

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

Chew Branch

Newsletter: June 2025



Welcome to the June edition of the Branch newsletter, bringing you news of the striking competition held at Chew Stoke. Those of you familiar with the church there will recognise the image used on the header for this month.

Thank you to those who have sent in news from your tower. Do please keep your news and photos coming in for future editions.

Forthcoming Branch Events

Everyone is welcome at all Branch events. Ringing for all abilities, from rounds and call changes to surprise methods. It's an opportunity to ring on different bells, meet other ringers in our area and, quite frequently, attempt something that you don't usually ring at your local tower.

21st June. 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Chew Magna; BS40 8RE
8 bells; tenor 28cwt

Saturday 19th July
Branch Mini Outing

2.30pm
Axbridge; BS26 2BX
6 bells; tenor 19-3-14
Parking in Axbridge town centre is free and unrestricted. The Moorland Street car park is limited to 2 hours.

4.30pm
Cheddar; BS27 3RE
8 bells; tenor 22-0-26

For those who would like, there is a very pleasant walk around the reservoir from Axbridge to Cheddar. It is about 3 miles and, at an average speed, would take roughly an hour. There is a free car park at the Axbridge side of the reservoir.

20th September. 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Barrow Gurney; BS48 3RP. Church car park.
8 bells; tenor 11cwt. (ground floor)

Saturday 18th October. 7.15pm
Quiz Night

Yatton Chapter House (adjoining the church)

This is always a very enjoyable evening so please get the date into your diaries and come along with a team.
More details nearer the time.

Please note the change in time. Once the clocks change in October our Branch Practices are held in the afternoon.

15th November. 3.00pm – 4.30pm
Branch AGM: **Congresbury;** BS49 5DQ
Church car park.
8 bells; tenor 34cwt. Toilet.

20th December. 3.00pm – 4.30pm
Abbots Leigh; BS8 3QU. Parking on road.
6 bells; tenor 11½cwt.

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10–Bell Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

on 1st Saturday of month, alternating between **Wrington** (36cwt) – July, September etc and **Backwell** (17cwt) – August, October etc
(changes to programme are occasionally necessary)

Grandsire Caters to Surprise Royal
Those attending should be competent on 8 and looking to broaden their experience

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Surprise Major Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm at Yatton
on 2nd Saturday of each month
from Cambridge to Spliced Surprise

Report of the Branch Striking Competition

The Branch Striking Competition took place at Chew Stoke on the afternoon of Saturday 17th May. Three towers entered a band in the method ringing section but sadly there were no bands this year competing for the call change trophy.



The Herbert Knight trophy awarded to the winning method ringing team

It had been advertised in advance that ringers who were not part of an official tower team could come along and they would be given the opportunity to ring with a mixed band, to give them experience of competition ringing. This duly happened, with a Tickenham ringer joining a fourth band, made up with a mix of ringers from the other teams.

The judges of the competition were Julian Howes and Linnet Tutcher and, following the ringing, everyone gathered in the nave of the church to hear their verdict.

FIRST

Portishead
ringing Grandsire Doubles



The Portishead band in ringing order, right to left: Annie Holland, Jan Wyatt, Gerry Skelly, Will Rogers, George Wyatt, Les Curwood

SECOND

Backwell
ringing Grandsire Doubles



The Backwell band in ringing order, right to left: Alison Pemble, Elizabeth Smith, Tony Cox, Glenn Taylor, Tim Waller, Rebecca Cox

THIRD

Yatton
ringing Plain Bob Doubles



The Yatton band in ringing order, right to left: Shirley Pilkington, John Pilkington, Russell Toogood, Lesley Chandler, Peter Hill, Chris Lewenden

The mixed band



In ringing order, right to left: Chris Lewenden, Alison Pemble, Lynne Purcell, George Wyatt, Will Rogers, Glenn Taylor

Congratulations to . . .

Les Curwood whose Golden Wedding anniversary was celebrated with a quarter peal of April Doubles (Clapton in Gordano; 13th April).

James Humphries on ringing his first quarter of Grandsire Triples on an inside bell (Portishead; 1st May). And on ringing his first peal on an inside bell when he rang the 4 to Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles (Clapton in Gordano; 1st June).

Alison Pemble on ringing her first quarter of Major when she rang the treble to Plain Bob Major (Backwell; 8th May).

Lisa Parker on ringing her first quarter of Major when she rang inside to Plain Bob Major (Backwell; 8th May).

Igi Waugaman Reed on ringing his first quarter peal on an inside bell (St Andrew's, Clevedon; Plain Bob Doubles; 7th May). And on ringing his first peal on an inside bell when he rang the 3 to Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles (Clapton in Gordano; 1st June).

Jan Wyatt whose 70th birthday was celebrated with several quarter peals (Wyatt's Yard, 17th April; Clevedon St John, 23rd April; Clapton in Gordano, 30th April).



