



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers  
The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

0615 220



**Headlines** web site [www.bristolrural.co.uk](http://www.bristolrural.co.uk) email: [bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk](mailto:bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk)

1. June Branch Practice see page 4.
2. St Georges Day Report
3. The May Day Outing
4. Press Officer required, are **you** up for it? See poster

## June

2015

Published on the 4th Saturday

### What's Happening this Month

#### FarCited

Thursday June 4th

See News letter

Branch Ringing

**June 6th Training Day**

**Saturday (Bitton)**

**27th Branch Practice**

**(Possible Walking tour)**

**July 4th**

**Joint Social event with Wotton Branch**

**Chipping Sodbury Ringing**

**The 3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00**



Frampton Cotterell Ringers on St Georges Day

### Young Ringers Holiday Ringing

I sent out an email recently asking if your young ringers ( if you have any) would be interested in some organised ringing in the summer Holidays.

Please let me know if they would!

### St George and the Dragon descend on Bristol Rural Again

#### THEY CAME; THEY RANG.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 the troops of the Bristol Rural Branch and their Squires descended on Frenchay where they started the day with the necessary coffee and biscuits prior to ringing. Some troops then moved on the Iron Acton where even Cambridge did not kill off the dragon. Next saw us at Frampton Cotterell where, after another good set of ringing lunch was taken at the local hostelry. The afternoon saw us at Abson and then lastly at Syston where a much needed cup of tea/coffee and cake was supplied. During the day ringers came and went according to their commitments and we saw 29 people join in, 22 of which were ringers, again tackled the dragon on behalf of St George.

The day saw a general standard of ringing higher than any previous year, this was not due to the ringers who attended but more the fact that ringing within the

branch as a whole has continued to improved, with more people trying new things.

Thank you to all who came and made the day possible - ringing is a team game - and thank you to the squires who attended to help with refreshments, photos and the general happiness of those ringing the bells.

*Linda Gittings.*



Also on St Georges Day Angela Robb called her 1st Quarter of Bob Doubles, At Pucklechurch. Well Done Angela!

### The Ringing Masters Clapper

Awarded to the Tytherington team at the Croome trophy ringing at Langley Burrell, Whilst Tytherington did not win they attempted Cambridge as their test piece where all the other teams were very mundane and most rang Grandsire. However the irony is they did not receive the trophy as the previous team to win it had lost it! I sent Tytherington a photo of it when it last came into the branch when Westerleigh were awarded it.



**FarCited**

### June 4th

10-10.45 Minsterworth St. Peter  
6.11.1/4 cwt, GL2 8JJ SO773170

1

1-11.45 Blaisdon St, Michael .6 7.1/2 cwt. GL 17 OAG SO703172

12.-2 pm Lunch Details to follow.

2-2.45 Ruardean St. John the Bapt. 8 14.3/4 cwt. GL17 9US. SO621177

3-3.45. English Bicknor St. Mary the V. 6.7 cwt. GL16 7PG SO 582158

4-4.45. Littledean. St. Ethelbert. 8 10 cwt. GL14 3NL SO 672136





### May Day 2015

Our annual Mayday outing this year was organised by Hilda Shipp and took us to the Welsh valleys and back towards the Severn crossing.

The day started fairly bright but chilly and we arrived at Ebbw Vale with some time to spare. Walking down the main street to try to find a coffee, we couldn't fail to notice the run-down

nature of the place, although there were improvements, eg. sculptures in public spaces, to try to make it more inviting. We didn't find a coffee shop but saw two old men sitting in a bar drinking lager (at 9.55 am!). The Ebbw Vale bells, a 24 cwt eight, were not such a disappointment as the town and proved to be much as described (possibly the best sounding bells in the country). Setting the pattern for the day, we rang everything from call changes through to Surprise Major. In contrast to the urban nature of Ebbw Vale, the setting of the next tower, Mynyddislwyn (a 12 cwt eight), was on a delightful hilltop with wonderful views and just the pub as a

neighbour. Apparently this type of church was built to serve the shepherding communities in the centuries before the Industrial Revolution led to the development of the Valleys.

Next stop was lunch at the Tredegar Arms in Bassaleg where service was very efficient and the beers and food good. Bassaleg church (14 cwt eight) was just next door and so there were no excuses for lateness.

