



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers Association AGM, May 9th 2026 open tower routes – All ringers welcome!



Route A	Time	Route B
Banwell, St Andrew, BS29 6EA, 10, 23cwt, Toilet	9:30 – 10:30	Compton Bishop, St Andrew, BS26 2HF, 6, 11cwt
Churchill, St John the Baptist, BS25 5QW, 6, 14cwt (TBC)	10:00 – 11:00	Biddisham, St John the Baptist, BS26 2RH, 4, GF, 8cwt Badgworth, St Congar, BS26 2QP, 5, 10cwt
Rowberrow, St Michael & All Angels, BS25 1QL, 6, GF, 7cwt	10:30 – 11:30	East Brent, Blessed Virgin Mary, TA6 4HZ, 6, 16cwt
Shipham, St Leonard, BS25 1TW, 6, 6cwt cwt. Toilet	11:00 – 12:00	Brent Knoll, St Michael, TA9 4EE, 6, 20cwt, Toilet
Winscombe, St James the Great, BS25 1BX, 8, 18cwt Toilet	11:30 – 12:30	Mark, Holy Cross, TA9 4NF, 8, 19cwt, Toilet
Axbridge, St John the Baptist, BS26 2BX, 6, 19cw	12:00 – 13:00	Wedmore, St Mary, BS28 4AA, 8, 30cwt, Toilet
Public toilet (5 mins walk in Moorland St.)		

Axbridge, Wedmore and Cheddar all have pubs and cafes
where you will be able to have lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Open ringing then service touch at Cheddar, St Andrew,
BS27 3RE, 8, 22cwt. Toilet (in village hall opposite)
14:30pm – Service

15:15pm – Meeting followed by tea in The village hall, Cheddar BS27 3RB.
Evening ringing will be announced at the meeting



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

President: THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS
The BELL FUND of the Association is Registered Charity No. 73962

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Annual General Meeting, Saturday 9th May 2026 Hosted in Cheddar by the Axbridge Branch

AGENDA

- 1. Opening Items**
 - 1.1. Welcome – Master
 - 1.2. Attendance and Apologies
 - 1.3. Remembering Friends
 - 1.4. Minutes of the AGM held on 10th May 2025 (Annex 1)
 - 1.5. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)

- 2. Elections & Awards**
 - 2.1. Election of New Members
 - 2.2. Ratification of NRLM elections
 - 2.3. Election of Officers (Annex 2)
 - 2.4. Long Service Awards
 - 2.5. New HLM & Master's Certificate of Commendations

- 3. Reports**
 - 3.1. Officer's Reports (Annex 3)
 - 3.2. General Fund Accounts (Annex 4)
 - 3.3. Ringing Support Fund Accounts (Annex 5)

- 4. For Action**
 - 4.1. Recommendations from General Committee (Annex 6)
 - 4.2. Proposed Rule Change from Axbridge Branch (Annex 7)

- 5. For Information**
 - 5.1. Association Striking Competitions, 26th September 2026
 - 5.2. Update on new Website
 - 5.3. 2027 AGM – Bath Branch, 8th May 2027

- 6. Other Business & Close**
 - 6.1. Any Other Business
 - 6.2. Vote of Thanks

**Annual General Meeting,
Saturday 10th May 2025
Held at St James Church, Taunton**

1. Opening Items

1.1. Welcome – Master

The Master, Rev Guy Scott, opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He thanked Rev Fabian Wuyts and the Wardens for their support and hospitality for the meeting and to the Taunton Chairman and Ringing Master for their excellent organisation of the day's event.

1.2. Attendance and Apologies

1.3. Remembering Friends

The meeting stood to remember those ringers who had died in the past year.

1.4. Minutes of previous AGM held on 11th May 2024

The Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously by the meeting. There were no Matters Arising.

2. Elections & Awards

2.1. Election of New Members

No new Members were elected.

2.2. Ratification of the election of non-resident life members

Philip D. Morse was proposed, seconded and ratified as a non-resident life member of the Association.

2.3. Election of Officers

Julian Back has retired as the Association Webmaster after many years of dedicated service and was warmly thanked by the Master on behalf of the Association.

Gordon Rendell was thanked for his work as Deputy Master. The Deputy Master for 2025/26 was confirmed as Brenda (Tosh) Arscott (Wilton). It was noted that she became a Member of the Association 60 years ago, at St James's Church, Taunton.

Three new Volunteer Roles have been introduced to accommodate the workload of the Association and to further improve communications. Members were urged to consider volunteering for one of these important roles and to contact the Master for more information. The new roles are:

- Meeting Secretary;
- Publicity and Communications Officer;
- Diary Coordinator.

The Officers for the coming year, were proposed, seconded and endorsed by a show of hands, with no objections.

The Master extended his thanks for the unfailing support of David Parfrey as Secretary, and to all who had supported the work of the Association over the past year.

1.4. Long Service Awards

Certificates were presented to members with 50 or more year's service.

2.5. New Honorary Life Member presentations

Jenny Cornwall, Margaret Lee, Richard Lee and Freda Prime were appointed Honorary Life Members in recognition of their long and valuable service to the Association and our Art.

3. Officers' Reports

The officers reports having been circulated in advance were received and noted with one correction: the peal at Bridgwater on 30th November 2024 was not conducted by Michael Hansford, but by Joe Beaumont. The reports were accepted and **agreed** subject to this amendment.

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were proposed, seconded and **approved**, noting there would be no increase in Membership Fees for 2026.

The Ringing Support Fund Report Accounts were proposed, seconded and **approved**, noting there would be no change in Affiliation Fees for 2026.

The Safeguarding Officer's Report was proposed, seconded and approved. The Master thanked Pen Hooper for all her work and for dealing with issues as they arise in the Association. It was noted there was a need for better engagement between Ringers and the Church and, in some instances, further improvements in the culture of ringing.

4. Information

4.1 Striking Competitions

The 6 bell competition had been organised for Saturday, 28th June in the Crewkerne Branch, however the date now had to be rearranged to avoid a clash with the National 12 bell Competition. An alternative date had been suggested, but it was not possible for the Branch to reschedule arrangements at short notice. After discussion it was **agreed** that the 2025 6 Bell Competition would be held on the same day as the 8 Bell Competition, Saturday 27th September. It would be hosted by the same Branch as the 8 bell competition, the Glaston Branch [*post meeting note: the both competitions were held on 27th September, but the 6 bell was held in the Frome Branch, with the 8 bell in the Glaston Branch (although both towers were close to each other)*].

It was suggested that the 6 Bell Competition should be held later in the year in future years, to avoid other commitments during the summer months. The possibility of holding it on the same day as the 8 Bell Competition in the future was also suggested. A working group would be organised to look at the future of the Striking Competitions.

The Master urged all Branches to enter teams for both the 6 Bell and the 8 Bell Competitions this year.

4.2. Update on new website

The Secretary reported the new website would be launched before the end of May and gave a brief demonstration of various functions. He asked for patience if there are issues or errors during the initial roll-out and assured Members that these will be addressed and corrected as quickly as possible.

The following issues were noted:

- More detail and features will be added as the system develops;
- One person in each Branch would be granted access rights to the website to enter Branch data, including calendar of events and documents;
- The website has been designed and tested for use on Apple phones and tablets;
- There would be links to all Branch training events, but this facility may not be available as part of the initial roll-out;
- It was hoped that Membership fees for 2026 could be paid electronically on a secure platform on the website.

The Secretary thanked everyone who had contributed to the development of the website and especially to Julian Back for all his hard work, help and guidance during this process and to Paul Taylor who will be taking forward the work with the new website.

4.3. 2026 AGM

This will be held in the Axbridge Branch on Saturday, 9th May 2026.

5. 2025 Rules Review

5.1. Review of Rules of the Association

The Secretary reminded Members that the Rules were reviewed every five years. The aim of this review was to simplify the Rules, where possible, and to reflect learning and improvement in the actions of the Association. It was noted that the Association's Executive will always work with the General Committee to ensure the maximum transparency and engagement in the development of the Rules.

