

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Over the past year we have held a bell maintenance course organised by Janet which was, as previously, well supported. It is quite clear that these courses are highly beneficial. In the long term regular maintenance of our bells and bell frames saves money on the more expensive works that would otherwise result.

We have also held courses on "Teaching Teachers". One was held when instructors from the Central Council ran the course with helpers recruited by Janet. There have also been Branch courses organised by the individual branches in particular by the Cary Branch who obtained Mike Winterbourne from the Central Council as Instructor.

During October we held a "Recruitment and Bell awareness week" across the Association. Over 150 events took place involving 131 towers. Publicity was obtained utilising Local Radio, Local Newspapers, (unfortunately the TV companies were not persuaded.) Local advertising via Church Magazines and billboards proved to be successful. Some events were more successful than others but it would appear that overall the campaign was productive with a good number of new recruits found and also ringers who had previously given up returned to the fold.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this event and in particular David Lingham who dealt with most of the administration and also obtained sponsorship of the week by the Ringing World and also Tom Longridge who spent a considerable amount of his time raising a Web site www.somersetringing.info, which was essentially for people who wished to know about ringing in Somerset, which also linked in with our own Web site.

The final results will not be known until all of the questionnaires are returned.

Lastly but not least I would also like to thank Janet for all the work she has done over the last 12 months.

DAVID PURNELL