Moving on from here, we came to Caerleon (an 8cwt eight) with a tiny ringing room. Caerleon was very busy as we arrived because of the Fair on the common (more like the village green). This made car parking a bit of a challenge in what is always a very difficult place with its narrow streets and visitors to the Roman museum, amphitheatre and baths, but everyone who wanted got a ring before we had to leave. Our final ringing stop was Shirenewton (15cwt, this time just a six). These bells unusually can be rung either from the crossing or from the ringing chamber above. For us, it was upstairs, but there was a slight delay while we located the key - a phone call established its place of safe-keeping so we let ourselves in. Having worked our way back to Shirenewton, the journey home was relatively quick and, with good timing, the rain only started at this point.

There were around 30 ringers in total on the outing though some were not with us for the whole day. We had wondered whether the preponderance of 8 bell towers might deter some Rural Branch ringers but the attendance rather disproves this. With this number and typically three-quarters of an hour at each tower, it was probably just as well that they were eights, otherwise it would have proved a rush to give everyone a ring.

We certainly enjoyed our day - all new towers for us, except Caerleon, and it was good to see such a good crowd including a few visitors. Thanks very much to Hilda (and Robin) for the efficient organisation of the day.

**Chris and Gill Greef**



Pictures and collage on the previous page of the May Day outing by Adrian Gittings with thanks.

### News Review

If you want something to happen in ringing, who do you get to do it?

At Douglas on the Isle of Man, Ernie de Legh Runciman identified the need for a simulator to help with training. According to Ernie's interview with the Isle of Man Courier (or maybe the Manx Independent or the Isle of Man Examiner the three papers share a website), the use of Abel with a wide screen

television means that 'people can learn the art more easily because the computer not only produces the sounds but also produces on-screen images to recreate the effect for the learner of ringing as part of a group'.

At North Walsham, at first glance it looks as if the recently appointed vicar is the person taking the lead: a piece in the Eastern Daily Press announced that 'essential work on securing the 90 ft tower ruin at St Nicholas' Church, North Walsham, which cost £1210,000, was celebrated at a thanksgiving service. During the service the vicar of North Walsham and Edingtonthorpe revealed he had long-term ambitions to create a viewing platform and space for six bells within the ruin'. But then a little more research shows that the vicar behind this exciting idea is Paul Cubitt - Norwich Diocesan bells adviser and (according to Bell Board) no stranger to peal ringing.

The Eastern Daily Press (which seems to have a strong track record of finding ringing interesting) also reported on the public launch of St Peter Mancroft's ambitious plans to build a ringing school in their tower, while the BBC News website quoted Simon Rudd, one of the organisers of the scheme, on 'the project's bold blueprint for putting Norwich on the map as a centre of campanology tuition': "We have the loudest voice in Norwich when the bells are ringing and we want to show people how it's done. Everybody hears what we do but very few know how we do it. We now want to bring that knowledge to a wide audience and encourage them to take up the hobby, or even just learn what it is all about."

In Devon, Rachel Avery of Kingsteignton appeared in the Western Morning News' 'Out to Lunch' feature, telling reporter Liz Parks that bell ringing is 'a community- focused pastime that offers something for everyone - no matter what age'. When asked 'What is it about bell ringing that you enjoy so much?' Rachel replies that "I love the people who ring. I have met so many wonderful people ringing. It keeps your brain active - it's exercise too with the ringing and going up all those stairs to get to the bells. I really enjoy it and I didn't appre-

## Wanted

### The Branch is looking for a Press officer, would you like to join the branch committee in a non elected member position.

**With the sad loss of Sue Liebow earlier in the year who held this post we would like to replace her. Sue was the first Press officer the branch created specifically for the recruitment year we held in 2011.**

**The role involves advertising the branch activities to the local press and broadcasting bodies. Producing articles for the local press with the help of the rest of the committee. Such as the National St Georges day of ringing, liaising with the local councils for council lead activities, ensuring the branch is represented in the local guides which are published in each area.**

**Attending the annual AGM in November and reporting on the activities through out the year, attending the once a year branch management committee meeting in September or October which plans the annual program for the following year, along with other varied activities in which the branch are involved.**

**If you are interested please talk to a branch officer**

ciate how much I would enjoy it when I was younger. I love that my children are now growing up in that environment. They're really well-rounded, the older one, especially. She spends so much time with different people that are older than her and younger than her - it's a really nice way to grow up. I also love the competitions. I've got friends that don't understand why I go to a competition where everybody rings and all you win at the end is a shield or a certificate but I'm a very competitive person so I only want to win that shield." All of these very different news stories emphasise one thing if we want ringing to progress, then we should not stand back and wait for others to do the work - it's up to us.

