophy and the Penn Trophy - are
taking place, and some ringers like
to drop by the towers involved and
listen to a band or two - especially
as tea and coffee are always laid
on for them. Certainly, the Bristol
Rural band always rings well in
these competitions, and last year
they were awarded "The Ringing
Master's Clapper", not just for their
fine ringing but for the very
impressive way they supported and
encouraged each other throughout
After lunch, there's the service, and
that's preceded by open ringing for
absolutely everyone. And as I'm
also Association Ringing Master, I
look after that ringing and make
completely sure that every single
ringer gets an enjoyable, stress-free
ring notwithstanding all the people
there. When it comes to the service,
the singing is always robust and
hearty, and when it comes to the
tea afterwards, that's always robust
and hearty too.

Then it's meeting time, and it really
isn't stuffy at all. It only lasts about
an hour or less - and that includes
the Competition results and trophy
presentations at the beginning - so
that's good. But most important of all
is that the atmosphere is relaxed
and, friendly, and everyone comes
with the intention of being positive
and cooperative. Last year there was
such good humour that many people



told me afterwards that they'd had a really
splendid afternoon, especially since they met
lots of ringers, just like themselves, from other
Branches. And then, last of all, there's one
more tower to ring at before heading home
So this year the AGM is in the Swindon
Branch - but not in Swindon itself - on
8 April. There'll be lots of nice towers and lots
of fun, and I look forward to seeing you there.
Steve Coleman

Striking Competition branch new member

Our Ringing Master informs me that a new
junior member was elected at the Striking
Competition meeting. In fact the new member
Russell Scudamore was elected, presented
with his G & B badge given a round of
applause by all present and then participated
in the Coalpit Heath Junior team entry in the
competition.

Her Majesty the Queen's 80th Birthday

an extract from the Ringing World
Buckingham Palace is planning a number of
events to celebrate the Queen's 80th
Birthday. Her actual birthday is 21st of April
and her official birthday the 17th of June - the
day of the trooping of the colour. As many
towers as possible are encouraged to ring on
both the actual and the official birthday at a
locally convenient time. It is also suggested
that peals and quarters should be rung
throughout the period between the two dates,
and this would be a good opportunity for
celebratory branch and district peal and
quarter peal projects. For example a branch/
district peal month for the whole of May
could lead to bells which are normally silent
being rung in celebration. Please try to
ensure that announcements are made locally
that the bells are being rung to celebrate the
Queen's birthday.

Judith Rogers

Chairman PR Committee, CCCBR



Spring-Like in Wapley

Splendidly, over 40% of Branch members came along to the Branch Striking Competition at Wapley. Some came to compete, some came to encourage, some came to provide tea and cakes, and some came to do all three. Importantly, one person even came to judge.

And the winner?

Well, without doubt, three things tied for first place. The tea and cakes available all afternoon were magnificent; the extraordinarily high standard of ringing achieved by every single one of the nine bands entering was truly impressive; and the absolutely splendid atmosphere of friendship, mutual support and encouragement was everything you could wish for. The church was packed full to the very end - indeed, the vicar said he'd never seen so many people in there except at funerals - and there was so much goodwill between teams, that a visiting ringer would have been hard put to believe that a competition was actually taking place.

And all that, of course, made the award of the Encouragement Warming Pan to the band that encouraged everyone else the most, impossible to decide. So after the drawing of lots, Bitton became the worthy winner.

And the ringing results?

Well, Judge Rachel Coates from Gloucester Cathedral said lots of nice things about absolutely everybody and then awarded framed, illuminated certificates as follows:

Most Highly Commended

(in alphabetical order)

- Abson
- Almondsbury
- Bitton
- Coalpit Heath Juniors
- Frampton Cotterell
- Wapley

- Third place: Mangotsfield
- Second Place: Westerleigh
- First Place: Coalpit Heath Seniors

And the weather?

Under the Competition Rules it had to be crisp and Spring-like, and so it was.

Roll on next time.

Steve Coleman



Pictures courtesy Gary Crisp

An email received from Sue Jay Bitton Tower Captain.

"Bitton Tower would like to say how much they enjoyed the striking competition and following their award of the bed pan, if anyone would like to join us on a Monday Evening you can now be assured of a warm welcome!!!

Thanks to Steve who made the afternoon go quickly and smoothly and to Wapley for excellent cakes."



Skittles Bristol Rural Branch

When?

Saturday March 11th

Where

The Rising Sun
Ryecroft Road
Frampton Cotterell

Time

19.30 Start

Price

£4.00

Students £2.50

For more information ring
Chris Greef 01454 774479
or Sue Jay 01179 322424

Directions

From the Winterbourne - Iron Acton Road turn into Church road as if you are going to Frampton Cotterell Church, pass the church on the left and turn right into Ryecroft Road at the third turning on the right past the Church, the Rising Sun is about 300 yards on your right.

From the Downend - Yate road, turn into Church Road as if you are going to Frampton Church, take the third turning on the left into Ryecroft road, the Rising Sun on the right in about 300 yards.

Good Luck

Tickets will be available at the branch Striking Competition at Wapley, or from Chris and Sue on the above numbers.

We would like to get an idea of how many are coming for the catering requirements so please let us know! or buy your tickets before the day.

Bring a Team
come and join
a team,
make up a team