

Headlines <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk>

1. Can Music In Church Towers ring true?
2. Annual Return so far
3. Quiz Night 2012
4. Branch Striking Competition Cromhall March 17th 14.30

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday 1st March

Aptly, for St. David's Day we are off to Wales!

11.00 - 12.00 Nash 6 bells, 7 cwt GF

Map reference ST343837

12.00-14.00 Lunch TBA

14.00-15.00 Caerleon 8 bells 8cwt.

Map reference ST339906

A reminder that the first Thursday in April falls in Holy Week, so there will be no Far-Cited .



Branch Ringing

18th March

Striking Competition Cromhall

14.30 - 17.00

Branch Practice

24th March

Westerleigh

14.30 - 16.30



Association Training Day

10th March

Cirencester

Information sent to all tower and branch email Contacts.

Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Annual Return 2012



19 returns 5 non returns
numbers include unattached members



This is a direct copy of the editorial in the Ringing World dated January 27th 2012 and are some of the ideas for ringing for the Jubilee.

If you have ideas about the ringing for this occasion do let the branch management have your idea!

It is good to hear that some detailed plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations are at last being made public - in particular the River Pageant on Saturday, 3rd June (see back page), in which bells will play a unique and leading part. There has been a suggestion that bells should ring at 3pm all over the country on that day and we think that it deserves support.

The Central Council is recommending as much ringing as possible on Tuesday, 5th June, -the day of the commemorative service at St Paul's Cathedral, plus local ringing for any Big Jubilee Lunches on 3rd June and for visits by members of the Royal Family during the year: It is also suggesting, where possible, ringing to coincide with the lighting of the Jubilee beacons on Monday, 4th June.

In due course we hope to publish a page of special Jubilee peal and quarter peal compositions and further details about how the occasion will be reported in The Ringing World and, on its new BellBoard website.

The Diamond Jubilee of a British monarch is a very rare event indeed and we feel sure that ringers will play their part in ensuring that Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee is just as spectacular as that of Queen Victoria in 1897.

Published on the 4th Saturday each month

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Association of Church Bell Ringers
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News

Information for the next news letter the Tuesday prior to the 4th Saturday

Successful Open Day at Frenchay

Article sent to the local press by our Press Officer Sue Liebow

Bell ringers from St Johns Church Frenchay, welcomed visitors on Saturday. Visitors were able to find out about the benefits to them of Church Bell Ringing first hand, from opportunities for exercise, mental stimulation, making new friends and the chance to learn a new skill. They found that age is not a barrier to learning to bell ring. Some visitors went up to see the bells, and several actually had a go at ringing a bell. Delicious homemade refreshments were served.

Bell ringing is open to all ages, from 8 to 80 plus. If you would like to find out more about this fascinating hobby, visit our website at bellringing@bristolrural.co.uk or drop into your local Tower on practice night.

And a couple of comments overheard by our assistant ringing master Steve Crane.

"From an 8-year old: "It was amazing ringing. I loved having a go, and I think the bells were interesting and easy to control. I'd say a big well done."

"From an 11-year old: "I enjoyed going up to look at the bells. They were really LOUD!"

Iron Acton Branch Practice

The monthly Branch Practice at Iron Acton was well supported with over twenty people, including visitors from Wotton Branch, Gloucester and Marksbury, near Bath. As the bells are not rung often, some housekeeping like, vacuum cleaning the ringing chamber floor to remove dead flies and lubricating the bearings, was needed before we could start, thank you to those who helped. The practice was run by our Deputy Ringing Master Steve Crane and consisted of a varied selection catering for all levels of ringing from Rounds and call changes through to Cambridge and London Surprise Minor. Considering the bells are not the easiest to ring, a good standard of ringing was maintained. I understand some Iron Acton residents were pleased to hear the bells.

Over the years I have heard comments from less experienced ringers like: 'Branch Practices are only for experienced ringers,' or 'The more experienced ringers get more rings.' Neither of these comments are true as the Branch Practices cater for all levels of ringing, from Rounds and Call Changes upwards, and the more experienced ringers are usually filling in to give the less experienced a good chance of ringing whatever they are learning.

Bill Liebow
Ringing Master

PAYPAL

How many of you have a paypal account, would you consider paying the tower annual subscription using paypal?

If we were able to put a mechanism on the branch website to allow you to pay your subscription would you use it?

As ever it would be good to have your views on this.

Can Music

In Church Towers ring true?

Composer Howard Skempton on the challenge of writing a piece to be played by bell-ringers

Within these shores, we grow up with the sound of Church bells, not only across the meadows but across the rooftops and domes of our towns and cities. Yet there, are those within ringing circles who question whether bell-ringing is music at all. My local ringers even suggested it should be introduced as an Olympic sport. We sometimes take the sound of bells for granted, without appreciating what is involved. It certainly entails teamwork and discipline, and although not as strenuous as one might imagine, calls for impressive commitment and perseverance,

The principles of bell-ringing were established in England about 350 years ago. The tradition is so venerable, and the "instrument so unwieldy in a conventional way, that when I was asked to write a piece for church bells as part of the New Music 20x12 festival (Itself part of the cultural Olympiad), many of today's ringers must have doubted that any newly composed work could possibly be both distinctive and manageable

Writing the piece was going to be a challenge. To begin I had to learn how bells work and also come to terms with bell-ringing's curious vocabulary.

