

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS



NEWSLETTER 2003



Linda Garton and Simon Davies on the SRCY stand at the 2003 Roadshow

We hope you enjoy reading this SRCY Newsletter which includes reports of the events that took place during 2003 and details of the program for 2004.

The Society relies on the support of its members so please do join in whenever you can – we look forward to welcoming you to any of our regular Wednesday evening practices and at other events during the forthcoming year.

Details of all practices and events can be found in the Ringing World and on our web page – www.srcy.org.uk

Please don't forget to fill in the newsletter reply sheet and let us know what you think. Donations towards the cost of producing the newsletter or towards the work at Shoreditch will be very gratefully received.

Are you a taxpayer?

When you send a donation for Shoreditch, if you are a tax payer, please complete and return the gift aid form. That way the BRF will benefit from additional income.

Do you receive the monthly email news update?

If not and you would like this useful way of being kept informed send your email address to the secretary at srcy.sec@ntlworld.com and she will add you to the list.

Audited accounts?

Would you like a copy of the audited accounts for 2002- 2003? These can be provided either by email or snail mail. Please contact the secretary for a copy.

SRCY DIARY 2004

7th January	Meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields
7th February	Not The Dinner Day
13th March	Country Meeting in South Northamptonshire
5th May	Meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields
10th July	Country Meeting in the Ledbury area
2nd October	General Meeting and AGM in London followed by evening social
20/21st November	Peal Weekend

Make a note in your diary NOW!

New members

The Society welcomed 22 new members who were elected Society between January and October 2003:

Katherine Downs	Lynn Kodrich
Danielle Morse	Jonathan Stevens
Alexander Taft	Lee Pinnington
Philip Waterfield	Philip Tanner
Rowena Gay	Matthew Brown
Emily Heilker	Andrew Sparling
Stephen Beckingham	Simon Holden
Janet Yeo	Anne Brechin
Colin Chapman	Vicki Chapman
Janet Coles	John Danaher
Katherine Eagle	Mary Garner

Losses of members

The following have died during the year and have been remembered at a meeting:-

Brenda Chatfield of Canterbury elected 27 September 1947
Hilda Snowden of Halstead Essex elected 30 December 1933
Gordon Limmer of Burnham elected 11th November 1933
Ivy Rhoda Housden of Banstead Surrey elected 2nd July 1938.
Norah Randles of Gresford, North Wales, elected 11 April 1970
Eric Critchley of Wellingborough, Northants elected 13 March 1999
David Cox of Ashted elected 4th October 1997
Reg Reed of Winchester elected 22nd January 1938
Walter Dobbie of Maidstone elected 2nd February 1946

Where are they now?

Please help us find up-to-date addresses for these members. Thank you to those who helped last time.

William Allsopp	Christine Andrew	Colin Andrews	Stephen Bailey
Terence Barnard	Annette Bradbury	Susan Cole	Christine Dringer
Jacqueline Harrison	Lance Hewson	Alison Hill	Susan Houghton
M Pearse	Anna Piechna	Maureen Popple	Ian Robinson
Peter Storey	Valerie Williams	Angela Wright	

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Officers' Report 2002-2003

The Society continues to be active and successful. Membership has increased steadily, especially overseas members and practices and meetings have been well supported. Attendance at social events has shown that the society is active in London and also further afield. This year has also seen work on the bells at Shoreditch completed and the focus is now to improve the acoustics to provide a first class ring of bells.

Practices and Meetings

London Meetings

Regular weekly practices were held in London. The highest attended practice was 32 members at St Martin's on 7th May and the lowest attended practice was on 16 October at Shoreditch with 12 members present. 83 members attended London Wednesday night practices throughout the year, many of whom travelled long distances to ring. Methods rung at practices ranged from Stedman & Grandsire through to Spliced Surprise Maximus including Rigel & Orion.

Northern Practices

Jennie Town reports that they have held a very successful practice at Newcastle and 3 practices at Stockton. They have introduced Ariel to the practices and successfully pealed both Ariel and Orion with a "north meets south" band in June. They were invited to join the Ripon ringers at their practice in August, and while very few visitors came along, the locals really appreciated the opportunity to ring more than they could usually attempt.

Midlands Practices / Quarter peals

Mick Angrave reports that only two practices were arranged due to difficulties in finding suitable dates. The second practice resulted in a quarter peal of Bristol Major.

Visitors are always very welcome at any of the Society's practices.

Five business meetings were held during the year – the A.G.M. in October and four other General Meetings. Meetings were held in London in January and May and Country Meetings were held in Essex in March and Derby in July. Six peals were scored in towers in Suffolk and Essex while open ringing was centred around Kirby-le-Soken. Following the meeting, a very enjoyable social evening was held with drinks available from the pub opposite. The July country meeting was preceded by a number of peal attempts on the Thursday and Friday before everyone congregated on the Friday evening at the Bridge Inn in Derby. Peals and general ringing followed on Saturday morning followed by the meeting in Belper Church. In the evening a ceilidh was held in St Nicholas church hall in Allestree with a supper of jacket potatoes and salads to help soak up the excellent beer provided.

The Society is extremely grateful to everyone who helped organise all of these events.

Other Events

The Anniversary Dinner, held at the Crypt in St Martin-in-the-Fields on September 7th 2002 was enjoyed by over 40 members and friends.

Peal weekend took place as usual on the third weekend in November. In total 36 attempts were arranged, of which 29 were successful. Our thanks go to all the organisers of the peals during the weekend and to John Barnes for his patience and commitment to this fixture.

Not the Dinner Day in February followed the usual format with 5 peals being rung during the day and an excellent curry in the evening.

The Society entered a band for the National 12 bell striking competition and after successfully competing in the eliminator at Melbourne were placed third in the final at Surfleet in June.

Roadshow

The Society took a stand at the roadshow held in Lincoln on 26th July. This was an excellent day and well over 300 people visited the stand. Drinks, a quiz to encourage people to look at the exhibits and badges advertising that "I have visited the SRCY stand" meant that a constant stream of people were attracted to find out more about the society. The Society is grateful to Linda Garton and George Brown for all their hard work on this project.

Peal Ringing

235 peals were rung during the year and 1 peal was rung in 2001/2 and reported during the current year.

A number of members have reached significant milestones during the year :-

Alan Regin, Dorothea Mayne, Roger and Kath Baldwin on ringing their 3000th peal

Nicola Turner on ringing her 2000th peal

Simon Davies on ringing his 1000th peal for the Cumberlands and his 1000th different tower for a peal

Linda Garton, Ian Fielding and Frank Rivett on ringing their 1500th peal

Claire Edwards, Andrew Sibson, Ben Duke and Richard Pearce on ringing their 1000th peal.

Derek Sibson on 1000th as conductor for the Society

Other notable achievements during the year were

Peals to celebrate the anniversary of the first (and only peal) of Cumberland Bob Major, 1 in hand and 7 tower bell peals

Ladies peal of Hortons 4 conducted by Cath Merlane

Peals were rung to celebrate 50 years of membership for Shelagh Melville, Tom and Margaret Goodyer

New Members

20 new members were elected to the Society during the year. We welcome them.

Sunday Service Ringing

We are grateful to all members who support the Society's Sunday service ringing.

A number of members are part of the local band at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and ring regularly on Sunday mornings.

On 2nd July a special meeting was held to consider the provision of Sunday Service Ringing at Shoreditch. With people moving out of London and the change of the time of the service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, the logistics of providing ringers has become increasingly difficult. It was agreed that the Officers would arrange ringing on one Sunday a month in the months when Derek Sibson was not arranging peals. The position to be reviewed in the May meeting. The officers would also look for someone willing to act as organiser for Shoreditch Sunday Service ringing. The Society is grateful to Derek Sibson for the organising of his peal bands to cover this commitment.

