

## S&BDG TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT 2013-14

It is pleasing to be able to report that all the year's training courses have been well supported, with a good number of students and helpers at each training day. In all 30 ringers took part in the training programme, several attending more than one course.

A wide range of experience was catered for over the year. Getting into Change Ringing at Builth Wells was popular with the young ringers of the guild and some of them have since gone on to ring quarter peals. The Handbell Day at the Diocesan Centre in Brecon was most enjoyable and plans are being made to hold a similar day in Swansea.

The Surprise Minor Day at Llanfeugan was the best supported course, with 15 ringers attending, including some from neighbouring guilds. A wide variety of Surprise Minor and some Surprise Major methods were rung. It proved so popular that a follow-up day has been arranged for August. The last item on the training programme was the Plain Minor Day at Llanbedr, when students successfully tackled a number of methods that were new to them.

The practice of holding whole day courses with a pub lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions has gone well and the lunches add a welcome element of relaxation and sociability to these hard working occasions.

It has been a great pleasure this year to welcome to our training sessions ringers from neighbouring guilds both as helpers and students. In addition I was invited to lead a session at a training day of the Forest Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association. Guild members have also attended national courses at Hereford and at Bradfield as students and helpers. We all gain so much from this pooling of skills, experience and enthusiasm with ringers from other areas that I hope it can be developed further in future training activities.

I should like to record my thanks to the incumbents and tower captains who have allowed their towers to be used for training this year. Grateful thanks are also due to those who have come as helpers, several to most of the training days; their competence, patience, encouragement and good humour enabled the students to get the most out of a training day.

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and achievements. Every year I am impressed by their commitment to making progress. One mark of their success is that several who started as students have gone on to support the training courses as helpers.

Finally, next year's training programme is completed with all levels of experience catered for and I want to encourage those ringers who have not yet been on a training course to give it a try.

Kath Johnson (Training Officer)