

*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
December 2004*

Recent firsts: well done

Emma Abbey: 1st QP Bristol S. Maximus
Quentin Jackson: 1st Peal of Yorkshire S. Maximus, 1st QP Plain Bob Major on inside pair of handbells
David Lynch, Mary Lynch, Stuart Tomlinson: 1st QP Bristol S. Major
Simon Ridley: 1st Peal of Maximus (Yorkshire)
Jonathan Sweetman: 1st QPs Lincolnshire S Major, spliced Plain & Little Bob Royal

Branch Programme 2005

The Programmes for 2005 are being distributed now, but I should like to draw your attention to the first Branch Practice of the New Year: Wednesday 5th January at 7.30 pm at Bishop's Cleeve, when the special method will be Double Norwich Court Bob Major. As usual, Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire will be rung as required.

News from St Mark's:

They recently had a 20 minute slot on Radio Gloucestershire, copies of which are available from Simon Ridley. They are now applying for a faculty for the work and writing off to grant making bodies. If anyone is considering donating and is a tax payer, please can any money be either placed in the gift aid envelopes (distributed shortly) or have the gift aid declaration printed upon it. They hope to claim back in the region of 28% of the total.

"I declare that I _____ am a UK taxpayer and wish for the PCC of St Marks Church to claim back tax upon my donation of £_____ to the bell restoration fund.
Signed _____ Address _____
Date _____

Gloucester & Bristol Association Quarter Peal and Peal Festival

As ever in the great, Siberia sized sweep of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, free thinking, get-up-and-go, and spirited independence ruled OK. Our loosely timed Festival – its dates varying from Branch to Branch as the whimsy took us - was another stunning success.

The number of firsts of all kinds was positively vast, and equally important - though not recorded – was the number of heroic failures courageously but unsuccessfully attempted. Individual achievements were many and varied too, but truly magnificent as they all were, I simply can't list them all here, so you'll just have to read on and find them all for yourself.

Nevertheless, as the merest taste, the Cirencester Branch responded to *The Chairman's Challenge* and rang – at first attempt – successful quarters in 26 out of their 27 ringable towers. And what's more, they did it by

including 40 Branch ringers and 15 Branch conductors too.

And the "Could-this-be-a-World-First?" record, went to Francesca Cinderey, of the Forest Branch. She rang her first quarter at first attempt and followed in the steps of a ringing Mother, a ringing Grandmother and a ringing Great Grandmother too. Any challengers to this being a distaff record, speak now!

Oh, and there were a handful of first class peals to Splendid!

Steve Coleman

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

Leckhampton, 16 Oct, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Reg Hitchings 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Stuart Tomlinson 3, Sue Drinkwater 4, Catherine Heathcote 5, Hilda Ridley 6, Huw Davies 7, Terry Jones (C) 8. In celebration of the life of Sue's Uncle, David Ayres, aged 79, whose funeral took place the previous day in Hereford.

Prestbury, 17 Oct, 1344 Little Bob Major: Jonathan Sweetman 1, Jenni Scruton 2, Janice Sweetman 3, Janet Covey-Crump 4, Mary Lynch 5, Adam Vellender 6, David Lynch (C) 7, David Greenaway 8. For One World Day. First in method 2 and 6.

Leckhampton, 17 Oct, 1296 Surfleet S Minor: John Liptrot 1, Max Drinkwater 2, Anna Bayley 3, Barbara Pettit 4, Sue Drinkwater 5, Stuart Tomlinson (C) 6. Rung for evensong. 1st in the method for 2. 450th quarter for 5.

Leckhampton, 18 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Jacqui Hyde 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Max Drinkwater 3, John Liptrot 4, Sue Drinkwater 5, Catherine Heathcote 6, Terry Jones (C) 7, Huw Davies 8.

Cheltenham, St. Christopher, 20 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Nathaniel Hitchings 1, Isabel Hitchings 2, John Irving 3, Jeremy Hitchings 4, Barbara Petit 5, Reg Hitchings (C) 6. 1st minor inside & birthday compliments for 4.

Bishops Cleeve, 20 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Joanna Boulton 1, Ann Jessop (C) 2, Angela Hill 3, John Garle 4, Ellis Boardman 5, Michael Seagrave 6.

Badgeworth, 24 Oct, 1250 Cambridge S Minor: Bob Bennett 1, Tanya Sabin 2, Mark B. Davies 3, Chris Hickey 4, Pat Hickey 5, Conrad Warford (C) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Chris Hickey and Mark Davies.

Cheltenham, St. Christopher, 24 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Maureen McBane 1, Isabel Hitchings 2, Jeremy Hitchings 3, Reg Hitchings 4, Nathaniel Hitchings (C) 5, Joan Surman 6. 1st as Conductor.

Swindon Village, 25 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Joanna Boulton 1, John Irving 2, Ron Dryburgh 3, Ellis Boardman 4, Hugh Evans (C) 5, Geoff Hill 6.

