

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE MASTER

2013 has been another busy year. There were two royal events to celebrate in the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's Coronation, and the birth of her great grandchild, George. We also marked the 300th anniversary of Fabian Stedman in November. He is often called the father of change ringing, with the first book on change ringing in 1668, *Tintinnaloga*, which he wrote with Richard Duckworth. He is better known to modern ringers as the author of the method that bears his name, which he described in a later work, *Campanaloga*, published in 1677. I was delighted to be part of celebratory quarter peals of Stedman Doubles and Triples. We cannot take his glorious method for granted, though. The Caters attempt came to grief on the day, and Grandsire came to our rescue!

At the beginning of July it was a privilege to join a group of people from Yeovil (together with the Lord Mayor of London!) to see two of the four new bells being cast for St John's Church at the Whitechapel Foundry. I look forward to hearing them – and ringing on them - in due course!

The following day a coach full of people made the long journey up to York for the National Youth Striking Competition. It proved to be a fantastic experience for them. Our team did themselves and the Association proud. We offer our thanks to Jan Wyatt and all the trainers, coaches and those who helped provide the financial support to make this possible. In 2014 the competition is rather closer in Worcester.

Congratulations too to the ringers of the Frome Branch, and Chilcompton in particular, who currently hold both the six bell and eight bell trophies, having won the respective competitions at Compton Martin and South Petherton.

2014, among other things, brings the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. There has been a good deal of discussion how to ring for this date, and I hope that you will find an appropriate way to join in the commemorations which take place in your community.

With all the special occasions there are many more ordinary ones on Sundays and practice nights, and I offer my thanks to you for your faithful commitment to making your bells ring out.

It was a joy to welcome such a large number of people to the Annual Meeting in Axbridge last Easter Monday, where the meeting had a real buzz, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the Bath Branch on 21st April 2014.

Happy ringing!

TIM HAWKINGS