The Secretary presented the proposed amendments and the following issues were highlighted for further discussion:

Constitution

- Item 7 Association finances

The Association would continue to receive cheques, but all future payments from the Association would be made by electronic bank transfer.

A two-signature approval procedure by elected officers for electronic payments was considered by a number of Members to be extremely important. The Secretary agreed to undertake further research on this matter, noting that this facility was available on some bank accounts.

- Item 11 Membership

(i) a. Competency

A suggestion to re-instate competency requirements for new members was discussed and the principal of having an inclusive approach to membership was confirmed. It was noted that new members learn at different speeds and may have some physical limitations as well, therefore it was agreed that the competency requirements to ring rounds and to ring up and down would **not** be reinstated.

It was noted that Tower Captains and Tutors would, as always, ensure the safety of the people they were teaching, until someone who was learning was able to take this responsibility for themselves.

(h) ii. Junior (Young person) membership fees.

Members noted that this item only refers to the fees and does not affect the other rights and responsibilities of membership. After discussion it was agreed that the upper age limited for Young Person membership would be 25 years and the requirement to be in full time education would be **omitted**. This definition of “Young person” would not apply to Association or National Competitions as the age limit of 18 years is set for these competitions.

The remainder of the amendments were **approved** unanimously with a show of hands.

5.2 Rules of the Ringing Support Fund

Consideration and Approval (Items 10 and 11)

There was considerable discussion relating to the approval level required by the Association prior to making any grant and the need to ensure that the responsibility for ensuring the necessary approvals to undertake work, rests in the right place. It was **agreed** that further work is required on the wording of amendments to these sections.

The amendments to the Rules were proposed, seconded and approved by Members by a show of hands with one vote against.

6. Any other business

6.1. South West Bellingring Course

The course will be held at Millfield School from Friday, 24th October to Monday, 27th October. Members were encouraged to apply to attend the course either as a student or as a helper, noting that places for students were being taken up very quickly.

Attendees, if approved by their Branch to go on the course, would have their fees paid for by the Association, and helpers, if residential, may have 50% of the accommodation funded as well.

The Master urged Members to volunteer to help on the course and, if possible, to be residential to get the maximum benefit from the event.

7. Vote of Thanks

Freda Prime proposed the sincere vote of thanks to Rev Fabian Wuyts for taking the service, to the Master, Rev Guy Scott, for his address during the service and to David Bidgood for the organ music. Further thanks were given to the Taunton Branch for hosting, organising the itinerary and organising the ringing, to Bob Boulton for all his technical support during the meeting and to the team providing the refreshments. Additional thanks were given to David Parfrey for his hard work in managing a very demanding role.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Officers & Elections

Officer	Present Incumbent	Proposed
Master	Revd Guy Scott	Revd Guy Scott
Deputy Master	Brenda Arscott	TBA (a)
General Secretary	David Parfrey	David Parfrey
Treasurer	David Parfrey	David Parfrey
Tower Adviser	John Hallett	John Hallett (b)
Assistant Tower Adviser	Bernard North	Bernard North (b)
Education Officer	Jill Hansford	Jill Hansford
Deputy Education Officer	Janet Wyatt	Janet Wyatt
Membership Secretary	David Parfrey	David Parfrey
Peal Secretary	Matthew Higby	Matthew Higby
Quarter Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls	Clifford Nicholls
Safeguarding Officer	Pen Hooper	Pen Hooper
Librarian	Bob Boulton	Bob Boulton
Ringling Support Fund Officer	Margaret Lee	Margaret Lee
Association Bookstall	Janet Wyatt	Janet Wyatt
Webmaster	Paul Taylor	Paul Taylor
Assistant Secretary (Meetings)	Helen Beaufoy	Helen Beaufoy
Diary Officer	Caroline Hunt	Caroline Hunt
Independent Examiner	Anna Hallett	Anna Hallett
Central Council Representative	Paul Wotton	Paul Wotton
Central Council Representative	Michael Hansford	Michael Hansford
Central Council Representative	Matthew Higby	Matthew Higby
Central Council Representative	Melissa Hunt	Melissa Hunt
Central Council Representative	General Secretary	General Secretary

Notes:

- (a) The Deputy Master is proposed by the AGM hosting Branch – Axbridge Branch this year.
- (b) The Tower Advisory Service positions are appointed by the General Committee, not the AGM.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S THOUGHTS

Dear friends,

After steady growth since the pandemic we unfortunately had a very small drop in overall membership during 2025, with 84 members choosing not to renew their membership and 16 faithful servants going on to join the greatest band of all. We gained 83 new members resulting in a net 1% loss of 17 to 1,692. Nevertheless, the proportion of Members in our Junior Membership category remains stable, however we do need to increase our recruitment in younger members as these are our future. It has been wonderful to see the increasing camaraderie in our young ringers, and brilliant to see those who have passed the magic age now investing their time and support with the group, however none of this would be possible without the input of many, but none more so than Jan Wyatt who does so much to encourage and facilitate activities for our younger ringers.

In other areas 2025 proved to be a very busy year for us, our new website finally became a reality. This consumed huge amounts of time and effort from a small group, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in this group: Julian Back, Paul Taylor and Annie Holland, and not forgetting our very capable developer Will Carey. There remains more to do on the website, more information to be added and more subject areas and functionality too, please bear with us as this is delivered. We are also conscious that our email system has had some difficulties, and that too is something we are looking at (important to bear in mind that the email system is quite distinct from the website), again please bear with us while we work on this. Looking back on the website, a specific new facility is the ability to pay securely by card on-line, and although for a moment looking into the early days of 2026, the facility has proved very popular with around 200 members choosing to pay subs this way, and the likelihood is that this will grown significantly as more members become aware of the facility. The facility can be also be used to pay peal donations and any training costs.

Although we have more work to do, it was necessary that we spend time on administration etc, but it is my sincere hope that 2026 will be a year where the focus is less on admin and more on growth in our membership and our Association activities. The bellringing community is, I believe, a unique one of friendship, mutual support and, dare I say fun! Learning at the age of 6, I have had the great privilege of having enjoyed being a part of this great community for 60 years; whether a lifetime ringer or newer to our art, we are all a part of this. Being a part brings great benefits: friendship, a social community, a sense of belonging; it also brings great opportunities to make a difference, supporting others as they develop in the art, and when they need the hand of friendship. I hope that as the "admin phase" begins to settle down that there will be more time for us all, as an association to look wider and achieve more exciting things.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Association Officers and all of the crucially important Branch Officers who do so much on our collective behalf, and in this to give my personal thanks to the generosity of support and patience they have shown me over, not just 2025, but all of the years before.



REPORTS FROM OUR BRANCHES

Axbridge

Axbridge Branch had an enjoyable 2025. Our current total membership is 172 ringers. Five new ringers joined us, and six were re-elected or transferred from another area. We have 2 Junior Members, 2 HLM's, 6 ME's. Fond memories are held for Barbara Taylor, Bryan Williams and John Widgery, who died in February, March and July respectively. Also for Ray Jones from Worle who died in December.

We had our two meetings as usual, the half-yearly and striking competition in April at Lymsham, and the AGM in Axbridge. Thankyou to those host towers and ringers for helping to make it run smoothly.

Our Summer 'Walk & Ring' in July started at Mells, walked to Whatley, then to Nunney. Nunney village was holding their annual summer fete, which was very colourful and busy, but they accommodated us with a warm welcome. This was a lovely day with good weather, lots of walkers and, of course the customary cream tea at the end (then beer).

Our two monthly branch practices continue with strong attendance. The Branch Practice is run by Clifford Nicholls and Jane Bakonyi, on the 4th Saturday of the month. The Improvers Practice is run by John Dunstone, on the 1st Saturday of the month. We are pleased to see the progress of some new and younger ringers joining us.

Kewstoke continue to hold a monthly Minor Practice with Alan Castell coordinating, on 2nd Friday afternoon in the month. This is giving us a welcome focus on minor and surprise methods.

Two exciting new developments in 2025! The four bells at Biddisham St John the Baptist were repaired and re-hung by O'Shea Engineering. The cracked 2nd underwent a specialist weld repair. All four bells have been rehung on new fittings for full-circle ringing. Richard Purdue bells can be found as singles around the country, including one at Westminster Abbey, but the Biddisham bells are the only complete ring of bells cast by Purdue, so they needed to be kept authentic. Strangely, the treble dates from 1609, while the back three bells date from 1628. The Dedication service was held in the church on 30th November.

