

**GLASTON BRANCH
Secretary's Report**

2009 has been another busy year for the faithful few within Glaston Branch. Some towers have been well represented at our Quarterly meetings, some are less enthusiastic, but the numbers have kept up well and those who have made the effort have enjoyed a very full programme.

Despite a howling gale and falling branches the by now traditional January Quiz was well supported in the Village Hall at North Wootton, funds raised on this occasion are a major contributor to the branch finances. The weather was kinder in April for the Striking competition held at Pilton, this was won by the Glastonbury A team, followed closely by a team from Chester, who were visiting the area at the time; Wells were the second local team. "West Butborough" a team of two from each of Butleigh, West Pennard and Baltonsborough towers were awarded the finely crafted wooden clapper tie to try to keep them quiet for another year.

The widely mis-forecast "Barbecue Summer" occurred miraculously for a few brief moments in the evening of our "Away Day" ring at Woolavington and Puriton. Those of us who were first up in the tower at Puriton failed to recognise that we were being supported in our ringing efforts by the Master of the Association, perhaps we need to get our more! But despite that minor embarrassment we all enjoyed some good ringing before regrouping with non-ringing spouses at the home of Marilyn and Roly Backhurst for a barbecue; this had been speedily relocated from the Chairman's home.

St Cuthbert's, Wells provided the venue and with help from Wookey an excellent tea before our AGM. The AGM was preceded by the usual evensong service; this was enlivened by a "Sorry I haven't a Clue"-esque singing the words of one hymn to the tune of another which reinforced the idea that failed choristers often end up as bell ringers. Marilyn Backhurst, our education officer, felt some small disappointment in the turnout at the two training days and the branch third-Saturday eight bell practices which had been introduced at Street during the year, the latter are being reviewed for the coming year by exploring other venues. A proactive approach will also be trialled by taking training to the towers, if they won't come to the training days, which will still continue in February and June.

Andrew Bond