

*G & B Diocesan Association of  
Church Bell Ringers  
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter  
April 2005*

**Recent firsts: well done**

Anna Bayley, Huw Davies, Sue Drinkwater, Cathy Heathcote: 1<sup>st</sup> QP Bristol S. Major  
Joanna Boulton: 1<sup>st</sup> QP "inside" to Plain Bob Doubles  
Janet Covey-Crump, Peter Covey-Crump, Adam Vellender: 1<sup>st</sup> QP Double Norwich Court Bob Major  
Sue Henderson: 1<sup>st</sup> QP Lincolnshire S. Major  
Jeremy Hitchings, Nathaniel Hitchings: 1<sup>st</sup> QP "inside" to more than one method  
David Lynch, Mary Lynch: 1<sup>st</sup> Peal DNCBM, 1<sup>st</sup> QP Stedman Cinques  
Hazel Sweetman: 1<sup>st</sup> QP cover to Grandsire Triples  
Jonathan Sweetman: 1<sup>st</sup> QP Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1<sup>st</sup> QP Superlative S. Major

**Other Recent Achievements**

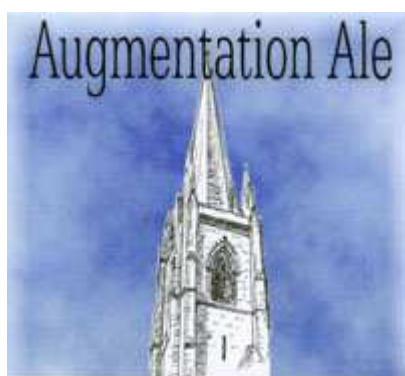
Adam Vellender has rung his 100<sup>th</sup> Quarter Peal.

Elizabeth Evans has been elected President of The Newcastle University Society of Change Ringers. She will be responsible for organising the university ringing and the Sunday service ringing and practices at St Johns, Newcastle.

**St Mark's**

The St. Mark's tenor wheel failed during the practice night on 21st February. It has been fixed and is ringable again with care, but this indicates how precarious the position is and how vital the need for fundraising.

**Attention all Beer Drinkers**



**St. Mark's Bell Restoration**  
Goff's Brewery Ltd, Winchcombe.  
500 ml 4.7% ABV

You have an opportunity to try a bottled ale brewed to a traditional recipe with natural ingredients by Goff's Brewery of Winchcombe. For further details please contact Rev. Owen Barraclough on 01242 230855.

**Mike Clifford**

I am very pleased to report that Mike Clifford is recovering well after his operation. He has asked me to pass on through the newsletter his thanks to all the many people who have sent him their best wishes. I'm sure he will soon be taking up his marlinespike again as he encourages us towards better ringing.

**Association AGM, Penn and Croome Trophies  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Charlton Kings is representing our Branch in the Croome (6 bell) Trophy at Hatherop and the Branch is also entering the Penn (8 bell) Trophy at Coln St. Aldwyn. We wish both teams good luck and good striking.

The rest of us meanwhile, can enjoy a much less stressful day's ringing with eleven towers available during the day.

*Open Towers - The Three Rivers Tours  
The River Thames*

10:00 – 11:00 South Cerney (6, 11 cwt)  
11:30 – 12:30 Meysey Hampton (6, 9 cwt)  
12:15 - 13:15 Kempsford (6, 16 cwt)

*The River Churn*

10:00 – 11:00 North Cerney (6, 5 cwt)  
11:30 – 12:30 Preston (5, 6 cwt)  
12:15 – 13:15 Ampney Crucis (6, 6 cwt)

*The River Coln*

10:00 – 11:00 Chedworth (6, 11 cwt)  
11:30 – 12:30 Coln St Dennis (5, 6 cwt)  
12:15 – 13:15 Bibury (6, 10 cwt)

14:00 – 15:00 Service Ringing at Fairford (The Association Ringing Master in charge and everyone welcome.)

15:00 - 15:30 Service in Fairford Church

15:45 – 16:45 Tea and Trophies Exhibition in the Palmer Hall, Fairford

16:45 – 18:00 AGM – the Palmer Hall, Fairford

19:00 – 20:30 Ringing – St John the Baptist, Cirencester (The Association Ringing Master once again in charge and everyone welcome.)