Reports of Branch Ringing for VE Day

The 80th anniversary of VE Day was marked by a huge amount of ringing, all around the country. The *Ringing World* published on 23rd May recorded details of much of this ringing.

We know of the following ringing within our Branch.

Thursday 8th May

Backwell: general ringing on 10 bells, followed by 1280 Plain Bob Major.
Clevedon, St John: general ringing
Kingston Seymour: call changes and firing
Long Ashton: 1260 Pain Bob Doubles
Nailsea: general ringing

Saturday 10th May

Portishead: ringing for the VE Day service

Sunday 11th May

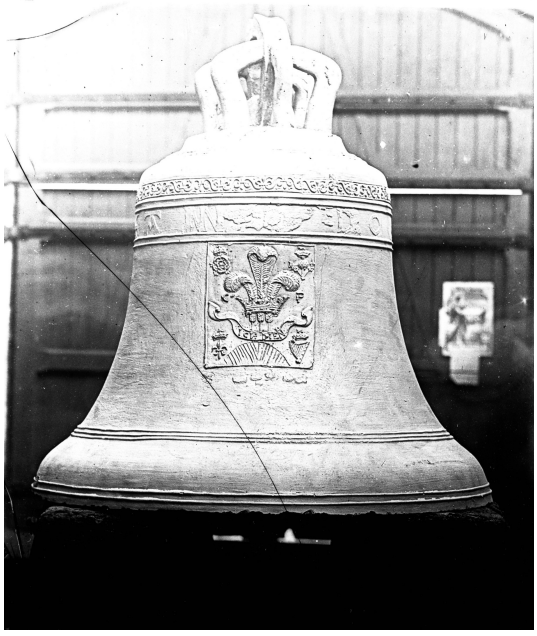
Clapton in Gordano: 1260 5 Doubles Methods
Weston in Gordano: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Tower News

Ubley

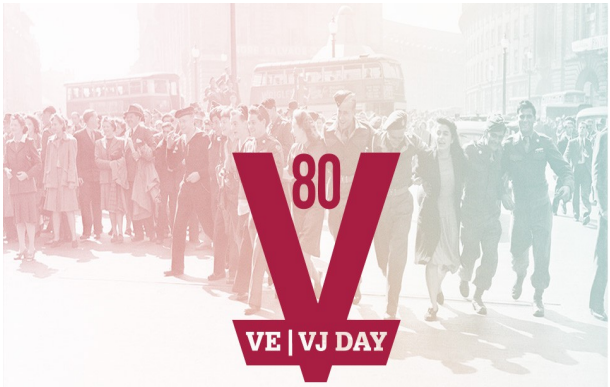
The band at Ubley have recently been researching the history of their bells, with the help of the archive team at John Taylor's, Loughborough.

The #3 bell was recast in 1913, from the treble made by Roger Purdue in 1622. They have a photo of that bell, taken in 1912, showing it has a rather nice Prince of Wales insignia. Correspondence between Taylor's and the rector at that time show that they considered preserving the whole bell. Sadly, they couldn't due to costs, so they did the next best thing and cut the insignia out of the bell and had it mounted, at a cost of £2/10. This was temporarily forgotten but now that it has been rediscovered the ringers are looking at how they can best display it.



The 1622 bell cast by Roger Purdue

General Notices



The 80th anniversary of VJ Day is commemorated on 15th August

Please send the editor details of any special ringing at your tower

National 12-bell Striking Contest

If you want to hear some really excellent 12-bell ringing, head to St Mary, Redcliffe, on Saturday 28th June to listen to the final of the National 12-Bell competition. The test piece is a touch of 252 Stedman Cinques.

Ringing takes place between 11.30am and 4.00pm. The results will be announced in the church at 5.30pm.
The bar opens and refreshments will be served from 11.30am.

Joining the home team to compete for the Taylor Trophy will be the top two teams from each of the 4 qualifier contests held on 22nd March: the Ancient Society of College Youths, Birmingham, Cambridge, Exeter, Guildford, St Paul's Cathedral, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and York.

Ringing World National Youth Competition

Saturday 5th July

This competition has grown in popularity over the years, and this year promises to be the biggest yet. It is expected that a record number of young ringers, from across the country, will gather in Birmingham to celebrate their skills, teamwork and passion for bellringing.

A team from Bath and Wells hope to be entering:

we wish them luck

South West Ringing Course

24th – 27th October, Millfield School, Street

Applications for student places now closed

Helpers are still required

southwest-ringing-course.org.uk

Association Shirts



Bath & Wells shirts are available in a variety of colours, with your tower name added if required.

Contact Jan for further details

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Next Newsletter

It is hoped to publish the next newsletter in early **September**. Please send your news, and photos, to the editor as soon as you have any.

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