

Ilchester Branch Secretary's Report

During the report period, 5 new members were elected and 5 more have been re-elected together with 2 Association members transferring into the Branch. On the other hand, I regret to report the deaths of Len Pearse of Ash and Johnny Hawkins of East Chinnock. The bells at East Chinnock have been retuned and rehung, while at South Petherton there is a new ringers' stained glass window - thanks to the generosity of Reg Beale.

There has been much celebratory ringing marking St George's Day, the Queen's birthday and the Diamond Jubilee, and the early morning start of the London Olympics was heralded at 10 of the Branch towers. There must have been celebrations, too, after the Association 6 bell striking competition when Preston Plucknett won for the first time since 1971! The Branch continued with both its monthly meetings and method practices although some have had poor attendances. There have been joint surprise practices held with the Crewkerne and Cary Branches. The annual outing this year visited towers at Walton, Clevedon, Nailsea, Wraxhall and Abbots Leigh.

Other events included practices for young ringers and, on the social front, the annual skittles (now in its 44th year) was a great success: the profits from the skittles evening contributed towards the Branch's donation of £150 to the Association Bell Fund.

Brian Dodd