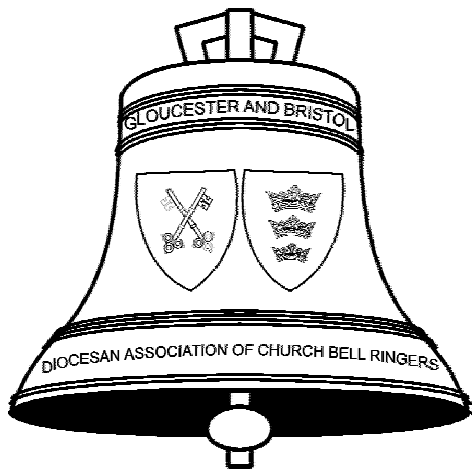


NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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

Registered Charity Number 281431



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2013

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chairman	Dr Jeremy Meyrick, Old Swan House, Great Rissington, Cheltenham, GL54 2LH	01451 820497
Ringling 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, Longbrough. Email: denzil.spear-at-btinternet.com	01451 850313 07711 188 239 01451 870957

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.

12th October: Autumn training day at Wotton-u-Edge.

19th October: Peal and Quarter Peal Festival.

26th October: Branch Striking Competition and AGM at Guiting Power, St Michael's & AA.

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.

12th November: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

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

14th January 2014: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

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

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.

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.

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 will be due soon for the new financial year that starts 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.

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 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 for this is so that it can forward plan the accounts, concerning any future potential grants.

Gloucester Cathedral visit.

In spite of holidays and other distractions 11 members of the Branch made the long climb to the ringing chamber at Gloucester Cathedral to ring for Evensong on Sunday 11th August. Strengthened by the presence of the Association Ringing Master and several members of the regular Cathedral band, the North Cotswold ringers, with various levels of experience, rang under the masterly guidance of Bill Nash. Starting with call changes on 12 bells, a new experience for some, and progressing through Oxford Bob Triples to a touch of Grandsire Caters and a plain course of Stedman Caters, ringing ended with a somewhat unusual touch of Plain Bob Doubles on the front five accompanied by call changes on the back six. All agreed that the visit had been thoroughly enjoyable and that the Branch had performed well. It is hoped that next year it may be possible for the Branch visit to avoid the holiday month of August and that more members will be able to come.

[Tower of the year competition](#), has your Tower started thinking about next year's entry representing the Branch? This is the time to start planning. Initial expression of interest to Rob Kilbey by the 9th of December for the Branch Committee to consider and to select one to represent us in the wider Association. Then the chosen Tower can prepare their entry. Competition rules below.

[Want to see what the other Branches entered in 2012 for inspiration? Then look at the website, under events and scroll down to Tower of the Year – entries and results of previous competitions.](#)

1. Each Branch can only nominate 1 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 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.
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, Ensuring good public relations, Providing social support, Ensuring good tower maintenance, Helping the community, Belfry restoration, Ringing activity, Ringing achievement, Struggling on in the face of adversity, Creation of a website, 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.

FOR THE RECORD.

At Great Rissington on the 25th July 2013, a Quarter Peal of Frodsham Bob Minor - first quarter in method for all ringers - was rung to celebrate the birth of Prince George of Cambridge: Treble: Isobel Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash.

At Great Rissington on Thursday 26th September 2013 a Quarter Peal of spliced St.Clements Bob, Childwall Bob and Buxton Bob Minor was rung: Treble: Keith Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash.

The Bells of St Laurence's – Wyck Rissington.

2006 was not a good year for St Laurence's Wyck Rissington. Within a short space of time two events happened: the bells were declared unsafe; and a small drip of water started coming through the roof of the North Aisle.

Estimates were quickly obtained - £18,000 to rehang the bells, about £12,000 to repair the north aisle roof. Raising this sort of money would be a challenge, but nothing too daunting, even for a village as small as Wyck Rissington with a population of barely eighty, and an average congregation of twelve. A charity, the *Friends of St Laurence*, was quickly set up to raise the money ... with the expectation that the bells would be ringing again the next year.

But that's when the problems started. A full survey of the roof revealed that the North Aisle was only a symptom of a more general malaise – the whole Church would have to be re-roofed, and timbers and mediaeval masonry repaired. As more investigation was carried out, costs rapidly rose from £12,000, to £60,000, then to £120,000, and finally to £303,000.

So what had started out as a fund raising exercise to restore the bells, with a bit of roof repair on the side, had become a Roof Restoration project with an eye watering budget for such a small village. The rehang of the bells was put on hold until the fabric of the building had been sorted.

By 2010, miraculously the money for the roof had been raised, and at Easter 2011, the builders handed the church back over to the Parish. But the bells remained silent.

The fund raising mechanisms were still in place, so using the momentum that still existed, the Parish made one last effort to raise a further £29,000 to get the bells ringing again. And thanks to the generosity of, amongst others, the G&BDA and Four Shires Guild, the money was found.

So on 5th November 2012, Whites of Appleton returned the bells, restored and re-tuned, and after a silence of nearly seven years, the North Cotswolds had a ringable four again.

Which is really a preamble to what this article is about!

We had four bells under restoration, but no ringers! In the silent period, the old team had disbanded and dispersed. So four new ringers were enlisted, some volunteers, some pressed, but all complete novices. The Great Rissington bell ringers offered their support, and we duly assembled there in August 2012 for our first practice session there under the tutelage of Steve and Sue Coleman.

What have we learnt in a year?

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You will discover in December's Newsletter.

IMPORTANT.

Please would all Tower contacts / Captains check their respective Tower details in the latest 2012 Association's Annual Report Handbook, concerning their practice nights and contact details. This is important, so that the next edition is fully up to date. Please will every Tower confirm to Rob Kilbey, as soon as possible - at the latest by the end of December as the next Edition goes to press in mid-January 2014.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITION TO BE HELD

AT **GUITING POWER** ON SATURDAY 26TH 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.

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 sorted out by the Ringing Master whose decision shall be final.

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

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