A mini-ring previously known at the The Bakery Tower, in Wedmore, have re-located to Cheddar and have taken on a whole new personality. Now known as The Darling Bells of Cheddar, with their pink and orange sallies, they are now in the care of Corrie Darling. Corrie holds regular open practice mornings on most Tuesdays, and these have become very popular with tea, biscuits and a chat they are a delight to ring! They have attracted hardnosed 'pealers' and beginners alike. 2025 ended very positively.

Jude Akhurst

Bath

2025 was a year of change for Bath Branch. After many years of sterling service Richard Sweet retired as Branch Secretary & Treasurer, the Branch is very grateful to Richard for all he has done.

Richard's retirement prompted a serious discussion about the future of the Branch at its AGM. Recognising the importance of this discussion the AGM was very well attended, and the discussion was very positive, constructive and in good spirit, with great input from those present. The outcome was very clear, that members wanted to keep the Branch alive and were prepared to play their part in making this happen. The need for new officers and for a

sharing of the load was fully recognised, and it was particularly pleasing that people were ready to step forward, with no cajoling needed for people to take office. As a consequence Bath has a new Committee of 10 people already making things happen.

Branch membership at the end of the year stood at 138, overall a slight increase during the year and includes 2 HLM and 3 Members Emeritus.

Although the early part of the year had been quiet, a couple of successful and well attended Branch Practices were held, and around the Branch it has been brilliant to see ringing returning to Twerton and Larkhall, many congratulations to Nicki Lang and to Tim and Debbie Leach for all their work in making this happen.

Overall Bath Branch is looking forward to an exciting and busy 2026.

The new Committee

Bridgwater

Branch membership at year end was one hundred and twenty-eight including six HLMs and one ME. During the year we sadly lost five long standing members, Peter Welch of Middlezoy, Michael Hart of Burnham, Gerald Brown of Durleigh, Keith Lane of Bridgwater St Mary and Harry Meade of Goathurst. Their significant contributions to ringing were recognised at our meetings.

Twenty-five members attended our October AGM at Ashcott. Existing Officers were re-elected. We continue with our programme of two formal meetings a year, and with monthly practices around the Branch taking place on Saturday mornings.

In July we supported Cossington by helping them celebrate their 800-year celebration with a day of ringing involving many tower bands from the branch, with a dedicated quarter peal of 1,800 conducted by ringing master Mick.

Our Branch Striking Contest was held at Shapwick in July and was combined with the summer ringing self-catering picnic day.

The Branch year was suitably concluded with Christmas ringing on the twelve bells in St Mary Bridgwater, fuelled by festive mince pies and mulled wine.

John Hallett

Cary

Ringing in the Cary Branch continued to thrive in 2025. Our membership stands at 164 with a slight increase in Junior Members on the previous year.

Branch Practices have been well attended and Quarter Peals continue to be attempted and mostly achieved. Workshops for our improving ringers run on, making use of the two simulators. The 80th anniversary of the VE Day celebrations was commemorated in many towers across the Branch.

We lost three of our most well loved and longstanding ringers during the year; Audrey Riley in June, David Mills in August and Kev Newport in September. They will be much missed.

We would like to thank Simon Tremewan for steering us as Ringing Master in recent years and for implementing Call Change practices in the Cornish style. These have proved popular with several people calling their first Sixty on Thirds.

At our AGM in October, we were able to elect a full committee, welcoming Toby Doar as Ringing Master, who has already doubled the number of branch practices held each month from two to four plus extra evening practices for the upcoming summer months.

Social media has become more prominent with some towers making more use of online accounts for promotion and recruitment. The Branch newsletter continues to be an important way of sharing news and celebrating the wide range of ringing activities taking place across the Branch, including tower practices, open days, outings, training opportunities and social events.

Emma Ceely

Chew

We have enjoyed another successful year of ringing within the branch and a little further afield, with seven branch practices, a striking competition and a ring and walk afternoon in July from Axbridge to Cheddar. The practices have been very well supported and cater for all abilities: everything from rounds/call changes through to spliced surprise major. Many of the towers provided refreshments, which were well received and added to the sociability of the events. The striking competition was rather disappointing as we only had three entries compared to nine at the previous year, and we're keeping this under review for this year. Looking forward, the usual monthly third Saturday programme is arranged for 2026, with the inclusion of an August meeting. Ringing master Rebecca Cox is very happy to arrange additional specific targeted practices if required, just get in touch.

The Association 6-bell and 8-bell striking competitions were held at the end of September at West Cranmore and Butleigh respectively. Portishead represented Chew Branch in the 6-bell competition and won the trophy. Our 8-bell competition team comprised members from Backwell, Yatton and Ubley, and was also successful in winning the trophy for the 8th consecutive year!

The AGM held in November saw some changes to branch officers: George Wyatt stood down as Deputy Ringing Master and Tower Maintenance contact, with Peter Hill agreeing to the former and, subsequently, Bernard North to the latter. We also agreed to bring forward the summer branch practices to start at 4:30pm (rather than 7:30pm) and will be seeing how this works out in practice.

A total of £976.40 has been donated to the Association Support Fund (Bell Fund) during the year, primarily £319 from our popular and successful quiz in October, and £507.40 profit from sales of books (£370) and B&W branded clothing (which Jan Wyatt deals with for the Association).

Membership has increased slightly from last year (201 members), with a total of 211 at the end of 2025. The branch newsletter (restarted in Nov 24) has continued to be a great success, with five editions issued over the course of 2025, and is helping to keep everyone up to date with branch and individual tower activities. Thanks are due to all Chew Branch officers and members for all their support and enthusiasm, all of which helps to encourage enjoyable ringing across the branch.

Lesley Chandler

Crewkerne

Membership for the Crewkerne Branch currently stands at 94, including 5 juniors. Over the year we have lost 7 general members and 1 non-ringing member and have gained 5 general members. Our Branch AGM in November was held in Chard and attended by 20 ringers.

Robin Hooper of Chaffcombe was awarded a certificate in recognition of 50 years membership at the Association AGM which was held in Taunton in May.

Our ringing master, Oliver Crowle, introduced a 'ring and ramble' event in the Taunton Branch, starting with Ruishton, where we left our cars. and walking to Creech St Michael, across fields, which made a welcome change from ringing in one tower.

The annual outing this year was held in June in East Devon when 4 towers were visited: - Membury, Chardstock, Kilmington and Stockland. An advanced 8-bell practice is held on the 1st Monday of the month. A regular learners' practice is held on the 2nd Saturday in the month in the morning and Branch practices on the 3rd Saturday in the afternoon.

The work on the bells at Hinton St George was completed in March, an open day was held in the Church, and a quarter peal was rung.

Margaret Hutson

Dunster

The Branch has had a busy year with a full programme of events and practices.

The year started with a walking tour of five towers in Taunton. This was very successful with a wide range of ringing and with six members having their first ring on 12 bells at the Minster. The Branch Outing in early July to five towers on Exmoor was less well attended, but for those who did it was a very enjoyable day.

The Branch Dinner in March was held at a new venue, the Golf Club in Minehead, with 71 members and partners attending. Everyone liked the change of venue, especially as it was closer to where most active members live. The annual Branch Skittles match was held in October and it was the usual enjoyable and sociable evening.

In December the Branch arranged a Belfry Maintenance Training Day. There was a good response to the initial invitation so two sessions were held – one at Huish Champflower and the other at Elworthy. All the participants found the sessions useful and informative and there are plans to run a further session this year.

The Branch 8-bell practices continue to be popular with good progress being made, extending to three leads of Bristol on occasion. The 6-bell practices are still less well attended, but those who have attended have progressed well with Double Oxford and Norwich SM.

On the education front, the Improver Practices are still very well supported, with, on average, 12 attending. Numbers for the Learning the Ropes levels are down on previous years, with four achieving Level 1, three Level 2, three Level 3 and one Level 4. The Branch continues to develop new teachers with two more now being full members of ART. There was a full programme of monthly focussed development sessions covering topics such as plain hunt, call changes and raising and lowering in peal.

