

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.



The Late Richard Radley

We were very sad to learn that Richard had passed away on the 30th May 2015, after a short illness. Richard was a highly respected member of the branch ringing family, ringing at Oddington and local towers, always a great help at any time and where needed.

Richard's funeral took place at St. Edward's Church, Stow-on-the-Wold on Wednesday 10th June. The Church was full with friends and ringing colleagues joining with his family in a celebration of his life, and the Stow bells rang loudly and proudly as part of that celebration.

Our thoughts remain with Rowena and the family, following their sad loss.

NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH

NEWSLETTER NO 3

Contents.

3. Branch Officers.
4. Branch Practice Programme.
5. Letter to F.S.G. Editor
6. Longborough Church.
7. Longborough Church.
8. Longborough Church/Gt.Rissington Peals.
9. Profile Branch Ringing Master.
10. Urgent Notice.
11. Six Bell Striking Competition.
12. Competition Photographs.
13. Competition Photographs.
14. Competition Photographs.
15. A.S.R.C. Members Photographs.
16. Diary Dates.
17. Notices.

Branch Officers

**Chairman. Mr. Denzil Spear, “Bekyntons”, Old Rectory Gardens,
Longborough, Moreton in Marsh, Glos. GL56 0QF**

E-mail : denzil.spear@btinternet.com

Telephone : 01451 870957

**Ringing Master. Mrs Jackie Hands, 6, New Row, Lower Quinton, Stratford-
on-Avon, Warks. CV37 8SL**

Telephone : 01789 720802

**Secretary. Mr. Rob Kilbey, Meadowside, Essex Place, Bourton on the
Water,**

Glos. GL54 2HL.

E-mail : kilbey.family@btopenworld.com

Telephone : 01451 822516

**Treasurer. Mr. Roger Jones, 1, Northleach Road, Cold Aston, Cheltenham,
Glos. GL54 3BJ.**

E-mail : Roger.and.Marta@Gmail.com

Telephone : 01451 820229

**M.C.Representative. Mr. Keith Murphy, Glasfryn, Great Wolford, Shipston
on Stour, Warks. CV36 5NQ.**

E-mail : Keith.Murphy2@btinternet.com

Telephone : 01608 674005

Newsletter Editor. Mr. Andrew Gunn, Mickleton.

E-mail : awgrf@hotmail.com.

Committee member : Mr. Roland Greenhill.

E-mail : r.greenhill@btinternet.com

Telephone : 01451 850313

G & BDA (North Cotswold Branch)

Branch Practice Programme 2015.

Jan. 13th	Ebrington	(6)	
Feb. 10th	Guiting Power	(6)	
Mar. 10th	Mickleton	(8)	(Comm. Mtg)
Apr. 14th	Longborough	(6)	
May 12th	Lower Quinton	(6)	
June 9th	Bourton on the Water	(8)	(Comm.Mtg)
July 14th	Oddington	(6)	
Aug. 11th	Naunton	(6)	
Sept. 8th	Mickleton	(8)	(Comm. Mtg)
Oct. 13th	Willersey	(6)	
Nov. 10th	Temple Guiting	(6)	
Dec.8th	Bourton on the Water	(8)	(Comm. Mtg)

To the Editor – Four Shires Newsletter.

I read with some interest comments which appeared in your issue number 144, and which referred specifically to the North Cotswold Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. I am at a loss to understand why this comment has been made at this time, since I am unaware of any great history of the branch producing new young ringers, certainly not in recent years. Nevertheless I am only too aware that a problem exists and that is why I raised the issue as an agenda item in one of our quarterly branch meetings earlier this year. What I would like to see happening, is for all the Churches within the branch to act as a nursery for new ringers young or not so young, to develop a village bell ringing team for all our churches, for each church to continue to develop the ringing skills of the team, and eventually to see team members attending branch practices to receive one to one mentoring.

