Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

Chew Branch

Newsletter: December 2024

Welcome to the new Chew Branch newsletter, keeping you up to date with what's going on in our branch and bringing you news from individual towers.

The plan will be to publish the newsletter every 3 or 4 months; less frequently and it will no longer be news! However the success of this plan is to a large extent dependant on you, the members of the Branch. Please send your news to the editor – contact details on the final page. Here are some suggestions of items that would be newsworthy:

- Significant peals or quarter peals
- Events in the lives of individual ringers – significant birthdays, anniversaries etc
- Tower outings and social events (a Christmas meal perhaps?)
- major work to your bells or tower

Please keep reports reasonably brief and to the point: a few paragraphs should usually be sufficient.

This first newsletter has been sent to all tower contacts within the Branch, with a request that it is circulated to their ringers. If you would like to receive a copy straight into your own email, please let the editor know.

Branch Events

Branch Practice

Saturday 21st December
3.00pm – 4.30pm
St Mary the Virgin, Yatton
(8 bells, tenor 24cwt)

All welcome

Ringing will cater for everyone, from rounds and call changes to surprise major

mince pies!

Christmas jumpers welcome!!

Branch AGM

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held at St Andrew's, Backwell, on Saturday 16th November. Some 30 members attended. Following ringing on the 17cwt 10, members adjourned to the church room for tea and the business meeting.

It was a pleasure to see a number of association long service certificates presented. These are usually awarded every 5 years from 50 years but, following a delay in the process during Covid, the association is now trying to catch up; hence some certificates seemed to be awarded for a rather random number of years. Members of Chew Branch received certificates as follows:

72 years: Geoff Marchant (Kenn)
70 years: John Gilbert, HLM (Long Ashton)
64 years: David Gale (Portishead)
60 years: Jennifer Taylor, HLM (Backwell)
56 years: Eleanor Marchant (Kenn)
55 years: David Floyd, HLM (unattached)
Marilyn Floyd (unattached)
Margaret James (Clevedon, St John)
54 years: Ian Ramsay (Easton in Gordano)
53 years: Janine James (Clevedon, St Andrew)
John White (Wraxall)
51 years: Mervyn Arscott (Winford)
50 years: Mark Callow (Clevedon, St John)
Martin Sperring (East Harptree)
Robert Rideout (Kingston Seymour)

Jennie Taylor also received her certificate for Honorary Life Membership (HLM).



Jennie with one of her granddaughters and Glenn Taylor, Branch Chairman



John Gilbert



David and Marilyn Floyd with Glenn Taylor



Martin Sperring

After 7 years as Branch Secretary Judith Green indicated her wish to stand down and Lesley Chandler was duly elected to the post. The other officers were re-elected unopposed. It was agreed that peal and quarter peal reports were no longer required, but the resumption of a Branch newsletter was welcomed.

Minutes of the meeting will be available in due course.



Judith Green was presented with flowers and a card upon retiring as Branch Secretary

Congratulations to . . .

Alison Pemble on ringing the treble to her first quarter peal of Minor (Plain Bob Minor at Backwell; 17th November). Also, her first quarter of Plain Bob Doubles inside (on 5th December at Abbots Leigh, the tower she originally started ringing at some 52 years ago).

Glenn Taylor, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first peal with a peal of 7 Surprise Minor (Abbots Leigh; 19th November).

Russell Toogood on ringing inside to his first quarter of Plain Bob Major (Yatton; 27th October).

Tobias Viney on ringing the treble to his first quarter of Plain Bob Major (Yatton; 27th October).

George Wyatt on ringing his 900th quarter peal (Grandsire Triples at the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia, on 22nd November).

Tower News

Portishead

We first noticed a small crack in the top of our 6th bell several years ago. We monitored it as time rolled by and it slowly expanded. Our back 6 were cast by Abraham Bilbie of Chew Stoke in 1772, our 2 trebles are Taylor bells added in 1897. The Bilbie bells are listed which means we cannot have them recast, even if they fall to pieces. We decided to raise funds for a new bell and chose Matthew Higby Church Bell Engineers to get a bell from The Allanconi Bell Foundry in Milan and to fit it for us. We chose this foundry as we had rung other bells they had made and been very impressed with the quality of tone. Hawksbury Upton are a complete ring of Allanconi bells.

The cost was a little under £12,000 plus VAT. Our Church Treasurer has been able to reclaim the VAT. We raised the funds from donations from the ringers and our congregation, we sold tee shirts and greetings cards designed by one of our team. We hosted two concerts in church, with performances from talented members of our congregation. We received generous offers of grants from The Ladies Guild of Change Ringers and The Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers.



Our beautiful new bell arrived in October 2024 and is now installed in the tower. Our old cracked bell is being stored in the clock room. I would like to see it on display in church but our Rector says we can't make a space for it; I hope I can persuade him to change his mind.

We practice every Tuesday, everyone welcome to come and ring with us.

Jan Wyatt

Next Newsletter

It is hoped to publish the next newsletter at the beginning of February. Please send your news to the editor by **16th January** – or sooner if possible.

We hope to see you all at a Branch event in 2025

Branch Events 2025

The annual programme is generally arranged to include a Branch Practice on the 3rd Saturday of the month (excluding August and October). All levels of ability catered for, from rounds and call changes upwards. Winter practices usually start at 3.00pm, summer ones at 7.30pm. May is the Striking Competition; October the ever-popular Branch Quiz; November the AGM.

More details in the next newsletter.

Branch Practice

Saturday 18th January
3.00pm – 4.30pm
St Laurence, East Harptree
(6 bells, tenor 14cwt)

Tea / coffee

All welcome

Saturday 15th February. 3.00pm – 4.30pm, Portishead (8 bells, 15cwt).

Saturday 15th March. 7.30pm – 9.00pm, Kingston Seymour (6 bells, tenor 17cwt).

Contact Details

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Wishing you all a Happy Christmas