There's no one else.

\*\*\*\*

As well as those who go out and promote ringing, there are those who serve for many years. Some particularly notable examples came to my attention in the February press. The Harwich and Manningtree Standard reported on Leslie Doe retiring as vergier at All Saints Church in Terling: apparently he was a bell ringer from 1946 although the article doesn't say when (or if) Leslie retired from that role.

The Craven Herald reported a quarter peal: 'Malcolm Harker has been a member of the Skipton bellringer's for 47 years and, to mark Malcolm and his wife, Maureen's diamond wedding anniversary mem-

bers of the band gathered to ring a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples'. But even more impressively, the North Devon Journal reported on Percival and Joan Saunders' 70th wedding anniversary - 'having moved to Devon after retirement in 1988 Percival took up church bell ringing in Swimbridge, although he practises in Bishops Tawton. "I am probably the oldest bell ringer in Devon, if not the country" he said. "I helped to install a ring of bells in Essex and someone said 'you have helped to fit them you'd better learn to ring them'. And within three years I was the tower Captain". Just because you are long serving doesn't mean that you aren't an activist. doing (or having done) the essential jobs that only happen if we do them!

GILES BLUNDELL

***Many Thanks to the Ringing World and Giles Blundell for this article.***

### VE Day Ringing

I would like to thank all the ringers at the various towers around the Branch and outside for taking part in the 70th Anniversary of VE day. It was fantastic that so many of you took part,

Quarter peals were rung by  
Almondsbury  
Coalpit Heath  
Dyrham (Far-cited Band)  
Dyrham Sunday Service Band  
Tytherington.  
Olveston  
Pucklechurch  
Stonehouse (recorded by Linda Gittings)

Trevithin (1/8 peal recorded by Steve Crane)  
General ringing .

Abson  
Frampton Cotterell  
Winterbourne  
Mangotsfield  
Yate (rung by Rural Branch Ringers)  
Keynsham (15 minutes of call changes)  
Doynton Chimed at 11 am By Gillian  
Stevens at the branches request.

**Alan Coombs**

Ringing Master

### **Dyrham Bells**

I received the email below recently from Mike Baron, giving some interesting facts about the 5th bell at Dyrham. I thought you all might be interested in this information.

I have been in contact with Dr. Ralph Midwinter concerning the 5th bell of the ring of 6 bells at St. Peter's Church, Dyrham, Gloucestershire. This bell is an exceedingly rare example (one of only 16 survivors known) of

a 14th.  
Century

'Royal  
Heads'  
bell, pos-  
sessing im-  
ages of a  
crowned

Planta-  
genet

King's  
Head and

of his  
Queen as

'word-  
stops' be-  
tween the

Latin words  
of the bell's

inscription.  
The bell is

36 inches in  
diameter

and was re-  
putedly cast

by John

Experience has taught me that the best detailed photos obtained of the inscriptions on other bells were done by two people, one taking the close-up photos, while the other person illuminated the subject by torch or lamp at an angle of 45 degrees. I would be most grateful if either you and a friend, or another pair of your acquaintances, would be willing to photograph the inscription on the fifth bell, or as much of it as is accessible.

Kind regards

*Dr. J. Michael Baron,*

The picture below was taken by Adrian Gittings and myself back in February 2013, along with many other pictures which you can see on the Dyrham page on the Branch web site!

Michael Baron when we took the pictures was going to produce a book, but was persuaded that a map was probably the best way of presenting his research. The Map will be shortly advertised in the Ringing world so that anyone who is interested can purchase one.

Adrian and Myself were lucky enough to have a free copy sent to us for helping with his research.

**Thank you to all those who submitted articles or information this month, much appreciated.**

## *The Royal Heads Bells of England and Wales*



*Michael Baron, Ph.D.*

1 cm to 5 km

1:500,000

1 inch to 8 miles

### **Branch Practice 27th June**

Around Bath! (info arrived 23rd)

Widcombe,

Bathwick,

Larkhall

and Christchurch (new bells)

Not in that order!

Will produce a poster and send out