Towers

Regular Society practices continue to be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, usually on the first Wednesday of each month and we have returned to Shoreditch on a regular basis for practices after a break between November and July when the work on the bells was in progress,

The steps at Shoreditch have now been renovated all the way up to the ringing chamber.

The restoration work at Spitalfields Church continues. The bells are currently out of action and are likely to remain so until 2004.

Though, since it is a Guild Church, there are usually no Sunday services at St Andrews, Holborn, the Society is from time to time asked to provide ringing for weekday occasions.

Newsletter

This year the newsletter has again been published on the website as well as being sent out to every member. Some members received the newsletter via email (by request).

Christmas Cards and OLP prints

Due to a financial contribution from the family of the original artist, a small reprint of the prints was done. Christmas Cards were also sold with proceeds going towards the Bell Restoration Fund (shared by the College Youths). Income during the year for cards and prints amounted to £1,126.00. The Society would like to acknowledge the work done by Alan Regin and David Hilling on this project.

Library

The process of transferring many of the Society's oldest documents to the London Guildhall Library has continued throughout 2002/03. At the time of writing the Society has 11 documents on indefinite loan at this location. This includes:

- Three Name Books covering the period 1747 – 1999
- The 1747–1828 Peal Book and the 250th Anniversary Year Peal Book
- Four Minute Books covering the period 1887-1989 (with the exception of years 1899-1901)

Repair work to these documents has taken place where necessary, and scanned copies of several of these items have been produced by Derek Sibson to be placed in the ringing room at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The copy peal books are in the process of being transferred to the Master's house until such time as a permanent home that guarantees safe secure storage and access when required is found.

No items have been borrowed; 2 items have been added; 1 outstanding item has been returned. Details of items held in the library can be found on the website.

This is the last report that will be filed by pasting into a book. From the next meeting, minutes will be stored to be bound on a regular basis.

Society Property

We thank the trustees for ensuring the safety of the Society's property.

Ian Fielding, Shirley McGill, Philippa Whittington, James Belshaw, Fiona Edwards, Jo Fielding, Penny Sharpe

Peal board at Grace Church, Charleston

The peal board in the photograph was made to record the second peal on the new bells at St Mary's Enfield. You may know that the old bells, they were quite a tough ring in fact, were removed and shipped to Charleston South Carolina where they are now hung in the new tower of Grace Church - they go very well indeed here and have subsequently been augmented to 10. No prizes for guessing why the method was chosen!

The transfer of the bells resulted from an enormous amount of work undertaken by Dan Beaman, a member of this Society, and we were very pleased to be able to add the footnote recording his great work.

The board now hangs in the belfry following its dedication at the morning service at St Mary's on Sunday 27th July 2003. The board was made by Maggie Willans from Bath and we are very grateful for her skill and craftsmanship in making it.

Alan Regin



CONGRATULATIONS

65 years membership

A.J.N. Rance elected 22.1.38
Philip H. Toccock elected 2.5.38

60 years membership

John V. Davis elected 23.3.43
Dennis L. Hall elected 4.9.43

50 years membership

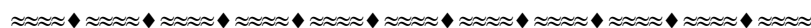
Warwick K. Mundy elected 21.6.53
George F. Roome elected 17.1.53
Monica Martin elected 17.1.53
Shelagh Melville elected 17.1.53
Geoffrey Paul elected 3.3.53
Shirley V. Rymer elected 19.3.53
Joan Summerhayes elected 19.3.53
John S. Barnes elected 28.3.53

John R. Worsdall elected 28.3.53
Donald R. Bartholomew elected 4.7.53
Sheila Dobbie elected 4.7.53
Hilda Massey elected 4.7.53
Margaret Goodyer elected 4.7.53
Thomas Goodyer elected 9.9.53
Gerald Frost elected 21.11.53
Bernard C. Sadler elected 21.11.53

25 Years Membership

Geoffrey T. Horritt elected 21.1.78
Rosemary J.E. Campbell elected 21.1.78
Celia M. Till elected 21.1.78
Peter W. Emery elected 21.1.78
Nicholas J. Fulford, elected 21.1.78
Stephanie J. Pattenden elected 21.1.78
Linda M. Baggott elected 21.1.78
Peter G. Neville elected 21.1.78
Richard J. Clements elected 21.1.78
Graham A Cane elected 21.1.78
Christopher J. Gill elected 21.1.78
Peter W. Harper elected 21.1.78
Jane H. Harper elected 21.1.78
Heather L.E. Peachey elected 21.1.78
Julian R. Lees elected 21.1.78
Nicholas C. Tithecott elected 21.1.78
Heather Kippin elected 21.1.78
Helen Diserens elected 21.1.78
Jill M. Hansford elected 21.1.78
Sandra Rhodes elected 21.1.78
Claire Y. Barlow elected 22.4.78
Sylvia J. Kendrick elected 22.4.78
Julian Morgan elected 22.4.78
Susan Record elected 22.4.78
Christine M. Webb elected 22.4.78

Susan C. Haslam elected 22.4.78
Christine A. Knight elected 22.4.78
Janet Barter elected 22.4.78
Margaret Anderson elected 22.4.78
Michael A. Baldry elected 22.4.78
Stephen J. Bedford elected 22.4.78
David E. Culham elected 22.4.78
Richard A. Knight elected 22.4.78
Janice R. Baldry elected 22.4.78
Simon A. Rudd elected 22.4.78
Philip Ramsbottom elected 22.4.78
Carol Franklin elected 22.4.78
Elizabeth A. Hibbert elected 22.4.78
Diana M. Bridle elected 22.4.78
Elizabeth Coke elected 22.4.78
Anne S. Pratt elected 22.4.78
Michael J. Platt elected 22.4.78
David R. Smith elected 22.4.78
Alan M. Trebble elected 22.4.78
Brian E. Whiting elected 22.4.78
Amanda M. Richmond elected 22.4.78
Michael E. Brown elected 5.7.78
Kathleen M. Brown elected 5.7.78
Jillian Wright, elected 5.7.78



The National 12-Bell Final 2003 – Surfleet.

The Band

(Pictured clockwise from bottom right)

1. Linda Garton
2. Shirley McGill
3. Paul Cammiade
4. Carole Hurst
5. Jim Belshaw
6. Ian Fielding
7. Russell Brown
8. Doug Beaumont
9. John Loveless
10. Frank Rivett
11. Alan Regin
12. Lloyd Cartwright



The SRCY came a creditable 3rd at this year's 12 bell competition held at Surfleet in June. Having rung well at Melbourne to qualify we felt that we had a good chance to do well.

We all assembled for the draw. This certainly didn't go according to the desired game plan (3rd or 4th, ring - then drink for the remainder of the day). We were first out the hat and therefore first to ring. Once the draw was over we rushed over to the church to commence proceedings. We had a good confident practice but unfortunately the nerves began to appear and although we rang reasonably well we didn't achieve our full potential. This didn't dampen our mood for long and we were soon over the river and into the refreshment tent where the fun part of the day began.

The standard of the ringing was high and picking the winning piece was not easy - the word on the street seemed to be the ASCY or Birmingham. The results confirmed this with ASCY a very close 2nd to Birmingham with SRCY not far behind in 3rd place. The drinking then carried on with 2 live bands playing in the tent and a game of football on the lawn outside.

On a personal note I would like to thank the band for all the time and effort they put in. Their support certainly made organising the band and practices much easier - travelling up to Surfleet for a practice the week before is a good indication of the level of commitment within the band to do well. Thanks also to all the SRCY members who came along to support us on the day or help out with the practices for the competition.

Penny Sharpe and Jo Dorling (with friend) listen to the ringing in Surfleet churchyard



Here's to an SRCY win at Bow next year !!