However I would like to point out to your writer that there is a corner of the North Cotswold Branch, where much is being done to develop new ringers. In the last two years or so, a total of eleven people have been taught to handle and control a bell and beyond, so I already have the ringing nursery at Longborough. Two of those people have been adults and continue to ring when “life” allows. Three of the group are teenagers and whilst they are unable to join in weekly branch practice, they do ring for Sunday Services and so I have established a village team of bell ringers.

I have to be completely honest and point out that six of the original group were children and they have all walked away from ringing having reached the stage of ringing rounds. Two had already established themselves as having potential in a sport, and felt that they could not give their time to bell ringing, the remainder I suspect found the burden of being part of a team too much. However, undaunted, I am currently, with the help of a colleague, teaching two more young people who provide us with great encouragement through their enthusiasm.

So there are people out there if we are prepared to take the time to find them and importantly give them our time. Longborough is but one of the churches with ringable bells in the branch, now we need the other 25 to do their bit.

Just as a footnote to the above, at a Six Bell Striking competition recently held at Longborough, the winning team producing some excellent striking, included one ringer aged 19 years, one aged 22 years and one aged 24 years, and you do not achieve that level of ringing overnight, they have been ringing for some years. Yes they are out there, all we have to do is find them and teach them.

D.F.Spear

Chairman - North Cotswold Branch.

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association.

Longborough Church.

Summary

A 12th century church situated in the lovely little Cotswold village of Longborough.

We don't know for sure how long the parish church of St James has stood in Longborough. It is possible that the church dates back to the Saxon period, but it seems likely that it existed in the early Norman period at the latest. The first recorded rector of St James was William of Luton in 1264.

The most intriguing aspects of St James are contained in the transepts. Let's take the south transept first. The transept is lit by a very large set of traceried stained glass windows, creating an unusually light and airy space. There are two tombs set against the south wall of the transept. To the east is a 14th century table tomb, with the carved figures of a knight in armour and his wife. The carving on the head of the effigies is worn, but the feet are in very good repair. The pose of the knight is intriguing; his feet are set at angles, one above the other, and resting on an animal that may be a dog.

Beside the medieval tomb is a grandiose Jacobean memorial to Sir William Leigh (d. 1631) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1664). The carving is exquisitely detailed, though the decoration is subdued by comparison to many tombs of this period. At the base of the tomb are friezes of the couple's sons and daughters in a kneeling pose.



The south transept features a tomb of a 14th century knight and lady

The Latin inscription upon the tomb has been translated on an informational plaque beside the tomb. It reads:

Sacred to the memory of William Leigh Knight and also Elizabeth his wife. He came from both the lines of Leigh and Berkeley, enriched with noble blood, and ornamented each family with his virtues; as a youth he devoted himself not unhappily to work of scholarship at Oxford; of full age, having entered into matrimony, it was his custom to give his wealth in alms compassionately and liberally, not without loss; the office of justice of the peace he executed for many years with the greatest impartiality not just the letter of the law; attacked at length by consumption, he changed this life for a better, in the month of November, in the year of the Christian era 1631, aged 48. And four sons and as many daughters the issue of his marriage, of these three, namely, Isabel, Elizabeth and Anne, survive both parents. Two of the sons, namely William and George, the father left still living; the mother only the elder. She was the daughter of William Whorwood, Knight, of Stafford. Bereaved of her husband, for 34 years of uninterrupted widowhood she drew out a truly religious life; her house always offered a refuge to the poor of the neighbourhood, and an asylum to faithful subjects of the king (in most difficult times). This not unseemly monument to the best of husbands and to herself was set up with a generous endowment from the liberal hand of the younger son while he lived; at length she acquired immortality by a perfect death on the 23rd March in the Christian year 1664-65, and in her 83rd.

