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1. **Striking Competition at Abbots Leigh March 19th**
2. **May Day Outing to the Chippenham area Monday May 2nd**
3. **New Twig for Abson Dyrham Pucklechurch, Wapley and Westerleigh**
4. **Recruitment campaign update**

## Farcited Ringing

Thursday, 7th April

Bath, Lansdown 11.00 -12.00 Lunch  
TBA

Warmley from 14.00 - 15.00

### Branch Ringing

9th April

G & B AGM

Service at Bisley Church 15.00

Tea and Meeting at Oakridge Village Hall. Do see the calling notice for parking and getting there  
Details sent to tower correspondents and all branch email recipients

Croome and Penn Trophies Stroud Branch

18th - 24th Holy Week

23rd St Georges Day see May Day

30th Branch Practice

19.00 - 21.00 Bitton

for her time and effort during the last few years.



### Branch Recruitment Campaign

As mentioned in the March Newsletter your committee have been planning a recruitment campaign. The first step was to find a press officer to produce articles and have them published in local publications. We are pleased to say we had a volunteer the wife of our deputy ringing master Sue Liebow. Sue came to our last meeting and is now actively pursuing articles and adverts. We will all soon see the fruits of her deliberations in local publications. On a second front we sent out an advert to all tower contacts to see if they could get it put in their local Parish Magazine. In most cases this has been very successful.

The third part of the campaign planned is to have an open day in June at Frampton Cotterell for new and potential ringers. They will be able to come along, see what ringing is all about, and have a go. This will be lead up to with a widespread advertising campaign through-out South Gloucestershire. Posters and ringing information will be in libraries. You will all be involved in some way I am sure with this initiative.

### Branch Striking Competition

**March 19th 14.30 - 16.30**

The sun was shining and it was nice and warm when we all met on the green outside the church at Abbots Leigh. The judges went up the tower and had a ring to get the feel of the bells, whilst this was happening the

Published on the 4th Saturday each month

# Bristol Rural News

Association of Church Bell Ringers  
Bristol Diocesan and Branch Gloucester

## April 2011

0411  
No 170

Information for the next news letter the Tuesday prior to the 4th Saturday

afternoon's catering arrangements were set up outside, the kettle was soon on and tea being brewed. The judges having finished their ring went off to their spot for judging, the ringing master Gary Crisp conducted a draw for the order of play and off went the first team to ring



**Chipping Sodbury Ringing**  
3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

### A New Twig

I know its spring but

For Abson Dyrham Pucklechurch, Wapley and Westerleigh. Liz Taylor expressed a view to me recently that she was extremely busy at work, she had a recent promotion which takes up so much of her time she cannot easily give as much time to ringing as she would really like and would, if we found some one give up her TWIG duties. We have

been lucky enough to have a volunteer in Linda Gittings (Linda might not say that) so can we all welcome her aboard. We also thank Liz



with the usual rules. Five minutes practice, two blows on the treble to say you are ready and 120 changes of your choice. At this stage we had seven teams, five individual towers and two scratch teams. The afternoon progressed well, those not ringing drank tea (or coffee) and consumed lots of cake. All was going well when a sudden bang emanated from the tower, the three went silent and the ringing stopped abruptly. The judges said that this team had only sixteen rows to go to finish. The clapper had fallen out of the three. Gary Crisp with Keith Scudamore went up into the bells, they found the clapper

but the nut was more elusive. Some thing to remember, take a torch to a striking competition in future. Linda Gittings came to the rescue as she had a small torch with her and the missing nut was found, replaced and tightened and we were off again. The judges decided that the team who were ringing need not ring again. The next team to ring should have been Tytherington but the call of farming meant they had to leave before they could ring. We were extremely sorry that Tytherington could not ring due to time constraints as they did have a complete team already to go whilst the previous team were ringing. The sixth team went up, after which we called it a day as the time had gone by. We went into to the church to await the deliberations from judges Ian Unsworth and Andy Binstead from Wotton branch they had duly cogitated and decided the overall winners were team number four Coalpit Heath. Well done to them, they will represent the branch in the Croome trophy.



The winning team from Coalpit Heath  
One final word many thanks to those branch members and towers who provided the many cakes and the willing tea makers, the washers and dryers of cups and saucers. Many Thanks to you all for once again making the 2011 striking competition a memorable event.

