

CARY BRANCH

We have played our part within the Association's theme of 'Recruitment' this year with firstly an afternoon devoted to inviting those interested and would-be-recruits to Maperton, ahead of the Summer Quarterly Meeting in July; secondly, with the Recruitment Week this October when six of our towers arranged an open event. Added to this we have twentyfive new members this year, the most in a year for at least thirtyfive years. This is very good news for the towers who have encouraged all these new folk, young and not quite so young; and for the Branch, which rejoices in this degree of interest and new blood. A special mention has to be made of the newly minted team at Pitcombe who, have not only come from a standing start over the year but then had the chutzpah to put on an open day during the Recruitment Week.

We are all conscious of the gaps in our midst left by Tim Watt and Mary Johnson. They were both tireless in their individual ways in their help and encouragement of all aspects of our ringing but most remarkably their work with learners; we miss them a great deal.

In November we all met up at the Quarry Inn, Keinton Mandeville for our annual Social and Skittles evening where we again did the Association Bell Fund proud with the amount we made. Then in the Spring, on a fine afternoon, we met at Horsington for this year's Six Bell Striking Competition. The Ladies ran away with top marks with their Scratch Team but the title went to Bruton, followed closely by Milborne Port. At the end of the Summer was the Association Eight Bell Striking Competition at Old Cleeve. What can we say about that - well our team improved on their position of last year, from 10th to 8th.

Leaping back over the year to a balmy warm Saturday in September; our outing was to the upper Test valley and an enjoyable medley of churches and towers.

Peter Alderson