

*G & B Diocesan Association of
Church Bell Ringers
Cheltenham Branch Newsletter
March 2006*

Recent firsts: well done

Anna Bayley: First QP Superlative Surprise Major
 Rachel Chadwick: First QP as tenor behind (to Grandsire Doubles)
 Huw Davies, Barbara Pettit: First QP 4-spliced Surprise Major
 Max Drinkwater: First peal Double Norwich CB Major, First Peal Superlative Surprise Major, First peal Rutland Surprise Major
 Helen Fazal: First QP (tenor to Grandsire Doubles)
 Alex Hajok, Quentin Jackson: First peal in-hand (Plain Bob Major)
 Jeremy Hitchings: First QP Kent Treble Bob Minor (first QP of Treble Bob), First QP on 8 (treble to Grandsire Triples)
 Nathaniel Hitchings: First QP Grandsire Doubles as Conductor, First QP Kent Treble Bob Minor (first QP of Treble Bob), First QP Grandsire Triples
 Emma Murphy: First QP Plain Bob Doubles

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 1st April at 7:30 pm: a Saturday evening Branch Doubles and Minor practice at Elkstone. This will cater for everything from Rounds and Call Changes to Cambridge, depending on the attendance.

Friday 7th April from 10:00 to 12:00: there will be a practice at Leckhampton for all **young people** who would like to come and "can handle a bell safely in their own tower".

Wednesday 19th April at 7:30 pm: Branch Doubles and Minor Practice at Woolstone. Again the ringing will be tailored to those present, so come along and make sure you don't miss out on an enjoyable evening.

Saturday 6th May at 7:30 pm: Surprise Practice at Bishop's Cleeve with Lincolnshire Surprise Major as the special method. Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major will also be rung.

Cleeve Trophy

On Saturday 1st July we shall be holding our Cleeve Trophy Afternoon at Leckhampton. This will be a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with nice bells in a lovely Church in a picturesque setting with good company, and with cups of tea etc in the Church cottages. We'll start with a bit of ringing to get used to the bells before ringing for the competition. All very relaxed!

This competition is open to bands with no more than two ringers holding G & B Proficiency Certificates, and we hope that this year more bands will feel encouraged to join in this occasion in its new more social format.

Association AGM on Saturday 8th April

This year the Association AGM is being hosted by Swindon Branch. Cheltenham Branch are entering teams for both the 8-bell and the 6-bell striking competitions for the Penn and Croome Trophies respectively, and we wish them "Good luck" and "Good Striking". We hope Charlton Kings can repeat their success of last year and retain the Croome Trophy.

In addition to the competitions there is a full programme of open towers in the morning; Service ringing at Purton prior to the Service; tea; AGM and evening ringing. Please see details below.

The Morning Open Towers

Time	Tower	Map Ref
10:00 - 11:00	Minety (6, 12)	009912
	South Marston (6,12)	195880
10:30 – 11:30	Ashton Keynes (6, 12)	042944
	Rodbourne Cheney(6, 8)	140867
	Stratton St Margaret(8, 8 ^{1/2})	179871
11:00 – 12:00	Latton (5, 9 ^{1/4})	094958
	Lydiard Tregoze (6, 11)	104848
	Highworth	201925
11:30 – 12:30	Cricklade (6, 12)	099936
	Lydiard Millicent (6, 7)	093860
	Blunsdon (8, 5 ^{1/2})	153908
12:30 – 13:30	Wroughton (6, 20)	137803

The Afternoon

14:00 – 15:00	Service Ringing at Purton (8, 20, Map Ref 097872); the Association Ringing Master in charge and everyone welcome.
15:00 – 15:30	Service in Purton Church
15:45 – 16:45	Tea in Purton Village Hall (in Station Road, Purton)
16:45 – 18:00	AGM in Purton Village Hall

N.B. There is some parking at the Village Hall from which a footpath leads to the Church, and there is some parking at the Church.

