

CHEW BRANCH Secretary's Report

The Chew branch has enjoyed another active year with the membership remaining fairly stable. Sadly there have been several deaths - Arthur Gould (Portishead), Graham Watt (Easton-in-Gordano), Tony Rogers (Clutton), David Randall (Kingston Seymour) and Veronica Counsell (Butcombe), but we have made 10 new elections and it is good to see some of our recently elected members already taking an active part in branch activities. Long service certificates have been awarded to David Gale for 50 years, and to Ian Ramsay, Ian Crichton, Judy Witchell and Janine James for 40 years.

Monthly branch meetings have been held with ringing to suit all standards and we encourage all members to attend as these practices are for everyone, not just for "elite ringers". Newer ringers joining in have benefited hugely from ringing different bells and from the encouragement, support and advice given by experienced colleagues, who really want to share their enthusiasm for ringing together. There is a regular programme of Saturday evening 6 and 8-bell practices but recently attendances here have declined. All are advertised in the newsletter and on the B&W website. We appreciate the effort of those who arrange these; please continue to support them – as we "use it or lose it".

During May ringers at Long Ashton, Easton-in-Gordano, Portishead and Clevedon organised ringing to coincide with Bishop Peter's arrival or departure from the area as he walked round the diocese to mark the 1100th anniversary of the founding of the diocese. Other events during the year have included the autumn quiz night, (thanks to Ron Ballam for organising an evening which swelled branch funds significantly), and an enjoyable workout on the walking mini-outing in June when we ventured into Axbridge branch territory to ring at Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympsham. Jan Wyatt also organised courses on leading up and down, tower maintenance and a well-appreciated introduction to the basics of conducting.

12 teams took part in the branch 6-bell striking competition and in the Association 6-bell final Chew teams were placed 2nd and 4th. In the Association 8-bell contest we were unfortunately beaten into second place.

At our AGM we thanked Marilyn Floyd for her work in producing our newsletter. She stands down as editor having set a high standard for her successor. Sarah Dyke was thanked for her work as branch secretary for 6 years. As her successor I hope to keep things running smoothly and I would appreciate being advised of new, or changed, email addresses for contact with towers to enable me more easily to keep you in touch with all branch goings-on next year. Next branch AGM on 18/9/10 and look at the website!

Teresa Humphrey