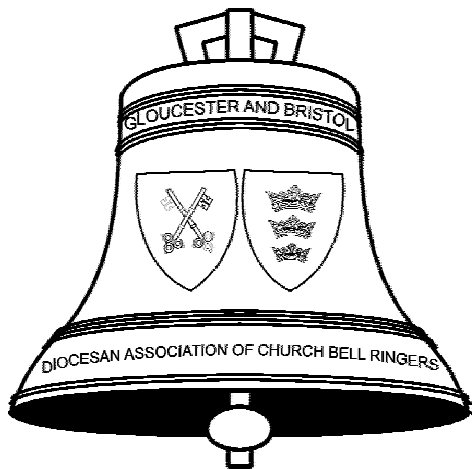


# NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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

Registered Charity Number 281431



## NEWSLETTER

JULY  
2013

### BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chairman	Dr Jeremy Meyrick, Old Swan House, Great Rissington, Cheltenham, GL54 2LH	01451 820497
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 Newsletter - Editor	Mr Roland Greenhill, Guiting Power. Mr Andrew Gunn, Mickleton. Email: awgrf-at-hotmail.com Mr Denzil Spear, Longborough. Email: denzil.spear-at-btinternet.com	01451 850313 07711 188 239 01451 870957

### AGM and the Striking Competition.

This year's Association AGM took place at Tewkesbury Abbey, preceded by an excellent tea. The Branch was unable to enter a Penn team, due to insufficient numbers. The Penn Trophy was run at Ashchurch; the winners were Tewkesbury Abbey, followed by Bristol. The Croome Trophy was won by St Mary Redcliffe (score 40), followed by Dursley (41). However that is not the end of the story, the North Cotswold Branch, represented by Mickleton, came fourth (with 51) only two points behind the Penn winners. Mickleton was awarded the second of the Ringing Master's awards – the carved wooden bell and clapper, for joyful ringing.

The AGM formalities passed quickly. The number of Grants recently given out has been limited, so please enquire if you're planning future work. The subscriptions remain unchanged. Next year's AGM will be in the Bristol area on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

### Bell Ringing at Longborough.

The bells have become even more silent as we continue to struggle to find sufficient numbers of bell ringers, particularly on a Sunday. I suppose it is just conceivable that for some, silence on a Sunday morning is golden. However whilst I am somewhat biased, I find it sad that the bells cannot be heard as they should.

I have not however given up hope. Whilst I may now have given up any belief that village members who are capable will ever "have a go", I have now turned my thoughts to the younger generation. I have spoken to the local school head about the possibility of starting an "After School Ringing Club". The head has been very encouraging, as have other assistants at the school, and we are holding an initial meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the school, to discuss all the various actions that need to be completed before proceeding further. Once this has been completed, then it will be up to the young people involved, hopefully backed by their parents, to take the club forward.

Whilst not so complicated, learning to ring a bell is akin to a seventeen year old learning to drive a car. It is vital that the learner treats the bell with total respect whilst learning to handle and control the bell properly. Once these are achieved then the open "ringing" road lies ahead, with all the physical and mental benefits that will bring. Added to that I have been in discussion with the local "Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme" authorities, who have confirmed that should any of our potential learners, having reached the age of fourteen, wish to attempt to achieve any of the "D of E" awards, then bell ringing can be accepted, as a skill in its own right, and also as part of their volunteer skills. Toward this end each of our potential ringers will receive grade certificates as proof of what they have achieved.

The local bell ringers and friends will have been involved in a sponsored ring, to raise money for the Church funds. It is hoped that the ringers will achieve six hundred call changes. The sponsored ring will coincide with the local school "Scarecrow Trail" day on May 18<sup>th</sup>, commencing around 2.00pm.  
Denzil Spear.

### FOR THE RECORD.

On the 24th April 2013 at Great Rissington, a Quarter Peal of College Exercise Treble Bob Minor was rung by: Treble Isobel Murphy, 2. Steve Coleman (C), 3. Sue Coleman, 4. Jeremy Meyrick, 5. John Nicholls, Tenor, Bill Nash. First quarter in method for all ringers.

On 9th May 2013 at Great Rissington, a Quarter Peal of Morning Star Treble Bob Minor, was rung by: Treble Isobel Murphy, 2. Steve Coleman (C), 3. Sue Coleman, 4. Jeremy Meyrick, 5. John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash. First quarter in method for all ringers.

On the 27th June 2013 at Great Rissington, a Quarter Peal of spliced Double Oxford, Thelwall and Pinehurst Bob Minor was rung by: Treble Isobel Murphy, 2 Steve Coleman (C), 3 Sue Coleman, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 John Nicholls, Tenor Bill Nash.

**GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS.**

**NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITION**

**TO BE HELD AT TEMPLE GUITING ON SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013.**

Arrangements:-- 2.00 pm – meet at the Church for the draw of order of ringing\*.  
2.30 pm – striking competition begins.  
4.00 pm (approx) Evensong.  
4.30 pm (approx) tea and judging.  
5.00 pm (approx) Annual General Meeting.  
6.00 PM (approx) finish.

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**Rules for the Striking Competition:-**

1. All ringers should be paid up members of the G&BDA. (The Treasurer will be present).
2. As far as possible bands should consist of those who regularly ring together.
3. Bands should ring at their customary level of difficulty.
4. 5 minutes practice will be allowed. 4 blows on the Treble will signify “ready to begin”.
5. Bands should then ring:  
Either a) rounds for 4 minutes  
or b) rounds and at least 12 call changes for 4 minutes  
or c) plain hunting for 120 changes  
or d) plain courses of any method for 120 changes  
or e) a touch of any method for 120 changes.
6. Any problems arising will be resolved by the Ringing Master, whose decision shall be final.

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**TO ALL TOWER CORRESPONDENTS:- PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR TOWER IS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING.**

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\*Special arrangements will be made for any band that has another commitment such as a Wedding.

**LOOK TO! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.**

9<sup>th</sup> July: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11<sup>th</sup> August: **Gloucester Cathedral, Branch visit.** Meet in the South transept at 1.20pm, otherwise you face being locked out.

13<sup>th</sup> August: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

10<sup>th</sup> September: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,** followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

8<sup>th</sup> October: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

12<sup>th</sup> October: Autumn training day at Wotton-under-Edge.

26<sup>th</sup> October: Branch Striking Competition and AGM at St Mary's, Temple Guiting.

12<sup>th</sup> November: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

10<sup>th</sup> December: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm,** followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

14<sup>th</sup> January 2014: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

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

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

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

8<sup>th</sup> April: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

**Branch 2013 AGM.** Please would you let Roland Greenhill know at least a week beforehand, what food you are bringing to prevent too many of the same items.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012. Subscriptions are £10.00 Senior, £5.00 Retired and Juniors £2.50. Associates, the same as Retired. Gift Aid is possible ask your Treasurer.

**WANTED.** The Committee has two vacancies. Our Chairman is seeking interested members, who wish to contribute to the running of the Branch. Please consider giving up a little time to help the Branch. It's only four short Committee Meetings a year.

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

**ASSOCIATION BELL FUND GRANTS.**

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