

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2006

It does not seem a year since I last wrote the Secretary's report for the Central Branch for 2005. Well here we are again, another successful year for our branch with a varied programme of events providing ringers with the opportunity to ring at several towers in the area.

Breaking news in November, if you will forgive the pun, and a bit out of synch, I have to report that our dear friend and leader, Brian AKA Ringing Master, Chairman etc etc etc ... broke his leg during a visit to a tower for a peal attempt. However, the peal came to an abrupt end after thirty minutes and while descending the tower Brian slipped and broke his lower leg. I can report that he was a patient patient and is now, as I write this report, well on his way to a full recovery. Won't be ringing peals for a while then Brian!

The AGM in January was again well attended and our thanks go to All Saints Pontefract for the service and superb tea followed by evening ringing at Knottingley.

The February branch ringing course was again well subscribed and provided a useful forum for our ringers to develop their skills.

The September outing to the Worcester area gave members the opportunity to ring on some fine bells, which included Claines, Worcester St Swithen's, All Saints, Worcester, Pershore Abbey (not for the faint-hearted) and the Pershore Parish Centre and the Evesham Bell Tower.

We have to report that, unfortunately, the majority of the 8 bell practices, re-instated at the request of branch members, have not been well attended and lacked the support of experienced 8 bell ringers. The branch committee have agreed to vary the 8 bell practice programme for 2007 and, that if no further interest and support is available they would be abandoned. Members will still have the opportunity for 8 bell ringing at the regular monthly meetings.

The branch website continues to be improved and updated by the Webmaster, John Earnshaw. This excellent facility promotes ringing activities within the branch, as well as giving useful information about all the towers. Please visit this site on www.YACRcentral.org.uk to find out more.

A fixture/meeting card will again be available for 2007 and include details of ringing and useful contacts. If you are not a Central Branch member and would like to receive a copy of our programme please see the website or contact me (details available above).

We were deeply saddened by the news of the death of Wilfrid Moreton MBE in November. Wilf was a past President of the Yorkshire Association, member of the Branch Committee, Central Council representative and Bell Advisor for the Diocese of Wakefield for many years. He worked tirelessly to teach and promote ringing both at Wakefield Cathedral and throughout the surrounding area. Wilf's legacy to the Branch - the annual ringing course, which he established nearly 30 years ago - has continued to be popular and valued by all those who have taken part. He will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know him.

Gillian Green
Joint Secretary, Central Branch