

## **Tower Maintenance Award Scheme**

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Because of Covid and the effects of lockdown, there was little desire, need or ability for bands to do any work on their bells and therefore to have them inspected. So during the first lockdown the T & B committee decided that the renewal date for all awards due for renewal in 2020 would be extended for a year.

Since the last report in 2020 the activity in the Tower Maintenance Award Scheme has been minimal, with only one tower, South Leigh, having an inspection and achieving a Gold award. Congratulations to them.

Obviously, because of the pandemic, and despite the extension, the number of current awards has dropped considerably, from seventeen at the time of the last report to five now. We hope that as the restrictions ease and tower activity increases, towers will look to renew their awards. The number of towers participating or expressing an interest is ninety-three, which is about twenty-one per cent of the four hundred and forty towers listed in the annual report last year. There have now been one hundred and sixty-seven inspections (of which twenty-six were preliminaries), resulting in one hundred and twenty-one awards (ninety-four Gold, twenty-eight Silver, and fifteen Bronze).

The number of expired awards has risen, again because of the pandemic, and the T & B committee will try to contact the expired towers with the aim of persuading them to renew their awards. Since the last report one tower (South Leigh) has converted an expired Silver award to a Gold, so congratulations to them.

Again because of the pandemic, the number of Branches having a tower in the “current awards” list is now only five out of the fifteen Guild Branches, with Banbury having gained the predominant position. The placings are as follows: -

Banbury	2	(Gold)
EBSB	1	(Gold)
Reading	1	(Gold)
South Oxon	1	(Gold)
Witney & Woodstock	1	(Gold)

### **Current Tower Maintenance Scheme Awards**

#### Gold Award

Thame (St Mary)	South Oxon	Expires 31.10.21
Chalfont St Peter	EBSB	Expires 30.11.21
Stratfield Mortimer (St John)	Reading	Expires 30.11.21
Wardington	Banbury	Expires 31.12.21
Adderbury (St Mary)	Banbury	Expires 31.12.21
South Leigh	W&W	Expires 26.5.23

There are no current Silver or Bronze awards

**The above results reflect the situation as at the 12<sup>th</sup> October and because of the effects of the pandemic (hopefully temporary), the list of expired towers has been omitted for the time being.**

John Davidge  
T&B Committee