Ann Birch

Frome

Monthly Surprise Minor practices have continued this year and several ringers have been able to move on from Cambridge to Norwich and other methods. We have also held occasional general Branch Practices which have been well attended.

The branch education programme has also continued but the annual Listening and Rhythm Workshop was cancelled due to illness, we hope to run it again next year.

On the social side we enjoyed a joint quiz with Bath Branch, thanks to Jody Wood for organising this event and Patrick Bridges for asking the questions. Finally, the bells of

Farleigh Hungerford were augmented from 5 to 6 and we had the opportunity to try them out at a Surprise Minor practice.

Julian Back

Glaston

This my ninth and final Secretary's Report.

For the smallest branch in the Association, this has been another busy year. We enjoyed our traditional events calendar of the AGM at Baltonsborough in January, and 2 "ringing and lunch" events at Westbury-sub-Mendip in April and Compton Dundon in November.

Monthly Surprise Major Practices at Pilton, by invitation, also continued successfully. Sadly, our annual outing in June was cancelled due to a low take-up. We held a third annual Tower Captain's meeting in June to discuss current and future successes and issues.

The Education Officer's report details the great strides in training during the last year, both through the Branch Training Centre, and also the Improvers Group. We have elected 7 new members through the year, 4 of whom graduated from the Training Centre.

Other notable successes include:

- The Compton Dundon bells were fully re-hung during the Spring and dedicated by the Bishop of Bath & Wells on 8th June.
- The Branch hosted the Association 8-bell ringing competition at Butleigh on 27th September in conjunction with the 6-bell competition held in parallel at West Cranmore. The joint tea and presentation ceremony was held at Butleigh for 60-70 people. Our team came a very creditable second in the 8-bell competition!
- The Branch hosted the first South West Ringing Course 24th – 27th October at Millfield School. While we weren't involved in the detailed organisation, Bev & Les Perry organised the 48 towers required in the wider area for participants to gain practical experience through the intense weekend of learning.
- Our Newsletter has gone from strength to strength, thanks to the Editor, Norma Anslem, who has published 4 issues which have included a variety of interesting articles as well as Branch and Association news.

In relinquishing this position, I should like to personally thank all committee officers, tower captains and members for their unstinting support, enthusiasm and commitment over the past nine years. I simply couldn't have done it without you!

Mike Palmer

Ilchester

The Branch has continued to hold practices on the first Saturday of every month. As always, some practices have been better attended than others but we have been able to ring a variety of methods each time and cater for all attending.

Margaret Bignell

Taunton

The 2024 AGM was held at St Andrews Church, Taunton, on January 10th 2025. All Officers were re-elected, except Gill Whatmore who retired as Secretary, and Bob Boulton who had been elected as Association Librarian so retired as Branch Representative on the Association General Committee. They were both thanked for all their work. Gill Day was appointed as

Secretary and Andy Glendinning as Branch Representative on the Association General Committee.

Long service awards were presented to -

75 years – Beryl Morris (Trull)

50 years – Alan Partridge (Taunton, St James)

40 years – Val Contreras (Norton Fitzwarren), David Grabham (Wellington), Paul Hart (Staple Fitzpaine), John Lock (Kingston St Mary), Keith Petersen (Taunton Minster). Master's Certificate of Commendation was presented to Bill Tapper for his outstanding contribution to the Objects of the Association, in this case 'the promotion of the art of Church Bell Ringing, especially by giving support and training to ringers'. Elected Member Emeritus – John Hill (Unattached) and Pat Lee (Pitminster).

In memoriam – Charlie Back (ME) Bishops Lydeard (a member of the Association for 75 years); Rob Chapman (formerly of Angersleigh); and Sheila Williamson (ME) (Milverton).

The work of restoring the bells at Trull was completed this Spring. Special ringing during the year included tributes to all our Branch members who passed away during the year; a full peal was rung by a Branch band as a tribute to Graham Henson for his lifelong dedication to Stawley Church including the restoration of the bells; a quarter peal was rung in memory of Charlie Back, in the Parish where he was born (Staple Fitzpaine) on what would have been his 90th Birthday. Happier special occasions included celebrating Gill and Mike Day's Ruby Wedding Anniversary, and Harry Thorne-Henderson's 18th Birthday.

Ringling achievements during the year included over 30 firsts, including Angela Henderson's 1st peal, Jackie Henderson's 1st peal inside, 1st quarters for Simon Davey (Rockwell Green), Mike Day (Hillfarrance), Tim Denovan-Smith (Wilton), Chris James (Rockwell Green), Penny Ross (North Curry), and Julia Tourville (Pitminster), and 1st quarters inside for Andy Glendinning (Lydeard St Lawrence) and Laila Emms (Lydeard St Lawrence).

The Branch Ringers of the Year trophies were presented to Rachel Wilkinson (Bishops Lydeard) and Chris Farr (Trull). 3 Level 1, 14 Level 2, 2 Level 3, 2 Level 4 and 3 Level 5 'Learning the Ropes' certificates were presented. 17 new members were elected. Branch membership is 272. 71 courses have been run, including 39 different Course Modules. 67 ringers took part and 33 people worked as helpers. Another four people have attended the ART Module 1 Course and have begun training as teachers of ringing.

12 teams took part in the Branch Striking Competition which was held at Norton Fitzwarren (Rounds and Plain Hunt) and Staplegrove (Call Changes and Method). The winners were – Rounds – Norton Fitzwarren, Call Changes - Norton Fitzwarren, Plain Hunt – Taunton Minster, and Method – Wilton.

The Branch entered teams in the Association Striking Competitions. In the six-bell competition, which was held at West Cranmore, the Branch Band was placed an excellent 2nd, and in the eight-bell competition held at Butleigh, the team gained a very good 5th place out of the eleven branch bands eligible to take part.

The Branch Carol Service was welcomed at Trull this year and was very well-attended; as was the Branch Outing which this year visited Ilminster, Dowlish Wake, Chard and Axminster. The following monthly practices were organised – Branch Practice, 8-bell plain methods, Advanced Triples and Major, and Advanced Minor; and two weekly learners practices. Weekly tuition on a Band's practice night has taken place at Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Kittisford, Norton Fitzwarren, Holy Trinity, Staplegrove and Stawley.

Thank you to our Branch Officers, and all the members who have helped in any way, for their excellent work throughout the year.

Gill Whatmore

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Our Bath & Wells Young Ringers had a wonderful time at the fourteenth **Ringling World National Youth Contest** which was held in Birmingham this year on July 5th. A record-equalling 37 teams had each entered one of the five competitions. Headquarters for the day was the iconic St Martin in the Bullring, right in the heart of the city, where over 300 young ringers had the chance to ring on the UK's only ring of 16 bells. Our team had entered the 6-bell Method Competition which was held at Edgbaston. They rang Plain Hunt for the competition piece, and although it started out really well, a problem with handling meant it didn't end so well. They were placed joint 8th in their part of the competition. The competition is only a small part of the day as our young ringers also rang at St Mary's Moseley, St Paul in the Jewellery Quarter, and Solihull, travelling by train, bus and on foot, finding their way around Birmingham. 244 young ringers took part in the competition, St Martin's was packed for the results and each ringer received a medal. In the eight-bell



method-ringing competition the Yorkshire Tykes took the trophy, and in the six-bell method-ringing competition the Brumdingers were victorious. The winners of the Call Change Competitions, held at Erdington, were Worcester Cathedral (eight-bell) and Three Spires (six-bell).

Our team this year – from left to right in the picture – Finlay Totterdell from Corston (helper and previous team member), Thomas Gibson from South Petherton, Oscar Hannam from Taunton Minster 1st Reserve, Evan Pearce from Crewkerne, Walter Sinclair from South Petherton, Clara Waller from Backwell (Conductor), Igi Waugaman Reed from Clevedon St Andrew, Adelaide Crowle from Ilminster, and Melissa Hunt from Burnham on Sea (helper and previous team member).