The carillons of Belgium and Holland and elsewhere have many bells operated from a keyboard by a single person who can vary the volume, speed and so on. The English tradition is different: heavy church bells are fixed to wheels turned by ropes, with the ringers standing well below and protected from the great sound of these massive instruments by floor and ceiling. Each ringer pulls a single rope, taking responsibility for one bell and its position within each ringing sequence (called "changes"). The order of the bells differs from one change to the next and the rules governing this define the sound of English bell ringing. A set of church bells is not the most agile medium. Change-ringing requires ringers to control the bells for an even sound, while memorising how the sequence varies. It needs great concentration. To begin with, a bell either rings in the same position from one change to the next, or swaps places with its immediate neighbour. One ringer pulls slightly harder and the other holds their rope for long

enough to fall behind the "overtaking" bell. The aim is to keep an even and rhythmic pulse, so making such overtaking manoeuvres is a skill that can take years to acquire. Indeed learning to control a bell weighing several tons takes more time than this non-ringing composer had.

If all bells change place in a follow my leader way that allows, they are said to be "plain hunting"

However, compositions (or "methods") generally involve only one "lead" bell plain hunting, usually the smallest and hence with the highest note, whilst the others play in a cyclical pattern unique to that method.

Form m "Five rings Triples" I was determined from the beginning to make a clear reference to the Olympic Rings by having bells sound five consecutive times in the same place in the sequence.

My first attempts at introducing this stubborn feature within the pattern proved too complicated, beyond the reach of all but the most experienced ringers. In the end the solution was pleasingly simple: to assign the task of Ringing five times in the same place to the lead bell alone. Once that was done, everything else fell into place.

Ringers in Warwick, near my home town of Leamington Spa, offered invaluable guidance and support along the way. And I am pleased to say that the piece has been deemed musical, having a fair share of runs and "dodges". A dodge is a kink in the path, a temporary volte-face. Without the possibility of dodging methods would be all too briefly, all too predictably circular. Music is enhanced and enlivened by subtle variation and bell-ringing might seem too mechanical an art Yet the

English change-ringing tradition confounds this view in one important aspect: there is a short pause after every alternate change. Each bell swings first one way and then the other, resulting in something like an extra beat in a bar.. Though valued as a help to ringers, this remarkable hiatus helps to counteract the remotest possibility of mechanical perfection Whether Five Rings Triples is music, however, is for you to judge.

It was rung on New Year's Eve at All Saints Church in Kingston upon Thames, and also broadcast after the chimes of Big Ben on BBC 3

Many Thanks to the Daily Telegraph dated

Thursday December the 29th for this article on ringing.

You can find a copy of Five Rings doubles at the web site below

<http://ccabr.org.uk/olympics/five-rings-doubles.pdf>

Quiz Night 2012

Once again the quiz night seemed to be a resounding success, it is a good job we booked a bigger hall this year, we had 63 people attend, representing 9 towers in the branch, we also had a contingent from Wotton branch. Our Quiz masters were Almondsbury, Mary York provided the buffet supper with a small team of helpers. We must also thank Stephen Cowl for providing the nibbles for all the tables which he has now done for the last three years. Sam Kliskey was our doorkeeper and collected the entrance money, Harris Kliskey organised the raffle, for which we are grateful to all those who provided a raffle prize. Thanks also to Anita Matthews for providing the alcoholic jelly, Sue Alexander for the fresh fruit Salad, and those branch members who came along early and helped get the hall ready, also you the branch members and your friends who came along and made it a great evening.

The results and the quiz information below.

The winning team called themselves Zamba's Mob (David Powell's guide dog)

Were the Winterbourne ringers with help from Sue and David Powell and will should we have a quiz in 2013 will be the quiz masters There were: Nine rounds in total: 7 question; 1 picture; 1 sound. (The rounds were: Bells, Kings/Queens, Flowers, Culture, Picture, Sound, Literature/Theatre, Sport, Pot Luck]

Maximum score: 117

Quiz Masters: Tim, Clare, Kay, Steve (assisted by Julia and Philippa).

Almondsbury ringers would like to thank you for supporting the Branch Quiz Night, and for donating the profits to our bell fund. Thank-you.

A date for your diary
Come and celebrate our
Golden Wedding Anniversary
St. Anne's Church, Siston
Friday, 4th May 2012
Ring from 10am - 12pm
Sandwiches/snacks, tea and coffee
in the church afterwards
ALL WELCOME
Mick & Sheila
No presents