



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 276

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## Headlines

- 1 ALL BRANCH RINGING EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- 2 BRANCH AGM - ZOOM MEETING - 28 NOVEMBER

**October-  
November  
2020**

## Editor's Note

At the time of the last newsletter I was encouraged by the continued albeit slow decline in the number of Covid-19 cases. Unfortunately, numbers are on the rise again and I hope that the 'rule of 6' and other restrictions recently introduced are adequate to suppress further spread. In the meantime, it seems unlikely that there will be any further relaxations that would enable ringing to be resumed without the current tight constraints.

On the positive side, there has been a big increase in virtual bell ringing in one form or another. Believe me, it does help. Try out one of the method practice tools (e.g. Abel) or get together on-line with some fellow ringers to practise on Ringing Room. The Association Summer School was a great success, such that there has been a substantial demand for more of the same. Keep your eyes open for further opportunities.

Chris Greef

## Ringling in a Covid-19 World

As I reported in the last newsletter, guidelines for a return to ringing have been produced by the Central Council following consultation with Church authorities. Full details are given on the Central Council's website at <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus> and you should consult this regularly and certainly before restarting ringing because the advice is continually updated as the pandemic situation changes. The one significant change over the last two months that I have identified is that the minimum interval between two ringing sessions has been reduced from 72 hours to 48 hours.

Some Branch towers have resumed limited ringing: this is obviously easier in a large tower and if there are eight bells then maybe it's possible for some passably musical ringing whilst still observing all the restrictions. At Winterbourne, we are chiming a 5 minute bell before services with no plans for tower ringing in the near future.

Chris Greef

## Association Summer School

The first thing to say about this is a big thank you to Steve Coleman for organising and coordinating some three dozen separate Zoom tutorials on all aspects of bellringing, from call changes to spliced surprise and bell maintenance.

I was involved as a 'welcomer' over the course of the week and also acted as a tutor for one session. What struck me was the value of having the time to explore and discuss the issues involved properly and in detail without the inevitable pressure in the tower to grab a rope and give it a go.

And it's clear that I'm not the only person thinking that the exercise was worthwhile. Steve Coleman's own comments on the week:

"such an astonishing success that I can hardly believe it. 'I've received a veritable snowstorm of emails from people saying that every one of the seminars they attended was excellent. 'Brilliant' is the word that's appeared over and over again, and attendees have been as much impressed by the specialist seminars as they have by the mass interest ones.

"Of course, lots of members want us to do it all again on a regular basis – so we'll have to see about that – and many people have asked us to repeat the seminars they couldn't get to.

"Certainly other Associations have organised occasional Zoom seminars before, but we've all broken entirely new ground with our work over the last week."

Chris Greef

PS It has been decided by the Association to run a Winter School at the end of January in the same format. Keep alert for details and do sign up.

## Branch AGM - 28th November

Your committee has decided to proceed with our Annual General Meeting as a Zoom event, starting at 4pm. Notification of the meeting will be circulated in due course. Members will then need to confirm their interest in attending in order to get an invitation to the Zoom event.

**Far-cited outings**

All outings have been cancelled until further notice.

**Ringling Books Available**

Tony York has some books 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**

Looking on Bellboard as usual to see what ringling had been posted I found nothing for the Branch in the period from the beginning of July. In fact, for the whole of the Association in this time there were just 4 quarter peals on handbells and 9 other bits of ringling, mainly to commemorate VJ Day - usually there are about 50 items per month! Sad times indeed for ringling.

Chris Greef