We should also thank the many ringers who have encouraged the development of our young ringers. Clara Waller is now at University and this year has rung peals of Cambridge Royal, Grandsire Caters and four of Surprise Major as well as quarter peals of Cambridge Maximus, Stedman Cinques and Bristol and London Major. Other members of the band are just beginning this journey. Igi rang his second peal and his first quarter inside, and Evan rang his first quarter peal, his first inside and his first on 8. Adelaide and Walter rang their first quarter peals.

Thank you to Jan Wyatt for organising the team and making all the arrangements for the weekend; to the Association for funding the travel costs for the team, and to EGMEF who provided the funds for the team shirts. Thank you also to the parents and tower captains who encouraged our young ringers and took them to practices throughout the year. To our helpers, some of whom have been in the young ringers team in previous years, it is brilliant to see them supporting our younger ringers in this way. Finally, very special thanks and congratulations to the young ringers who represented us so well, and are the future of ringing.

Young Ringers Activities. It is excellent to see young ringers active in almost all our branches. Young ringers from across the Association were invited to events organised for them by Jan Wyatt. These help to prepare the young ringers for the National Youth Competition and usually take place each month. The Association Young Ringers Festival, held in the Dunster Branch in September, took the form of an outing around the Branch towers of Old Cleeve, Minehead and Sampford Brett, followed by an excellent indoor barbecue. Thank you to Jan Swan and other members of the Dunster Branch for organising this very successful afternoon.

2025 definitely saw the Association back on track, and looking to move forward, after the hard work of re-building from the devastation wreaked by Covid. Restoration work is being completed again. In the **Axbridge Branch** the work on Biddisham bells has been completed. Service ringing and a regular monthly practice have been started, and a quarter peal has been rung on the bells. In the **Glaston Branch** the bells at Compton Dundon, previously hung dead, have been hung for ringing, producing a new 6 for the Branch. Sound control is being fitted, and one local beginner has begun training at the Branch Training Centre in Street. Once the sound control is fitted, local training will be accelerated. In the **Taunton Branch** the restoration work on the bells at Trull was completed when the bells were returned to the tower with a new frame and fittings in the Spring.

More training initiatives are being started or extended. **Cary Branch** ran an ART Module 1 Course to begin training a group of ringers from the Branch to become teachers of ringing; and recruitment was quite good during the year with new recruits at towers including Milborne Port and Wincanton. An ART Module 1 Course was also run in the **Dunster Branch** this year, at Sampford Brett. It was opened to people from across the west of the Association who wanted to begin training to teach. Trainee teachers from both courses are now beginning to teach their first learners. **Crewkerne Branch** has started to teach a group of people to ring at Combe St Nicholas. **Ilchester Branch** have started training workshops at Seavington St Mary, a project has been launched at Preston Plucknett to augment the six bells to eight, and several towers are planning recruitment in the near future. **Frome Branch** once again hosted the Association Listening and Rhythm Course. At the **Glaston Branch** Training Centre in Street the beginners and improvers groups have continued to be run on a termly basis. On one Saturday per month these students have the opportunity to ring on open bells at towers around the Branch with experienced ringers to help them. **Dunster**

Branch tried monthly focussed development sessions – a cross between a Branch practice and a training course, but unfortunately decided not to continue this trial.

The **Edna Grabham Memorial Education Fund** helped to run a recruitment event for the Association and beyond using the Charmborough Ring. The Mini-Ring was set up at the Somerset Steam and Country Show at Low Ham on a weekend in July. The Fair ran for two days, Saturday and Sunday, and ringers from different Branches across the Bath and Wells Association helped to run it on each day. The fair was very successful with a very high attendance on both days. Throughout the weekend hundreds of people were encouraged to experience ringing with expert tutors there to help them. Hopefully lots of new recruits will have been gathered from the weekend. Those people who were interested in learning were given the contact details for their local tower. Those having a go also included lapsed ringers, who hopefully might have been inspired to return to ringing.

Recruitment across the Association is generally very good, with Branches reporting higher numbers than usual of new members. This increase is being well-supported by the continued development of training centres, use of simulators, and weekly learners and improvers practices. The Glaston Branch has found that people have been recruited through their training courses in their new training centre at Street. Open Days also prove to be very successful in attracting new recruits, especially those with no connections to ringing. Behind these developments, of course, are the really keen and enthusiastic members of our branches leading this progress, and our very grateful thanks go to them.

Training Teachers of Ringing. A lot of very hard work continues to be done to increase the number of teachers of ringing within the Association. Two ART Module 1 Courses were run in the Association this year. Another two teachers completed the Module 1 part of the course this year. A total of 8 Mentors and 25 Teachers have completed the award from across the Association.

Learning the Ropes. As part of the ART Course the New Teachers and their Mentors have to teach new ringers. The ringers that they teach are able to take part in a progressive scheme called 'Learning the Ropes'. This is divided into five levels. An excellent 36 certificates were awarded this year. The Dunster Branch awarded 4 Level 1's, 5 Level 2's, 1 Level 3 and 2 Level 4's; and the Taunton Branch awarded 3 Level 1's, and 14 Level 2's, 2 Level 3's, 2 Level 4's and 3 Level 5's. Since work on the award began the Association has awarded 277 Level 1, 166 Level 2, 58 Level 3, 42 level 4, and 14 Level 5.

Courses Organised by the Branches This Year. 121 courses have been organised this year, a similarly high number to last year. It is good to see more of our branches offering a wide range of courses. The following branches have run the following courses – **Axbridge** – Monthly Courses including handling, rounds, Plain Bob Doubles, 2 Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor;

Bridgwater – 1 Plain Bob Doubles and 1 Touches of Plain Bob Doubles; **Cary** – Handling, Listening and Striking, Raising and Lowering, 5 Plain Hunt, 5 Bob Doubles, and 5 St Martins and St Simons; **Dunster** – 1 Call Change, 6 Raising and Lowering, 1 Plain Hunt, 1 Trebling and Tenoring to Methods, 3 Bob Doubles, 1 Grandsire Doubles, 1 Stedman Doubles, 1 Plain Bob Minor and 2 Bell Maintenance; **Frome** – 1 Listening and rhythm, 2 Handling, 1 Rounds and Call Changes, 1 St Clements/Little Bob/Double Oxford; 1 Plain Bob Triples, 1 Grandsire and Stedman Triples; **Glaston** – 1 Handling to Rounds and Call Changes, 2 Call Changes to Plain Hunt; **Taunton** – 9 Handling, Raising, Lowering and Rounds; 9 Kaleidoscope Ringing and Call Changes; 10 Plain Hunt and Plain Hunt to Methods; 9 Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury

Doubles; 7 Grandsire and St Martins/St Simons Doubles; 7 Plain Bob, St Clements and Little Bob Minor; 7 Treble Bob to methods, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; 7 Plain Hunt on 7, Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major and Little Bob Major; 6 Calling (Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, St Martins Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Little Bob Minor, St Clements Minor).

Branch Tutor/Ringing Master/ Trainers taking Weekly Training for a Tower Band on the Band's Practice Night. This very important activity remains popular within the branches – **Axbridge** – Badgworth, Blagdon, Locking and Shipham; **Cary** – Templecombe; **Crewkerne** – Chard, Combe St Nicholas, Hinton St George and Ilminster; **Dunster** – Brompton Regis and Dunster; **Frome** – High Littleton and Paulton, Midsomer Norton and Chilcompton, Postlebury Group, and Rode; **Ilchester** – Hardington Mandeville, Martock, and Tintinhull; **Taunton** – Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Kittisford, Norton Fitzwarren, Pitminster, Staplegrove, Stawley and Taunton Holy Trinity.

Other Branch Events with Learning Opportunities. Most of our Branches, Axbridge, Bridgwater, Cary, Chew, Crewkerne, Ilchester and Taunton have a regular monthly practice, and Dunster had 2 Branch practices with a meeting, and then monthly focus sessions with topics included from their course list. The Ilchester Branch also have a Quarterly Meeting every quarter. Half of our Branches organised an outing this year; the Bridgwater, Dunster, and Taunton Branches had an outing; the Bridgwater Branch had a Summer Picnic following their Striking Competition; the Axbridge and Chew Branches had a walking outing; and the Dunster Branch had a walking tour of the Taunton Towers.