## *February Surprise Major Practice at Leckhampton - A Thank You*

"I would like to thank all those experienced ringers who joined in the last Surprise practice at Leckhampton. Your presence and help with ringing Bristol (and London!) made a marked difference to the number of successful touches during the evening, and greatly benefited our keen-to-learn Branch members.

To the "keen-to-learn", thank you for taking the time to learn your method(s) thoroughly; I'm sure you will agree that careful preparation is essential for success." PAA

## *G&BDA Training Day - March 12<sup>th</sup> 2005: Another Thank You*

The Training Day is a huge undertaking and only succeeds because of the time and effort put in by the Organisers, the Group Leaders and helpers as well as the students. A big "thank you" to all who helped in any capacity, to make this year's Day the success it was.

### *Plain Bob Doubles Variations*

"At St. Christopher's to give our learners more practice at the dodges and places in Plain Bob we ring 'Sticky' Plain Bob. Each time the treble leads we call 'stick'. The bell making seconds continues to stay in seconds place, ringing after the treble (how many learners look for another bell for their 2<sup>nd</sup> blow in seconds?). The bell making long 5<sup>th</sup>s continues to ring in 5<sup>th</sup>s place over the 2 bells dodging in 3-4. The bells dodging 3-4 up and down continue to dodge. This continues until the change is good and then the conductor calls 'carry on' at which point you continue ringing plain bob, until you reach the next sticky point. We have had quite a lot of success with this.

The other variation is to repeat the same lead. You do this by ringing the first lead as normal, and then each time the treble reaches the back it rings 4 blows in 5<sup>th</sup>s and then goes down to lead. The bell which makes 2<sup>nd</sup>s (the 3) then turns round in 4<sup>th</sup>s place so it comes down to lead before the treble ready to make 2<sup>nd</sup>s again. The other 3 bells just keep ringing the same lead and doing the same piece of work each time. This variation is useful if a learner finds one piece of work difficult to do. It also has the advantage of reinforcing where you pass the treble for each piece of work, and where you pass it after the work." IH

### *Forthcoming Practices*

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm there will be a Branch Practice at Buckland. The special method will be Stedman Doubles. In addition Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire will be rung as required.

## *Bristol at Leckhampton*

After many months of hard practice, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March Leckhampton ringers finally managed a quarter peal of Bristol Surprise Major with an all local (inside) band including 4 "first in method":

1280 Bristol Surprise Major

1. Bob Bennett
2. Jacqui Hyde
3. Anna Bayley (first in method)
4. Stuart Tomlinson
5. Sue Drinkwater (first in method)
6. Cathy Heathcote (first in method)
7. Huw Davies (first in method)
8. Terry Jones (Conductor)

SD

Well done to all of you.

### *Variable Hunt Plain Bob Minor*

Anyone who reads the Ringing World will already know that one of our own Branch members has had an article published in it very recently. Terry Jones wrote about Variable Hunt Plain Bob Minor which they've been ringing at Leckhampton. He's also given it for inclusion in this newsletter, where it's attached as a separate sheet for easier reference. Along with other interesting articles you'll also find it on the Branch website at: <http://www.lynches.demon.co.uk/ringing/publications.htm> So if you want to try ringing something a bit different, you can look it up long after this newsletter's been tidied away.

What with "stick" at St. Christopher's, "vary" at Leckhampton and "extreme" and "bingle" at Badgeworth, there's plenty of variety in the calls to be heard in the towers across this Branch. Just how do people remember them all?

I'd like to thank all the ringers who have sent contributions for the newsletters, and encourage those who are meaning to, but haven't quite got round to it yet. The newsletter can only be as interesting as you all make it, so if there's something you'd like to see in it, please let me know. Even better, write an article yourself – it doesn't have to be a long one, just a paragraph will be gratefully received; something about your own tower maybe?

As the weather improves, so our thoughts turn to ringing outings – perhaps you could write something about yours, or if you're a budding poet you could write something in verse. Whether you're an awe-inspiring conductor of peals or a beginner struggling to ring rounds, your contribution will be equally welcome.