

Glaston Branch Secretary's Report

We started the year with our Quarterly meeting in January followed by a very well attended Quiz. The branch six bell striking competition preceded the meeting in April, organised by the members at Meare, and was won by Glastonbury "A" with Butleigh in second place. Both teams represented our branch in the Association Finals.

Unfortunately, with conflicting times of weddings and meetings, the Away Ringing in July had to be cancelled but the evening meeting and barbecue, held in Chairman Gill's delightful garden, was a great success.

A wonderful cycle outing, starting at Silton, a hard climb to Cucklington then on to Stoke Trister and the refurbished bells at Zeals finishing with tea at Stourhead, was held on what proved to be the only sunny day in May!

Our members had been called upon to ring to celebrate special national events this year starting with St. George's Day in April. Then to celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June with Peals, Quarters and for village special events and in July, on the opening day of the London Olympic Games, by taking part in the "All the Bells" Work No. 1197.

In September this year our branch hosted the Association eight bell striking competition at Butleigh and were pleased to enter two teams (which had not happened for many years). Once again the sun shone making it an excellent social venue.

At our branch AGM held at Pilton certificates were presented to Roland and Marilyn Backhurst and Eleanor England all for 40 years long service. Before he moved out of the district, Roger Gay was also given a certificate to mark his 43 years long service.

The eight bell practices continued to be well attended as had the advanced training afternoon. However, commitments to ring for weddings had caused problems on other training afternoons so a system of application is to be introduced.

A notice board poster, in addition to our "Diary", had proved worthwhile to remind us of forthcoming events.

It was good to hear that our membership had increased to over one hundred and, even though a small branch, we remain very successful thanks to all for the input and support.

Ann Hodgson