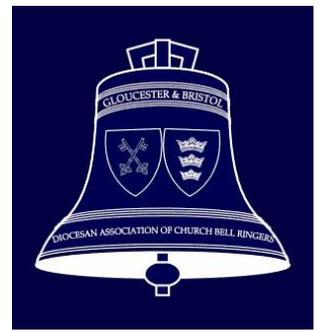


Bristol Branch Ringing News



Introduction from our new Branch Ringing Master, Simon Tomlinson



Simon

Many of you will know me from my term as Branch Chairman a few years ago or from my involvement with the 8 bell practices in north Bristol and South Gloucestershire. However, I hope that the rest will get to know me after I agreed to step in and pick up the vacant role of Branch Ringing Master. During the rest of the year I would like to take this opportunity to refocus the Branch to the “suburban” towers, many of whom are starting to struggle and can find it difficult to reach the critical mass needed to ring what people are learning. I will thus organise some Branch Practices in the coming months

where the emphasis will be on inclusivity and fun where you will be given the chance to ring what you are learning in a relaxed and supportive environment. I will also look to arrange some single method practices, a sort of shorter version of the G+B training days, so please let me know if there is anything your tower is working on at the moment. I would also welcome any feedback and suggestions as to what you want the branch to do for you and your Tower so if there is anything you need please let me know and I will see what I can do.

The Future of St Michael-on-the-Mount, Without

The Public Meeting on 6th April was incredibly well attended by local people with a strong interest in the future of St Michael’s. An Action Group is being set up by Simon Birch of Bristol Civic Society to ensure that the church building is retained and given a new lease of life. There appears to be strong backing for the future of St Michael’s as a publicly accessible multifunctional building open for events and the local community, not divided up into flats or workshops.



St Mike’s

The Diocese is clearing up the fire damaged building and erecting a temporary roof. The Civic Society met with the Diocese in May to find out their future plans in more detail, but the outcome is yet to be communicated.

The Action group is looking for help to carry out the research to develop a realistic Business Plan,

assist with the Communications and join the Action Group. Matt Dawson has offered to be the contact for UBSCR members. It is important that both UBSCR and the Bristol Branch views are taken into account for any development plans, so please contact Matt or David Threlfall (threlfalldmw@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved and can offer assistance to the action group.

Horfield Ringers' Outing by Katy Murdoch-Davis, Horfield Tower Captain

On Saturday 18th March 2017, the Horfield bell ringers enjoyed a lovely day out that was full of laughter, chat and some good ringing. The towers we visited were Filton, Alveston and Stinchcombe in the Bristol Rural region.

We met at the Horfield church car park and piled into the minibus, which added to the fun and Horfield spirit. We began at Filton, which are a fairly light ring of 6 to start us off gently and steady our nerves. Alveston provided us with many challenges as they are much heavier than Horfield bells and provided a good way to work up an appetite for our well-deserved lunch. We had lunch at The Tudors Arms at Slimbridge by the Shepherds patch bridge. We had pre-ordered our lunch and even though the pub was busy we received our meals within 10 minutes of arriving, so we had plenty of time to indulge in puddings before our next tower. This pub offered excellent food and service; we would recommend this venue to any fellow ringers. After our hearty meal we rang at Stinchcombe. Our ringing required some adjustment to the long draught and springy ropes, but our ringing was good.

The Horfield band was able to gain some experience in ringing at different towers and

'having a sixth bell.' While perfecting our bell handling, we were also able to practice touches of Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor.

I want to thank everyone for coming and making it a great day out. I would also like to thank Lawrence and Bernie who drove the minibus. How could I forget 'Gaston', a working cocker spaniel who accompanied us on our trip and became our trip mascot.



The Ringers

Upcoming Branch Events and Branch Contacts

Friday 16th June – Simulator Practice at Westbury-on-Trym, 7:30pm

Wednesday 19th July – Branch Practice at Henbury, 7:30pm

A Saturday in October – Striking competition TBA

A Saturday in November – Branch AGM TBA

Chairman – David Threlfall

Ringling Master – Simon Tomlinson

Secretary – Adam Bennett

Treasurer – Jenny Pick

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Westbury-on-Trym