

## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE MASTER**

Undoubtedly one of the most exciting developments in the Association during 2010 has been the Recruitment Week in October. A huge number of events took place across the county, with a variety of things going on in branches and open towers. This followed an excellent workshop which took place back in January on recruitment, and how we retain and develop the skills and enjoyment of new ringers. Clearly there is a lot of good practice around the Association. We offer our thanks particularly to the hard work, enthusiasm and skills of David Purnell, David Lingham, Janet Wyatt and Tom Longridge, and the education and training officers and everyone at the local level, who made it all happen. It will take time to see what the results of the week are, but it has hopefully got a lot of us thinking about how we pass on this great art to the next generation. It's now over to us to keep recruitment on the agenda and carry on what has begun.

It has been a particular pleasure to take part in the six bell and eight bell striking competitions this year. They are both excellent occasions for gathering ringers from far and wide and we are grateful to Bath and Dunster branches for their respective organisation of these. Congratulations to the Bathwick and the Axbridge branch teams who won these events. It has also been very encouraging to join in with the celebrations and dedications for work done in Martock, Dowlish Wake and Chedzoy. There was also a wonderful celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration and augmentation at Durleigh in May with a reunion of many of those who learnt in 1950.

In 2010 we have said farewell to four of our Honorary Life Members: George Massey, Roger Fry, John Brain and Norman Yeo. Between them they have given so much to our Association, their stories are legendary, and together with other members and former ringing members who have died this year, we mark our appreciation for the contribution each one has made and remember the families and friends who miss them.

Finally, thank you for all you do in your own tower and branch. I hope to see many of you at the AGM in Martock on Easter Monday.

TIM HAWKINGS