

## **GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Association has seen another busy and interesting year, culminating in the Recruitment Week in October. It is still too early to assess the impact of this but it is anticipated that many towers will be better placed for the future. Other events are reported elsewhere in the report and indicate that the Association is very much alive and well. This is also illustrated in the lively discussions that have taken place via the website's Newslist.

Bell restoration has again been busy and projects at Heathfield, Martock, Porlock, Chedzoy and Congresbury have been completed. Our Association is very generous in allocating grants compared with other neighbouring ones and we are also fortunate in having a Tower Advisory Service that is effective and efficient.

The Master has mentioned the deaths of four Honorary Life Members, two of whom were General Secretaries of the Association long before the days of computers and the internet which supposedly make our life easier! Roger Fry was appointed General Secretary in 1953 and served until 1958 when he went to study for the ministry. George Massey was Peal Secretary from 1964 – 1972, then General Secretary from 1973 –1983. He was also a representative on the Central Council from 1972 - 2004 serving on the Towers and Belfries Committee and latterly on the Committee for Redundant Bells. George's memory will live on in the form of his book on the bells of Somerset, ably completed by David Bromwich and soon to be published.

Child protection has again caused a few headaches. Local bands need to work closely and co-operatively on this with their PCC, their Authorised Person for Child Protection, and their Incumbent, so that we can be seen to have the best practice that we can. Is it time for us to appoint a Child Protection Officer for the Association? You might like to consider this.

I felt very humble at the General Committee meeting when I was elected an honorary life member. I do enjoy the job (despite frequent moans to my fellow officers and saying I would never get involved in ringing politics again after years as a branch officer in Middlesex!) and hope to merit your confidence in me. I would like to thank all the officers and members for their support, not only of me but also of each other. Ringing is very much a team effort and we need one another.

JAY BUNYAN