



Chew Branch



Newsletter: March 2026

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter, bringing you information about events planned for 2026 as well as reports of those that have already taken place.

Forthcoming Branch Events

Saturday Branch Practices

Our regular Branch Practices are held on the third Saturday of the month. We are now moving into British Summer Time so our practices will take place at the new time of 4.30pm – 6.00pm. Where possible we aim to provide tea, coffee and cake after ringing, giving opportunities for socialising as well as ringing.

Everyone welcome

Saturday 18th April
4.30pm – 6.00pm
All Saints, Wraxall
BS48 1NA
8 bells, tenor 22-3-1, toilet

Saturday 16th May
starting at 2.30pm
Branch Striking Competition
Publow
BS39 4HP
6 bells; tenor 21-0-16
Please do consider entering a team –
method ringing or call changes
More details to follow soon

Saturday 20th June
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Branch Practice
Long Ashton

BS41 9LU
8 bells; tenor 30-3-23; Toilet

Saturday 18th July

Branch Mini Outing / walk

details to follow

Saturday 15th August
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Branch Practice
Nempnett Thrubwell

BS40 8YH
6 bells; tenor 7-3-12
Very limited parking – please car-share

Saturday 19th September
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Branch Practice
Backwell

BS48 3JJ
10 bells; tenor 17-3-9; Toilet

Saturday 17th October
7.15pm

Branch Quiz at Yatton

Saturday 21st November

Branch AGM
St Andrew's, Clevedon

BS39 4HP
8 bells; tenor 14-1-20

Saturday 19th December

Branch Practice

details to follow

10–Bell Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

on 1st Saturday of month

alternating between

Wrighton (36cwt) – May, July etc

and **Backwell** (17cwt) – April, June etc

(changes to programme are occasionally necessary due to other events in the churches)

Surprise Major Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Yatton

on 2nd Saturday of each month

from Cambridge to Spliced Surprise

Bernard North whose 80th birthday was celebrated with a quarter of Plain Bob Major at his home tower (Yatton; 22nd March). Quarters at Nailsea (Plain Bob Doubles; 22nd March) and Stanton Drew (Evening Star Delight Minor; 26th March) were also birthday compliments to him.

Lisa Parker on ringing her first quarter peal of Double Oxford Bob Minor (Backwell; 1st March)

Alison Pemble on ringing her first quarter peal of St Simon's Bob Doubles on an inside bell (Clapton in Gordano; 9th Feb)

Elizabeth Smith on ringing her 1000th quarter peal

Elizabeth writes:

I was taught to ring as a teenager and rang my first quarter, the treble to Plain Bob Minor, at my home tower (All Saints, Fawley, Hampshire) on 31st January 1966. By the end of that year I had rung 24 quarters, including inside to a number of different doubles methods, several plain minor methods, Kent Treble Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Plain Bob Triples and Major. I called my first quarter, Plain Bob Doubles, in 1968. By the time we moved to North Yorkshire early in 1977 I had rung nearly 200 quarters in the Hampshire area, many of them being multi-doubles or multi-minor methods. Fawley is still my leading tower, with 125 quarters.

In North Yorkshire quarter peal ringing wasn't high on the agenda: family life took priority. The total increased slowly. In 2012 we moved to Oxfordshire and quarter peals gradually came to the fore once more. I managed to get my 700th quarter to coincide with my 70th birthday celebrations. I also celebrated with a quarter of 70th Birthday Surprise Major with a band including Lionel and our son Richard.



The surprise major band at Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, 10 January 2020

Association News

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association will take place on **Saturday 9th May** in the Axbridge Branch. Towers will be open for general ringing in the morning; the service, meeting and tea will be at Cheddar.

Unfortunately no further details are available as yet.

Congratulations to ...

Andrew Ball on ringing what he believed to be his 3000th quarter as conductor (Grandsire Triples; Coleman's Hatch, East Sussex; 22nd January). He has also rung his 6000th quarter (Grandsire Triples; Guiseley, West Yorkshire; 26th March).