Cheltenham, St. Christopher, 27 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Roy McBane 1, Isabel Hitchings 2, Reg Hitchings 3, Sue Henderson (c) 4, Mike Collett 5, Nathaniel Hitchings 6. In memory of Cyril Wratten.

Cheltenham, St. Mary the Virgin, 31 Oct, 1277 Grandsire Caters: Janice Sweetman 1, Bob Bennett 2, Liz Coke 3, Catherine Davies 4, Hugh Evans 5, Mary Lynch 6, Elizabeth Evans 7, Jonathan Sweetman 8, Mark Davies (C) 9, David Lynch 10. Rung with happy

memories of Cyril Wratten, captain of this tower 1959 to 1997.

Badgeworth, 31 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Chris Hickey 1, Pat Hickey 2, Bob Bennett 3, Tanya Sabin 4, John Irving (C) 5, Dave Turner 6. Rung in celebration of the life of Cyril Wratten.

Leckhampton, 31 Oct, 1280 Spliced S Major (3m Cambridge, Yorkshire and Rutland): Max Drinkwater 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Anna Bayley 3, Jacqui Hyde 4, Sue Drinkwater 5, Stuart Tomlinson 6, Catherine Heathcote 7, Terry Jones (C) 8. Rung open to celebrate the life of Cyril Wratten, who passed away on Tuesday, 26 October. Also for Leckhampton Area Churches Joint Evensong.

Charlton Kings, 31 Oct, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Chris McKenzie 1, Matthew Greenaway 2, Pauline Smith 3, David Greenaway 4, Alan Smith 5, John Ridley (C) 6, Richard Knight 7, Robert Sanders 8. Rung by a local band. First Surprise Major: 2.

JOINT CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER

Cheltenham, St. Mary the Virgin, 24 Oct, 1299 Stedman Cinques: Emma Abbey 1, Mary Chapman 2, Frances Mulvey 3, Catherine M Davies 4, Hilda C Ridley 5, Elizabeth A Coke 6, Michael J Mulvey 7, Mark B Davies (C) 8, Clive Sheppard 9, Derek Harbottle 10, Philip A Abbey 11, David J Chapman 12. 1st in the method for 2 & 9.

JOINT CHELTENHAM & FOREST

Cheltenham, 61 Galileo Gardens, 31 Oct, 1280 8 Spliced S Major: Philip A Abbey (C) 1-2, Mark B Davies 3-4, Steve Coleman 5-6, Sue Coleman 7-8. In memory of Cyril Wratten. 1st 8 spliced on an inside pair 3-4. 1st spliced in-hand as conductor.

Musings of a retired Ringing Master

To be a Ringing Master in this present day and age
You need the patience of a Saint, the knowledge of a Sage.

Ringers are such a mixed lot, no common factor there,
Some are good, some are poor, others merely fair.
You name a special method to be practised long before,
To give them chance to look it up and in their memory store.

But do they do their homework, or is it true pigs fly?
For when you call the method out, most look to the sky.
Then out come all the methods books, they get a furtive glance

You know that when you try it out, you've really not much chance.

There are of course the clever ones who think they know it all

And they jump up and grab a rope no matter what you call.

Then there are the timid ones who always need a push
To try out something different, no matter how you gush.
But when at last the Penny drops, you see that beaming smile

You know that all your effort, really was worthwhile.

Then there are the solid ones, backbone of any band

No matter what you ask of them they always lend a hand.

To ring a bell or stand behind they really do not mind.

Oh that all our ringers were of that very kind.

In sixty years of ringing I think I've met them all

The beautiful, the ugly, fat, thin, short and tall.

But let me tell you something from the bottom of my heart

I've enjoyed every minute, right from the very start.

So many thanks to all who make my ringing life so full

At least I'm sure of one thing, it never has been dull.

But just a word of warning if your striking does get slack

Expect the Ringing Master to be standing at your back.

With thanks to "Anonymous"

Branch Website

Now that all the extra pre-Christmas activity is over for another year, I'd like to urge all of you who have internet access to look at the Branch Website which has been thoroughly updated. Amongst other things you can download from it "blue lines" for the methods which may be rung at Branch practices, read any of the informative articles you may have missed (or mislaid) during the year, and read about the striking and Best Kept Tower competitions (what they are, and what the rules are) (<http://www.lynches.demon.co.uk/ringing/>).

Bobs and Singles

Philip has written an article for those who are interested in what bobs and singles to use for a particular method, which is attached to this Newsletter. If you would like to have your own copy, it's already been posted on the website for you to download.

And Finally

May I remind you as all the Tower Secretaries start asking us for our subscriptions, to consider completing Gift Aid forms if you are a tax-payer, so that tax can be reclaimed? Thank you. (Branch subscriptions are the same as last year: Senior Members £8.00; Junior, Retired and Associate Members £2.50.)