

Taunton Branch Secretaries' Report

The AGM was held at North Curry (2010). Thanks were recorded to Jeremy Dugdale retiring Education Officer, Pearl Jeanes was appointed into the post, and all other officers were re-elected. Thea Banks was again presented with the Young Ringer of the Year Cup. The quarterly meeting was held at Trull. Throughout the year 20 new members were elected and long service certificates were given to Charlie Back 60yrs and David Bromwich and Margaret Gillard 40 yrs. Sadly the deaths were recorded of Ben Holt, long time Captain at West Monkton, and Eric Pearce of Corfe.

19 teams took part in the Branch Striking Competition held at Hillfarrance in February. Trophies were presented to Staplegrove (Rounds), Wilton (Call Changes), and Langford Budville won the Method section. They went forward to the Inter Branch Striking Competition where they won 4th place overall, a very good achievement for the 3rd year running.

The Annual May outing this year to Bristol was successfully supported providing opportunities for the less experienced to ring 10 and 12 bell towers and even a narrow boat trip around the floating harbour. A memorable day for all and our thanks go to Tom Harris and Martin Cursham for their terrific organisation. Our regular Branch practices continue to be provided at various towers throughout the year, catering for all levels of expertise.

Following our successful recruitment campaign last year and to support the large numbers of incoming learners, courses in handling, rising and lowering, call changes and onwards to plain hunt have been held. To support those already able to plain hunt - courses on how to learn a method, rise and lower in peal, various doubles and surprise minor methods have also been provided. In total 47 courses throughout the year, an extraordinary achievement and our heartfelt thanks go to Jill and Mike Hansford for their time and skill given so freely to support this Branch. Large numbers of helpers have also supported this enterprise, and we would like to thank each and every one of them for their contribution in this - it has been a huge team effort. Our annual 'New' Ringers Outing was held in August, visiting Combe Florey and Lydeard St Lawrence, encouraging the emerging ringers to venture further afield, make new friends and share the trials and tribulations of Learning to Ring - a lifelong enterprise!

Pearl Jeanes/Valerie Contreras