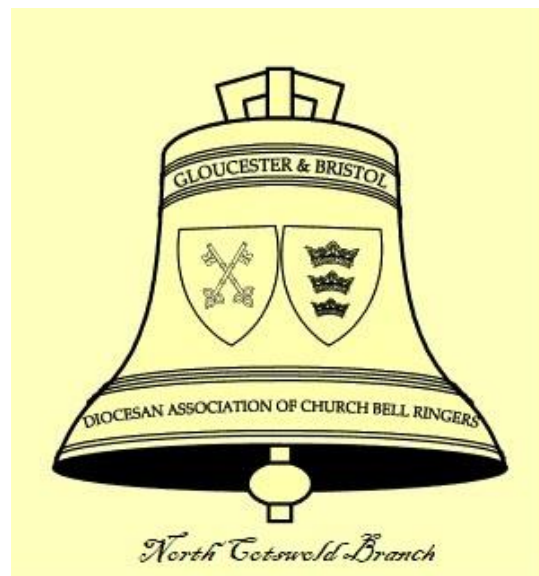


*Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan  
Association Of  
Church Bell Ringers*

*North Cotswold Branch Newsletter*



*Issue 1: Autumn 2023.*

## Branch Officers and Committee Members

### Officers

Chair	Martin Penny	Email: <a href="mailto:martinpenny99@btinternet.com">martinpenny99@btinternet.com</a>
Secretary	Ashley Ellison	Email: <a href="mailto:ellison.ashley@gmail.com">ellison.ashley@gmail.com</a>
Ringing Master	Jackie Hands	Tel: 01789 720802
Treasurer	Isobel Murphy	Email: <a href="mailto:isobel.murphy@btinternet.com">isobel.murphy@btinternet.com</a>
M.C.* Representative <small>*G&amp;B Management Committee</small>	Chris Povey	Email: <a href="mailto:chrismpovey@gmail.com">chrismpovey@gmail.com</a>

### Members

Roland Greenhill Email: [roland.greenhill@icloud.com](mailto:roland.greenhill@icloud.com)  
Tim Woodgate Email: [sarawoodgate@btinternet.com](mailto:sarawoodgate@btinternet.com)

## Dates for the Diary

### September 2023

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Branch Committee Meeting	Blockley	6.00pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Branch Practice	Blockley	7.30pm

### October 2023

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Training Day	Various locations	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ringling Tour	Various locations (see article)	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Practice	Blockley	7.30pm
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Four Shires Guild AGM & Striking Competition - Todenham 12.00pm		

### November 2023

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Practice	Blockley	7.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Branch AGM & Striking Competition - Bourton on the Water (TBC) - 2.00pm		

### December 2023

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Branch Practice	Blockley	7.30pm
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## View from the Chair

It has been a busy summer and autumn in the branch following the election of the new branch committee in March 2023.

Much of the spring was taken up preparing for the Coronation ringing in May. Many came forward as part of the campaign to recruit new ringers to 'Ring for the King' and across the branch we trained a number who rang for the various Coronation events.

During the summer that training has continued with many beginners now ringing as part of their Sunday Service band. We also had several successful local ringing tours as well as welcoming many visiting bands to the area.



Moving into the autumn we have several events over the next three months – see the Dates for the Diary section.

This is a short newsletter as we reintroduce something that is useful for all our branch members. In future newsletters we will be looking to include interviews with current ringers as well as news from our towers. If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, please let the Secretary know by email.

We don't want to duplicate what is already available in other newsletters – but we will signpost to those websites and publications so that you can keep up to date on what is happening in the local area as well as wider afield.

We will also soon have a new website for the branch so that we can keep everyone up to date between the newsletters.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM & striking competition in November if not before.

