

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS ELECTED
AT THE 2009 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

George Wareham

George started bellringing in 1932 at the age of 10, going along to chaperone his sister; and now at the age of 87 still rings most days of the week and twice on Sundays. Apart from the war years when bells were silent, and a few months off for illness in 2004, George has been a loyal and committed member of Marston Bigot church, Frome Branch and the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers. He does not like to be in the limelight and prefers to quietly support and give hands on service, rather than hold office or be vocal about actions or activities, although he has held the office of Frome Branch Chairman. He loves people and inspires confidence, which in turn promotes achievement.

George promotes the use of bells to call people to church and to remind them that the church is active in their community. He can be relied upon to find ringers for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and special occasions, and several nights a week he travels to other towers to make up numbers for a variety of occasions, from weddings to practice nights. He has no idea of how many quarter peals he has rung but he is keen to support others through their first quarter and to celebrate activities and achievements of ringers and parishioners. In addition he has rung a number of peals, the last at Farleigh Hungerford at the age of 86.

If a person shows enthusiasm and interest, George will respond with quiet encouragement. He is well known and respected locally and when we have been away to other parts of the country on ringing holidays it is guaranteed that someone will know him either personally through having rung with him, or by association. He is keen to encourage and develop young ringers and an example of this is the George Wareham Young Ringer of the Year Trophy, which was initiated and the trophy donated by George. Typically, once the award was organized, George receded into the background and has enjoyed meeting the young people but has kept out of the administration, declaring that this is not one of his strengths.

George is well respected locally, but may not be well known in the wider Association as he is by nature quite unassuming, gentle and with the best interests of the community at heart. However his services to ringing and the association are beyond measure.