

Chew Branch Secretary's Report

What a year this has been for opportunities to ring our bells in celebration and to mark events and thereby raise awareness of ringing in our community. Chew ringers have risen to the occasion, with many special performances, starting with "Ringing for England" for St George's day, which included a peal rung at Easton-in-Gordano, a QP at East Harptree and general ringing at Portishead. Next came the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with a peal of Jubilee S Major rung at Backwell and peals at Clapton in Gordano (first for George Wyatt and Beth Sanderson) and East Harptree (first for Judith Green and Andrew Withers). Martin Creed's "All the Bells" project was supported by ringers at Backwell, Easton-in-Gordano, East Harptree, Portishead and Wraxall, and Portishead ringers were out yet again to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ladies' Guild with a QP - very appropriate as 2 founder members were from the tower and tower captain Jan Wyatt is the current Guild chair.

In addition to all the celebrations we have had good attendances at branch meetings, and those who didn't come on the branch walk in July missed fine views on a brilliant day after weeks of rain in a dismal summer.

In the branch striking competition at Publow there was an upset to the usual battle between Clevedon St John and Backwell for first place when the Winford ringers took the Herbert Knight silver plate, denying themselves the future opportunity to display the East Harptree shield. Portishead, as highest place band never to have won the competition, gained this and intend to keep it! The Winford band hopes they will look after it. In the Association final, Clevedon St John and Winford did well, being placed 2nd and 4th with only 9 faults separating the first and last placed teams. In the 8-bell final at Butleigh the Chew "A" team came second - so close to winning...

Young ringer practices continue very successfully and we have recruited well this year, with 20 new members, some of whom joined in ringing for Wells Cathedral evensong in March, but sadly we have to report the deaths of Alison Sheen (Chew Magna), Charles Jones and Michael Williams (Clutton) and Chris Radmore, formerly of Clevedon St John.

Wrington bells are back in action after their rehangng and now refurbishments are in progress at Portbury with work planned at Nailsea soon.

Phew! - it's been a very busy year.

Teresa Humphrey