

## **ILCHESTER BRANCH**

Over the past year, the Branch has welcomed 9 new members. We hope that the recruitment week held across the Association in October has encouraged more to join us. The Branch enjoyed several outings during the year: in May we went to 6 towers in the Glaston area, in August our members enjoyed ringing at Cuddington, Silton and Stourton, and in October our ringers walked between and rang at Yeovilton, Limington and Ilchester. The winners of our Branch 6 bell striking competition, which was held at Haselbury Plucknett, were Preston Plucknett and the host tower. These two bands went on to the Association competition hosted by the Bath Branch with Preston Plucknett reaching the finals and coming 5th out of the 15 entries. At the 8 bell competition, the Ilchester band came 7th. Branch practices held on Saturdays have proved to be popular and for 2011 all practices have been planned for that day.

On 21st February, the rehung bells at Martock were rededicated after a massive fundraising effort led by the late Malcolm Butcher. Our quarterly meeting in June held there has turned out as a rehearsal for the Association AGM meeting on Easter Monday 2011.

The young ringers of the Branch continued to excel in the Association's Young Ringers competition with Matthew Martin sharing first place with Krystyna Masny of the Axbridge Branch.

Finally, Helen Beaufoy stepped down as one of our ringing masters. Over the past 2 years, Helen has done sterling work at our practices and enhanced them with her various competitions. Fortunately, we have not lost her talents as she will continue to produce our most interesting newsletters.

Brian Dodd