

*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
March 2007*

Recent firsts: well done

Sue Drinkwater: 1st QP as conductor of Surprise (Cambridge Surprise Minor)

George Gale: 1st QP treble bob (Treble to Yorkshire Surprise Major), 1st QP Cambridge Surprise Minor, 1st Peal (Treble to Easingwold Surprise Major)

Jeremy Hitchings: 1st QP on 12 (Treble to Grandsire Cinques)

Nathaniel Hitchings: 1st QP on 12 (Grandsire Cinques)

Quentin Jackson: 1st QP Surprise in-hand and as conductor (Yorkshire Surprise Major), 1st QP on 12 (Grandsire Cinques)

Alice King: 1st QP (Treble to Grandsire Doubles)

Emma Murphy: 1st QP Grandsire Doubles

Hazel Sweetman: 1st Peal (Treble to Plain Bob Major)

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 17th March: G&B Spring Training Day. If you can help but have not yet given your name to one of the Branch Ringing Masters, please do so now – more helpers are always needed.

Friday 30th March at 7:30 pm: Surprise Practice at Badgeworth with *Norfolk* Surprise Minor as the special method. Philip has kindly put a link to the blue line for the method on the Method Library page of the Branch Website (address on page 3).

Saturday 14th April: Open Day in aid of bell restoration at St Mark. In spite of the clash with the Hereford course this event will go ahead as planned. Details at: <http://www.campanophile.co.uk/Event.aspx?Code=219>.

Saturday 9th June 4:30 pm: The Striking Competition for the Banner Trophy will be at Stanton this year. Please note in your diaries that it will be followed by a Barbeque hosted by Janet Covey-Crump to celebrate 50 years since she learnt to ring. Help with puddings and salads will be appreciated.

Midweek Ringing Outing Thursday 22nd March

Back in January I sent out an e-mail about the Midweek Daytime Outing that Bob Bennett has arranged for Thursday 22nd March. The programme is:

09:30 – 10:30	Mickleton
11:00 – 12:00	Saintbury
LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:00	Childswickham
15:30 – 16:30	Stanton

Bob is investigating pubs in Broadway for lunchtime. All Branch members are welcome; please telephone Bob on (01242) 251482 if you would like to join us. At present he has enough to ring minor but some more would give us a rest between touches!

Winchcombeshire Millenary Band of Bellringers

“Some of you may be aware that this year marks the 1000th anniversary of the West Midland Shire system which created Gloucestershire and the surrounding counties. Less well known is that it also created Winchcombeshire, which existed for just 10 years before being swallowed up by (mainly) Gloucestershire. Like other counties, the 139 parishes of Winchcombeshire were divided into 12 Hundreds.

To ensure that this anniversary of the founding of Winchcombeshire should not pass unnoticed, the current band in Winchcombe plan to start the celebrations with a peal on Monday 7th May. We are encouraging all the parishes in the former Winchcombeshire that have ringable bells, to support us by ringing either a peal or a quarter peal some time during the year after this date. To mark this occasion we will be creating the Winchcombeshire Millenary Band of Bellringers, membership of which will be conferred on all who ring in a Winchcombeshire celebratory peal or quarter. As a memento we will be making available a Winchcombeshire Millenary certificate for all those who participate.

Within the next few weeks all the above parishes will be receiving a letter to this effect to encourage them to ring with us.

For further information please contact Clare Pritchard at mail@clarep.net CP

It would be marvellous if every tower requested could take part in the celebrations in some way. If you need to contact Clare for further information e-mail is preferable (see above) but if you have no access to e-mail her telephone number is (01242) 602814. If you want a blue line for Winchcombeshire Alliance Minor just get in touch with me.

St Mark's

Following an inspection on 3rd February the 2nd Bell at St Mark's is now unringable as the headstock has begun to fail. Only bells 1, 3 and 4 are now safe and these will continue to be rung for service and weddings while remaining safe. Simon says “We now have £67,700 of our £90,500 required and the gift aid and interest from last year should push us over £70,000. We await the outcome of some grant applications. The finishing post is in sight!!!.....” <http://stmarkschelt.zapto.org>

St Mark's go Hiking!

“This year the Cotswold Way is being rededicated to become a National Trail. In celebration of this and in aid of the St Mark Bell Restoration, some of the St Mark's ringers and friends are planning to walk its entire length.

Please turn over

We are walking the 102 miles of the trail beginning at Chipping Campden and finishing in Bath, en route ringing at some of the towers close to the trail.

