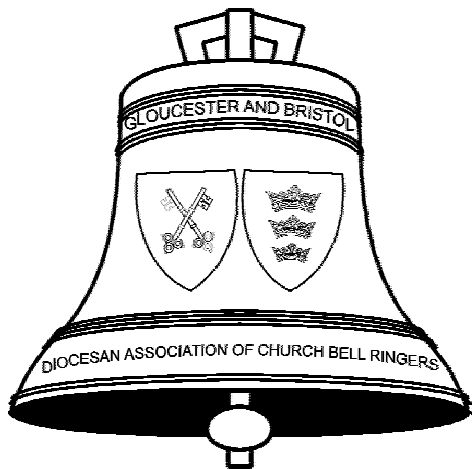


NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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

Registered Charity Number 281431



NEWSLETTER

APRIL
2014

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr Denzil Spear, Bekyntons, Old Rectory Gardens, Longborough, Moreton in Marsh, Glos. GL56 0QF Email: denzil.spear-at-btinternet.com	01451 870957
Ringing Master	Mrs Jackie Hands, Mickleton.	01789 720802
Secretary	Mr Rob Kilbey, Meadowside, Essex Place, Bourton-on-the-Water. GL54 2HL Email: kilbey.family-at-btopenworld.com	01451 822516
Treasurer	Mr Roger Jones, 1 Northleach Road, Cold Aston, Cheltenham. GL54 3BJ Email: Roger.and.Marta-at-Googlemail.com	01451 820229
MC Representative	Mr Keith Murphy Email: Keith.Murphy2-at-btinternet.com	01608 652466
Committee	Mr Roland Greenhill, Guiting Power.	01451 850313
Newsletter Editor	Mr Andrew Gunn, Mickleton. Email: awgrf-at-hotmail.com	07711 188 239

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.html.

LOOK TO! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

13th May: Mickleton Branch practice at 730pm.

7th June: Branch Tour, North and West Gloucester. 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](#).

18th October: Peal and Quarter Peal Festival.

25th October: Branch AGM at Saintbury. Details to follow.

11th November; [Mickleton Branch practice at 730pm](#).

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

13th January 2015: [Mickleton Branch practice at 730pm](#).

10th February 2015: [Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm](#).

10th March: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**, followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

14th March: Spring Training Day at Circenster.

14th April: [Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm](#).

18th April: Association AGM in the Chippenham Branch.

12th May: [Mickleton Branch practice at 730pm](#).

June:

PLEASE BE AWARE.

The Committee is currently reviewing some practice locations between the Committee Meetings. Those above in blue may be amended, so please be alert for alterations 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 other aspects. In the first instance, please contact the Treasurer.

The Skittles evening

The Branch Social and skittle evening was held on the 28th February 2014, this was a great success, good food, good company, and good fun all made for a memorable evening.

The level of "striking" was varied, for some the crescendo of skittles being knocked down was confirmation of a good score, for others, the silence of the ball navigating its way through the narrow gap between skittles was deafening. To do this with one ball is perhaps bad luck, to do it with two requires great skill but to do it with all three means a prompt phone call to Specsavers is needed !!.

After the first round we retired to the bar and had something to eat, the food was ordered from the Farmer's Arms menu there was quite a range of options, it was well presented and enjoyed by all. The skittles games then went on and the last game was the knockout round, there was a winner but that didn't seem important at the time as the purpose of the evening was to meet one another and have a good time, not to have a "competition".

So thanks to the Landlord and staff at the Farmer's Arms at Guiting Power and to Roland Greenhill for masterminding the evening, we were all winners. R.K.

Tower of the Year. This year, no Towers came forward from the Branch, so do consider this for 2015. Have a look on the Association's website to see how other Branches have entered.

Association Striking Competition and AGM. Unfortunately the Branch was unable to enter a team into the Croome or the Penn. AGM report will follow in due course.

FOR THE RECORD.

No reports received.

BRANCH TOUR.