The Sezincote Chapel

In 1822 the Cockerell family of the neighbouring parish of [Sezincote](#) were granted the right to build a family chapel in St James, as their own church in Sezincote had fallen into disrepair. The Cockerells built their chapel and burial vault in the north transept. The vault was used for only 8 burials, then it was bricked up. The chapel stands on top of the vault, with the result that the north transept is raised to a level of 4 or 5 feet above the level of the nave, creating a sort of galleried transept accessible only by a set of stairs.

The largest and grandest memorial in the Sezincote Chapel is to Charles Cockerell (1755 - 1837). On the north wall is the memorial to Sir Charles Rushout Rushout. Sir Charles was born Charles Rushout Cockerell, the son of the first Sir Charles. In 1837 he had his name changed to the redundant 'Charles Rushout Rushout' in order to claim an inheritance through his mother's family.

Tucked into a corner of the Sezincote Chapel is a turret clock dating to sometime between 1699 and 1752. The frames supporting the clock mechanism is probably earlier still. The clock was found in pieces in the tower in 1987 and was reassembled here. It is in working order though it is not in daily use.



Effigy of a child on the tomb of William and Elizabeth Leigh

Branch practices have been held at both Longborough and Lower Quinton as part of the roll-out programme. Sadly whilst no local ringers in each case joined the practice sessions and thereby gain valuable experience, we were pleased that Hugh, our Association Chairman was able to join us at Lower Quinton.

Great Rissington.

28th May 2015 at Great Rissington, a quarter peal of Real Double Bob Minor.

Treble. Rob Kilbey
2. Steve Coleman (C)
3. Sue Coleman
4. Jeremy Meyrick
5. John Nicholls
Tenor. Bill Nash

First quarter in method for 4, 5 and Tenor.

A Quarter peal of Grandsire Minor was rung at Great Rissington on Thursday 26th June.

Treble Steve Coleman (C); 2. Rob Kilbey; 3 Sue Coleman; 4 Jeremy Meyrick; 5 John Nicholls; Tenor Bill Nash.

Profile of Branch Ringing Master – Jackie Hands

Jackie has been Branch Ringing Master for five years. She was born and raised at Shipston-on-Stour, and went to Shipston infant, junior and comprehensive schools. She has been married to Robin for 31 years.

She first learnt to ring at the Church of St. Edmund, Shipston-on-Stour when aged thirteen, and has continued to ring to the present time, currently as a member of the Mickleton team of bell ringers, Jackie has in the past rung for teams at Shipston-on-Stour and Tredington, and taken part in bell ringing competitions with the Four Shires Guild of Ringers and with Mickleton, who are the current holders of the Rose Bowl won at the branch striking competition in October 2014. Jackie most recently rang the Tenor in a Quarter Peal of Gransire Caters at Stratford upon Avon.

Jackie estimates that she has rung four hundred plus, quarter peals and over twenty full peals, and the first full peal that she rang was at Chipping Campden on Saturday 28th December 1991, when she rang the third on Stedman Triples in two hours and fifty two minutes. She says that her favourite bells to ring are at the Church of St. Peter, Hook Norton, where the tenor is around twenty hundredweight, and she is happiest ringing heavier bells. In fact she is happiest when ringing a tenor wherever it may be.

Away from bell ringing, Jackie is a sporty kind of person having played in a Ladies Football team in the West Midlands. She has also played Hockey and Tennis.

Jackie loves animals, and enjoys long walks in the country with her Jack Russell, and looking after her three rabbits, two hens, polecat and wild birds.

She enjoys swimming, gardening and horse racing, or visiting country pubs to enjoy a glass of real ale or cider, and is a member of Camra. On a night out she also enjoys a game of snooker or pool.

She loves to holiday in Devon or Cornwall where she enjoys fishing, and it is a real treat to visit Otter Falls, just about fifteen miles from Sidmouth in Devon, where there are three fishing lakes, a swimming pool followed by a Sauna. If all that was not enough she loves to head off to the local hills and woodlands for a long peaceful quiet walk.

