

## Leominster District Outing The Forest of Dean

Having watched huge snowflakes driving sideways from north to south first thing in the morning, what followed was a glorious day of blue skies and sunshine and though cold, not a strong wind. We met at the first tower Bridstow, a light eight and the first outside our district for a young learner, then on to the six at Goodrich where one of our number having ascended the outside staircase, nearly knocked himself out on the low doorway into the small ringing room! Here we were joined by two experienced ringers who now live in mid Wales far from any bells. They were very welcome and joined in where needed at this and the eight at the next tower Ruardean. Here the bells felt heavier than they were, and it will be interesting to go back there after they have been rehung. An excellent lunch at the Royal Spring Inn at Lydbrook had been pre-ordered and was served quickly and efficiently enabling us to relax and have plenty of time to find the next tower, English Bicknor. We knew this was an anti-clockwise light six, the thought of which bothered some people, but all was well, helped by the mats with each bell's number as a reminder. The final tower was Newland, known as The Cathedral of the Forest and well worth a look inside before going back outside to climb the tower stairs. Here the six were the heaviest bells of the day but still lighter than back home at the Priory. An excellent day out enjoyed by us all. It was agreed that the towers were good, the ringing not bad and the area absolutely lovely. Many thanks to Sarah Chedgzoy for arranging it all.

