



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 279

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

April-May 2021

Headlines

- 1 All Branch ringing events cancelled until further notice
- 2 G&B Association AGM - Saturday 12th April - by Zoom - details later

Editor's Note

Over 50% of the adult population have now received at least one jab, so given the age distribution of ringers that must mean the large majority. With luck we'll be able to ring later this year but I'm not predicting when. Sadly, it is likely that we will have lost a number of ringers because of our inability to ring for such a long period, as well as for the usual reasons. I don't know what impact that will have on our towers but your Committee will have to take stock of the situation when we do get back to ringing, and maybe change our ringing programme as a consequence. Until then, keep safe, keep smiling.

Chris Greef

Ellacombe Chimes

This year is the Bicentenary of Ellacombe Chimes, which were devised and first installed at Bitton church. Here is a précis of an article from the Ringing World explaining the background and plans to celebrate the event:

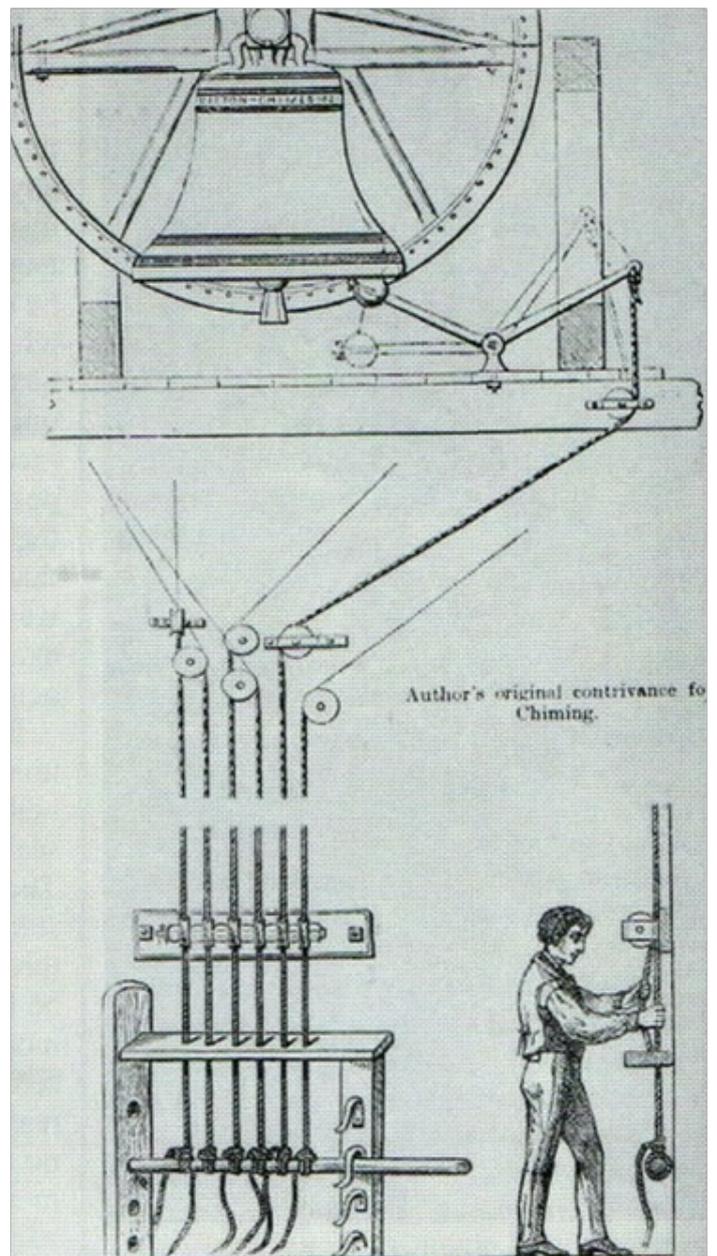
In June this year, at St Mary's Church, Bitton, Gloucestershire, where the first Ellacombe Chimes were set up, it is planned to hold a celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of their installation and of the events that led up to it.

The chimes were designed by the curate, Henry Thomas Ellacombe, who took up his post in 1817. He soon became outraged at the antics of the local bellringers. Two teams of ringers competed against each other, rarely attended church services, and would ring a celebration for whoever paid them. Ellacombe was eventually able to outwit the bellringers by installing his apparatus that enabled all the bells to be chimed by the use of a set of pulleys from the church porch, operated by one person. As a result, he and the churchwardens regained control and imposed not only authority but a set of rules that remain posted to the walls of the ringing chamber to this day.

Ellacombe was not anti-bellringers; he was a great proponent of the art, but he was against poor behaviour by bellringers, which he had come across previously. Yet one might wonder why it was that he had to resort to such extreme measures to impose his will in a small rural parish?

