



## Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

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The BELL FUND of the Association is Registered Charity No. 273962

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2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007

Branch Secretaries

### Attendance at Association AGM

As agreed at the 2006 General Committee Meeting, I have contacted all branches to canvas ideas for both changing the date of the AGM from Easter Monday and for improving the format of the day. These changes would hopefully improve attendance.

Some branches were forthcoming with ideas, several had to be asked more than once, some did not respond at all. In some instances, the comments were from the Branch Secretary/officers rather than the whole branch. Typical of the apathy that surrounds this matter –“ I did raise this issue as requested at the Branch AGM. Unfortunately no alternative suggestions were forthcoming. Sorry.”

At the last 2 Annual General meetings, I counted the number of people at the service and at the meeting. Although the numbers were similar, the people were not the same! One of the major problems is the weight of other attractions/things to be done/fitted in. I have spoken with other associations and almost every association seems to be suffering from the same problem, not just for the AGM but at branch level as well.

Comments received are summarised below :

#### Date

- Keep the meeting on Easter Monday as this is a special date
- Change to another Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday or Monday)
- Change to a non Bank Holiday Saturday
- A different date would encourage less people to come, and is bound to clash with something
- All Bank Holidays are seen as family days and thus unlikely to be popular if chosen as an alternative to Easter Monday
- A change in date has been previously tried but had not made any significant increase in numbers attending

#### Format

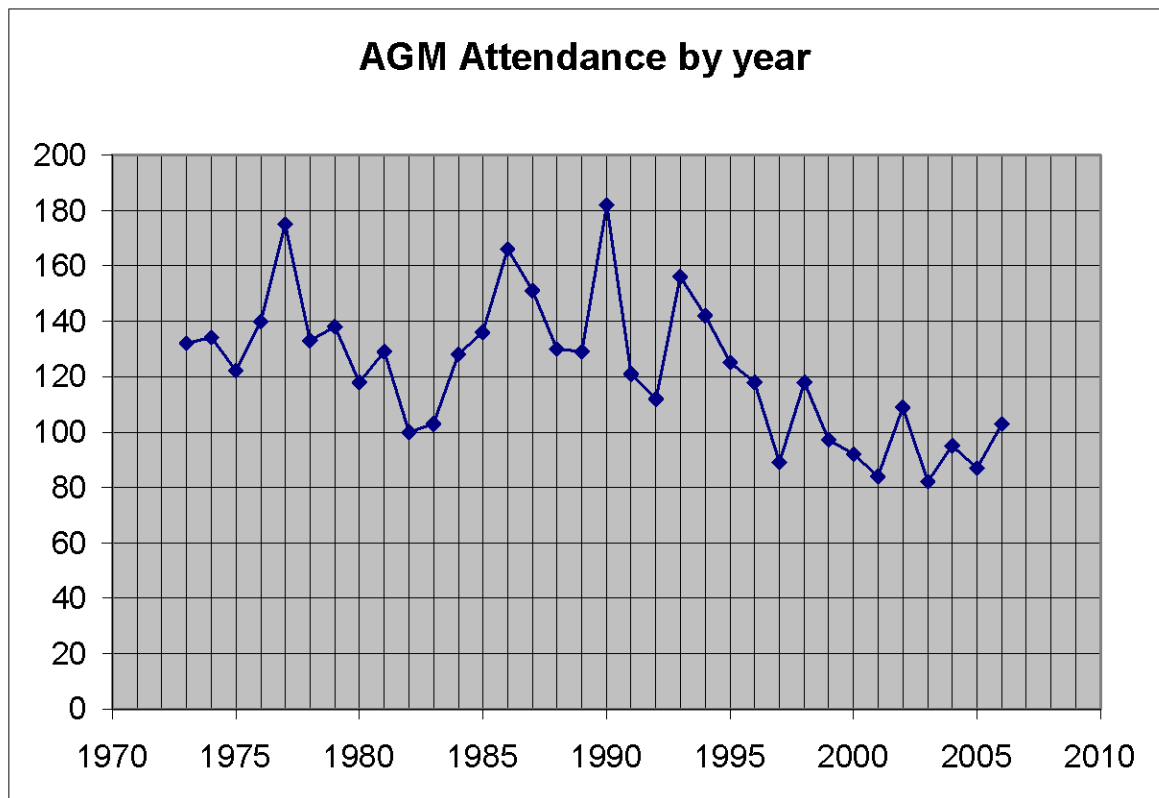
- It would be better to organise a communal lunch rather than tea. People come for the morning ring and service, then go to the four winds for lunch at present. If they could be kept together, more would be there for the meeting.

- Have the service immediately before the meeting
- Organise one of the competitions in the morning
- Have a guest speaker

General

- It's always too far away
- I'm not really interested – our band just wants to ring at our own church on a Sunday
- There's always too much argument at the meeting
- To me the Association Service is an all-important part of the day. The uplifting hymn singing (with all those male voices) is great and a real chance to share with other ringers what our ringing is all about. In the days of Ray Arcsott, there was always a ringers choir, with a special anthem. Certainly there appeared to be a larger congregation at these services than of late.

You will see from the table and graph below that numbers fluctuate considerably, having peaked in 1990 for the Centenary Meeting. Much may depend on support from the local branch members and whether or not the attendance book is signed by everyone present.



## **AGM VENUES & ATTENDANCES**

<b><u>BRANCH</u></b>	<b><u>MEETING LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Chew	Yatton	1973	<b>132</b>
Crewkerne	Crewkerne	1974	<b>134</b>
Dunster	Minehead	1975	<b>122</b>
Frome	Frome	1976	<b>140</b>
Glaston	Wells	1977	<b>175</b>
Ilchester	Yeovil	1978	<b>133</b>
Taunton	Taunton	1979	<b>138</b>
Axbridge	Banwell	1980	<b>118</b>
Bath	Keynsham	1981	<b>129</b>
Bridgwater	Westonzoyland	1982	<b>100</b>
Cary	Castle Cary	1983	<b>103</b>
Chew	Clevedon	1984	<b>128</b>
Crewkerne	Crewkerne	1985	<b>136</b>
Dunster	Minehead	1986	<b>166</b>
Frome	Midsomer Norton	1987	<b>151</b>
Glaston	Wells	1988	<b>130</b>
Ilchester	Yeovil	1989	<b>129</b>
Taunton *	Taunton *	1990	<b>182 *</b>
Axbridge	Banwell	1991	<b>121</b>
Bath	Newton St Loe	1992	<b>112</b>
Bridgwater	Westonzoyland	1993	<b>156</b>
Cary	Wincanton	1994	<b>142</b>
Chew	Failand	1995	<b>125</b>
Crewkerne	Ilminster	1996	<b>118</b>
Dunster	Wiveliscombe	1997	<b>89</b>
Frome	Chilcompton	1998	<b>118</b>
Glaston	Wells	1999	<b>97</b>
Ilchester	South Petherton	2000	<b>92</b>
Taunton	Milverton	2001	<b>84</b>
Axbridge	Wedmore	2002	<b>109</b>
Bath	Keynsham	2003	<b>82</b>
Bridgwater	Bridgwater	2004	<b>95</b>
Cary	North Cadbury	2005	<b>87</b>
Chew	Wrington	2006	<b>103</b>

\* **NB Centenary Meeting**

Please would you ensure that this information is circulated within your branch and that feedback is sent to the General Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 via your Branch representative.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Jay Bunyan  
General Secretary

c.c. General Committee members