URGENT NOTICE

It is the intention that the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will relinquish their respective positions at the Branch A.G.M. in October.

It is important that these positions are filled, ideally with new young members of the branch who can continue to carry the branch forward. People who can send the message out through use of all the available social media, and thus make an impact on a new generation of bell ringers, in promoting a wonderful hobby which embodies attributes of sociability, with the promotion of mental and physical aspects of good health.

Please give it serious thought, and make us aware of your interest, to allow us to have a successful transition

Six Bell Striking Competition

A six bell striking competition has been held within the branch at Longborough. The competition for the Ruth How Plate, took place on 16th May, as part of the local primary school Scarecrow Trail fund raising day, and in collaboration with the Devon Association of Church Bell Ringers.

The plate is dedicated to Ruth (How), who has been a bell ringer all her life, and rang for a number of years at Longborough, before moving to live at Moreton in Marsh, where she also rang, before she unfortunately became ill and could no longer ring.

The day started with a very successful Rise/Fall Workshop organised by the Devon Association under the leadership of Graham Sharland (Chairman of the Devon Association of Church Bell Ringers)

Following a service in the church at Longborough, the competition commenced at 2.00 pm and comprised both Method and Call Change Ringing, by teams from Warwick, The Four Shires Guild, Longborough, Chagford, Burrington A, Burrington B, West Down, and South Brent.

Each team rose, rang peal and lowered the bells all within fifteen minutes, with a certificate for the best rise, best fall and places one, two, and three, with the overall winner taking the Ruth How Plate.

The overall winners were the team from Chagford, who also won both the best rise and fall certificates, with 15, 3.5 and 3.25 faults respectively.

The Plate and certificates were presented in the Village Hall by Jenny Hitchman who is a warden at the Church. Grade One certificates were also presented to Ben and Charlie who are members of the local primary school, After School Ringing Club.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon as agreed by all, whether taking part or visitors to the Scarecrow Trail, with some excellent bell ringing, and friendships made. Even the Scarecrows could find nothing to complain about and stayed silent throughout the afternoon.

The judges for the day were Alan Hartley from Redditch, and Mervyn Way from the Devon Association. Many thanks to all those who contributed to making the day so successful.



Chagford (Devon Association of Bell Ringers)

Winners of the Ruth How Plate



The Four Shires Team



The Warwick Team



The West Down Team (Devon Association)



Oh! And there was a Social Side



The Ruth How Plate and certificates



Certificates were also presented to Ben and Charlie, two members of the Longborough “After School Ringing Club”.

a Management Committee Meetings.

Saturday January 24th 2015
Saturday March 7th 2015
Saturday September 19th 2015
Saturday January 23rd 2016
Saturday March 5th 2016

b. Branch Officers' Meetings

Saturday March 7th 2015 (in the morning) at Barnwood
Saturday March 5th 2016 (in the morning) at Barnwood

c. Training Days

Spring 2015: Saturday March 14th 2015 (based in Cirencester)
Autumn 2015: Saturday October 10th 2015 (based in Wotton-under-Edge)
Spring 2016: Saturday March 12th 2016 (based in Cirencester)

d. AGMs

Saturday April 18th 2015 – in the Chippenham Branch at their kind invitation
Saturday April 9th 2016 – for which the Cheltenham Branch has kindly invited us

e. Competitions – being on the morning of AGM day

Penn & Croome Trophies: Saturday April 18th 2015 – in the Chippenham Branch
Saturday April 9th 2016 – in the Cheltenham Branch

f. Quarter Peal and Peal Festival – an entirely optional activity

Saturday October 17th to Sunday October 25th 2015

Reminder from the Treasurer :

Subscriptions are due for the new financial year that started on 1st November 2014.

Subscriptions are £10 (Senior), £5 (Retired), £2.50 (Juniors)

Associates: the same rate as retired members. Gift Aid is possible – ask your

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 that it can help to forward plan the accounts concerning any future potential grants.

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

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

