

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

Other Recent Achievements

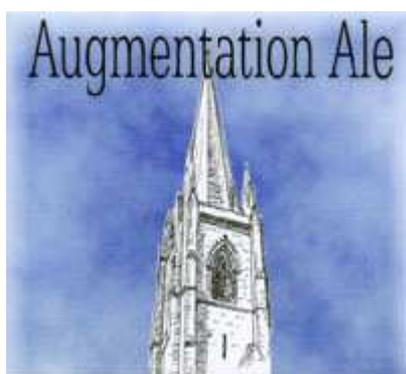
Adam Vellender has rung his 100th Quarter Peal.

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 9th 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 12th 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 2nd blow in seconds?). The bell making long 5ths continues to ring in 5ths 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 5ths and then goes down to lead. The bell which makes 2nds (the 3) then turns round in 4ths place so it comes down to lead before the treble ready to make 2nds 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 11th 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 20th 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.