

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The benefits of the Recruitment Week are slowly being seen and we must make every effort to maintain the momentum. Retaining our ringers is of vital importance and the Treasurer's survey of why people give up ringing made interesting reading. For some ringers, participation goes little further than their own tower whilst others are very active throughout their whole branch. We need both to keep the Association in a healthy state.

We are fortunate in having an excellent website and David Floyd should be congratulated on this. However it is only as accurate as the information received and I would urge you to notify him immediately of any changes to tower contacts, practice nights etc. as well as subscribing to the News List.

2011 saw the publication of the late George Massey's book "The Church Bells of Somerset". David Bromwich has done an excellent job in completing this and it is being very well received. Combined with the book's launch, the Association library was dedicated in its new location at St Mary's Bridgwater. We thank the PCC and ringers there for all their hard work in providing a new home for our extensive collection.

Bell restoration has again continued apace and work has been completed at Hutton, Long Ashton, Bishops Lydeard, Bathwick, Norton St Philip and Wrington. We need to keep such work high on the agenda for without bells in good order, there will be little ringing in the Diocese.

This year's Central Council meeting took place in Hereford and was one of the longest on record. Mike Hansford is now on the Publications Committee and Richard Newman just missed out on election to the ever popular Education Committee. The Council continues to do excellent work and it is encouraging to see that members of the Education Committee have delivered courses here this year.

There are lots of opportunities for more ringing in 2012 with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. In many cases ringing will form part of a wider activity and we should make sure that these opportunities are well used for promoting ringing and urging more to learn to ring.

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