

## TOWER ADVISER'S REPORT

The eighteen inspections and reports undertaken in the last Association year were allocated and carried out on a geographic basis by myself, Roland Backhurst and Bernard North, to whom I am grateful. Roland continues to represent the Association on the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Eleven of the inspections carried out were initial visits, requested by PCCs prior to any work being undertaken; the remaining seven being final inspections to confirm the completed work prior to Bell Fund grant money being released..

The eleven initial inspections carried out included specific recommendations for maintenance and refurbishment works at Clevedon St Andrew, North Cadbury, Backwell, Barton St David, Stoke Trister, Corton Denham, Croscombe and Evercreech. A rehang on modern bearing races and new fittings was recommended at Puckington. Support was given for the proposed bells project at the currently unringable Bath, Christ Church, where three 1952 Taylor bells from the Keltec Trust will form the back three in a ring of six, or possibly 8, tenor 13cwt. An assessment was carried out at Englishcombe where there is a local desire to restore the historic ring, which it is thought were last rung full circle in the 1890s.

The seven final inspections saw work completed at Crewkerne (refurbishment), Milborne Port (retuned and rehung), Worle (retuned and rehung), Timberscombe (3 to 8 rehung on metal headstocks), Winscombe (clappers refurbished and upper tier walkway installed) and East Brent (rebushed clappers and other improvements). Bicknoller have been augmented to six with the addition of a new treble from the Keltec Trust, ex High Wycombe.

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