

## **Cary Branch Secretary's Report**

This year has been about looking outside the branch much more than usual. Early in February several towers rang to celebrate the Queen's Accession, to be followed in June by her Jubilee which saw even more ringing in celebration. This was closely followed in July by marking the start of the Olympic Games. Meanwhile St George's Day saw more towers than before joining in with the countrywide Ringing for England campaign and in June four towers in our branch played host to the Association Six Bell Striking Competition, with winners being Preston Plucknett (Ilchester) at Templecombe.

The 'out of branch' theme continued with two joint surprise practices with the Ilchester branch which is something the two groups enjoyed and which is due to continue next year. Our young ringers have gained valuable learning experience by venturing out to chosen towers beyond their own branch and they look forward to similar challenges in the future.

Our six bell striking competition was held at West Camel and was won by one of the two teams from Queen Camel (1). Eight teams competed, of which two towers put in two teams each.

The number IV 'Austen' bell at Charlton Mackrell which suffered a radial crack in its crown at the end of last year has been welded successfully and sounded out well on reinstatement early this year. Our latest set of bells for refurbishment are the eight at Milborne Port which were sent to Taylors for re-tuning. They are being raised back into the tower at the time of writing and will hopefully be ringing again for Christmas.

We have been looking at the support which can be given to towers who find it difficult to raise enough ringers of their own to cover service ringing; and for our young ringers we have introduced a Novice Cup competition to be held with our annual six bell striking competition.

To round off the year we had a very good outing to six towers in the area between Blagdon and Chew Lake and finally our Social and Skittles evening in November, in aid of the Association Bell Fund.

Peter Alderson