Country Meetings

This year we held two very successful country meetings, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped organise these events. We also held an extremely successful dinner in Cambridge.

The Spring Country Meeting in Essex - March 8th 2003

An early start was required to get to Ipswich in time for (breakfast and) the 9:30 meet at St Mary-le-Tower. Everyone had assembled on time, and with the ringing chamber clock-face covered, we rang a good peal of Stedman Cinques on this enjoyable 12. Meanwhile, other peals were scored at Chelmsford, Terling, Colchester (St. Peter), Ardleigh, Tendring and Witham.

This conveniently meant it was now lunchtime. The band made haste to a local hostelry to catch-up with one another, drink and eat. Your correspondent did not go hungry, although pudding is never ideal with beer.....

Suitably recharged we drove down to Kirby-le-Soken, where many others had already gathered and were partaking of general ringing, following their morning peals or general ringing.

Then there was a meeting, which passed uneventfully, with 71 people in attendance.

Happily we could then cross the road to the conveniently positioned local hostelry. A good place with log fires, which served beer! The air was full of ringing talk and even some gossip ('no!'). Having worked up quite an appetite, your correspondent was relieved when the message arrived that it was back over to the hall for fish and chips.

Excellent portions meant that sitting near young ladies ensured lots of seconds. Puddings also appeared (with squirry cream!). Frequent trips to and from the pub were keeping people's thirsts at bay and a jolly good time was had by all.

Thanks to those who organised the day

Simon Holden

July Country Meeting (Derbyshire) - a personal experience

Why is it that even when there is several months notice for a weekend away, some people leave it to the final 2 weeks to book their overnight accommodation? That's what Donald did and almost paid the price! After spending several lunchtimes scouring the internet for accommodation details, followed by numerous telephone calls to completely full establishments, things were becoming a bit desperate. Fortunately a room was finally secured at what turned out to be a very high specification, welcoming and reasonably priced Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast on the outskirts of Ripley.

The Friday afternoon trip from Exeter to Derbyshire was embarked upon with a certain degree of trepidation in the anticipation of getting stuck in traffic around either Bristol or Birmingham (or even both). Bristol was passed with no problems at all and, following a strategic pit stop to be fed and watered, the roadworks on the M42 were breezed through. Four hours from Exeter to Derbyshire including the break time was a definite result.

A good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast saw us ready for anything, or at least a peal of Superlative at Ripley. Plenty of time was allowed for the short trip into Ripley in order to find suitable parking and to locate the church. Good job really as all the car parks that we could find signposts to had a maximum stay of 2 hours, not really enough time even for a nutter like Donald to get a 16cwt tenor round in. After a few car parks had been found and rejected suitable on-street parking was located. As we approached the church gates what should we see on the perimeter wall but a sign towards a long stay car park!

Janet had secured the loan of an electric fan from her work in order to improve the environment in the Ringing Chamber but of course it was left to Donald to feel a bit of a prat carrying it between car and tower. On arrival at the church we discovered that another member of the band had brought, not just another fan, but also a twin socket extension lead. Having drawn the spare cable off the reel and fed it down the stairs to get rid of the excess, we managed to set the fans up in the middle of the chamber so that everyone would gain benefit and no-one was likely to loop their rope around either of them.

The peal at Ripley, a regular 3 part 5184 by Brian Price, saw the first part rung at a steady pace to give the band a chance to get used to the bells and gel together followed by 2 parts where the bells were pushed on a bit to produce the best ringing of the peal. Everyone seemed to be well satisfied with their efforts and especially grateful for the provision of the fans.

Our plan was to forego most of the afternoon ringing so that we could get some lunch and also return to the B&B to shower and change. On early arrival at Belper we were stood listening to wedding ringing that preceded the meeting ringing when another couple of ringers from the Ripley band arrived. One of them asked Donald "Were you in a peal this morning?" to which the reply "Yes, I called the peal that you were in" could not be resisted.

After a quick ring of Stedman Triples at Belper, we made a sharp exit from the Ringing Chamber in order to make room for the masses that were arriving. This also enabled us to grab a cup of tea and enjoy the wonderful array of cakes laid out in the church below.

After a very relaxing refreshment period it was then into the main body of the church for the business meeting. The meeting progressed quickly and smoothly with no matters causing undue argument or controversy. One and a half hours later we emerged into the early evening sunshine for socialising prior to moving on to the evening event in Derby

St Nicholas Church Hall proved to be an ideal venue for the evening Barn Dance. A good sized hall with doors opening onto a large grassed area meant that most people could enjoy the fine weather and reduce the risk of excessive exercise on the dance floor. Music was provided by a band called Jiggery Pokery, alcoholic refreshment was laid on by the locals, sustenance arrived in the form of a jacket potato van whilst more than enough entertainment could be derived by watching the ringing gods trying (and failing) to make a square dance look as easy as Orion Surprise Maximus.



Jake, Linda, JJ, Cath and Derek deep in conversation while Ron Warford skips the light fantastic!



By the end of the evening it was clear that the challenge of following the hugely successful 2002 event in North Somerset had certainly been met. Congratulations must go to Anthony & Lizzie Cotton and their team of helpers for all the hard work they had put in.

(Pictures by Anthony Cotton)

Donald Carter and Janet Coles

Cumberlands in Cambridge

Friday evening Got to The Castle to be greeted by a heaving mass of non-ringers. How dare they! Don't they know the Cumberlands are in town and that there's an historic event unfolding before their very eyes? The Society's anniversary dinner is, for the first time, being held out of London though the journey doesn't seem to have stopped the usual suspects attending in droves.

Saturday morning Has Martin Bright been caught in a heavy shower, I ask myself, seeing him wander, oblivious, past those of us waiting for general ringing to begin. Silly me. He's just finished a peal at The Catholic and is, literally, (w)ringing wet.

Saturday afternoon General ringing at Great St. Mary's, St. Bene't's (where Mike Wigney loops the loop in his wheelchair with all the aplomb of a trapeze artist) and St. Andrew's manages to keep us out of the pub for a while but it all merged seamlessly into the

Saturday evening dinner at Selwyn College. Bill, the catering manager, was delighted about the 6.30pm start because he thought that meant he'd get home early. Well, I suppose 4am IS early but I'm not sure it's quite what he had in mind. The speeches were good (thanks to Ian Roulstone, Jane Wilkinson, Mike Mears and The Master) but sadly the microphone wasn't. Odd comments came through loud and clear though: Jake's ETA for most peals being 2004; Alan Regin's frustrations; and 'Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother again....' What on earth was THAT all about? Fortunately the handbell touch didn't require amplification and sounded great in the panelled dining room. I'm not sure whether the free bar at the end of the meal was designed to counter the usual Cumberland Orange Juice jokes. If it was, it worked, but for a significant number of revellers even this wasn't enough so we adjourned next door to the Music School for an impromptu concert and lock-in. Simon Holden's subsequent 10-minute attempt to cross a (very small) road will be long-remembered.

Sunday morning Cambridge is good at ringing dinners, having had hundreds of years of experience, but this was a good one even by the University Guild's standards. The really hard work was done by Philippa (again) and I, for one, am delighted that the Society has had the courage to break with tradition in this way. Given the size of the contingent from Yorkshire, perhaps they'd like to do the next one? If so, Cambridge will donate a special bottle of wine to David who clearly couldn't quite get enough....

George Brown
Cambridge

Northern Practices

Last year's report ended with the very successful practice at Newcastle Cathedral, which was November 2002, so this report does not cover a full year. We have had a much quieter year in 2003, with one practice where we met so short we rang a quarter peal of London S Royal (called by that honorary Northern Cumberland, Chris Kippin), and another at Ripon which turned into more of a practice for the locals with Cumberland support. Having said this, there is still a lot of interest in the practices, but timings are getting very tricky, fitting around other northern events.