Please will you let Keith know if you're attending. If sufficient numbers, he's willing to organise the menus and book the tables. Also, more ringers attending will mean that the attendance fee will be lower for all.

Geoffrey James Clark of Bourton-on-the-Water died in 2014. He was born in 1946.

Geoffrey Clark (67) died at the turn of the year after a long illness born with much courage and good grace. He had been a ringer for almost 60 years, having joined the tower at Barnwood as a young lad in the 1950s. His sister, Peggy, was already a member of the predominantly young band, which was bolstered by a few pre-war ringers. Geoff was later to become a popular tower captain and church warden at Barnwood.

It was through ringing that Geoff met his wife Anne, as she was tower secretary at Haresfield whilst he held the same role at Barnwood. In those days the two towers were socially very close. Geoff was also a founder member of the Barnwood Handbell Ringers. It was while ringing handbells in the 1970s that Geoff first experienced the difficulties with his wrists which led to a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis and the beginning of his long illness.

Geoff, Anne and Roger moved to Bourton-on-the-Water in 1982, where Geoff was employed by Lloyds Bank; Andrew was born soon afterwards. They all became much involved in the life of the village. The local scout troop was a particular interest of Geoff's (he had joined the cubs in Barnwood in the early 1950s), as was the tower. Geoff became treasurer of a number of organisations including The Friends of Bourton Hospital. He was instrumental in encouraging the newly formed team at Great Rissington when the bells were rehung there in 1991. All the while his illness was taking its toll, so much so that he was compelled to retire at the early age of 50. This did not prevent him from trying to keep his involvement with local organisations and charities. In fact he was still tower secretary at the time of his death despite not having been able to go up the tower for a number of years. For some time he acted as independent examiner for the Gloucester and Bristol Association and, in his modest way, felt much honoured when he was elected as an Honorary Life member. He was delighted that his son, Andrew, took up ringing and went on to become a really proficient ringer.

He had a good sense of humour but the feature of his character which shone the brightest was his warmth and friendship. He was an extremely generous man with a genuine concern for the wellbeing of others. He never had a bad word to say about anyone; he was a man who inspired real and rare affection and respect. In fact Steve Coleman summed it up so well on Campanophile after the quarter peal at Bourton (in which Andrew rang) when he wrote "In grateful thanksgiving for the life of Geoff Clark, a thoroughly nice man."
Brian McBurnie

Rupert Duester of Great Rissington died on 9th January 2014.

Rupert was born in May 1936 and lived his whole life in Great Rissington, apart from 2 years in Cyprus doing National Service with the RAF. He was involved in most village activities and events throughout his life, especially cricket and football in his earlier days.

When the church bells were declared unsafe for ringing in 1950 he was one of those who chimed the Tenor before services. When the bells were refurbished and rehung in 1991 it was no surprise that he was one of the group which volunteered to learn bell-handling for full-circle ringing. He rarely missed a practice or a service ring, though he was always happier as a solid and steady tenor man than struggling with method ringing. His conscientious approach and boyish humour were greatly valued by the band. For 20 years he acted as steeple-keeper. His meticulous care of the bells and ropes earned many awards in the old 'Best-kept Tower' competition and won plaudits from the Association.

Four years ago he faced his first battle with cancer with great stoicism – and won. Struck down again in December 2012, he again showed dignity and courage as his health steadily deteriorated; he regularly used to say "I'll get back to ringing as soon as I feel a bit better".

North Cotswolds Annual Ringing Tour

7th June 2014

North and West of Gloucester

10.00 - 10.45	Sandhurst	8
11.00 - 11.45	Hempsted TBC	8
12.00 - 12.45	Longhope	8
Lunch. The Farmer's Boy, Longhope		
2.30 - 3.15	Huntley	6
3.30 - 4.15	Maisemore	6
5.00 - 5.45	Ashleworth	6
6.00 - 6.45	Tirley	6

Please can you advise Keith or Isobel Murphy (01608 674005) or Isobel.Murphy-at-btinternet.com by 1st June if you intend to come.

This is important so that they can plan ahead, especially when numbers in the past have been on the low side.