

Bath Branch Secretary's Report

A busy year in the Bath Branch, it has been a jump in the deep end for me, learning the ropes, as it were! I have had a lot of fun reacquainting myself with the branch and all the lovely members.

We had a fab start to the year with the national recruitment week at the end of October which naturally led the committee to stage a 'train the trainer' day hosted at Newton St Loe where we all went, threw the ropes all over the place and became more confident at teaching learners, which obviously worked as a fantastic 17 new members were elected to join the Branch at April's quarterly meeting.

The quarterly meeting was held after a well-attended Annual 6-Bell Striking Competition, which was held at All Saints Corston. This was a very emotional event for my family as my Gran, Bette Parfrey officially retired from ringing, which received a touching dedication from Will Willans of Bath Abbey, who acknowledged her huge contribution to the bell ringing world.

It was a great competition. The top 3 towers were: third - Widcombe (university band), in second place - Bath Abbey and in first place was St. Mary's Bathwick, a swap at the top from last year but still a great competition.

This was followed by the Annual Branch Skittles Tournament, which unfortunately I couldn't attend but was told it was good fun and Bathwick took the trophy! Bathwick went on to enter the Association 6-Bell Striking competition hosted by the Bridgwater Branch and won! They certainly took the grand slam, winning all 3!

Last month Newton St Loe hosted our Annual General Meeting. Matthew Skuse chose to step down as Education Officer; it was proposed that Nicki Williams of Marksbury took the place, which she has, so a warm welcome Nicki - good luck! Tom Longridge decided to stand down as Branch Ringing Master, but due to the sincere lack of volunteers, there was a shuffle of committee members. Tom is now the Branch Chairman, Michael Day has stepped down as Chairman and is now Ringing Master.

Here's to another great year in the Bath Branch. I hope it will be as successful as the last.

Sophie Didcott