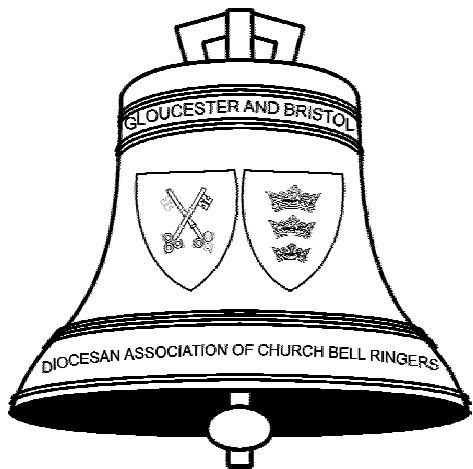


NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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

Registered Charity Number 281431



NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER
2012

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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LOOK TO! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

9th October: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

13th October: Autumn Training Day.

20th – 28th October: Quarter Peal and Peal Festival.

27th October: Branch Striking Competitions and AGM. At Ebrington (Glos).

13th November: **Longborough** Branch practice at 7.30pm. **PLEASE NOTE: THIS HAS CHANGED FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY ADVISED (Mickleton).**

11th December: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**, followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

8th January 2013: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

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

9th March: Spring training day at Cirencester.

12th March: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**, followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

9th April: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

13th April: **Association AGM** (Tewkesbury Branch) with the Striking Competitions – Penn at ?, Croome at ?. See website TBC.

? **May: Branch Tour**, area tbc. ---- ---- organising – .

14th May: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11th June: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**, followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

13th October: Autumn training day at Wotton-under-Edge

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 starts on the 1st 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.

This Newsletter is now being sent out by email as previously advised. If you would like to receive your own copy direct in addition to your Tower contact, please forward your email to the Editor (awgrf-at-hotmail.com), with 'G & B Newsletter' in the subject box, plus home Tower and your name. By sending your details you consent to the Branch/Association using your email address in this way.

The Branch has some 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 web site at www.bellsgandb.org.uk, on which the North Cotswolds Branch can be accessed via: www.bellsgandb.org.uk/branches.html.

Breathless !! – The Branch visit to Gloucester Cathedral.

“Keep going you beggar” gasped one (his hand held across his chest). “I know mine is,” gasped a second, “It’s going nineteen to the dozen”. Others refrained from any comment, temporarily too exhausted to regain a normal breathing pattern. WHY? Twenty seven ringers had just ascended the steps to the ringing chamber of Gloucester Cathedral – no mean task, I can assure you.

You’re pleased to reach what you believe is the final step of this spiral stone staircase. Alas no! You pass through a passageway (only room for one person at a time) and are faced with more steps. You suddenly step out into the open air onto a guarded ledge with a fine view of part of Gloucester City, and then you’re back inside climbing a wooden staircase and treading onto a lengthy walkway that finally takes you to the ringing chamber door.

A special occasion? Yes; the annual visit of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers (North Cotswolds Branch) on Sunday, 12th August, 2012. There was a strong presence of ringers from the Mickleton and Bourton-on-the-Water areas, a smattering of invited guests and three regular ringers from the Cathedral.

It is impossible to express the emotions of the skilled ringers, those who have just passed the learning stage and the still raw recruits, but for my part it is joyous with a sense of pride. I wonder how the three new recruits from Wyck Rissington felt?

The majority of those present either ring in six or eight bell towers. To attain good striking on the Cathedral twelve bells is a hard task. I think we maintained a high standard throughout the 1½ hour session.

Before descending the 149 steps, we were privileged to stand alongside a huge bell (St Peter, standing in a cage and mechanically swung). The noise is awesome over a five-minute period. Some listened for a short while without covering their ears. Some found it absolutely essential to do so, while others scurried to the staircase.

What a wonderful afternoon we all had. Here’s to 2013.

J.W.K.

(Originally published in the October issue of St Lawrence, Mickleton, Church Magazine)

Association Tower of the Year Competition Rules.

1. Each Branch can only nominate 1 (one) tower.
2. The nomination can be for any reason at all.
3. The method of selecting the nominated tower is entirely a matter for the Branch concerned.
4. Entries must be submitted – by email only – by 31 January after the year in question.
5. The results will be decided by way of a paper ballot vote at the Association Branch Officers' Meeting at the beginning of the following March.
6. Every Branch Officer and Association Officer present will have one vote but may not vote for a tower in their own Branch.
7. In the event of a tie for any place, the Chairman will have a casting vote, but may not – in order to avoid him or her any embarrassment – cast it for a tower in his or her own Branch.

(continued on next page)

8. In addition to the trophies, every nominated tower will receive a framed illuminated certificate.
9. The entry must consist of one Presentation Statement not more than 500 words long. There is no restriction on photographs or web links, including video links, but equally, there is no guarantee that those voting will actually look at them.

NB The nomination can be for any reason at all. Examples of possible reasons are: --

Training achievements	Recruitment	Helping other towers
Overcoming difficulties	Creating publicity	Trying out new initiatives
Fund raising	Providing social support	Helping the community
Ensuring good public relations	Belfry restoration	Ringing activity
Ringing achievement	Ensuring good tower maintenance	
Creation of a website	Struggling on in the face of adversity	Etc.

And lastly, with the agreement of the towers concerned, all entries will be placed on the Association website after the presentation of awards, so that others may have the benefit of their ideas.

Nominations for the Committee to consider to Rob Kilbey, or at the AGM please.

NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITION. **TO BE HELD AT EBRINGTON ON SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2012.**

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.

The Striking Competition Rules are:-

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 decided by the Ringing Master, whose decision shall be final

* Special arrangements will be made for a band that has other commitments, eg, a wedding.

TOWER CORRESPONDENTS: PLEASE ENSURE REPRESENTATION AT THIS MEETING.

(NO QUARTER PEALS TO REPORT THIS TIME)