In December we dispensed with the ringing and went for a meal at Joe Rigatoni's in Darlington. The food and company were excellent and the time seemed to fly past.

We have held two well-attended practices at Stockton, and have introduced Ariel instead of Orion for a change. The second of these practices was the one featured in the Ringing World, where Chris Kippin travelled from Leicester to Blackpool via Stockton. This was also the practice where the writer had damaged her arm so badly in a fall in her living room that she was totally unable to ring. Her protests that she was sober at the time were not universally believed! It was after this practice that we took a photo for the Road show stand.

The year finished, as last year, with a practice at Newcastle, where the standard was very pleasing and we rang Ariel and Bristol, although perhaps we tried rather too many leads of Ariel on the second attempt!

As a side-line we had another “north meets south” peal weekend in July where we rang another peal of Orion and had a change on the Sunday, ringing Ariel instead. This now appears to be a regular fixture and I hope to include more northern Cumberlands in future attempts.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. I think the northern representation at the excellent Dinner in Cambridge shows how active we are and how the SRCY has strong support far beyond the bounds of Greater London.

Jennie Town

Cumberland Bob Major

On Saturday May 12th 1753 eight members of the Cumberland Youths met at Shoreditch to attempt a peal of Cumberland Bob Major, a method composed by the conductor of the peal (and in fact the conductor of all but one Cumberland Youths' peal to that date) George Partrick. They were successful and the detail of that peal is as follows:

Shoreditch, St Leonard
5040 Cumberland Bob in 3 hours and 36 minutes
Treble Isaiah Bray
2 Francis Wood
3 William Lister
4 Samuel Wood
5 John Purlewent
6 George Partrick
7 William Mathiss
Tenor Samuel Debart

The first lead of the method is shown in the peal book and the place notation is as follows:
-18-16-58-18-18-18-18-12.

As you can see, it is an asymmetric method similar to Eastern Bob which was rung by the Eastern Scholars at Shoreditch a short time before the Cumberland Bob was rung.

One interesting thing was that the method could not be found in any Central Council list but I am glad to say that has now been put right!

A number of members came together to celebrate the 250th anniversary on or around the anniversary date and eight peals were successful. These were rung at Fairwarp, Grundisburgh, Grayshott, Shoreditch, St Martin le Grand York, St Andrews Holborn, Aldgate and a handbell peal in Maidenhead. More recently one was rung at Turramurra, New South Wales. The handbell peal was certainly the first in the method on handbells!

Apart from the list, there were also unsuccessful attempts at Great Hampton and at Belper and the attempt planned for Pinhoe was cancelled at short notice due to the indisposition of one of the band.

Don Morrison kindly provided a number of compositions and these were widely rung on the day. Additionally, Stephen Pettman came up with a 5250 which was rung at Grundisburgh. The Turramurra peal mentioned was also an unusual length, 5050. More about that can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A very big thank you to all those that arranged the peals and to all of those who took part.

Alan Regin

SRCY USA Tour 2002

This was our first experience of a SRCY tour arranged by Alan. We were kept very well informed up to the start of our great adventure and in less than no time it was departure day. Wednesday 27th November saw us at Gatwick South Terminal where we were to meet Cath Merlane. Advised by a cleaning lady that people were usually picked up in "the tunnel" we made our way down to the bowels of the airport. This did not seem right as we were confronted by police cars with sirens blaring, Out of them several policemen, armed with machine guns suddenly emerged. Returning to the departure lounge, we eventually met up with our host for the tour, thinking things could surely only get better.

Next morning we knew we were in the right place because we met up with several of the party and boarded the plane for Atlanta. Whilst on board we had plenty of time to digest the information given us by Alan in the Tour Schedule. If we thought this morning had been an early start we were aghast to discover that on Wednesday 4th December we would be leaving Houston at 04:00. We then checked that Alan was using the 24 hour clock as we didn't think that 4 in the morning existed!

Arriving in Atlanta, we took a connecting flight to Miami. Here we only had time to reach our hotel and have a meal before retiring. The next morning the peal band rang at the Cathedral and then it was back to the vehicles for a swift return to the airport and on to Houston.

Although we spent five nights here, the schedule was quite demanding with two peals each day, one at each tower; apart from Sunday when service ringing in the morning only left time for one peal in the afternoon. We were, however, privileged to ring the first peal on the new bells at St. Paul's Church, a peal which included two local Houston ringers.

The dreaded 04:00 start arrived and a bleary eyed group of ringers flew via Dallas to Little Rock and a peal at the Cathedral. Ron and I, not being involved in the peal, set off to explore the area. The sidewalk was difficult to negotiate and at one point degenerated into thick red quicksand in which I left my shoe. Ron, being a perfect gentleman, managed to retrieve it but was then covered in red mud.

From here we drove to Texarkana where we were met by the local ringers who had arranged accommodation for us and provided us with a welcome repast before the next peal attempt. After the peal we went to Remica's house where we celebrated Paul Curtis's very significant birthday before being taken to our respective accommodation. Ron and I stayed with Martha Nell & Mark Richards. Mark was the personification of a typical Texan male, complete with very large hat!

On Friday we had another early start and travelled to Charleston via Little Rock where another peal was rung. I was particularly looking forward to this part of the trip, having heard so much about Charleston and having met the ringers when they visited England. Ron had said the weather would be very warm and advised against packing a sweater. He was wrong as they were having their coldest spell of weather on record for that time of year. One of the locals even went so far as to suggest he bought me a mink coat. The response cannot be printed here. Despite the weather, we had a very warm welcome from the local ringers and enjoyed the old world charm of this lovely city.

After four days in Charleston we drove to Hendersonville which was reported as being even colder. Although we only had one day here the town made a lasting impression. The main street had some truly amazing shops: one, Mast General, sold everything from a clothes peg to a suede coat and the barrels of old fashioned sweets had to be seen to be believed. The assistants were very friendly and enquired as to our reason for being in Hendersonville. When I said we were bell-ringers they asked if we were being paid to come and ring. They were astounded that we should travel so far to ring their bells.

Later the same day we drove to Marietta, meeting at the church from where we were taken to the homes of our hosts for the next few days. We stayed with Chris & Cathy Brown whose son Matt was to ring his first peal of Superlative with the band during our stay. The next four days followed a pattern with peals at Marietta in the morning and afternoons in Atlanta. Another first peal at Marietta provided one of the memorable comments of the tour for me, when Haley Barnett, who had just rung her first peal of

Cambridge Surprise Major and knowing I was nervous about ringing with the band that afternoon, said "Don't worry: they'll tell you where to go"!

Other memories of our time in Marietta include the freight trains, hundreds of trucks pulled by one or more diesel units which ran all day and all night and which because of the un-protected crossings were continually blowing their horns, and the magnificent Christmas displays outside almost every house.

Overall, it was a special experience for us. The enthusiasm and hospitality of the Americans was overwhelming. The organisation, both before leaving England and during the tour, was excellent. Thirty-one peals were rung, 9 involving local ringers, 3 quarter peals, all including local ringers, 11 practice sessions with local ringers in Miami, Houston, Texarkana, Charleston, Stella Maris, Hendersonville, Marietta and Atlanta and 8 service ringing sessions with local ringers. It remains an unforgettable time with happy memories of people and places visited but also one which Ron light-heartedly suggests should come with a government health warning. Thanks must go to Alan for a brilliant piece of organisation and to all the band for their camaraderie and support. They are wonderful ambassadors for the exercise of ringing.