We need more walkers! Would you like to join us and help raise sponsorship? If so dust off your walking boots and come along for an adventure packed week. We start on Friday the 11th of May and walk over eight days but if you would like to join us for just one we would still love to see you. If you don't want to walk but would like to support us, please sponsor a walker instead. All sponsorship will be gift aided.

The planned route takes into account available accommodation, but this will only be booked if there is sufficient demand. Currently the group will go back to Cheltenham each night but intend to stay in Bath on the final night, perhaps taking in some of the local watering holes. For those interested there is the possibility of a day of ringing and or sightseeing on Saturday the 19th. For more information please contact Quentin Jackson email: gsajackson@yahoo.co.uk

Day	Start	Finish	Miles Approx
Friday 11/5	Chipping Campden	Stanway	12
Saturday	Stanway	Cleeve Hill	12
Sunday	Cleeve Hill	Leckhampton Hill	12
Monday	Leckhampton Hill	Painswick	14
Tuesday	Painswick	Kings Stanley or Nympsfield	14
Wednesday	Kings Stanley or Nympsfield	Wotton Under Edge	10
Thursday	Wotton Under Edge	Tormarton	14
Friday	Tormarton	Bath	14

Please support us on our journey to £90,000; we are on the final hill!" QJ/SR

Younger Ringers Excel in Christmas Holiday

On 2nd January a GCHQ Retired People's walking group was treated at Leckhampton to an excellent presentation on ringing led by Ann Jessop, when our younger ringers demonstrated their ringing skills. This was part of a fund-raising day featuring walking between St Mark, Leckhampton and St Christopher, ringing, refreshments and lunch. Ringers from 9 towers were involved in the event; 2 lapsed ringers 'had a go' at Leckhampton and everyone did afterwards at St Christopher. At least one of the walkers is considering taking up ringing. The proceeds were divided between charities and the amount raised for St Mark was £373. All the walkers were very appreciative and later expressed this by donating a further £50. The event was a superb effort – thank you to everyone who contributed in any way and to Leckhampton for the use of their Church, bells and Church cottages and to Warden Hill for bells and lunch.

Central Council

The visit of Central Council to Cheltenham for their Annual Meeting this year is from 24th to 28th May. Helpers for it will be needed from the G&B but Cheltenham Branch members are particularly sought to help Liz Coke, who is organising the Help Desk. Here is your chance to shine in a PR role, showing off your local knowledge! Liz would like to have two volunteers for each time slot, and if enough of us volunteer no-one will need to do more than an hour. The Help Desk will be in the Thistle Hotel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, then moving to Dean Close on Monday. For more information or to volunteer please e-mail Liz at:

davidand@lizcoke.fsnet.co.uk

More helpers will be needed as roving microphone stewards, table layers and rubbish clearers and if you would like to volunteer for any of these please contact Hugh Evans on (01242) 241678.

If you want to see the programme for that weekend, have a look at the G&B website:

<http://www.belfry.demon.co.uk/cc110.htm>.

Leckhampton News

On 3rd December a Leckhampton band comprising Barbara Pettit, Angela Newing, Jaqui Hyde, Anna Bayley, Sue Drinkwater, Stuart Tomlinson and Terry Jones rang a quarter peal of Easingwold Surprise Major, which is Cambridge based and was a first in method for all. On 14th January Max Drinkwater and Mary Lynch also rang their first quarter peal in that method.

Then on 20th January Leckhampton rang an almost local band peal of Easingwold which was a first in method for everyone: Max Drinkwater, Cathy Heathcote, Stuart Tomlinson, Barbara Pettit, Sue Drinkwater, Reg Hitchings and Terry Jones, ably supported on the treble by George Gale in his first ever peal. They dedicated the peal to the speedy recovery of Angela Newing, who was to have been ringing in the peal, but was replaced due to her illness by Reg Hitchings.

First Peal at Sevenhampton

Also on 20th January the very first peal to be rung on the three bells at Sevenhampton was jointly conducted by three members of our Branch: Simon Ridley, Hilda Ridley and Quentin Jackson. They rang 840 extents of Original Singles which was the first peal of singles not only for each of them but also for the G&BDA. Well done to all of you; I got the impression that Simon is not in a hurry to repeat the experience!

Peal at Stanton

We held a Branch Practice at Stanton last September after the restoration work was finished. Now the first peal on the bells since the restoration has been rung on 1st January by Simon Ridley, Hilda Ridley, Daniel Vernon, Quentin Jackson, and Malcolm Taylor with John Ridley conducting 7 methods of Surprise Minor.

