

EAR AGM 2011 Chairman's Address

There are times when world events overtake the day to day trivia that usually fully occupy our minds. Recent events in Japan have, I am sure, touched all of us. Members from the region that attended the International Symposium last year in Osaka will have been affected even more. We can only hope and pray that friends made there are all safe and well.

At the first AGM attended I vividly remember a Chairman pleading with the assembled members to tell the committee what they wanted. I also remember thinking "you should be leading this and therefore should know! "

It is somewhat ironic that I should be informing you that, at the next committee meeting, we will be discussing the results of the questionnaire sent out to give us just this information! Any team or individual that has not completed one, it is not too late, they are available online (and here?)

Your committee is ambitious. Our website announces we comprise of 75 teams. Today we have 14 taking part. Are we supporting the other 82%?

With the cost of travelling continuing to increase we are acutely aware that it is not practicable for members to routinely travel the length of our area to attend functions. We may have to consider arranging or supporting more localised events.

I am extremely encouraged by the number of ringers attending today. Susan was not sure if it is a record, but it is as high as she can remember. I imagine you are as keen as I am to experience the first playing of our commissioned piece "Celestial Charm". From my own experience of attempting it I cannot wait for John Thompson to whip me into shape.

The Frank Tomlin Bells have paid dividends this year. If they could produce a new team every year I would be delighted. I would like to welcome Horringer and Ickworth W.I. to our fold. It was encouraging to see the two members, that returned the bells, stay for a regional team rehearsal. I know they enjoyed it and I hope they learned some things to take back to the group. I wonder if other members might like to attend future rehearsals.

Like any organisation, we have had highs and low this year. Susan's report will give details of what we have achieved. However we remain a very active region having members attending all National events while still supporting the "grass root" local teams.

I hope you have all enjoyed your ringing wherever it has been, with however many bells you have. I like you look forward to another year - playing the old pieces better, playing new pieces, meeting with old friends and making new ones.

In closing I would like to thank the committee for their continued hard work, making my position such a pleasurable one.

I ask you to accept my report for the past year.