

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

Recent firsts: well done

Emma Abbey: 1st Peal of Cambridge S. Maximus. 1st QP of Yorkshire S. Fourteen, (1st Surprise on 14 bells)

Philip Abbey: 1st Peal London No. 3 S. Royal in hand. 1st QP Yorkshire S. Fourteen, (1st Surprise on 14 bells)

Catherine M Davies: 1st QP Yorkshire S. Fourteen. (1st Surprise on 14 bells)

Mark B Davies: 1st QP Yorkshire S. Fourteen (C), (1st Surprise on 14 bells)

Max Drinkwater: 1st QP Beverley S. Minor, 1st QP Surfleet S. Minor, 1st QP Yorkshire S. Major

Jo Elvey: 1st QP 8-spliced S. Major

Daniel Goodrum: 1st Peal, Treble to Yorkshire S. Major.

Matthew Greenaway: 1st QP of Surprise, Cambridge S. Major.

Susan Henderson: 1st QP Rutland S. Major

Jeremy Hitchings: 1st QP Plain Bob Minor inside.

Nathaniel Hitchings: 1st QP Grandsire Doubles inside. 1st QP as conductor, Plain Bob Doubles.

Quentin Jackson, David Lynch, Mary Lynch: 1st Peal on 12 bells, Grandsire Cinques.

Jenni Scruton, Adam Vellender: 1st QP Little Bob Major.

Cyril Wratten

We were sorry to hear that Cyril Wratten died recently, and send our sympathy to Marjorie. A very skilled and experienced ringer, he contributed greatly to the Exercise both in his ringing and in Central Council.

AGM News

Proficiency Certificates were awarded to Max Drinkwater, Matthew Greenaway, Chris McKenzie, Alan Smith and Pauline Smith; congratulations to all of you.

The Child Protection Policy: We are grateful to Hugh Evans and Steve Coleman for their efforts in preparing the Policy, which is nearing finalisation. Any comments on the Draft Policy from members should be sent to Janet Covey-Crump who will forward the final suggestions.

St Marks: The business plan has been approved by the new Vicar and is to go to the PCC shortly, with fund raising starting properly thereafter.

Best Kept Tower: Details of the new format for the competition are already on the Branch Website, and you can download an entry form from there: <http://www.lynches.demon.co.uk/ringing/>. Any tower can enter the competition, which will be in three sections: (i) towers with six bells or less that are rung from the ground floor; (ii) as (i) but rung from an upstairs room;

(iii) towers with eight bells or more. There will be a separate Trophy for each section. In addition the Chairman will have discretion to award two extra trophies - "The Chairman's Baldrics" - for meritorious work in the belfry, and each tower that enters will receive a framed, illuminated certificate. The closing date for entries is 31st December.

Website: Thank you to Philip for the "new look" website - do please explore what's on it.

Income Tax: Tax-paying members are urged to complete Gift Aid forms so the Association can reclaim tax on their subscriptions. Also, Self Assessment Forms have a section where members can ask for any overpaid tax to be paid to the Association.

Jo Elvey resigned this year; many thanks to her for all the work she's done for the Branch. The new Branch Secretary is Janice Sweetman, Knole House, Shaw Green Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 3BP janice.branchsec@btinternet.com. Any items for the newsletter will be most welcome.

Under 19's

At the AGM the Under 19's were commended on coming 2nd in the Nibley Trophy (after a band of "big boys"). Elizabeth Evans had done a wonderful job in organising and running the practices for the competition. We want to encourage our Under 19's, of which there are about 12, and it was suggested that there should be regular, possibly quarterly meetings arranged for them. So...

If you're under 19, what sort of activities would you like to do, eg mini outings, quarter peals, practices (all with the emphasis on young people)?

Now that Elizabeth has gone to University, is anyone young willing to co-ordinate practices/activities for the Under 19's?

Forthcoming Meetings

Saturday 27th November: Don't forget that the Surprise Practice at Bishop's Cleeve starts at 7 pm, not 7.30. The special method will be Uxbridge Surprise Major, so, on behalf of the Ringing Masters, if you want to ring it, do make sure you do your homework/revision thoroughly and in plenty of time. In addition Cambridge and Yorkshire Major will also be rung.

Monday 6th December at 7.30 pm: Leckhampton are hosting the Branch Practice, with Double Norwich Court Bob Major as the special method. Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire will also be rung, so there will be something for everyone.