

AXBRIDGE BRANCH

What happened this year? The major event to host in 2013 was the Association AGM on 1st April for which many of our towers were made available for open ringing, culminating at Axbridge town for lunchtime and then the AGM. Wally Rice from Banwell was elected into the role of Deputy Master. This brings a total of three Axbridge Branch members at the 'top table'. Thank you to all who were involved in making the whole day's arrangements come together as a success, very many of you helped! Everyone's contribution was valued and greatly appreciated. At the meeting the Town Hall was bursting at the seams with 150 heads counted, and the tea was wonderful, and in plentiful supply. We received no adverse comments subsequently about the day's arrangements, so safely concluded that it had been a success!

"April in Shipham" (second only to Paris) for our striking competition, where spring flowers were in abundance. And with it came an abundance of ringing enthusiasm. East Huntspill, Axbridge, and scratch band 'Axbridge Adventurers Plus' came first, second and third respectively.

At the Association 6 bell competition in June, Axbridge and Banwell bands competed, both coming third in their heats. At the 8 bell competition Axbridge Branch came fifth out of 13 entries at South Petherton.

The enthusiasm of youth was in evidence at the very first Association Youth inter branch striking competition held at Priddy in September, and before that at the Ringing World National Youth Striking competition held in York in June. For both events Axbridge Branch was represented by Marcus Ham, Krystyna Masny and Kaitlin Jarvis. Their band came second overall at Priddy and fifth out of 12 in York. Well done to all participants, we look forward to following your future progress!.

Fresh faces were elected onto the Branch committee at our AGM, following some change in Branch Officers. Helen Floyd stepped down after 8 years as Branch Treasurer, and Richard Newman retired after 7 years as Branch Chairman (2003 – 2009), then subsequently as Deputy Chairman (2009 – 2013). This is my final term as secretary after 7 years, so no more AGM minutes to write for me (phew!), although admittedly there are bits I'll miss. Welcome to our new committee members, Joan Jarvis and Mark Griffiths. There is usually a vacancy somewhere, so if you're interested in becoming more involved, even for a short time, your support would be appreciated.

Jude Akhurst