Martin



**Blockley Coronation Ringers – May 2023**

## G&B North Cotswold Branch - 29 Towers

Tower	Designation	Bells
Adlestrop	St Mary Magdalene	6
Bledington	St Leonards	6
Blockley	St Peter's and St Paul's	10
Bourton on the Hill	Saint Lawrence	6
Bourton on the Water	Saint Lawrence	8
Broadwell	St Paul's	6
Chipping Campden	St Jame's	8
Cold Aston	St Andrew	5
Ebrington	St Eadburgha's	6
Evenlode	St Edwards	UR
Great Rissington	St John the Baptist	6
Guiting Power	St Michael's	6
Honeybourne*	Saint Egwins	UR
Longborough	St Jame's	6
Lower Quinton	St Swithin	6
Lower Slaughter	St Mary	6
Mickleton	St Lawrence	8
Moreton in Marsh	St Davids	8
Naunton	St Andrew's	6
Oddington	St Nicholas	6
Pebworth	St Peter	10
Saintbury	St Nicolas	8
Stow on the Wold	St Edwards	8
Temple Guiting	St Mary's	6
Todenham	St Thomas a Becket	6
Upper Slaughter	St Peter	5
Welford on Avon	St Peter	8
Willersey	St Peter	6
Wyck Rissington	St Lawrence	4

### Ringling Tour – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Tim Woodgate and Phillip Street would like to invite you to join them on a ringling tour – details below.

Can you please confirm attendees name, towers they wish to ring at and if they require Lunch to Phil by email as soon as possible ([phillip.street@btinternet.com](mailto:phillip.street@btinternet.com)). Phil can then go ahead and book a table at The Red Lion at Long Compton and collate all pre-meal orders once he has confirmation that the pub can cater for the group.

TOWER	BELLS	TOILET	P/CODE	ARRIVE	DEPART
GREAT TEW	8	YES	OX7 4AF	9.30AM	10.15AM
CHURCH ENSTONE	6	NO	OX7 4NN	10.30AM	11.15AM
CHIPPING NORTON	8	YES	OX7 5NT	11.30AM	12.15PM
LUNCH		YES	CV36 5JS	12.30PM	1.45PM
LONG COMPTON	6	YES	CV36 5JJ	1.45PM	2.30PM
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR	6	YES	CV36 4AP	2.45PM	3.30PM
TREDINGTON	6	YES	CV36 5BY	3.45PM	4.30PM
LUNCH	<a href="https://redlion-longcompton.co.uk/eat/">https://redlion-longcompton.co.uk/eat/</a>				

## G&B – Achievement of the Year



The G&B Achievement of the Year competition seeks to recognise achievement during the year. It can be a person, a tower, a group of towers or indeed a branch. Each branch may enter more than once, producing a presentation of up to 500 words on the chosen theme; which may include web links but not pictures. The competition is normally decided by votes at the annual Branch Officers' Meeting in February or March and the awards are presented at the Association AGM in April. All entries are published on this website.

Tewkesbury Branch were the winners last year; they submitted a piece on what works well in their Branch. They were awarded The Bliss Trophy (see picture above). The runner up was Gloucester Branch with a piece on Betty Cole and how she has been a main stay of the Branch for many years. Betty was awarded The Littledean and Purton Trophy.

So now is the time to start thinking about what The North Cotswold Branch should submit for this award for 2024. All ideas to the Secretary by email please with an outline of the submission.

The full rules from the G&B website are shown below:

### **Achievement of the Year Competition Rules Last amended January 2022**

- a. Each Branch will have six votes which they have to allocate three, two and one;
- b. Votes will be allocated at the Branch Officers' Meeting but if a Branch can't attend, they can vote by email;
- c. The theme for each year will be notified to the branches before the beginning of the competition;
- d. Towers can enter individually, or groups of towers can join to enter;
- e. There can be more than one entry per Branch;
- f. Each entry must consist of one Presentation Statement not more than 500 words long. The Presentation Statement may not contain photographs but there is no restriction on links

# North Cotswold Branch Striking Competition

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

How to enter and rules for the Striking Competition

Entries are welcome from **ALL** affiliated towers or teams made up of ringers from several affiliated towers (individual ringers do not need to be individual members of the G&B).