In fact, it was neither small nor (by the standards of the time) even rural. It covered a vast area to the east of Bristol which,

over the previous century, had developed into an industrialised landscape of coalmining, industry, and manufacturing, as well as agriculture. Parts of the parish were viewed as lawless and Ellacombe was probably dealing with some hard-headed people who were not going to take any notice of a newly installed young curate. Ellacombe had, however, a natural talent for mechanical and technical workings and had previously worked for the great engineer,



Marc Isambard Brunei, the inventor of machinery to make pulleys, at his engineering works at Chatham Dockyard. It was his technical knowledge, particularly of pulleys, that enabled him to get the better of them.

The apparatus remained in the church and continues to be used. Ellacombe himself publicised it in his own renowned book, *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Bell-ringers* (published in 1850). The apparatus was set up in many churches in Britain and North America, and into far-flung corners of the British Empire.

Celebrations

The bi-centennial celebrations of the Ellacombe Chimes are planned to take place on 26th June, this year, with participation from churches around the world that have an installed and working chiming device. The Chime around the World will begin in Timaru, New Zealand at noon (11pm BST on 25th June in Britain), over the next 17 hours, working their way across the world, bells will be chiming at noon local time in each of the major time zones, arriving at their birthplace at Bitton, in South Gloucestershire, at 12 noon BST on Saturday 26th June. The event will then cross the Atlantic and be heard across-the Americas finishing in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions it is intended that there will be a live streaming of the festivities as well as a special performance based on the Ellacombe Chimes.

For further information on the event contact: Mike Gates (Secretary, Bitton Parish History Group), mgl22@btinternet.com.

Ringling Quiz

As we were unable to have our usual quiz this year, the Almondsbury ringers kindly offered to set a virtual quiz, which was circulated a few weeks ago. I am pleased to

announce that the winners were the team from Frampton Cotterell, with a score of 48 out of 50. I promised to provide a suitable virtual prize so here it is:

I am sure the ringers there will not mind sharing it with the rest of the Branch!

Thanks again to Amondsbury

for their work. The answers are given at the end of this newsletter.



Ringling Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - £3 each.

Tony York

Branch Ringling Achievements

Three of our towers tolled a bell:



Chris White-Horne at Thornbury.....

.....and Sue Bampfyld at Bitton both rang for Captain Sir Tom Moore



...and Angela Rob at Pucklechurch rang for the Marie Curie day of reflection. Well done to all!

In addition, we had a Ringling Room quarter peal, of Plain Bob Doubles, to celebrate Bill Liebow's 70th birthday. It was a first for the whole band - Julie Scudamore, Glenn Lawrence, John Payton, Linda Gittings, Bill Liebow (C) and Sheila Lewis

Virtual Quiz - Railway Stations - Answers

Clue		Answer
1 Trouble with a lock? Sounds like you should try this	7	Newquay
2 Charcoal perhaps?	5,3	Burnt Oak
3 What sheep produce in Dorset.	4	Wool
4 Where the V&A's great bed was made.	4	Ware
5 A squashed circle?	4	Oval
6 Like a Londoner's towering hairdo?	4,6	High Barnet
7 224 ounces in Staffordshire.	5	Stone
8 Belgian town in London or on Merseyside.	8	Waterloo
9 or no	4	Deal
10 Manufactured head covering.	5,4	Maida Vale
11 Is this station falling down?	6,6	London Bridge
12 In London, not Filton.	5,4	Abbey Wood
13 Wolsey's Palace.	7,5	Hampton Court
14 Goon's Cake?	6	Eccles
15 Perhaps named after a Spanish princess	8,3,6	Elephant and Castle
16 Completed in less than four minutes?	4,3	Mile End
17 The gateway to the south.	6	Balham
18 Instruct soliders to get going.	5	March
19 Duchess' station	4,6	Duke Street
20 Rupert's home, once the trees have been felled.	8	Nutfield
21 Six sided pork product.	6	Hexham
22 Unfastens the county	6,5	Surrey Quays
23 Not King's Cross, Marylebone or Liverpool Street	9,6	Fenchurch Street
24 Where to find refreshments after BBC's throw down.	7,3	Potters Bar
25 Where the first British Christian martyr is worshiped.	2,6,5	St Albans Abbey
26 Horne's Gruntfuttock was dictator here.	6	Hoxton
27 Whitby's famous resident	5,4	James Cook
28 Named after Scott's novel series	9,8	Edinburgh Waverley
29 Cricket equipment?	3,3,4	Bat and Ball
30 Bird of prey's crag	12	Eaglescliffe
31 Where felines paddle across	7	Catford
32 Cut a necklace (for example) into four	9,7	Jewellery Quarter
33 Webb-Ellis' invention	5	Rugby
34 Does this lead to Deva?	7,4	Chester Road
35 In London, not Greece.	10 (7)	Kensington (Olympia)
36 Means of lighting the lamp in the carriage	7,4	Hackney Wick
37 Named for a monument to King George IV	5,5	King's Cross
38 Royal ban.	7	Barking
39 Wait in line to see the flowers	3,7	Kew Gardens
40 Where Simpkin and the Tailor lived.	10	Gloucester
41 Home of Bertie Wooster's friend Tuppy?	7	Glossop
42 Festive winged messenger	5	Angel
43 Cereal residence?	3,5	Rye House
44 Where Julius Caesar cross the river?	5,6	Roman Bridge
45 Where felines need not paddle	7,6	Catford Bridge
46 Peer's Romance	5,5	Earl's Court
47 Where a which might keep her sheep.	3,4	Hag Fold
48 Not down Belgium	9	Upholland
49 The biscuit makers lose an 'e' and a pilgrim	6	Huntly
50 A male bird's tipple	11	Cockfosters