Special Practices Organised by the Branch Providing Learning Opportunities. These might be arranged weekly (W), fortnightly (F), monthly (M) or occasionally (O), and provide very valuable learning experiences. Up to 12-bell Christmas Practice (Bridgwater); 10-bell (Bridgwater O, Chew M); surprise major (Chew M, Glaston M, Ilchester M); Advanced 8-bell (Taunton M); 8-bell (Crewkerne M, Dunster M); 8-bell plain methods (Taunton M); 6-8-bell (Bridgwater O); Surprise Minor (Axbridge M, Frome M, Ilchester W); Advanced Minor (Taunton M); 6-bell (Crewkerne M); Minor and Doubles (Taunton W); Beyond Bob Doubles 6-bell (Dunster M); 6-bell Plain Hunt (Glaston M); Improvers (Axbridge M, Dunster W, Taunton W); and learners (Axbridge W, Chew W, Crewkerne M, Taunton W). The Ilchester Branch also has a fortnightly quarter peal which aims to help people to progress.

Striking Competitions. The number of branches holding a striking competition has remained high this year with numbers back to pre-Covid levels. The Axbridge, Bridgwater, Cary, Chew, Frome, Ilchester and Taunton Branches held one this year. The Bridgwater branch included Method, Call Change, Novice and Scratch entries and the Taunton Branch ran four competitions – Method, Call Change, Plain Hunt and Rounds. It would be good to see the other branches joining them next year.

The Branch Education Officers are meeting three times a year. If there is something that you would like them to address please tell them! I would like to finish by thanking the Education Officers and all the members of the branches firstly for all the work that they have put in this year to keep ringing thriving in our Association, and secondly because many are looking forward and being prepared to try new ideas which bodes very well for the future of our Association.

Jill Hansford

EDNA GRABHAM MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND TRUSTEES REPORT

Following the success of the Charmborough Ring at the steam fayre at Low Ham, The Edna Grabham Fund helped to pay for it to be at the event again this year. Once again we were inundated with people wanting to have a go, and were especially pleased that some lapsed ringers said that they would take up ringing again. Huge thanks are due to the Friday Band, lots of Association Members and some Sherborne ringers, who erected and manned the ring over the three days.

In addition to this the fund paid for the sweatshirts for the Association Young Ringers Team who were taking part in the Ringing World Youth Competition in Birmingham, and for the food for the Association Young Ringers event in the Dunster Branch. The Trust has also continued to fund www.treblesgoing.org.uk. This is now well established and many people are finding it very useful. New pages are still being added and any suitable material is always gratefully received.

Anyone, young or old, can apply for a grant to help them to improve their ringing. The Trustees welcome applications for grants for individuals, or for those organising events for learners at all levels. The easiest way to contact us is through www.treblesgoing.org.uk, or of course you can speak direct to one of us.

Helen Beaufoy, Jill Hansford, Beverley Perry and Robert Perry

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Association's library contains many books and records, a large number of which are now also held in digital format available to download and view. The library itself is held in the clock chamber at St Mary's, Bridgwater, with some more historic records, and other local items, in the Somerset Heritage Centre in Norton Fitzwarren. A list of the library contents is available on the website, www.bath-wells.org, and a paper copy can be supplied on request. Heritage Centre opening hours are shown on their website, www.swheritage.org.uk and please contact me for arranging access to Bridgwater based library content.

Bob Boulton

RINGING SUPPORT FUND OFFICER REPORT

This year I have received 4 grant application requests, of which all 4 were approved, 6 grants have been paid in full.

I would like to thank the Trustees and Tower Advisors for their support over the past year.

Margaret Lee

TOWER ADVISOR'S REPORT

The fourteen inspections and reports undertaken in the last Association year were allocated and carried out on a geographic basis by myself and Bernard North, to whom I am grateful. Of the inspections carried out nine were Initial visits, requested by PCCs prior to any work being undertaken; the remaining five being final inspections to confirm the completed work prior to Association grant money being released.

The nine initial reports included inspection of the unringable four bells at Biddisham requiring a rehang, the replacement of the 5th clapper at Stogursey, and clapper refurbishment recommended at Bathwick. Access improvements were recommended at

Ston Easton. The installation at Stringston was found to be in a poor condition, with the remaining two hanging bells restricted to chiming only. The installation at Pawlett was found in good order with housekeeping required, and monitoring of the wooden bellframe. Sampford Brett was found in good condition with support given to refurbishment of the clapper and main bearings. Replacement of the frame and augmentation to eight was supported at Preston Plucknett. Installation of rope guides and roping improvements were supported at Goathurst.

The five final inspections confirmed the rehang at Hinton St George. Replacement clappers and main bearing refurbishment at Hardington Manderville plus roping improvements to the 2nd and frame painting were inspected. The new ring at Compton Dundon, with its newly cast treble, new steel frame and all new fittings was inspected. Carhampton saw the refurbishment of clappers 1-5, replacement headstock bearings and frame tightening. A complete rehang has been carried out at Nempnett Thrubwell, including a new steel frame, headstocks and all new fittings. Farleigh Hungerford has been augmented to six with a new treble and replacement tenor, both from the Keltek Trust.

John Hallett

TOWER MAINTENANCE CONTACTS (TMCs).

It is good to see our TMC's active in almost all our branches. In the **Bridgwater Branch** routine inspections and regular maintenance visits were carried out as required. One of our younger ringers, George Wyatt, who has been the TMC for the **Chew Branch** for several years will step down this year, but during the year he has visited Tickenham to help with ropes and give advice on tightening the frame and headstocks, Kingston Seymour to give advice on rope guides, and Portbury for general maintenance advice. In the **Crewkerne Branch** the TMC has been busy with work at Ashill, Combe St Nicholas, Hinton St George, Ilminster and Ilton. In the **Dunster Branch** an inspection was carried out at Elworthy at the request of the Churches Conservation Trust, and other checks of bells and fittings were carried out when requested. In the **Ilchester Branch** several inspections have been carried out. In the **Taunton Branch** a lot of time was taken up this year with re-installing the bells at Trull in a new frame with new fittings. The BMC and three other members of the Branch spent six weeks doing this work, assisting the bell-hanger. The BMCs also oiled and re-felted the bearings, and re-seated two clappers at Bathealton; re-aligned a clapper and replaced a pulley at Pitminster; organised the repair of a wheel at Hillfarrance; completed inspections at Cheddon Fitzpaine and Broomfield; and, in collaboration with the Devon Guild at Clayhidon, tightened the frame and bearings, and removed and rehung three clappers when they were re-bushed.

QUARTER PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The total number of quarter peals rung during the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 and published in the Ringing World or on BellBoard was 861. These were rung in 230 towers. This quarter peal report only includes those quarter peals submitted to BellBoard, those that are neither published online or in the Ringing World are therefore excluded from the analysis.

There was a slight decrease of 7 quarters rung in the last 12 months and these were rung in 11 more towers than the previous year, the numbers rung are still below those rung prior to the pandemic but are holding steady . It is encouraging to see so many ringers ringing their first quarter even if the numbers are slightly down on last year, conducting their first quarter peal or progressing to their first inside.

The three leading towers were Chilcompton, Bathwick, and Clapton-in-Gordano with Chilcompton and Bathwick tying for first place. Chilcompton & Bathwick both rang 41 quarters, with Clapton on 29.

There was 1 quarter of Minimus and Doubles, 322 of Doubles (of which 46 were Grandsire, 5 Stedman and 50 Plain Bob), 2 of Doubles and Minor, 262 of Minor (of which 124 were Surprise and 40 were Plain Bob), 109 of Triples (of which 55 were Grandsire and 11 Stedman), 112 of Major (of which 91 were Surprise and 14 were Plain Bob), 20 of Caters (of which 15 were Grandsire), 22 of Royal (21 of which were Surprise), 3 of Cinques and 8 of Maximus.

28 members rang their first quarter peal, 9 members rang their first inside and on 427 occasions someone rang something new. 3 members conducted their first quarter peal and 49 members conducted a new method.

