

FROME BRANCH
Secretary's Report

On Easter Monday the Frome Branch played host to the Association AGM. All seemed to run smoothly and almost two hundred members from all over the Diocese enjoyed the day.

The meeting took place in the splendid Church hall at Chilcompton and during the proceedings Michael Horseman (Farmborough) was installed as Deputy Master. He has been a stalwart and enthusiastic ambassador for bellringing for many years and the applause which greeted his election was warm and genuine.

Ringers in the Frome Branch had to come to terms with the loss of another leading light in September. The sad death of Carol Hardwick after a long illness came about a year after the sudden loss of her husband Peter. Carol had been extremely active in administrative affairs within the bellringing fraternity, having served in various positions at Branch, Association and National levels. Her keen eye to detail in the preparation and publishing of Association literature was legendary and will be sorely missed. Carol's funeral took place with the church full of friends at Mells where she had been churchwarden.

The number of members in the Branch has not varied much during the year and practices and meetings have been quite well attended. Many "long service" certificates have been presented - notably to John Fowler (Kilmersdon) who has achieved well over seventy years as a member and remains a very active ringer. Congratulations should also go to George Wareham (Postlebury ringers) who, at an age closer to ninety than eighty, is to be found at the end of a rope somewhere on virtually every day of the year!

Chris Cawood