

## **BRIDGWATER BRANCH**

Quarterly meetings this year have been held at Over Stowey, Burnham-on-Sea and Bridgwater. The January meeting had been cancelled because the bad weather made travelling in the area very difficult. Monthly practices took place at various towers throughout the branch with extra 8-bell practices on some Saturday afternoons. Thanks go to all the incumbents and tower captains for hosting these events.

Chedzoy bells are now back in action and it is encouraging to have learners from Chedzoy and Bawdrip. A service of celebration was held at Durleigh to mark 60 years since the augmentation to 6 bells.

5 new members were elected during 2009 and 2 lapsed members were re-elected. Milestones reached were Carol Bond, 40 years, Roger Packer, 50 years and Keith Prime, 60 years. Sadly we had to record the death of Gilbert Davis, a longstanding member who is much missed.

Our branch 6-bell striking competition took place at Over Stowey in April with six teams taking part, the judges being Mike Hansford and Abby. Ashcott took the winners' trophy and Westonzoyland were runners up. Both of the winning teams took part in the Association finals in June but did not make the final ring-off. The branch entered a team in the Association 8-bell striking contest.

This year the branch outing on September 18 was to Seaton in Devon.

Margaret Trimm