

ILCHESTER BRANCH

Over the past year the branch has elected 10 new members and re-elected 2 more. Unfortunately I have to report the deaths of 2 members – Margaret Astridge of Langport who died in December 2012 and Jessica Vale of Yeovil who died unexpectedly in March 2013.

The bells at Aller have returned to use. At Yeovil the 10 bells have been removed while 4 more are being cast (a flat 6 and 3 others lighter than the existing treble); the new 12 should be ready by Easter 2014.

The Association 8 bell competition was held successfully at South Petherton with the branch improving by 2 places from the previous year. The branch 6 bell competition was won by Preston Plucknet and South Petherton, but neither could repeat the success of the previous year at the Association final. On the other hand, the branch won the Association Young Ringers' Striking Competition held at Priddy.

Routinely, the branch has continued with 2 practices a month although attendance has at times been a bit thin. We have held joint practices with the Crewkerne and Cary branches. There has been a ringing picnic, the annual skittles match, a ringing walk around the Chinnocks, an outing around the Shaftesbury area, and the Friday band has been as far as Brownsea Island.

Ringling continues to thrive within the branch – especially with our young members.

Brian Dodd