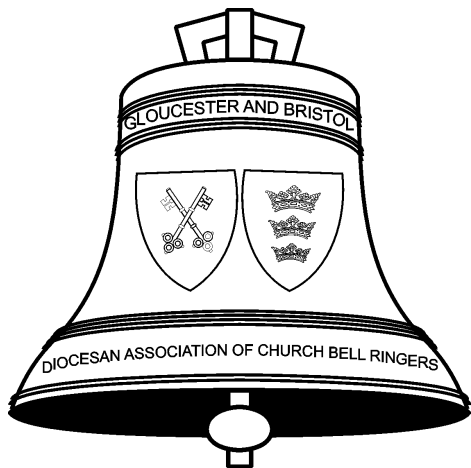


NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 8th January 1878
(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

Registered Charity Number 281431



BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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The G & B Diocesan Association has a web site at www.bellsgandb.org.uk, on which the North Cotswolds Branch can be accessed via: www.bellsgandb.org.uk/branches.

LOOK TO! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

11th February 2014: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

28TH February 2014: Skittles Evening at the Farmers Arms, Guiting Power at 7pm.

8th March 2014: Spring Training Day at Cirencester at 0900 hrs.

11th March 2014: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,**
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

5th April 2014: **Association AGM** (Bristol Branch) with the Striking Competitions
– Croome at ? Penn at ?. See website

8th April: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

13th May: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

7th June: Branch Tour, details to follow. Keith Murphy the organiser.

10th June: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,**
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

8th July: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

10th August: **Gloucester Cathedral Branch visit,** meet in the South transept at 1.20.

12th August: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

9th September: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,**
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11th October: Autumn Training Day at Wotton-under-Edge.

14th October; Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11th November; Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

9th December: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,**
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

PLEASE BE AWARE.

The Committee is currently reviewing some practice locations between the Committee Meetings, so please watch the above for alterations in venue in future editions.

Reminder from the Treasurer. Subscriptions are due for the new financial year that started on the 1st November 2013. Subscriptions are £10.00 Senior, £5.00 Retired and Juniors £2.50. Associates, the same as Retired. Gift Aid is possible ask your Treasurer.

The Branch has some funds available, to make small grants towards replacement of ropes or repairs. In the first instant, please contact the Treasurer.

ASSOCIATION BELL FUND GRANTS.

The Belfry Fund Committee, would appreciate advance warning of any future bell related works that are being considered. The reason is so that it can help to forward plan the accounts, concerning any future potential grants.

Annual Striking Competition, held on the 26th October.

A late change of venue from Temple Guiting to Guiting Power, must have created a few headaches for the organisers, nothing was apparent! All those involved in organising the 2013 Striking Competition should be congratulated on the smooth running and efficient organisation, *which we all too often take for granted.*

Six teams participated, and as the Judge Steve Bowley noted, each initially found difficulty in handling the "flighty six" (Tenor 6-2-25). Nevertheless, a good standard was created and the results were as follows. 1st.. Mickleton, (6 faults), 2nd . Cold Aston (23 F), 3rd . Great Rissington (29 F), 4. Longborough 2 (30 F), 5. Guiting Power (32 F), 6. Longborough 1 (55 F). The Silver Salver, awarded for the most improved team was nominated by Jackie Hands (Ringing Master) , the winner being Longborough 2, who came forth..

An excellent tea in the Church, was followed by the usual Evensong Service, conducted by Rev Veronica James. The Hymns "O God Our Help in Ages Past" and "O Praise the Lord in his Holiest" were sung with the usual gusto – this did not go unnoticed by the Priest who suitably commented and was informed by a ringer "Bell Ringers always sing loud and hearty".

The AGM was, as always conducted with great efficiency by Dr Jeremy Meyrick. Jeremy had acted as Chairman since 2003, and he announced his retirement to the meeting. Denzile Spear was elected unopposed and continued the evening business with reports provided by the Secretary, Treasurer and Ringing Master.

The meeting was advised that Geoff Clarke (Bourton on the Water) was very poorly, and best wishes would be sent to him and his Family.