Yvonne Cairns

From the Peal Books

250 YEARS AGO

01/01/1754	St Leonard's Shoreditch	6160	Bob Major Double	4hrs 20	George Partrick
28/01/1754	All Saints West Ham	6012	Grandsire Caters	4hrs 9	George Partrick
07/02/1754	St Mary's Barking	5040	Plain Bob Major	3hrs 5	George Partrick
21/02/1754	All Saints West Ham	5076	Grandsire Caters	3hrs 24	Joseph Prior
12/10/1754	St Leonard's Shoreditch	5040	Grandsire Triples	3hrs 25	George Partrick

A good year for the Society which had just rung three peals in 1753. The first was the longest length the Society had rung to date, being the 18th peal for the Society. The 2nd peal at West Ham is interesting in that Joseph Prior was only the third conductor of a Society peal. He had rung in the earlier peal there and I guess had watched the regular conductor, George Partrick in action!

200 YEARS AGO

05/03/1804	Christ Church Spitalfields	5170	Grandsire Cinques	4hrs 4	George Gross
14/04/1804	Christ Church Spitalfields	7104	Oxford TB Maximus	5hrs 40	George Gross
13/06/1804	Chelmsford, Essex	5024	Oxford TB Major	3hrs 32	George Gross
17/11/1804	St Leonard's Shoreditch	5039	Grandsire Caters	3hrs 35	George Gross

The Society got 1804 off to a fine start with the first ever peal rung on the 12 bells at Spitalfields. (They had rung the first on the 10 in 1787) They followed this up quite quickly with a long peal of Oxford TB Maximus, Given that the tenor here weighed over 40cwt, this was certainly a wonderful achievement. James Marlton rang the tenor for the Maximus. In fact, the footnote claims it to be the longest peal on 12 bells at that time.

100 YEARS AGO

27/01/1904	St Mary's Speldhurst	5024	Plain Bob Major	3hrs 1	Thomas Card
20/02/1904	St John Bapt Peshurst	5056	Kent TB Major	3hrs 8	Thomas Card
27/02/1904	St Margaret's Westminster	5000	Kent TB Royal	3hrs 25	John H Cheeseman

16/04/1904	St Peters Walworth	5088 Double Norwich CB Major	2hrs 53	Edgar Wightman
21/04/1904	St Anne's Highgate	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	2hrs 54	Edgar Wightman
07/05/1904	All Saints Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	3hrs 5	James Parker
No Date	St Stephens Hampstead	5003 Grandsire Caters	No Time	Mark Woodcock
18/06/1904	St Mary's Lewisham	5152 Superlative S Major	3hrs 7	James Parker
16/07/1904	St Paulinus Crayford	5072 Double Norwich CB Major	2hrs 54	Edwin Barnett
20/08/1904	St Mary's Walthamstow	5080 Kent TB Royal	3hrs 16	Edgar Wightman
27/08/1904	St Paul's Hoddesden	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	2hr 48	James Parker
17/09/1904	All Saints Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	3hrs 3	William Ward
01/10/1904	St Clement Danes	5000 Kent TB Royal	3hrs 21	Edgar Wightman
05/11/1904	All Saints Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	3hrs	Edgar Wightman
12/11/1904	St Luke's Chelsea	5000 Stedman Caters	3hrs 15	Edgar Wightman
19/11/1904	St Anne's Highgate	5056 Superlative S Major	2hrs 53	James Parker
08/12/1904	All Saints Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	3hrs 1	Thomas Card
10/12/1904	St Luke's Chelsea	5000 Kent TB Royal	3hrs 18	James Parker
17/12/1904	St James Bermondsey	5080 Kent TB Royal	3hr 17	Edgar Wightman
26/12/1904	St Dunstan Hunsdon	5248 Superlative S Major	3hr 10	James Parker

Thomas Card's Kent & Sussex band started the year well but then seemed to drop away although Card himself popped up in some of the peals later in the year, conducting one of Superlative S Major. That seems to have been a very popular method at the time, 7 being rung during the year, a lot of them conducted by James Parker of Edmonton who, incidentally, was the father of Edith Parker who called the first ladies' peal at Cubitt Town in 1912. Some interesting towers were popping up. There was a rare peal on the old ten at Bermondsey. Those bells are now, of course, in Toronto Cathedral. There was one at Walworth earlier in the year. Those bells are now at Limehouse and seem more suited there than in the very small tower at Walworth - there were in fact 99 peals rung on those bells before their transfer so they couldn't have gone too badly! St Luke's Chelsea was the venue of two peals in quick succession later in the year, I guess they went better in those days!

The peal of Superlative at Edmonton on 5th November appears to be the first for the Society for John D Matthews who went on to become Master of the Society.

Alan Regin

News from our Towers

Clerkenwell

This report may well sound like a repeat of last year's. Regular Sunday ringing has taken place once a month with all eight bells having been rung each time; ringing has included call changes and 8 spliced. Weddings seems to have been more frequent this year and have been rung for as requested. The church authorities are still not very keen on visiting bands but once a year there has been a visiting band - the ASCY rang last November and this November the Medical Guild rang. Everyone is welcome to the monthly ringing at 12.00 noon approx. on the second Sunday of the month.

Stephanie Pattenden

Shoreditch

It has been pleasing to see that ringing as resumed in earnest again at Shoreditch. We have had a good number of peal requests both for the Cumberlands and for other societies. Along with these peals we have had a number of visiting bands for outings and practices. We are pleased at Shoreditch to be able to welcome bands almost at any time, (church functions permitting), and it has been a busy year, with ringing on five days in a couple of weeks. The officers and Derek Sibson between them have at least been able to provide monthly service ringing at Shoreditch, of course everyone would prefer more. Simon Holden has agreed to take on the task of trying to co-ordinate more Sunday service ringing, I thank him for taking on this onerous task. In December Shoreditch is hosting the Spitalfields Winter festival once again.

Fiona Edwards

Christ Church, Spitalfields

Very little to report at present as the Church has been closed for some months while the internal restoration is completed. This work is scheduled to be completed in May 2004 with the re-opening of the Church happening at some point after that. As a safety precaution the bell ropes were removed prior to the commencement of the work and I understand that the ringing Chamber is currently being used to store building materials.

We are aiming to get a some of work done to the clappers to some of the bells ready for the opening and also to arrange for a working party to assist with the re - painting of the bell frame, it is now over 30 years since the bells were installed and while the frame is not in bad condition it is about time that it was re-painted. Any volunteers, let me know!

Alan Regin



Shoreditch projects

Extensive work has been undertaken during the year on the bell frame and fittings at Shoreditch. This was to deal with the fact that the frame needed to be made more secure, and the go of some of the bells was not as it should be. Hayward Mills Associates undertook the work. The work done to the frame was quite substantial. The fixings around the foundation beams were broken out and concreted back in. A set of steel beams was fixed to the tower walls about two thirds of the way up the side of the frame, and the frame anchored to it to prevent it from moving. Other work was done to improve the roping and to adjust the swing time of the bells so that they can be more easily rung together as a twelve. The rope circle was also changed so that it is now much closer to being circular, rather than in the shape of the letter D.

The bells are much improved on how they were before, and should provide a secure foundation from which to start the project to improve the acoustics of the bells.

Another Shoreditch project which came to fruition during the year was to make the steps safe. The top half of the steps, from the clock room up to the ringing chamber, had already had wooden covers fitted during 1999. We first of all looked into whether the remaining steps, from ground floor to clock room, could be repaired with concrete based material, on the grounds that this would be a more permanent means of repairing them. Architectural considerations did not however permit this. A decision was therefore made to cover the remainder of the steps in wood, and the work was completed in March 2003.

The cost of these two projects has depleted the Society's funds by about £29,000. The Society is endeavouring to restore at least some of these funds. If any member would be able to make a contribution, the Society would be very grateful. Please tick in the appropriate box on the reply sheet.