Notice Board

web site www.bristolrural.co.uk

April 2021

As you know, the Association AGM day this year will be 17 April. But sadly, because of Covid it will only be on Zoom.

So there'll be no open towers in the morning, no pre-meeting tower, no service, no magnificent tea, and no post-meeting tower either. There *will* be the Croome and Penn Trophy Competitions in the morning, but also sadly, they'll be *virtual* competitions, held on Ringing Room, with the results announced immediately after. That all means that the AGM itself won't last very long.

In recent years it's all been over in under an hour anyway - and 30 minutes of *that* have been the judging of the Competitions - so this year a half hour will probably see us through.

All the same, if you're not enjoying the April sunshine in the garden or the sport on the television, please join us.

I will be opening the Zoom link half an hour before the start time so you can meet all your old friends then, the meeting itself will be as full of fun, laughter and sheer common sense as normal.

If you can't come but would like something said on your behalf, please let me know. And please also let me know if you will be there and want to raise anything under AOB. Under the Rules you won't be allowed to raise anything on the spur of the moment on the day.

So to sum up,

The G&B 2021 AGM will be on 17 April 2021 *starting at 3.00 p.m.**and the Zoom link is

<https://zoom.us/j/98705689128?pwd=T0JOdG5yc09jQ0NsdJG5jhuNXI4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 987 0568 9128 Passcode: 806687*We look forward to seeing you then.

G&B 2021 AGM – on Saturday 17 April 2021 on Zoom

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer

2. A Prayer for Members who have died

3 Election of Honorary Life Member

Following his 20 excellent years as Association Chairman, Hugh Evans of the Cheltenham Branch has been nominated by the Cheltenham Branch.

4. Minutes of 2019 AGM

Copies have already been circulated to all Branches and are on the Association website.

The 2020 AGM, due to be held in the North Cotswold Branch, didn't take place because of Covid.

5. Matters Arising not covered by this Agenda

6. 2019 Annual Report and Accounts and 2020 Annual Report and Accounts

7. Election of New Members

8. Ratification of Belfry Elections to Non-resident Life Membership

9. Election of Officers

Nominations Received:

Chairman: Roger Haynes

Ringing Master: Tom Edgeworth

Secretary: Steve Coleman

Treasurer: Philip Twentyman

Peal Secretary: Simon Edwards

The first four nominations were made by eleven of the twelve Branches. Simon Edwards

was nominated by the Swindon Branch after the existing Peal Secretary, Mark Davies,

announced his intention to retire after 17 excellent years

10. Election of Central Council Representatives

Five nominations for the five vacancies have been received as follows:

Derek Harbottle (Gloucester Branch);

Mark Davies (Cheltenham Branch);

Bill Nash (North Cotswold Branch);

Simon Edwards (Swindon Branch);

Richard While (Cheltenham Branch).

11. Election of Independent Examiners

The Management Committee recommends the re-election of Charles Woodd and Michelle Harris.

12. Subscriptions for 2022 – The Management Committee recommends that they remain

as follows:

Senior and Retired: £15 of which £12 goes to BRF, £1.50 to General Fund and £1.50 to the Branch, Retired (Concessions): £10 of which £9 goes to BRF, 50p to General

Fund and 50p to the Branch Juniors: £2.50 of which £1.50 goes to BRF, 50p to General Fund and 50p to the Branch.

The subscriptions were last raised from 1/11/2016.

13. **Affiliation Fee 2022** The Management Committee recommends it remain at £20. It was raised to this figure from £10 at the 2017 AGM.

14. Annual General Meeting 2022

The Management Committee recommends that the Wotton-under-Edge Branch's kind invitation to host the AGM on Saturday 2 April 2022 be accepted.

15. Ringing Recovery during and after Covid

a. The Ringing Recovery Champion

b. The Association Handbells

16. Thanks

17. **Any Other Business** - All items must be notified to the Chairman before the Meeting

18. Closing Prayer

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Ajy July 2017