39 quarter peals were rung on handbells, 1 at Bath (Longthorne Place), 2 at Burnham-on-Sea (Jaycroft Road), 10 at Congresbury (Elmwood), 16 at Leigh on Mendip (Red Beech), 3 at Long Ashton (Heath Ridge), 1 at Timsbury (Hillview), 2 at Yatton (Chescombe Road), 2 at Wells (St.Cuthbert), 1 at Wells (Wood Close), and 1 at Wookey (Batch Cottage).

14 quarters were rung to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day.

8 quarters were rung to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VJ day.

Congratulations are due to the Crewkerne branch who managed to ring at least one quarter in every ringable tower last year.

Overall, quarter peals were rung in 66% of ringable towers with 5 or more bells.

The position of the eleven branches in the Association is shown in the following table:

AXBRIDGE	64 quarter peals rung in 18 towers
BATH	97 quarter peals rung in 16 towers
BRIDGWATER	40 quarter peals rung in 18 towers
CARY	29 quarter peals rung in 16 towers
CHEW	152 quarter peals rung in 27 towers
CREWKERNE	68 quarter peals rung in 28 towers
DUNSTER	83 quarter peals rung in 26 towers
FROME	98 quarter peals rung in 20 towers
GLASTON	53 quarter peals rung in 10 towers
ILCHESTER	74 quarter peals rung in 19 towers
TAUNTON	103 quarter peals rung in 32 towers

Congratulations to the following members who rang their first quarter:

Joyce Bates, Jonathan Boundy, David Chambers, Tina Coggan, Mike Day, James Ebner, Issy Emenev, Jeremy Gilbert, Simon Goode, Claire Jenkins, Rupert Knight, Ashley Moon, David Moore, Aaron Moreton, Georgina Muir, Lyn Payne, Ed Pratt, Benedict Protheroe, Shelby Rawlinson, John Roberts, Christine Rose, Penny Ross, Walter Sinclair, Olivia Sweet, Julia Tourville, James Travis, Martin Wells, Tina Woods-Jones

and to the following who conducted their first quarter peal:

Mary Gardner, Jackie Henderson, Paddy Sowter

and to the following who rang their first quarter peal inside;

Roderick Baillie-Grohman, Jonathan Boundy, Laila Emms, Julie Leader, Evan Pearce, Benedict Protheroe, Igi Waugaman Reed, Tobias Viney, David Walmsley

Congratulations to members for whom special celebration quarter peals were rung:

Aller - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Pip & Tricia Everitt

Ash Priors – 18th Birthday of Harry Thorne-Henderson

Bath, Walcot – Golden Wedding Anniversary of David & Mary Kelly

Bicknoller – Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Peter & Carole Darke and Golden Wedding Anniversary of Andrew & Kate Harrison

Clapton-in-Gordano - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Gill & Les Curwood and 70th Birthday of Janet Wyatt

Clevedon, St.John - 70th Birthday of Janet Wyatt

Congresbury – 90th Birthday of John Dunster

Curry Rivel - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Liz & Patrick Rendell

Halse – 18th Birthday of Harry Thorne-Henderson

Hillfarrance – Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Mile & Gill Day

Kewstoke - 70th Birthday of Alan Castell

Marston Bigot - 85th Birthday of Nina Smith & 60th Wedding Anniversary of Nina & Trevor Smith

North Weston, Wyatt's Yard – 70th Birthday of Janet Wyatt

Odcombe - 90th Birthday of Roger Fox

Old Cleeve – 60th Birthday of Bryony Gray

Pitney - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Patrick & Liz Rendell

Sampford Brett - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Phil & Janet Swan and Robert & Ginny Yandle

Somerton, Tara's Orchard – 70th Birthday of Michael Spencer

South Petherton - 90th Birthday of John Pidgeon

Ston Easton – 70th Birthday of Michael Spencer

Swainswick - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Helen and Roger Button

Taunton, St.Mary – 18th Birthday of Harry Thorne-Henderson

Taunton, Holy Trinity - 50th Birthday of Yuka Jones & 18th Birthday of Harry Thorne-Henderson

West Buckland – 18th Birthday of Harry Thorne-Henderson

Weston-in-Gordano - Golden Wedding Anniversary of Gill & Les Curwood

Wilton – 80th Birthday of Elizabeth Lane

Wincanton – 18th Birthday of Aaron Moreton

Yatton – Wedding of Lucy Warren & Alan Reading

Yeovil – 90th Birthday of Roger Fox

Quarter Peals were rung in memory of the following members:

Carhampton – Bryan Williams, Carol Eastaugh, R.I.P.
Chilcompton – Kevin Newport, R.I.P.
Clevedon, St. Andrew – Norman James, Michael Reed, R.I.P.
Dunster – John Addicott, Maureen Hawkins, R.I.P.
Holcombe, Mobile belfry – Jim Walker, R.I.P.
Kewstoke – Ray Jones, R.I.P.
Middlezoy – Peter Welch, R.I.P.
Somerton, Tara's Orchard - Reginald Beale, R.I.P.
South Cadbury – Kevin Newport, former tower captain R.I.P.
South Petherton – Reginald Beale, R.I.P.
Stawley – Graham Henson, former tower captain R.I.P.
Templecombe – Audrey Riley, R.I.P.
Wanstrow – Audrey Riley, R.I.P.
Wincanton – Kevin Newport, R.I.P.
Worle – Ray Jones, Barbara Taylor, John Widgery, R.I.P.

Personal Achievements

Giles Morley 3900, Beverley Perry 3300, Leslie Perry 2600, Lionel Smith, George Wyatt 1000, Margaret Bignell 700, Paul Wotton 500, Ann Birch 300, Margaret Furner 250, Will Rogers 200, Owen Cullwick 50, Angela Henderson 25

And as Conductor

Patrick Tucker 1100, Glenn Taylor 200, George Wyatt 100, Will Rogers 50

PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The past year has been another successful one for peal ringing, with a total of 124 peals recorded. The accompanying footnotes provide a wealth of interesting detail, far more than can be fully highlighted within this report.

Work is currently underway on a project to scan and photograph every page of the Association's Peal Books. In due course, these will be made accessible via a link on the Association website. In the meantime, anyone wishing to access this material is invited to contact me directly, and I will be pleased to provide a link. Grateful thanks are extended to the Librarian, Bob Boulton, for the considerable time and effort he has devoted to scanning the volumes held at The Somerset Records Office, Taunton.

Notable Performances and Achievements

- The first peal was rung on the ring of six dumbbells at Somerton (Tara's Orchard).
- Joe and Andrea Beaumont have now rung 800 peals together.
- Matthew Higby has completed the Surprise Major Alphabet.
- The final peal at The Bakery Tower, Wedmore was rung prior to the bells moving to become The Darling Bells of Cheddar, and the first peal has since been successfully rung there.
- Donald Carter (NRLM) has now rung peals in 800 different Surprise Major methods.
- Peals were also rung to mark the 100th anniversary of the first peal at St Andrew's, Clevedon, and the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

In Memoriam

Peals were rung in remembrance of:

Reginald Beale	Mervyn Buckley	Elizabeth Coke	Pope Francis
Graham Henson	D John Knight	Jeffrey Knipe	Debbie Parfrey
Paul Reading	Mike Reed	Audrey Riley	Bryan Williams
Muriel Yeo			

First Peal

Angela Henderson Daniel O'Connell Sas Watson (NRLM)

First Peal in Hand

Melissa Hunt David Sumner

First Peal as Conductor

Marcus Ham

Personal Milestones

50 Margaret Bignell, Melissa Hunt, David Sumner
200 Sam Shead
250 Martin Mansley (NRLM)
300 Philip Moyse (NRLM)
750 Nicholas Lawrence (NRLM)
800 Susan Body
1200 Michael Hansford, Robert Perry, Michael Spencer
1700 Lester Yeo
1800 Joseph St J Beaumont
2400 Michael Hatchett (NRLM)

As Conductor

150 Michael Spencer
1300 Donald Carter (NRLM)

For the Association

650 Michael Hatchett (NRLM)

On the Bells

50 Clapton in Gordano
400 Little Orchard, East Huntspill
700 Huntsham, Devon

Special Achievement:

