

## **Chairman**

First of all may I thank the rest of the Committee for standing in for me while I was ill at the beginning of the year – I'm now almost totally recovered from the stroke and heart surgery and enjoying my ringing once again.

Branch practices continue to be fairly well supported with a wide variety of methods having been rung. There are several more advanced practices both inside and outside the branch which receive varied support. Mid week dodgers and Far Cited trips continue to be well supported and we thank those who have happily taken on the organisation of these trips.

Following the unfortunate discovery of a crack in the no. 4 bell at Siston, recommendations were received from the Association Belfry Inspector to replace the bell with an appropriate one from the Keltek Trust. This work has been carried out and ringing continues unabated at Siston on Friday mornings. Work has also taken place in the belfry to install improved covers on the window openings to deter the jackdaws and rooks.

The branch quiz was held at Iron Acton and was a great success, with plenty of good food and difficult questions to keep everyone interested.

On May Bank Holiday we enjoyed an outing to the Caerphilly area with some lovely bells and an excellent lunch. Many thanks to Geoff for the organisation.

Attendance at the summer barbeque was a little disappointing – we should maybe consider whether this is still a desired activity for the branch.

Ringing at Gloucester Cathedral was well supported – thankyou to everyone who turned up. Our contact and host was delighted that we were able to ring all the bells and commented that we were the only branch to manage that this year.

Please encourage all your tower members to join in with branch activities – all standards of ringing are catered for at practices and the social events are always good fun. Please also would everyone consider standing for committee posts as we need to keep new blood coming into the branch committee, and it is your chance to have a say in what happens at branch meetings and events.

***Bryan Hardwick***