

TOWER ADVISER'S REPORT

Ten inspections and reports were carried out for PCCs compared with twenty-one in the previous reporting year. Roland Backhust and Bernard North are thanked for their continued assistance in undertaking their share of the site visits. Roland also continued to represent the Association on the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

John and Roland represented the Association at a meeting at Wookey, chaired by the Archdeacon, aimed at establishing a way forward to get the peal at Wookey ringing again in light of the problems found with the ancient frame foundations.

The ten inspections carried out were all initial visits, requested by PCCs prior to any work being undertaken. Recommendations for refurbishment work and rehangings were made at Pitney, Worle, Ilchester, Templecombe and Mudford. Maintenance work required was outlined at Bicknoller and Horsington. Significant work was recommended to be done at Whitestaunton and Chilton Cantelo before regular ringing should be recommenced. The plans for improving safety access for maintenance of the upper tier were supported at Winscombe and recommendations for required maintenance given.

The Tower Advisory Service section on the B&WDACR website has links giving suggestions for suitable reading material, and in particular I would recommend the booklet "Schedule of Regular Maintenance" as a good basic overview for those aspiring steeple keepers who wish to keep their bells in good order. Additionally most Branches have Bell Maintenance Contacts and they will happily share their experience and give advice locally.

John Hallett