Doug Beaumont

London Practices July 02- July 03

Practices were held at the following London towers:

St Martin in the Fields	St Margaret's Westminster
St Mary le Bow	St Lawrence Jewry
St Sepulchre Holborn	Cornhill
Southwark Cathedral	St Clement Danes
Shoreditch	Cripplegate
St Mary Abbott's Kensington	St Andrew Holborn
St Paul's Cathedral	Spitalfields

In addition we went to South Croydon for one Wednesday night practice during the year.

The highest attended practice in the year was at St Martin in the Fields on 7th May with 32 members present, closely followed by St Martin in the Fields on 2nd July and St Sepulchre on 19th March both with 28 members. The lowest attended practice was on 16th October at Shoreditch with 12 members present.

The highest non officer attendances were:

Doug Beaumont 89%
Jo Dorling 77%
Russell Brown 74%

83 members attended at least one London practice during the year.

Results of Peal Weekend 2003

The current score (probably final) at the time of going to press is:

31 peals scored for the society.

1 peal rung for the Lancashire Association, due to illness of one of the band

2 quarter peals scored after losing peals.

Some interesting points:

6 peals were rung in the USA, which surely must be a record.

Two members rang their first peal for the society.

One member, Felicity Mussell rang her first peal for 30 years.

Simon Rudd didn't even know he was ringing in a peal until 5 minutes before, it had been arranged as a birthday surprise!

On the Monday (17/11) a peal of Cambridge Maximus was specially arranged and rung to mark the 75th anniversary of the first peal of surprise maximus for the Society, rung at Shoreditch on 17/11/1928.

We send Phil Simmonds our best wishes, who unfortunately was unable to ring after suffering a heart attack 12 days before peal day. We hear he is now recovering at home.

Thanks of course go to John Barnes for co-ordinating this event, and the individual peal organisers, without whom peal day would scarcely be an event at all.

Fiona Edwards

July Country meeting – 10th/11th July 2004

The Base will be Ledbury with a Thursday evening practice at Ledbury – fine eight - on 8th July, Friday evening at a Country Pub with the meeting at Ledbury on Saturday - local hall booked, followed by a Skittles Evening at Much Marcle in the evening. Details of accomodation can be obtained from Geoff Brewin at Whistlewood House, Lulsley, Knightwick, Worcester WR6 5QT - 01886 821386, fax 01886 821874 or email gmbrewin@waitrose.com

There has been a suggestion of a visit to a local vineyard with wine-tasting by the 'ringer who owns it. Friday or Saturday morning. If interested, please contact Geoff or tick the box on the insert.

This promises to be another memorable weekend so book the date now!

S.R.C.Y. PEALS 2002 - 2003

Aug 6 2002	Spitalfields	5088	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 6 2002	Shoreditch	5040	Daresbury Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Aug 9 2002	Newcastle, Co. Down	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	P. F. Curtis
Aug 9 2002	Coleraine	5056	Montgomery Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 10 2002	Dundela	5000	Henleaze Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 10 2002	Enniskillen	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Aug 11 2002	Ballymena	5007	Stedman Cinques	I. R. Fielding
Aug 12 2002	Hillsborough	5039	Grandsire Caters	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 12 2002	Ballylesson	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Aug 18 2002	Shoreditch	5000	Oxendon Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Aug 21 2002	Walsoken (Coleridge Campanile)	5040	6 methods Surprise Minor	D. G. Salter
Aug 25 2002	Bristol (St. Stephen)	5040	Flambard Surprise Maximus*	D. E. Sibson
Aug 26 2002	Bristol (Redcliffe)	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	D. E. Sibson
Aug 31 2002	Selling	5024	Whalley Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 31 2002	Sheldwich	5120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 1 2002	Spitalfields	5040	Stedman Triples	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 5 2002	Barton Seagrave	5024	Painswick Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Sep 7 2002	Shoreditch	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Sep 7 2002	Wimbledon	5088	Glasgow Surprise Major	C. N. Merlane
Sep 14 2002	Twickenham (St. Mary)	5152	Glasgow Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 14 2002	Wandsworth (Holy Trinity)	5120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 15 2002	Enfield (St. Mary)	5088	Greenville Surprise Major+	I. R. Fielding
Sep 21 2002	Southampton (St. Mary)	5202	Bristol Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 21 2002	Wareham	5040	Gosport Surprise Royal*	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 21 2002	Warnham	5040	Albanian Surprise Royal	J. W. Belshaw
Sep 22 2002	Fareham	5039	Grandsire Caters	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 28 2002	Burwell	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Sep 28 2002	St. Ives (Cambs)	5088	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Oct 5 2002	Bexhill-on-Sea	5000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Oct 5 2002	St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	5001	Stedman Cinques	I. R. Fielding
Oct 5 2002	Spitalfields	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Oct 7 2002	Clifton (St. Mary)	5152	Pearl Surprise Major*	I. Butters
Oct 12 2002	Plymouth (St. Mary)	5152	Lessness Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
Oct 16 2002	St. Keverne	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Oct 17 2002	Camborne	5184	Ealing Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
Oct 17 2002	Tuckingmill	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Oct 18 2002	Meldreth	5024	Tiverton Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Oct 18 2002	Paul	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	P. M. Fleckney
Oct 19 2002	Egham	5120	Bristol Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Oct 20 2002	Shoreditch	5024	6-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Oct 23 2002	Barton Seagrave	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Oct 24 2002	Spitalfields	5120	8-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Oct 26 2002	Bristol (Redcliffe)	5007	Stedman Cinques	J. W. Belshaw
Nov 2 2002	Staines (St. Peter)	5120	Bristol Surprise Major	P. J. Flavell
Nov 3 2002	St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	5040	Avon Delight Maximus	I. Roulstone
Nov 7 2002	Spitalfields	5120	8-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 7 2002	Trumpington	5024	6-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Nov 9 2002	Fenny Drayton	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	M. Angrave
Nov 9 2002	Moreton Pinkney	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Nov 10 2002	Trumpington	5024	Double Dublin Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Nov 15 2002	Walsoken (Coleridge Campanile)	5040	29 methods Surprise Minor	D. G. Salter
Nov 16 2002	Beetley	5040	Cambridge Surprise Minor	P. J. Waterfield
Nov 16 2002	Wymondham	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	A. P. Cotton
Nov 16 2002	Andover	5024	Andover Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson

Nov 16 2002	Droitwich	5056	Yorkshire Surprise Major	A. P. Warboys
Nov 16 2002	Bromley Common	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major	N. Wilkins
Nov 16 2002	Westbourne	5152	Uxbridge Surprise Major	I. V. J. Smith
Nov 16 2002	Abergavenny	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	A. J. Cox
Nov 16 2002	Bengeo	5088	Lessness Surprise Major	G. A. Duke
Nov 16 2002	Quadring	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	J. P. Loveless
Nov 16 2002	Guilden Morden	5088	Papworth Everard Surprise Major*	J. R. Turnock
Nov 16 2002	Earl Shilton	5120	Superlative Surprise Major	R. J. Angrave
Nov 16 2002	Thorverton	5088	Uxbridge Surprise Major	H. W. Egglestone
Nov 16 2002	Allendale	5152	2-Spliced Major	M. J. L. Durham
Nov 16 2002	Northallerton	5152	8-Spliced Surprise Major	M. J. L. Durham
Nov 16 2002	Usk	5024	Pudsey Surprise Major	J. St J. Beaumont
Nov 16 2002	Caversham	5088	5-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Rossiter
Nov 16 2002	Bishopstoke	5000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 16 2002	Winchester	5001	Stedman Cinques	I. R. Fielding
Nov 16 2002	Ashtead	5024	Ashtead Surprise Major	J. W. Belshaw
Nov 16 2002	Welwyn	5184	8-Spliced Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Nov 16 2002	Hythe	5003	Grandsire Caters	R. A. Pearce
Nov 16 2002	Famworth-with-Kearsley	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	P. G. Bellamy-Knights
Nov 17 2002	Kingston (Dorset)	5040	Pickwell Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Nov 17 2002	Sydney	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	C M. Peckham
Nov 17 2002	Bristol (Christ Church)	5040	X-Church Surprise Royal*	A. J. Cox
Nov 17 2002	Philadelphia (St. Martin-in-the-Fields)	5088	Kent Treble Bob Major	D. Trumpler
Nov 17 2002	Keele	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	P. A. M. Halls
Nov 17 2002	Hexham	5040	Hexham Abbey Surprise Royal+	M. J. L. Durham
Nov 17 2002	Willesden	5152	23-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 23 2002	St.Martin-in-the-Fields	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 24 2002	Maidenhead	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major H/B	K. J. Darvill
Nov 26 2002	Barton Seagrave	5056	Southwell Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Nov 28 2002	Bermondsey	5024	Preston Surprise Major*	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 29 2002	Miami	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Nov 30 2002	Stoke Poges	5120	Bristol Surprise Major	O. D. Cross
Nov 30 2002	Houston (St. Thomas)	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Nov 30 2002	Houston (St. Paul)	5088	Houston Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Dec 1 2002	St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate	5081	Stedman Cinques	I. R. Fielding
Dec 1 2002	Houston (St. Paul)	5088	London Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Dec 1 2002	Houston (St. Paul)	5056	Hermann Park Surprise Major+	D. E. Sibson
Dec 2 2002	Houston (St. Thomas)	5088	Lessness Surprise Major	P. F. Curtis
Dec 3 2002	Houston (St. Paul)	5024	5-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 4 2002	Little Rock	5024	6-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 4 2002	Texarkana	5184	Belfast Surprise Major	D. D. Smith
Dec 5 2002	Texarkana	5088	Lazyboy Camp Surprise Major+	R. Baldwin
Dec 5 2002	Texarkana	5024	7-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 6 2002	Little Rock	5088	Cornwall Surprise Major	R. R. Warford
Dec 7 2002	Croydon	5001	Stedman Cinques	I. R. Fielding
Dec 7 2002	Charleston	5000	4-Spliced Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Dec 7 2002	Charleston (St. Michael)	5152	Glasgow Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 8 2002	Sullivan's Island	5024	8-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 9 2002	Charleston (Cathedral)	5056	Yorkshire Surprise Major	D. D. Smith
Dec 9 2002	Charleston	5000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Dec 11 2002	Hendersonville	5280	9-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 11 2002	Hendersonville	5120	London Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 12 2002	Marietta	5088	Rutland Surprise Major	R. R. Warford
Dec 12 2002	Atlanta	5042	Bristol Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Dec 13 2002	Atlanta	5120	5-Spliced Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Dec 14 2002	Leeds (Yorks)	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. K. Bushell

Dec 14 2002	Atlanta	5040	Anglia Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Dec 16 2002	Marietta	5024	Kennesaw Mountain Surprise Major+	D. E. Sibson
Dec 21 2002	St.Martin-in-the-Fields	5136	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Dec 21 2002	Folkestone	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 31 2002	Trumpington	5088	Greybury Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Dec 31 2002	St.Martin-in-the-Fields	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	G. A. Duke
Jan 1 2003	Kingston (Dorset)	5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Jan 4 2003	Ston Easton	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	S. A. Wheeler
Jan 4 2003	Yatton	5120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jan 5 2003	St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate	5042	Orion Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jan 5 2003	Buckland Dinham	5184	Snowden Delight Major+	A. J. Cox
Jan 18 2003	Hickling	5024	8-Spliced Surprise Major	R. P. Graves
Jan 18 2003	Trumpington	5088	Oving Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Jan 19 2003	Bedford (St. Peter)	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Jan 19 2003	Clifton (Holy Trinity)	5120	Superlative Surprise Major	A. Regin
Jan 19 2003	Clifton (St. Mary)	5184	Ealing Surprise Major	P. F. Curtis
Jan 20 2003	Edwalton	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	P. F. Curtis
Jan 21 2003	Meldreth	5088	Rutland Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jan 25 2003	St.Martin-in-the-Fields	5120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jan 25 2003	Loughborough (AllSaints)	5040	Teotihuacan Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Feb 1 2003	Fairwarp	5088	London Surprise Major	A. R. Baldock
Feb 1 2003	Bromley Common	5024	Preston Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Feb 1 2003	Chislehurst (Annunciation)	5056	8-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 1 2003	Woolwich	5152	Glasgow Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 1 2003	Croydon	5042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Feb 2 2003	Walworth	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Feb 6 2003	Limehouse	5056	7-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Feb 8 2003	Hook Norton	5120	Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Feb 8 2003	Farnham	5040	Anstey Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Feb 10 2003	St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	5030	Stedman Cinqes	I. R. Fielding
Feb 11 2003	Aspenden	5056	Clerkenwell Surprise Major*	J. P. Loveless
Feb 11 2003	Benington	5024	Cambridge Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Feb 15 2003	Lichfield	5007	Stedman Caters	J. W. Belshaw
Feb 16 2003	Shoreditch	5000	London No.2 Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Feb 21 2003	Hexham	5000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	O. D. Cross
Feb 22 2003	Gosforth	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	S. E. McGill
Feb 22 2003	Durham (St. Oswald)	5056	Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Feb 22 2003	Youlgreave	5040	Biddenden Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Feb 22 2003	Duffield	5040	Beaumanor Hall Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Feb 23 2003	Chesterfield	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Feb 28 2003	St. David's	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Mar 1 2003	Llanbadarn Fawr	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Mar 1 2003	Chiswick	5088	8-Spliced Surprise Major	J. W. Belshaw
Mar 2 2003	Abergavenny	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Mar 4 2003	Shoreditch	5040	Burnley Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Mar 8 2003	Chelmsford	5090	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Mar 8 2003	Colchester	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Mar 8 2003	Ardleigh	5056	Uxbridge Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Mar 8 2003	Terling	5056	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	I. V. J. Smith
Mar 8 2003	Ipswich	5007	Stedman Cinqes	J. W. Belshaw
Mar 8 2003	Witham	5040	Stedman Triples	S. A. Wheeler
Mar 13 2003	St. Andrew, Holborn	5088	Pisces Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Mar 15 2003	Dudley	5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Mar 15 2003	Pebworth	5040	6-Spliced Surprise Royal	I. Roulstone
Mar 16 2003	Bromsgrove	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Mar 22 2003	Maidstone	5040	Gracedieu Surprise Royal*	P. M. Fleckney
Mar 24 2003	Shoreditch	5012	23-Spliced Major	I. R. Fielding

