

## GLASTON BRANCH

2010 has been busy year for the Glaston Branch faithful few. As last year, some towers have been well represented at our Quarterly meetings, some appear to be persistently less enthusiastic, but those who have made the effort have enjoyed another very full programme.

The traditional January Quiz was well supported at Pilton, funds raised on this occasion are a major contributor to the branch finances.

After some difficulty with the level of charges required by the Cathedral our branch hosted the Association AGM at St Cuthbert, Wells; on Easter Monday. "Ringing routes" of open towers were arranged and all except one tower were able to open as planned.

Twelve days later the branch Striking Competition was held at Priddy, this was won by the Glastonbury A team, although a scratch team had had fewer penalties; Butleigh was second followed very closely by Pilton and a combined team from West Pennard and Butleigh.

Our "Away Day" this year took us to West Cranmore and Marston Bigot and some of us went on to ring (with much amusement at the technique required) at Pig-le-Tower, by courtesy of Margaret Chapman who had generously laid on tea. The barbecue was kindly hosted by Martyn and Sue Underdown.

Most of the towers have adopted the proposal from last year's AGM to provide an e-mail correspondent in the event of the usual tower contact not using e-mail, this has markedly reduced the postal charges. Our thanks are due to David Floyd for sorting out the Data Protection rules in respect of this significant improvement in communication.

Our branch AGM was hosted by Butleigh with the service being put together and led by the new incumbent of the Brue Benefice, who joined us for an excellent tea. Ann Hodgson volunteered to take over as Secretary. The rest of the officers were re-elected *nem con*. The Treasurer was pleased to report increased support for refurbishment appeals and the Association Bell Fund. Our Training Officer was less happy to inform us of inconsistent attendance at the Branch eight bell practices on Saturday evenings and it is now proposed to "beef up" individual 8-bell tower practice nights by encouraging visitor members to join the training at different towers in different months. Ever the optimist, Marilyn plans an advanced 6-bell (Stedman, Plain Bob Minor etc) at Glastonbury in February; and more basic methods at Meare in May. The rest of our planned programme is much as usual: Quiz in January, Striking Competition in April, a cycle tour in June, Away Ringing in July and the AGM in October.

Andrew Bond