G & BDA Peal and Quarter Peal Festival 2006

Last October 2 Peals were rung in our Branch for the Festival, the second one being Joint-Branch.

Charlton Kings

St Mary

Tuesday, 24 October 2006 in 2h 52 (17cwt)

5152 Pudsey Surprise Major

Composed by: J R Ridley

- 1 Robert W Sanders
- 2 Hilda C Ridley
- 3 Pauline Smith
- 4 David P Greenaway
- 5 Quentin SA Jackson
- 6 Richard H Knight
- 7 Simon J Ridley
- 8 John R Ridley (c)

Rung for the Gloucester and Bristol Peal and Quarter peal week. Completes the Standard 8 - 5th. First in method 4,5,6,7.

Cheltenham

S.Mary

Saturday, 28 October 2006 in 3h 11min (22.2.16)

5016 Grandsire Cinques

Arranged by J R Ridley

- 1 Ian D Bucknell (Stroud)
- 2 Ruth E Stickland (Gloucester)
- 3 Robin Shipp (Bristol)
- 4 Jennifer C M Hancock (Chippenham)
- 5 Andrew A Ward (Wotton)
- 6 Stuart P B Talbott (Forest)
- 7 Peter G Holden (Cirencester)
- 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath (N. Cotswold)
- 9 John R Ridley (C) (Cheltenham)
- 10 Malcolm P Taylor (Tewkesbury)
- 11 Keith W Scudamore (Bristol Rural)
- 12 John C Sheppard (Swindon)

Rung for G&B Peal & Quarter Peal Festival by one member from each Branch, believed to be the 1st time this has been done. First on 12: 4 & 8; 700th Peal: 11; First Grandsire Cinques as conductor!!

The Branch's Quarter Peals rung for the Festival were:

Cheltenham, (St. Mary), 22 Oct, 1254 Grandsire Cinques: Jeremy Hitchings 1, Nathaniel Hitchings 2, Simon Webb 3, Sue Millen 4, Isabel Hitchings (C) 5, Alex Hajok 6, Bob Bennett 7, Mark Davies 8, Hugh Evans 9, Reg Hitchings 10, Quentin Jackson 11, David Greenaway 12. 1st on 12: 1,2,11. For G&B Peal and Quarter Peal Festival. 13th Birthday compliment to 1.

Cheltenham, Warden Hill, (St. Christopher), 22 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Isabel Hitchings 1, Reg Hitchings (C) 2, Mike Collett 3, Owen Barraclough 4, Sue Millen 5, Maureen McBane 6. For G&B Peal and Quarter Peal Festival. For Evensong.

Leckhampton, 22 Oct, 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Helen Taylor 1, Jacqui Hyde 2, Max Drinkwater 3, Terry Jones 4, Stuart Tomlinson 5, Sue Drinkwater (C) 6

Leckhampton, 29 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Helen Taylor 1, George Gale 2, Anna Bayley 3, Max Drinkwater 4, Sue Drinkwater 5, Huw Davies (C) 6

Cheltenham, (Silverwood, 15 Charlton Park Gate), 23 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Royal: Cara A L Davies 1-2, Quentin S A Jackson 3-4, John R Ridley 5-6, Alexandra J Hajok 7-8, Philip A Abbey (C) 9-10. For G&B Peal & Quarter Peal week.

In addition there were a number of valiant attempts which did not quite make it. Well done to all.

Association AGM on Saturday 21st April

I have just heard that the Association AGM will be held at Mitcheldean in the Forest of Dean, and there is to be entertainment from a Juggler as well as a first class Ringers' Tea. Do please support the Association by coming along for the meeting. Details will be sent when I have them, nearer the time.

'Old News'

I am sure that by now all of you know that at the AGM last November Owen Barraclough and Quentin Jackson were elected as Chairman and Joint Ringing Master respectively. If any of you do not yet know who they are, come along to some Branch Practices to meet them!

Annual Report

Due to a problem with the printer's stapling machine the Annual Reports have been delayed, but are hoped to be available in two to three weeks.

Do please continue to let me have details of 'Firsts' of Peals and Quarter Peals for the Newsletter, also any other interesting articles you would like considered for publication (but no promises!). Any Births, Marriages and Deaths of Branch Members are particularly important, because they need to be recorded for the next Annual Report.