A vote of thanks was extended to Hugh Evans and Steve Coleman for their attendance.

Andrew Gunn (newsletter Editor) stressed the importance of the need, for more stories / news for inclusion in the *Quarterly publication (Tower Captains please note!)*. J.W.K.

FOR THE RECORD.

At St Lawrence, Mickleton on the 21st October ringers from around the District rang a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 minutes, to celebrate the 30th Wedding Anniversary of Jackie and Robin Hands on the 15th October 2013. Treble: John Gwynne, 2: John, W. Kinchin, 3: Caral French, 4: Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5: Jackie Hands, 6: Michael Dane, 7: John Nicholls (Con), 8: Chris Povey.

On the 16th December 2013 a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St Lawrence, Mickleton in dedication to those who so generously, this time last year, donated to the bell rope fund appeal. The ringers were Treble: Andrew Gunn, 2: John Nicholls, 3: John. W. Kinchin, 4: Keith Murphy, 5: Bill Nash, 6: Chris Mew (Con), 7: John Gwynne, Tenor: Jackie Hands.

At Great Rissington on the 2nd January 2014, a Quarter Peal of Perivale Alliance Minor and Barking Little Bob Minor was rung by Treble: Keith Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash.

At St Lawrence, Bourton on the Water on Sunday the 26th January 2014 a Quarter Peal of Call Changes was rung as a tribute to Mr Geoff Clark, who sadly passed away in early January, the ringer were Treble: Steve Coleman (Con), 2: Roger Woodley, 3: Stephanie Hemming, 4: Brian McBurnie, 5: Andrew Clark. 6: Roger Jones, 7: Robert Kilbey, Tenor: Sue Coleman.

The Bells of St Laurence's – Wyck Rissington.

Continuation from October 2013.

It's harder than it looks

At the outset, we all thought that bell-ringing must be pretty simple – it is just pulling on a rope! The first lessons were a bit of a shock as we discovered just how hard it is to control the bell. A physicist amongst us did a quick calculation on the energy stored in the bell as it rotates ... and decided it would be wiser not to share this knowledge!

It's a roller-coaster

We have been through various stages of hope, despair, complacency and utter terror. We began thinking after a month or so that it was never going to work out. Then we begin to get it and it starts to be quite fun. But, just as we begin to think that we have cracked it, the new found skill suddenly, without warning, disappears. We manage a set of rounds, pretty much in time, and confidence soars. The next time we get together, nothing works out. It's all impossible again!

Experienced bell ringers are very patient

Everyone we have met has taken the time and trouble to encourage us, to offer advice, to tolerate us messing up their practice sessions. They all say they can remember when they learnt and how tricky it was. Thank goodness for long memories!

Plenty of encouragement is needed

When we have the inevitable dip, we need those around us to lift the spirits. Each of us has seriously contemplated giving up, but fortunately group solidarity kicks in, and so far we have got through.

It's dangerous

More than once we've tied ourselves up in the rope, created mayhem in the ringing tower by losing our grip and the hand injuries cause one of our number always to travel with plenty of sticking plasters. And yes, we have broken a stay!

A decent sized pool of ringers is a necessity

We're trying to keep our four going with just four ringers, and that is just too few. Over this summer, it has been impossible to find any date between June and October when all of us can get together to practice. We know that we need a core of at least six ringers, but they are difficult to find in a village this small.

We have now been ringing for just over twelve months. Because of the shortage of practice sessions over the summer, we are still not safe to be left unsupervised. "Going solo" – no longer needing a supervisor - will be the critical moment, because that is when we will be able to fit in regular practice sessions, without having to rely on the goodwill of teachers from other towers. That's our next objective. Ringing the *Wyck Rissington Hybrid* (which Chris Povey discovered in the archive) is a few years down the road. AR

Be aware of the following: --

A Branch Skittles evening has been organised at the Farmers Arms in Guiting Power on the 28th February at 7pm. Ample parking and food can be ordered on arrival, to be served at a time of our choice between games. Any volunteers for collecting and resetting the skittles, please advise Roland Greenhill.

Branch Tour planned for the 7th June, details to follow.