



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 273

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Headlines

1 ALL RINGING EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

April-May 2020

Editor's Note

As I write this, there are updates about protection against the Covid-19 virus arriving every few hours. Since the government's major announcement on Monday 16th March, the Central Council has advised against the continuation of any ringing activities. We have therefore decided to stop all Branch ringing events including Far-cited outings and I expect most of you will have stopped tower ringing too. The G&B Association has cancelled the AGM, due in April. In a related development, the Church of England has recommended the suspension of Church services too.

We cannot know at this stage how long these restrictions may last, but in the meantime please keep yourself safe by following all the relevant guidelines and do keep an eye on any of your tower members who may need help through a difficult time.

Chris Greef

Quiz Night

It may be a distant memory now, but the quiz night in early February proved a great success. Wapley were our quizmasters and produced a well-judged range of questions to ensure that every team could end the evening knowing that they had made a reasonable shot at the answers. Almondsbury won the quiz by a short head and also won the privilege of being next year's quizmasters, awarded by the throw of a die.

The range of food on offer was amazing, there just wasn't the possibility of trying all the tempting goodies on offer. Thanks to all those who helped in any way with the catering.

Along with the profit from the raffle, all the prizes being donated, the Branch funds got a useful boost which will enable us to make useful grants to any tower requiring funds for repairs and other works.

Chris Greef

Striking Competition 2020

Well it was obvious that someone had not read the rules – the weather was foul!

None the less, 8 teams put themselves forward for an afternoon of ringing. One good thing about 8 teams is at

least 8 different cakes to eat! And they were delicious.

We were treated to easy going bells, a few short ropes! and some very useful judges' comments from Glenn Taylor and Anthony Cox of the Bath and Wells Association. Two pieces of general advice from the judges for coming years were;

(a) teams could have made more use of the practice sessions and the rounds prior to the method ringing in order to settle the team and the rhythm. (The practice time is 5 minutes of anything and the 'pre method' rounds are not marked for a period of a minute to allow the team to settle);

and (b) if 'Call Changes' are the chosen piece then conductors need to be forceful with regard to putting it right when mistakes are made as soon as possible.

So - to the results:

3rd place was awarded to Thornbury

2nd place was awarded to Frampton Cotterell

AND THE WINNERS – DRUM ROLL - COALPIT HEATH



Russell Scudamore accepts the trophy for Coalpit Heath

Thank you to all the towers that made the effort to put themselves up for the challenge, learning methods is good but that is only half the story as striking them well and ringing to call people to worship is what we practise for. Also, thanks to Matt Johnson, our Deputy Ringing Master, for organizing the afternoon, especially as he was engaged elsewhere on the day so couldn't enjoy the cut and thrust and to Sue Elliot, our Ringing Master for

running it on the day.

There will be another competition next year and I look forward to seeing even more teams having a go. So that is 11 months and 2 weeks for you to practise!

Sadly, of course, Coalpit Heath will not be able to represent the Branch at the Association Croome Trophy Competition because the Association AGM has been cancelled.

Linda Gittings

Almondsbury Peal

Last month I reported on the first peal at Almondsbury following rehangings of the bells. The tower secretary has sent the following message about a link to a recording of the peal:

There is a recording at <https://almondsburychurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Peal-4-January-2020.mp4> of a few minutes from the first peal rung on the restored Almondsbury bells. We needed great deal of help from the Rural District to get a band for this so I thought I would pass the link on in case you wanted to put it in the newsletter.

Adam Mead

Far-cited outings

All outings have been cancelled until further notice.

Central Council - Westley Award 2020

Ringers are all dependent on the bells that they ring. Towers and bells in good condition will usually make it easier for ringers to develop their skills and, in particular, help retain new recruits.

So have you or one of your band become involved in belfry maintenance relatively recently? If so, then the Westley Award for church bell maintenance is for you!

The Stewardship & Management Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is launching the 2020 award for people who are newly involved in belfry maintenance, developing their own skills and those of others. We hope that every society, branch or district will submit at least nomination!

The award will be made at the September 2020 CCCBR annual conference to be held in Nottingham. The winner will receive £100 and a certificate.

Full details and an application form will be on the CCCBR website here:

<https://cccbbr.org.uk/about/workgroups/stewardship-and-management/westley-award-2020/>

The closing date for nominations is noon on 31st May 2020.

Alison Hodge

CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup Lead

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.

G&B badges - £5.

Tony York

Branch Ringling Achievements

Frenchay - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - first quarter peal at first attempt for Ada Thomas - rung to celebrate Ada's 10th birthday on the 12th January

Thornbury - 1260 Grandsire Triples - first in method for Chris White-Horne

Thornbury - 1260 Plain Bob Triples - with birthday wishes to Anne-Louise Mellor

Frampton Cotterell - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - to celebrate the Eightieth Birthday of Mary S York longstanding ringer at Frampton Cotterell, Bristol Rural Branch and the G & B

Bitton - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles - for the christening of Robyn Alice Chitson

Thornbury - 1260 Plain Bob Triples - rung by all Sunday service band for Choral Evensong.