200th peal of Yorkshire – Donald Carter (NRLM)

Anniversaries Marked

Peals were rung to commemorate the following anniversaries of ringers' first peals:

50 years – Lester Yeo
50 years since first peal on tower bells – Peter Williamson (NRLM)
60 years – Anthony Cox
70 years – Patrick Bridges

Matthew Higby

**Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers
General Fund**

Statement of Financial Activities 2025

2024		2025
£	Receipts	£
15,940	Members' Subscriptions	15,530
1,280	Bank Interest	755
4,407	Other Income	3,974
<u>21,627</u>		<u>20,259</u>
	Payments	
1,617	Education	7,024
160	RW Young Ringers Competition	627
560	Meetings & Competitions	400
2,228	Annual Report	2,737
1,998	Website & Technology	2,653
685	Public Liability Insurance	854
491	Central Council	656
21	Ringling World Notices	216
32,763	Ringling Support Fund	1,836
2,319	Other Expenses	3,675
<u>42,842</u>		<u>20,678</u>
<u>-21,215</u>	Surplus/(deficit)	<u>-419</u>
66,924	Cash brought forward	45,709
45,709	Cash carried forward	45,290
	Assets	
37,218	Natwest Account	35,809
1,048	Education Account	31
7,265	Branch Accounts	9,338
178	Balance on RW Account	112
<u>45,709</u>		<u>45,290</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE GENERAL FUND OF
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS**

I report on the accounts of the General Fund for the year ended 31st December 2025

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

As the charities trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

2. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
3. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



15th April 2026.

RINGING SUPPORT FUND – TRUSTEE REPORT

Eight payments were made in 2025 (total value £31,100), four more than in 2024, recognising the majority of existing projects successfully concluding, in fact at the end of 2025 only one pre-exist project remained to be completed with an outstanding liability of only £900. Four new projects were awarded grants during 2025 with a total commitment of £13,350, one of these, with a liability of only £250 was completed and paid within the year, and hence £13,100 new closing liability was added to the £900 from prior years, making a total outstanding liability of £14,000 at the end of 2025.

After paying grants in 2025, and allowing for the outstanding liability the available fund balance at 31st December 2025 was £78,868, only marginally down on the previous year end. Affiliation fees collected were £85 down on 2024, however 2024 benefited from a few Parishes paying one off additional amounts to correct prior underpayments, and hence the underlying position is one of small growth. The fund benefited from the work of Jan Wyatt in selling T shirts and other merchandise, and we are very grateful to Jan for this.

Overall the fund continues to be very healthy, and it was pleasing to be able to support more projects in 2025. Our congratulations again go to all of those involved in the projects completed during 2025, and our good wishes for successful outcomes to all those projects now underway. As normal none of the work we do would be possible without the income we receive from affiliated PCCs, and from all the of the generous people who have made donations this year, both as individuals and collectively through Branch fund raising, and peal ringers making very welcome contributions too. Thank you to all who participated in generating revenue for the fund.

Finally, I would like to place on record my thanks, on your behalf, to my fellow Trustees, and to our very hard working Tower Advisors, John Hallett and Bernard North and of course to our Ringing Support Fund Officer, Margaret Lee. As a fund we work very closely with the Tower Advisory Service, and we are indebted to them for all they do, but also for their generosity in time, wise counsel, and the spirit in which it is constantly given. Yet again I find it impossible to find words that adequately describe the contribution made by the very wonderful Margaret, if I could find those words I would, most of us don't see the amount of work she does, but save to say we would be much the poorer without her.

David Parfrey

Ringling Support Fund
Statement of Financial Activities 2025

2024		2025
£	Receipts	£
6,455	Affiliation Fees	6,370
3,519	Donations	2,357
30,000	Transfer from General Fund	350
2,044	Interest	2,001
0	Merchandise	597
386	Peal Fees	526
<u>42,404</u>		<u>12,201</u>
	Payments	
3,850	Grants Paid	31,100
<u>38,554</u>	Surplus/(deficit)	<u>-18,899</u>
73,213	Cash brought forward	111,767
111,767	Cash carried forward	92,868
	Assets	
111,343	Natwest	92,444
424	CCLA	424
<u>111,767</u>		<u>92,868</u>
<u>31,750</u>	Contingent liabilities (grants not yet paid)	<u>14,000</u>
<u>80,017</u>	Cash Available for Future Grants	<u>78,868</u>

Balance Available

	2025	2024	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Cash	92,868	111,767	73,213	100,446
Outstanding Grant Liabilities	14,000	31,750	21,650	49,587
Balance Available at 31st Dec	<u>78,868</u>	<u>80,017</u>	<u>51,563</u>	<u>50,859</u>

	2021	2020	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Cash	100,527	85,519	99,194	107,026
Outstanding Grant Liabilities	19,867	25,152	47,406	32,095
Balance Available at 31st Dec	<u>80,660</u>	<u>60,367</u>	<u>51,788</u>	<u>74,931</u>

	2017
	£
Cash	83,853
Outstanding Grant Liabilities	48,180
Balance Available at 31st Dec	<u>35,673</u>

Grants Paid in 2025

Compton Dando	£1,200
Shepton Beauchamp	£650
Hinton St George	£6,500
Compton Dundon	£10,000
Stogursey	£250
Carhampton	£1,500
Nempnett Thrubwell	£9,000
Farleigh Hungerford	£2,000
	<u>£31,100</u>

Grants Outstanding from Prior Years

Spaxton	<u>£900</u>	Final payment
	<u>£900</u>	

New Grants awarded in 2025

Hardington Mandeville	£2,100	
Stogursey	£250	Completed and paid in 2025
Middlezoy	£9,000	
Biddisham	£2,000	
	<u>£13,350</u>	

Outstanding Liability at 31st December 2025

Spaxton	£900
Hardington Mandeville	£2,100
Middlezoy	£9,000
Biddisham	£2,000
Total Liability	<u>£14,000</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BATH AND WELLS
DIOCESAN RINGING SUPPORT FUND**

I report on the accounts of the fund for the year ended 31st December 2025

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

As the charities trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



15th April 2026

Matters from the General Committee for Consideration at the AGM

A number of Rules issues were brought to the General Committee for discussion at its meeting in March this year, and these were considered at length leading to the following recommendations:

1. Age limit for Junior Members. Although this was discussed within the Rules Review at the 2025 AGM, it has been requested that this be re-considered. The General Committee were keen to encourage younger members, and recommend that:
 - The Junior Membership age limit is increased to cover those in full time education, subject to an upper age limit of 25.
2. Renaming “General Members” to “General Ringing Members”. The General Committee were unsure what the benefit of this would be, and also given the large administrative burden of such a change, it is not recommended.
3. To reintroduce minimum competency requirements for membership. This was discussed at length and rejected by the 2025 AGM. It was further discussed at the 2026 General Committee meeting, and members felt strongly that we aim to be an inclusive Association and encourage membership. The rules presently leave the responsibility of suitability for election with Tower Captains, Tutors and Branch Officers, and the committee felt this was adequate, and within our spirit of inclusivity, hence no change is recommended.
4. Striking Competitions. This has been the subject of many years, particularly with regard to rules and dates. A sub-committee was set up by the General Committee to consider this fully and the group will provide recommendations at the AGM.

Rule change request from the Axbridge Branch.

This item was proposed, discussed & passed at the Axbridge Branch AGM in October '25

Context:

This addresses the current rule about the composition of Peal bands, and proposes an alteration which would allow younger people to be counted as members in a qualifying peal band.

The change affects Rule 25 – Peals – which currently reads:

“All ringers must be members of the Association for the peal to be recorded by the Association, with at least half of those participating being General or Honorary Life Members”.

The Axbridge Branch proposes that this be amended to:

“All ringers must be members of the Association for the peal to be recorded by the Association, with at least half of those participating being General, Junior or Honorary Life Members”.

Junior and General members are listed as two different classes of membership (under rule 11) and the rule as it is currently written would prevent a peal being rung by an all or majority under 18 year old band.

Action: *This proposed rule change be submitted to the General Secretary prior to the Association AGM in May '26.*