

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

Recent firsts: well done

Peter Covey-Crump: 1st Peal Double Norwich Court Bob Major

David Greenaway: 1st QP Grandsire Triples as conductor

Chris Hickey: 1st QP Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Quentin Jackson: 1st QP Kent Treble Bob Major in-hand

Emma Murphy: 1st QP (Treble to St Dunstan's Doubles)

Hazel Sweetman: 1st QP Plain Bob Minor

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October: Peal & Quarter Peal Festival; please see page 2.

Saturday 5th November at 3 pm: Branch AGM at Leckhampton. If there are any items you would like to have included in the Agenda, would you please notify me now, in writing either by post, or by e-mail to: Janice.branchsec@btinternet.com. Thank you. The programme will be: 3:00 pm Ringing; 4:30 pm Service; followed by Tea and then the Meeting. Home made preserves will be available in aid of St Mark's Bell Fund.

Saturday 19th November at 7:00 pm: Surprise Practice at Bishop's Cleeve, with Cassiobury S Major as the special method.

Branch Outing



The Branch Outing, outside St Peter, Drayton

On September 3rd eighteen ringers and a baby enjoyed a very pleasant day together on the Branch Outing to a lovely area west of Oxford. Philip had arranged a relaxed itinerary for us with ringing at four towers, and with a leisurely lunch-break. None of the bells were heavy or difficult, and we rang to suit all capabilities from rounds and call changes to spliced Surprise Major and

Little Bob Royal. The weather co-operated too, allowing us to sit outside at our lunch-time pubs enjoying good food and conversation in the sunshine.

St Mark's

A special wooden jigsaw with approximately 250 pieces has been produced by Wentworth's featuring an aerial photograph of St Mark's. It has unusual, bell-related cut-out shapes and is available now from Simon and the St. Mark's band for £20.00 each (plus £5.00 P&P if required). Cheques should be made payable to "St Mark's Bell Fund". If you would like to see what the jigsaw looks like, go to the St Mark's website at <http://stmarkschelt.zapto.org> and click the link to the jigsaw.

The Barn Dance which was to have been held in November has had to be postponed and should now take place in the New Year. However there will be a Craft Bazaar on Saturday 26th November from 9:30 am, at which the Ringers' stall will have the jigsaws plus jams, chutneys etc for sale. Proceeds from the Ringers' stall will go to the Bell Fund.

The very popular Augmentation Ale has a new label but remains the same inside the bottle! It is still available, and enquiries should be made to Rev. Owen Barraclough on (01242) 230855 please.

The Ringing World Roadshow, Newbury

On Saturday 10th September thousands of ringers made their way to the racecourse at Newbury for the Ringing World Roadshow, which was packed with all things pertaining to ringing. It proved impossible to see all that was on show and also go to all the seminars which were of interest, so difficult choices had to be made. One of the seminars was given by two of our older Branch members, who have written the following report about it.

"About a hundred older learners, plus some experienced ringers and tutors, had a lively and wide ranging discussion under the title: 'We wish we'd started ringing 40 years ago'. We 'shared the misery' and 'picked up tips' for the future.

Coping with other ringers was the first difficulty mentioned. Older people are not used to being shouted at, cannot learn new skills quickly, find co-ordination difficult and are often very frightened, so a plea was made for patience and tolerance as they worked hard to become useful members of a band.

Learning to ring up and down early was recommended to develop confidence with bell control. All sorts of ropesight and listening strategies were discussed including new glasses, no glasses and/or a new hearing aid. Callers were asked to speak more clearly.

Difficulties with ringing language mean that people are sometimes slow to respond to the conductor's calls.

When learning a new method it is often a help to learn short sections at a time before attempting the whole blue line. Repeating a lead helps to give confidence. Special methods like Cloisters were deemed useful, though Chase was not well known.

We encouraged each other to ring in other towers, and to go to branch practices and outings, in order to get more rope time. It is possible to arrange a special private group in a remote tower when a particular problem crops up. Another suggestion is to join or run a weekday or Saturday group, especially for those who are retired.

Older learners lack some of the physical and mental flexibility of youngsters, but they have a lot to offer: loyalty, commitment, determination to succeed, and social expertise. All bands need them."

Joan and Owen Barraclough

Light Bell Ringing Experience

At the beginning of August the Branch held a Light Bell Ringing Experience day, which started with a practice at St. Christopher's, Warden Hill. More used to ringing the much heavier bells at Bishop's Cleeve, Jo Boulton took part and has kindly contributed the following report.

"This ring of six is lighter than I am used to ringing.

Reg gave myself (and others) one to one tuition before we were 'let loose' on rounds. When novices try to ring rounds at St. Christopher's it is an adventure! Listening and striking go out of the window and bell control proves a little beyond us at times.

This branch practice was very enjoyable, very different and left me with a lot of admiration for the resident band.

Thank you for a lovely afternoon." Jo Boulton

This was followed by a short journey to Tewkesbury to ring at David Bagley's mini-ring in "The Shed". These very light bells are different again, having no stays, and can drop very quickly to the down position if rung with insufficient energy to reach the balance. One of the ringers who tried the mini-ring, Nathaniel Hitchings, was already used to ringing the light bells at St. Christopher's, and here is his report.

The Shed

On the 6th of August, the Cheltenham Branch had their first ever light bell experience. This included visiting 'The Shed' in Tewkesbury. They are owned by David Bagley, and his wife Ruth.

The Shed are very light with the tenor at 16lbs. They have no stays or sliders, so they go over the balance a long way. David had to teach people how to get the bells 'up', even though they have no stays.

Some people were even daring to try and ring them single handed. I only managed to keep control of one bell at a time, even if it was one handed! Only Philip and Jeremy could do two bells going simultaneously. Most of what was rung was either 'Rounds and Call Changes on 9', or Plain Hunt Caters.

Over all, it was a very good time and thoroughly enjoyed by all."

Nathaniel Hitchings

Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II

Badgeworth, Prestbury, Swindon Village, and Winchcombe all rang at 5 pm on 10th July to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, with Winchcombe ringing a Quarter Peal. Well done.

Peal and Quarter Peal Festival Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October 2005

Some or all of your quarters may be rung in the week after or before - or even the week before that. Please send details of all your successful peals and quarter peals to me at Janice.branchsec@btinternet.com by 6th November (earlier if possible), for me to collate and forward to Steve Coleman. They must be in the Ringing World format:

[Place], [County - if not within G&B]
[Date Month], [Number of Changes] [Method]: [Treble Ringer] 1, [2nd Ringer] 2, etc.
£[Donation]

N.B. Please include (C) after conductor's name.

If your band wishes to make the traditional donation of 30p per ringer to the Ringing World please send it direct to the Ringing World (cheques made payable to *The Ringing World*), and state the donation at the end of the quarter.

Any peal fees should be sent to Mark Davies with an extra copy of the peal.

Newsletter

I should like to thank Joan, Owen, Jo and Nathaniel for kindly contributing to this newsletter.