Tony Cox who celebrated his birthday with a peal of Sunset Strip Alliance Major, a new method named by Tony. Those of you of a certain age will recognise the significance of the name of the method, recalling a popular TV programme of the early 1960's. (Winford; 20th February)

Les Curwood on ringing his 75th quarter (Clapton in Gordano; 9th Feb)

Teresa Humphrey who rang her 2400th quarter peal (Plain Bob Minor; Moorlynch, Somerset; 12th March)

On moving to this area 3 years ago we've been very fortunate to find ringers who are happy to ring quarters and help us get back to a similar level of ability we had when we were much younger! I marked the 60th anniversary of my first quarter with a quarter of Bristol Surprise Major and, a couple of weeks later, rang my 1000th quarter – Beverley Surprise Minor. All but 8 of these quarters have been on church bells; the 8 have been rung recently on a local mini-ring. I've conducted 352 of the 1000.



The band who rang Beverley at St Mary, Walton, Clevedon: Lionel, Liz, Glenn, Tony, Christine, Peter

My quarter peal ringing has never really been about increasing the total; it's been enjoyable, it's kept the brain active and it has helped many others to improve their ringing capabilities. I don't expect to ring another 1000, but I'll keep going while I can!

Most would agree that this church is rather chilly at any time of the year and that is certainly the case on a wet winter's day. Thankfully there were plentiful supplies of tea or coffee to warm us and an excellent selection of home made cakes to take our minds off of the cold. Thank you to all who helped provide these most welcome refreshments.

Donations, amounting to £80, went to the Friends of St Michael's who look after the upkeep of the church and graveyard as the church is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

March

Attendance at our March Practice at Compton Martin was rather down on our usual numbers. However, it was good to see some members from this southern end of our Branch, along with a number of the usual stalwarts who make up the backbone of many Branch Practices. Ringing included call changes, Plain Bob Doubles, Stedman and a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor. Tea, coffee and cake was provided in the Church Room – thank you to Sally and those who did the baking!

Branch Bookstall

The Bookstall is usually to be found at most Saturday Branch Practices. This is an ideal opportunity to browse a wide selection of ringing books and choose ones that will help you to progress in the range of methods you can ring.



The Ringing World series of "Little Books" are among the best sellers. The Green Book is aimed at those at the relatively early stages of learning – it explains technical terms and introduces call changes and a range of simple practice methods up to Plain Bob and Grandsire. The Blue Book is the second in the series, packed with information on a range of doubles methods and variations, plain minor methods (including the St Clement's group and Double Oxford) and Plain and Little Bob Major. The Purple Book, the third in the series, gives a number of the easier treble bobbing minor methods, some triples and major methods (including Stedman and Double Norwich C B Major) and tips on calling. Each comes in a pocket size (A6), a larger A5 or large format A4 which is very useful as a tower copy.

Reports of Branch Events

January

The first Branch Practice of 2026 was held at Winford. Attendance was high, with members from across the Branch enjoying this easy-going ring of eight. As always, ringing catered for all abilities, from call changes to surprise major. If there wasn't space in the ringing room to accommodate everyone it didn't matter as tea and home-made cakes were served down in the church – always an additional attraction!

February

The wet afternoon, and the rather muddy approach to the church, did not deter members from turning out for the February Branch meeting at St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano. For several of the 25 or so members who attended it was their first time at the church, which sits on the hillside above Gordano valley and just below the M5 motorway. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to surprise minor methods.



Chew Branch Ringers WhatsApp Group

This newly created WhatsApp community is open for all members. It is hoped it will prove useful in sending messages quickly across the Branch – for example, if your tower is short of ringers for a wedding, put a message on the group and someone who is available will no doubt respond (most ringers can be relied on to help whenever they can!).

You will need to be admitted to the group by someone who is already on it. As quite a number have already joined, that shouldn't be a problem, but if in doubt contact Bec our Ringing Master.

Next Newsletter

It is hoped to publish the next newsletter towards the end of **May**, after the Branch Striking Competition. News from towers is always welcome.

The newsletter is now available on the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association website: see under *Branches - Chew*

All are welcome at our Branch Events so do please make a note of the dates in your diary and plan to come. It's an opportunity to ring on different bells and to meet other ringers in the area.

Other News



The Southwest Bell Ringing Course

Saturday 24th – Tuesday 27th October 2026
Millfield School, Street, BA16 0YD

**Applications for students and helpers
opens on 23rd May**

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**Wishing you all a very
Happy Easter**