

## **CARY BRANCH Secretary's Report**

The year opened with the Branch Social, a major event in the calendar at the end of November. Fifty ringers and friends made it to The Quarry Inn for a very enjoyable evening which produced a handsome donation to the Association Bell Fund from our Branch. At Christmas Charlton Adam bells rang out for the first time for over ninety years. The bellhangers put final touches to the installation in the New Year for the re-dedication at the Spring Floral Festival. At our January Quarterly Meeting the Rev. Trevor Cranshaw was elected as our new Vice Chairman and was welcomed to the Branch. We were pleased to welcome also Charles Pipe-Wolverstan, Association Treasurer to the meeting where he presented a cheque from the Association Bell Fund to Peter Moulding of Charlton, project manager and leading light of the move to bring the bells back into commission after such a long interval.

Jay Bunyan collated statistics from all of our towers at the beginning of the year and sent them to the Central Council Ringing Trends Survey. The provisions for Child Protection have been another of our concerns during the year.

Audrey Riley led our training again, helped by Jenny Alderson and a group of experienced ringers. A very useful and well received course "Teaching Teachers to Teach" was led by Mike Winterbourne at West Camel on 21 March, whose clear exposition proved a great help to 'teachers' from a number of our towers. A Plain Hunt course was run at West Lydford on 30 May.

At our Spring Meeting our Branch Six Bell Competition was held at Barton St David and was won by Bruton with South Cadbury as runners-up. Both teams went on to represent the Branch at the Association finals in the Axbridge Branch on 20 June, where sadly, glory evaded them. Later, on 26 September, a team from the Cary Branch took part in the Association Eight Bell Striking Competition at Crewkerne, finishing 'down the table': see [www.bath-wells.org.uk/6bellcomp.php](http://www.bath-wells.org.uk/6bellcomp.php) or [8bellcomp.php](http://8bellcomp.php) for results.

Our Branch Outing visited north-west Somerset on 19 September, starting at Banwell, where we were pleased to be joined by the Master and the Treasurer to set us off on what was a very enjoyable and varied day's ringing, continuing at St John's, Weston; Bleadon; Berrow; East Brent and Mark. At our AGM the Branch Young Ringer of the Year trophy was presented to Megan Hatt from Pen Selwood by Lloyd McCreddie, our Chairman, who congratulated her on her achievement in the year since she became a ringer.

The Branch continues in good shape and in good heart; we have been pleased to welcome fifteen new ringers this year with promising youngsters among them. Our ringing master continues to urge us to give more time and support to practices and has arranged practice nights and meetings to encourage a higher attendance from all. Expectations for 2010 are now set.

Peter Alderson