The Evening Tower

18:30 – 19:30	St Mark's, Swindon (8, 11, Map Ref 143847); the Association Ringing Master once again in charge and everyone welcome).
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Young Ringers' Events

The Young Persons' Christmas Event which took place at St Christopher's was a great success, with about 36 people in total, about 20 of whom could be classed 'youngsters' (with the others wishing to be so classed!). Most came from our own Branch, but some ringers came to join us from Cirencester and Gloucester Branches. For two hours everyone was able to try ringing the tower bells and ringing handbells to tunes and changes. Philip Abbey has written a report on the event which you can read in the Ringing World of 27th January (page 76), or you can find it, along with lots of pictures and some video clips (best viewed with Broadband) on our Branch website at: http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk/xmas_event_2005.htm

During the half-term holiday a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung as a Young Persons' event at Woolstone. It was Nathaniel Hitchings' first Quarter Peal in that method as Conductor, and Rachel Chadwick's first as tenor behind. Thanks to those who organised and supported it.

Wedding Money and St Mark's

"At the AGM in November I mentioned that ringing was a very cheap hobby (in addition to being a service to the church). Lessons and the instruments are free and you don't have to hire the tower for rehearsals.

However, every so often, the bells need to be rehung and as you know that is very much the case at St. Mark's at the moment. I feel that the branch will have to play a big part as the church is not in the most affluent part of Cheltenham and the cost of lowering the bells in the tower and turning the gallery into a ringing room is high.

What I am suggesting is that all those who feel they can, should donate the money they earn for weddings to the St. Mark's bell repair fund. This would raise over £7,000 per year, which can be gift aided by those who are tax payers.

Could those people who would be willing to ring for more weddings please let me know by Easter and I will forward their names to the tower secretaries.

Janet Covey-Crump" (01242)516856

"Thank you" from Barbara

Barbara Pettit has asked me to pass on her thanks to all the towers and unaffiliated members who have forwarded their annual subscriptions promptly this year.

Congratulations to Helen Taylor

"Leckhampton ringers would like to congratulate newly retired Tower Captain Helen Taylor on reaching her Eightieth birthday on 25th February 2006. Some Leckhampton ringers joined forces with members of Helen's family to ring a celebratory peal at Leckhampton on the morning of her birthday:-

5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major (in 2h43m)

1. Terry Jones; 2. Simon Ridley; 3. Sue Drinkwater; 4. Stuart Tomlinson; 5. Bernard Taylor (c); 6. Hilda Ridley; 7. John Ridley; 8. Malcolm Taylor.

This was followed by a birthday party in the village hall for all Helen's family and friends.

The following week on 5th March an all local Leckhampton band then rang a quarter peal of 5-Spliced Surprise Major in celebration of Helen's 80th birthday, including Helen herself on the treble:-

1280 5-Spliced Surprise Major

1. Helen Taylor; 2. Barbara Pettit; 3. Anna Bayley; 4. Jacqui Hyde; 5. Sue Drinkwater; 6. Stuart Tomlinson; 7. Huw Davies; 8. Terry Jones (c).

480 Rutland; 320 Lincolnshire; 160 Cambridge; 160 Yorkshire; 160 Superlative with 30 changes of method.

Not only was this the first time for many years that an all local Leckhampton band had achieved a quarter of 5-spliced, but it was also a first in 5-spliced for Barbara, Anna, Sue and Huw.

Although Helen has just relinquished her role as Tower Captain she is still an active member of the band and the Leckhampton ringers are looking forward to many more years of ringing with her." SD

Spring Training Day

Saturday 18th March saw a large number of ringers from all over the G & B braving the bitter cold for the Spring Training Day held in the Tewkesbury and Cirencester areas. From our Branch there were 2 Group Leaders, 19 helpers and 8 students on the Tewkesbury side, and at least 7 helpers at Cirencester (further figures awaited). These Training Days are of great benefit to many of the students, and take a huge amount of organising. I should like to thank John Smith and Julie Miles for organising this one; all the Group Leaders and helpers for making it work so well; and all the students for going on it, with the plea that when the time comes they will in turn become helpers on other courses.