

## **CHEW BRANCH**

Our AGM was held in September at Easton-in-Gordano when it was proposed to add two new meetings to the annual ringing programme. And so it came to pass that ten days before Christmas the ringing chamber at Portishead was the place to be for coffee, mince pies and shortbread with the prospect of High Street shopping to follow for those so inclined – Oh, and we fitted in a bit of ringing too, although we were short of one ringer to fulfil our intention to ring Christmas Delight Major. We are a hungry lot in this branch, and after snow scuppered the January branch practice at Congresbury, we attracted a good crowd to our second new meeting in February when an afternoon practice at Compton Martin was followed by a fine fish supper at tower captain Richard Curry's establishment in the village. Both new events were well received and have earned their place on next year's fixture list.

Other calendar events included ringing in March at Chew Magna, monthly Saturday practices at Wrington, Yatton and Wraxall, the branch striking competition at Dundry and the Call Change Challenge at Ubley. July saw us walking between towers in central Bristol on a hot afternoon – thanks to Christine Andrew for making the arrangements for an enjoyable outing. The branch has provided general ringing at Wells Cathedral twice, although diary clashes thwarted the intention to ring a quarter peal on the second date. A good number of ringers attended to experience the ringing here, but sadly there were not enough people present with the necessary experience, muscle or technique for ringing the back bells so our performance was limited..

The branch hosted the Association 6-bell striking competition final in Chew Valley towers, with heats held at East Harptree, Ubley and Chew Stoke. The final was held at Compton Martin, so we were again able to enjoy the excellent facilities and refreshments provided at Big Rich's restaurant. Fortified by a generous spread, Chilcompton took the trophy.

We sent two teams to the 8-bell competition at South Petherton and experienced déjàvu when one of our teams again came second behind a team from Frome Branch, with our less experienced team being relieved to be respectably placed in the middle of the field.

Our year ended as the Association quarter peal fortnight began. Starting with a quarter rung by past and present branch officers, 15 quarters were rung, raising £98 for the Association. With continuing enthusiasm from established and more recently elected members, the branch is in good shape and looking forward to another busy year.

Teresa Humphrey