Mar 29 2003	Lyme Regis	5040	Lyme Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Apr 2 2003	Welbourn	5056	Bristol Surprise Major	R. P. Graves
Apr 5 2003	Warnham	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Apr 5 2003	Barton Seagrave	5056	Helmshore Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Apr 10 2003	Willesden	5088	Aries Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Apr 21 2003	Trumpington	5056	Viginium Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Apr 21 2003	Sydney	5056	8-Spliced Surprise Major	C M. Peckham
Apr 27 2003	St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate	5042	Orion Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Apr 27 2003	Burnley	5088	4-Spliced Surprise Major	A. D. Sibson
May 3 2003	Brecon	5042	Bristol Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
May 4 2003	Cardiff	5040	Broadheath Surprise Royal*	J. P. Loveless
May 5 2003	Hereford	5000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	P. F. Curtis
May 10 2003	Towcester	5090	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
May 10 2003	Harpole	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
May 11 2003	St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate	5042	5-Spliced Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
May 11 2003	Maidenhead	5088	Cumberland Bob Major H/B+	K. J. Darvill
May 12 2003	Grundisburgh	5250	Cumberland Bob Major	S. D. Pettman
May 12 2003	St. Botolph-without-Aldgate	5056	Cumberland Bob Major	J. P. Loveless
May 12 2003	Shoreditch	5056	Cumberland Bob Major	D. E. Sibson
May 12 2003	York St. Martin-le-Grand)	5008	Cumberland Bob Major	J. A. Town
May 12 2003	Fairwarp	5088	Cumberland Bob Major	A. R. Baldock
May 12 2003	St. Andrew, Holborn	5056	Cumberland Bob Major	S. A. Wheeler
May 12 2003	Grayshott	5056	Cumberland Bob Major	J Morgan
May 15 2003	Pimlico	5088	Taurus Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
May 17 2003	Glasgow	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
May 17 2003	Great Offley	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	S. A. Wheeler
May 18 2003	Shoreditch	5080	10-Spliced Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
May 24 2003	Ashton-under-Lyne St. Peter)	5056	London Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
May 24 2003	Stockport (St. George)	5040	Bristol Surprise Royal	I. Butters
May 25 2003	Blackburn	5040	Anglia Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
May 26 2003	Westhoughton	5056	8-Spliced Surprise Major	P. F. Curtis
May 26 2003	Stand	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	A. Regin
Jun 1 2003	St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate	5042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jun 3 2003	Shoreditch	5040	Elkstone Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Jun 6 2003	Shoreditch	5152	Gold Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Jun 7 2003	Fairwarp	5056	Dorchester Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Jun 7 2003	Laughton	5040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Jun 12 2003	Walworth	5152	Gemini Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jun 14 2003	Escrick	5042	Orion Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Jun 15 2003	Rotherham	5090	Ariel Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jun 15 2003	Shoreditch	5056	8-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jun 21 2003	Pimlico	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	C. N. Merlane
Jun 21 2003	Eardisland	5120	4-Spliced Surprise Major	R. J. Clements
Jun 21 2003	Orwell	5024	Oswaldtwistle Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Jul 5 2003	Turramurra	5050	Cumberland Bob Major	C M. Peckham
Jul 6 2003	Derby	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Jul 9 2003	Derby (St. Peter)	5120	4-Spliced Surprise Major	M. Maughan
Jul 10 2003	Youlgreave	5000	Cambridge Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 10 2003	Kirkby-in-Ashfield	5056	8-Spliced Surprise Major	M. J. L. Durham
Jul 10 2003	West Hallam	5088	London Surprise Major	I. Roulstone
Jul 10 2003	Ticknall	5040	Cairngorm Surprise Royal*	D. E. Sibson
Jul 11 2003	Ashover	5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Jul 11 2003	Eckington	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	I. Roulstone
Jul 11 2003	Overseal	5024	Overseale Surprise Major*	D. E. Sibson
Jul 11 2003	Dore	5024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. Roulstone
Jul 11 2003	Netherseal	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jul 11 2003	Norton (Yorks)	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler

Jul 11 2003	Ault Hucknall	5024	Rutland Surprise Major	J. St J. Beaumont
Jul 12 2003	Ashbourne	5056	Yorkshire Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 12 2003	Melbourne (Derbyshire)	5136	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jul 12 2003	Derby (St. Luke)	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major	I. Roulstone
Jul 12 2003	Ripley	5184	Superlative Surprise Major	D. B. Carter
Jul 13 2003	Chesterfield	5039	Grandsire Caters	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 17 2003	Wandsworth (Holy Trinity)	5088	Cancer Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 21 2003	Shoreditch	5019	Stedman Cinques	D. E. Sibson
Jul 23 2003	Shoreditch	5024	Pudsey Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jul 27 2003	Enfield (St. Mary)	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Jul 31 2003	St. Olave, Hart Street	5056	Leo Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler

The following peal was not included in last year's report as it was not published until recently

Apr 16 2002	Shoreditch	5152	4-Spliced Surprise Major	C. N. Merlane
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* denotes first for the Society

Peals Analysis

This year there has been a decrease in the number of peals rung between 1/8/02 and 31/7/03, 235 compared with 268 last year. This time there were only 2 (4) handbell peals in that total. The number of towers was slightly less with 169 (184). Once again Shoreditch is back as the leading tower and this year there are still three from the U.S.A. in the top ten. One of these, the United Methodist Church of St. Paul in Houston was a new ring and the first four peals on the bells are in the total.

Towers: Shoreditch 14 (18), Spitalfields 5 (10), Trumpington 5 (9), St. Sepulchre's 5 (5), Barton Seagrave 5 (5), Houston United Methodist 4 (0), St. Martin-in-the-Fields 4 (3), Atlanta 3 (2), Texarkana 3 (4), St. Mary-le-Bow 3 (3), Fairwarp 3 (1), 24 towers with 2 and 134 with just 1.

Geographically the peals were even more widespread, being rung in 41 different counties in the British Isles, 25 in 7 states in the U.S.A. and 3 in Australia. Most were rung in London 48 (53), followed this time by Derbyshire 18 (0), Cambridgeshire 12 (17), Kent 8 (29), Sussex 8 (8) and Northants 7 (11). The change in distribution each year once again is a reflection of where we hold country meetings and special ringing days.

348 (309) members took part and 169 (141) rang in only one peal.

Ringers: Alan Regin 86 (91), Derek E. Sibson 70 (95), E. Jane Sibson 67 (92), Michael H. D. O'Callaghan 58 (53), Ian R. Fielding 54 (41), Simon J. Davies 53 (83), Ian G. Campbell 51 (59), Paul Curtis 49 (48), Ruth Curtis 49 (48), Stephen A. Wheeler 49 (66).

The conducting was shared by 49 people this year compared with 47 last year. Derek E. Sibson 63 (83), Stephen A. Wheeler 36 (43), Ian R. Fielding 31 (22), John P. Loveless 17 (25), Ian Roulstone 8 (12), James W. Belshaw 6 (13), Paul F. Curtis 6 (4), Roger Baldwin 5 (11) and Matthew Durham 4 (1).

The variety of methods has once again fallen following last year's increase. 101 (120) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung and it is pleasing to see a marked increase in 12-bell peals after last year, not just due to the return of the availability of Shoreditch.

Methods: Bristol S. Major 16 (24), 8-Spliced S. Major 12 (10), London S. Major 11 (18), 4-Spliced S. Major 11 (7), 7 Surprise Minor 10 (15), Bristol S. Royal 10 (5), Cumberland B. Major 9 (0), Stedman Cinques 9 (6), London No.3 S. Royal 8 (11), Bristol S. Maximus 7 (7), Yorkshire S. Major 6 (9), Cambridge S. Major 5 (3)

Derek Sibson



No 1

No 2



Caption competition – send us your suggestions and the winner will receive a prize – to be announced at the July country meeting

No 3

No 4



ELECTED OFFICERS 2003 -2004

Master	Ian R. Fielding
Senior Steward	Shirley E. McGill
Junior Steward	Fiona M. Edwards
Honorary Secretary	Philippa M. Whittington
Honorary Treasurer	James W. Belshaw
Honorary Librarian	Joanne R. Fielding
Honorary Assistant Secretary	Penny J. V. Sharpe
Trustees	Ian H. Oram John S. Barnes
Independent Examiners	Christina D. A. Fleckney Michael H. D. O'Callaghan
Central Council representatives	John S. Barnes Ian H. Oram Derek E. Sibson John P. Loveless
Newsletter editors	Janice Higgins Philippa Whittington

Useful Information

- ◆ Life Membership subscription is £15.00
- ◆ Steepleage is 50p
- ◆ Peal booking Fee is 50p

For successful peals both steepleage and the peal booking fee are payable (i.e. £1 per ringer).
For unsuccessful peals steepleage only is required (i.e. 50p per ringer)
Steepleage, peal booking fees and details of peals including details of compositions and ringers for unsuccessful peals should be sent (by email or ordinary mail) to the

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