

Axbridge Branch Secretary's Report

How refreshing it has been this year to have had such positive and memorable national events to ring for! The Diamond Jubilee in June, quickly followed by the London Olympics in July, were events which brought bells into significance as ringers helped set a celebratory note in our villages and towns!

And how refreshing also that bells have been brought back so positively into the national consciousness, with the Jubilee Bells barge leading the Thames flotilla, and bells of all shapes and sizes at the Olympic opening ceremony (Bradley Wiggins striking the giant Olympic bell, and Tubular Bells played during the soundtrack). Both events were hugely enjoyable and successful, which we could proudly ring for.

But what about local reasons to celebrate in our Branch?

Axbridge band took the winner's trophy at the 6 bell striking competition held at Wick, and East Huntspill took the Geoff Hebden runners up trophy. In the Association competition Axbridge and Banwell competed, but no winnings. We entered two teams for the 8 Bell competition at Butleigh, but the silverware eluded us here too!

Our Young Ringers have grown from strength to strength, with monthly practices shared jointly with Chew young ringers, and social activities too.

They have been helped to progress with the ITTS training which is underway in the Branch, as several student teachers and mentors have started training.

We welcomed 7 new members in total this year, our number is now 219, although slightly less than last year.

Walkers and ringers gathered in force for our Summer Solstice walk. Chew Magna was bursting at the seams with 26 ringers. It was a bonus this summer that the rain held off ...until just before the end of our walk!

Thank you to our hosts this year at Wick St Lawrence in the Spring, and Mark for our Autumn meeting & AGM. Your efforts were appreciated.

Pam retired from Newsletter Editor in April, thank you Pam for your valuable contribution. Pam continues in her role as branch Education Officer.

She leaves an opportunity for a budding journalist or editor, or anyone at all who would be interested to produce some form of Newsletter, smaller or larger, more or less frequently, you can shape it how you wish.

All we need is something for members to share news, views, and personal milestones. Or any other reasons to celebrate - a new baby, perhaps?

Jude Akhurst