### 6 Bell Competition

1. Ringers will be members of a Sunday Service Band from an affiliated tower of the North Cotswold Branch.
2. Each team shall comprise six members, including the conductor, and ringing shall be on six bells.
3. Joint teams from two or more towers may enter.
4. A tower may enter more than one team, but only two ringers shall be permitted to participate in both teams.
5. The competition shall comprise the following elements:
  - a) One minute of ringing to assess the need to adjust ropes.
  - b) Two minutes of ringing to get used to the bells. Not marked
  - c) EITHER a minimum of four minutes of call changes starting and finishing in rounds, with a minimum of 12 different changes.  
OR 12 extents of Plain Hunting on 5 bells  
OR 120 changes of a method, either plain courses or a touch
  - d) The conductor will inform the organiser of what will be rung during the draw.
6. The order of ringing will be determined by a draw and the judges will be informed of what the band will ring once the draw is completed with the band being allocated an alphabetic identifier.
7. The judges shall consider:
  - a) The speed at which the bells are rung, in accordance with the weight and 'go' of the bells.
  - b) The evenness of the intervals between the bells
  - c) The ringing of the bells in rows of 12, with open handstroke leads and closed backstroke leads.
  - d) The ability of the band to stand the bells as one
8. The rounds before and after the test piece shall not be marked; the decision of the judges shall be final.
9. The trophy for 1st place is the Jack Webb Rose Bowl, with the winners representing the branch in the Croome Trophy in April 2024. In addition, The Les Joynes Memorial Salver will be awarded at the Ringing Master's discretion to the band which has shown notable activity and progress over the year.

### 8 Bell Competition

On the day of the striking competition bands of 8 ringers may be formed from the ringers in attendance and compete against each other to determine if the branch has a group of 8 ringers who may compete for the branch in the G&B Penn Trophy on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024. As 2024 is an even number year the method will be a major method, so the branch should look to ring 224 changes of Plain Bob Major.

### How to Enter

All towers wishing to take part in the competition should notify the Chair or Secretary by email by 15 November 2023.

## Subscriptions for 2024

Subscriptions will be due for the new financial year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023:

Subscription rates:

**Senior: £15** (of which £12 goes to Bell Repair Fund (BRF), £1.50 to General Fund and £1.50 to the Branch)

**Junior\*: £2.50** (of which £1.50 goes to BRF, 50p to General Fund and 50p to the Branch)

*\*Under 18*

**Associate** (non-Ringing) Members: £10 (of which £9 goes to the BRF, 50p to the General Fund and 50p to the Branch)

**Tower Affiliation Fee 2023 - £20**

**Please pay by BACS to:**

**Lloyds Bank**

**Sort Code 30-95-75**

**Account Number 01676906**

**For other payment methods please contact the Treasurer**

The Branch has funds available to make small grants towards repairs. In the first instance please contact the Treasurer.

## Useful Links

G&B North Cotswold Branch - <https://pebworth.icu/G&B/> (Under construction)

The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers - [www.bellsgandb.org.uk](http://www.bellsgandb.org.uk)

The Four Shires Guild of Bellringers - <https://www.fourshiresguild.com>

Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers - <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk>

## Ringling Resources

Pebworth Bells – Ringling Resources and Links - <http://bells.pebworth.icu>

Association of Ringling Teachers – Ringling Resources and Learning Materials - <https://ringingteachers.org>

### FSG Midweek Tours

There is a monthly midweek tour within the Four Shires Guild area. For more information please go to <http://www.4shiresmidweek.org.uk/html/bracket.htm>

All ringers are welcome to attend. In order to achieve the most, attendees should be able to control a bell and ring rounds and changes as a minimum. Support is given to learners, but they must appreciate that all standards will be accommodated and therefore rope time will be limited. Ringers are reminded that they should not consistently attempt to ring beyond their capabilities.