



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 283

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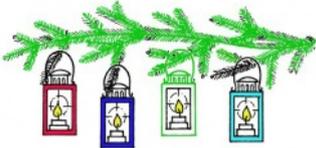
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Headlines

- 1 All Branch ringing events cancelled until further notice

December
2021
-
January
2022

HAPPY



CHRISTMAS

Editor's Note

This time last year I wrote that, with three vaccines close to authorisation, we could hope for a progressive relaxation of the restrictions in the first few months of 2021 and, at some stage, a return to ringing. Well, I was half right: there has been a relaxation of the restrictions and there has been a return to ringing of sorts. However, many people, ringers included, are cautious about meeting in large groups and so Branch activities have remained off the agenda till now.

Following discussion at our Branch AGM we are hoping to start Branch practices in the Spring. In the meantime, have a Happy Christmas and keep safe until we can meet again!

Chris Greef

Rural Branch AGM

We held our Branch AGM on 27th November by Zoom. There were about 15 members present plus Steve Coleman, Association Secretary. All of your Committee agreed to stand for re-election with the exception of our Secretary Linda who had warned us last year that she would be standing down. Grateful thanks are due to her for the cheerful and efficient way she has kept us all together for the past few years, and a warm welcome to Bill Liebow, who has agreed to take on the job.

The key decision we had to make was what to do about a Branch ringing programme. The current approach to ringing varies across the Branch. Some towers are back to normal, others feel comfortable only by ringing in a

'bubble' and some ringers (and possibly some towers) are yet to restart. On the basis of this, we decided to plan for a start of Branch practices in the Spring, subject of course to the Covid position at the time. We will be contacting all our towers about their views and hope we can arrange a programme based initially on ground floor rings and other towers with ample ventilation and large ringing chambers. Our Ringing Master Sue has also agreed to explore the options for a ringing outing in May.

Chris Greef

Sad News

I have heard in the last few days of the recent deaths of two local ringers, David Sansum and Eileen Price. A peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung on handbells at Evercrech for David and a quarter peal of Doubles methods for Eileen at Haresfield. May they rest in peace.

When did you last do it?

Update the tower notices and ringing information

Many towers were not used for long periods during the Government's Covid restrictions, and indeed a few have still not been rung since the pandemic. When churches reopened for limited use, church wardens were encouraged to remove surplus items, loose papers and hymn books, clear notice boards and so on. These instructions aimed to limit the number of different people handling the same items and to reduce the risk of people coming together in specific locations. Now that ringers are able to use towers again, how many

important notices and what useful information has "disappeared" from view? Additionally, there may well have been changes of people involved in the last 18 months, so information may be out of date.

■ Do you still know who your key-holders are, and have they still got their keys?

■ Is the notice about removing the clock hammer before ringing still clearly displayed?

■ What about the danger notice that bells are left up, perhaps between morning and evening ringing.

■ Is the notice about bell ringing times and contacts still up to date and legible on the church notice board?

■ Is the information about who to contact in the event of an emergency still current?

■ Is the church website up to date, with the correct information about ringing times and who to contact?

■ Conversely, have you cleared the ringer's notice board of the adverts for all the events that did not happen in 2020/21?

It is a good time to look around the tower and church, and refresh the materials that are there or should be there. Finally, check the ringers' biscuit box and see if the church mouse found the bag of sugar. Ours did ...

Alison Hodge & Tony Crabtree

CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup

Ringling World November 5th 2021

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) - some left at £3.50 each.

Tony York

Branch Ringling Achievements

Thornbury—672 Plain Bob Triples—rung for COP26