### May Day Outing 2011

#### Incorporating St Georges's Day

(St Georges's day is in Holy week this year)

Monday May 2nd by Car

To see all the details go to the branch website and look under recent changes for a complete list and the details.

#### Towers:

9.30 - 10.30 Colerne

10.45 – 11.30 Corsham

11.45 – 12.45 Calne

Lunch – own arrangements

14.30 – 15.15 Hilmarton

15.30 – 16.15 Lyneham

16.45 – 17.45 Malmesbury

### A first for two Westerleigh Ringers

A few months ago us Westerleigh ringers cajoled one of our ringers into attempting a peal for the first time. As our bells are somewhat heavier than most, we decided to request the Wapley ring for the peal. Arranging a date that a suitably strong band to ring meant that we chose 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011. I have been chastised twice for picking the day of the Association Training Day, so this is my final apology for that. At 9.30 am on the chosen day we assembled at Wapley, rang the bells up, and after adjusting the ropes began what turned out to be a successful peal. The details are shown below. The four doubles methods were 1200 changes each of St Simons & Grand-sire and 1320 each of Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob.

5040 of Doubles (4m) in 2 Hours 29 minutes.

1. Henry Taysom
2. Kristian Scudamore
3. Brynley Shackleton
4. Keith Scudamore
5. Martin Blanchard (1<sup>st</sup> as conductor)
6. Sandra Godwin (1<sup>st</sup> Peal) Rang to mark the partial retirement of Sandra, and as a compliment for the Diamond Wedding of Tony b& Babs Ballard (parents of Sandra).

Thanks to Keith for helping me count the 42 extents and the odd calling correction, particularly the near slip in the last 120.

*Martin Blanchard*

### Recruitment at Almondsbury

Over the coming months we'll all be hearing more about the Branch's new initiative aimed at recruiting new ringers. At Almondsbury we've been actively pursuing our own plan to attract new ringers. However, our priority is more focused to ensuring the long-term stability of our band. We generally muster a good band for Sundays and Monday practices, but we realise that all bands go through periods of highs and lows, and that a little planning now might save us pain in the years to come.

Our general strategy is based around raising awareness of bell ringing. At Almondsbury, like many other churches, ringing can sometimes feel somewhat detached from the main activities of the church. In fact, we realised recently that villagers and church goers have little appreciation or understanding of bell ringing. Yet it is these groups that typically we draw on for new recruits. So, with this in mind, we

embarked on a programme to improve awareness of bell ringing. And you may have already seen the effect of one such activity; coverage in the local press, together with a rather nice photograph, as a prelude to a tower open morning that we held one Sunday between morning services. The result was a great turnout from the village and the congregation, in far from ideal weather.

Prior to this open morning, we'd 'warmed up' the local community with a series of full-page ringing articles in our monthly parish magazine. This ongoing activity features 'stories' about the history of the bells and bell ringing, why we ring and why ringing is such a great hobby. A side effect for us is that it has actually been great fun writing, and in particular researching, each article. Other activities include a profile of ringing on the church website, and we've set up a private website just for the Almondsbury ringers to provide an automated weekly notification by email of upcoming events and news. The advantage of having such a facility is that our ringers who cannot ring every week can stay in touch with the band, as can those who do not ring with us on a regular basis. Factor in our new monthly get-together at the (very) local pub, and you'll start to appreciate the emphasis we place on the team element of ringing.

Other opportunities to publicise bell ringing arise occasionally through local clubs and organisations, like Scouts (etc.) and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Some of our efforts at raising awareness are a little more speculative. By adopting one of the flower beds in the churchyard, and arranging our plants in a ringing theme, we hope we'll be noticed by those who just pass by the church. (We'll report back on the success of this initiative at a future date!) And we try hard – but not too hard – NOT to win at too many church quiz nights ;-)

As the Branch recruitment initiative picks up pace, we'll obviously be offering our support. If you happen to read the forthcoming April issue of the parish Lich Gate magazine you'll see our article on the opportunities that bell ringing brings in 2011, both at Almondsbury and across the Branch.

*Stephen Crane*

Almondsbury Bell Ringers

