

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Charity Number 281431

Dear Tower Correspondent

As you already know, the 2011 AGM will take place

on: Saturday 9th April 2011

at: Oakridge Village Hall (map reference **919038**, post code **GL6 7NZ** – or follow the signs to *The Butchers Arms* – **but please see below about parking**)

commencing at: 4.45 p.m. approx

And in addition to the meeting itself – though not at the same time – there will be:

- Fourteen towers open for general ringing
- Refreshments at some of those towers
- The Penn and Croome Trophy Striking Competitions - at Bisley and Chalford
- A short service with splendid hymns
- A superb tea
- The presentation of all sorts of trophies
- Magnificent Stroud Branch countryside and villages

Please pass this information on to your band. It is also available on the Association website – www.bellsgandb.org.uk . The detailed timings are below and the meeting Agenda is below that. As ever, Hugh, as Chairman, promises you a fast and friendly meeting. I, as Ringing Master, promise you friendly and enjoyable ringing. And Philip, as Treasurer, promises you simple answers to all your accounting questions.

We all very much look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes

Steve

Telephone 01452 831197

The Morning Open Towers

09:30 – 10:30 Eastington (783058),	Cherington (904986)
10:00 – 11:00 Standish (802084),	Avening (880980)
10:30 – 11:30 Haresfield (810104),	Horsley (838980)
11:00 – 12:00 Stonehouse (800050),	Woodchester (840028)
11.30 – 12.30 Leonard Stanley (803034),	Minchinhampton (872008)
12.00 – 13.00 Randwick (828068)	
13.00 – 14.00 Stroud (852054)	

The Afternoon

The timetable for the afternoon and evening is below. Please note that the service ringing and service is at **Bisley** church but the tea and AGM itself are in **Oakridge** Village Hall which is **not** within walking distance.

13:30 – 15:00 Service Ringing at Bisley (The Association Ringing Master in charge and everyone welcome)

N.B. Bisley is a splendid and easy-going ring of eight.

15:00 – 15:30 Service in Bisley Church

15:45 – 16:45 Tea in Oakridge Village Hall

16:45 – 17:45 AGM in Oakridge Village Hall

Bisley Parking:

Parking will be in the School playground which joins on to the South-West corner of the churchyard and which is approached via a lane from the North-West of the church. The lane starts at a pub called *The Bear*.

Oakridge Village Hall Parking:

Although there is parking in the village hall car park, it's rather limited. So please leave your cars at Bisley if at all possible and car-share to the tea and AGM.

The Evening Tower

18:00 – 20:00 Painswick (map reference **867096** - with the new Association Ringing Master in charge and **absolutely everyone** welcome)

N.B. Painswick is a magnificent but easy-going ring of thirteen, and even the most inexperienced ringer will be able to handle the middle bells without difficulty. The ringing chamber is itself of exceptional interest and not to be missed. Parking is severely limited next to the church but there is a large car park on the East side of the A46, 200 yards to the South of the church.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. A Prayer for Members who have died
3. A Welcome from the Stroud Branch
4. Results of the Striking Competitions
5. Minutes of 2010 AGM

Copies have already been circulated to all Branches and are on the Association website, but a further copy will be available in the hall.

6. Matters Arising not covered by this Agenda

Child Protection Policy

7. 2010 Annual Report and Accounts
8. Election of New Members
9. Ratification of Belfry Elections to Non-resident Life Membership

10. Election of Officers

Nominations Received:

Ringing Master: Hazel Bridges
Chairman: Hugh Evans
Secretary: Steve Coleman
Treasurer: Philip Twentyman
Peal Secretary: Mark Davies

All these nominations were made by all or most of the twelve Branches.

11. Election of Independent Examiners

The Management Committee recommends the re-election of Charles Woodd and Michelle Harris.

12. Subscriptions for 2012 - The Management Committee recommends that they remain unchanged as follows:

Seniors: £10 of which £7 goes to BRF, £1.50 to General Fund and £1.50 to the Branch

Retired Members: £5 of which £4 goes to BRF, 50p to General Fund and 50p to the Branch

Juniors: £2.50 of which £1.50 goes to BRF, 50p to General Fund and 50p to the Branch.

The subscriptions were raised to these amounts from 1/11/2007.

13. Affiliation Fee 2012

The Management Committee recommends that it remains unchanged at £10 - last raised from 1/1/1994.

14. Replacement for the Best Kept Tower Competition

At the 2010 AGM the **Best Kept Tower** Competition was suspended pending ideas for a replacement. Several suggestions were put forward and these were considered by the Branch Officers at their meeting on 5 March this year. Their view was that the very important aim of improving and supporting good bell maintenance would be better met by other means, and the means they recommended are now in the process of being implemented. But as regards a competition, they recommended that a **Tower of the Year** Competition be initiated.

The essential feature of the Competition would be that each year each Branch would nominate one tower on whatever grounds they thought appropriate. That nomination might be for maintenance undertaken, or it might be for high quality training of learners, or it might be for inspired recruitment, or it might be for the help given to others. Indeed, it might be for anything. The Branch would give a short report in support of their recommendation, and the winner would be decided by a secret ballot of all present at the annual Branch Officers' Meeting. The details of the winner and the runners-up would be circulated so that other towers could then make use of their good ideas.

The Management Committee fully accepted the Branch Officers' recommendation, and on their behalf the Secretary will therefore propose that a **Tower of the Year** Competition be instituted for 2012 with the first awards being presented at the 2013 AGM. If the motion is successful, he will circulate draft rules to all Branches for discussion.

15. Annual General Meeting 2012

The Management Committee recommends that the Gloucester Branch's kind invitation to host the AGM on Saturday 21 April be accepted.

16. Thanks

17. Any Other Business - All items must be notified to the Chairman before the Meeting

18. Closing Prayer