

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the Archdeacon of Bath has pointed out, 2012 was a year for celebration in many areas and as ringers, we have certainly played our part. Ringing has received much publicity, from the great Olympic bell, ringing in the River Pageant to local events such as celebrating the passage of the Olympic flame. We need to capitalise on this publicity and also ensure that any press reporting is correct and seemly.

Some branches have experienced difficulty in finding officers this year. Each branch must elect Chairman, Secretary, Ringing Master and a representative on the General Committee - any further officers are optional and up to the branch to decide. The variety of branch officers emphasises the diversity of needs within such a large association. It has also been suggested that branch officers should hold their post for a maximum of three years in order to involve more people and to ensure the inflow of new ideas.

Unusually no restoration projects were completed in 2012 though several were nearing completion. There are major projects in the pipeline and we continue to spend well, and hopefully wisely, on our restorations.

Both the Treasurer and I frequently deal with queries on association procedure. Most of the answers can easily be found in the Association Rules printed in the Annual Report and available on the website. I would urge everyone, especially Branch officers, to look at these together with the Terms of Reference for the Bell Fund.

All five representatives attended the Central Council meeting in Chester over the Jubilee holiday weekend. The Ringing Foundation meeting was moved to the Sunday afternoon, which whilst ensuring that the actual Council meeting on Monday finished at a civilised time, left little time for the usual Sunday afternoon committee meetings.

There was an interesting presentation of the future of ringing and whilst I had expected more controversy, the motion on including peals rung with simulated sound went through quickly and quietly.

I would like to thank my fellow officers for their support during the past year and all our members for making this a successful association.

JAY BUNYAN