

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS



NEWSLETTER 2004



SRCY Australian Peal Weekend Dinner

We hope you enjoy reading this SRCY Newsletter which includes reports of the events that took place during 2004 and details of the program for 2005.

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 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 2003- 2004? These can be provided either by email or snail mail. Please contact the secretary for a copy.

SRCY DIARY 2005

5th January	Meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields
5th February	Not The Dinner Day
12th March	Country Meeting in Suffolk with morning peals 14:00 Demonstration at East Bergholt 15:00 Open Ringing 18:00(tbc) Meeting at Pettistree 19:30 Hot buffet at Pettistree Three Tuns (£8 per head)
4th May	Meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields
9th July	Country Meeting in the Hexham area
1st October	General Meeting and AGM in London (Time to be confirmed due to possible peals around London at 1pm). This may be followed by an evening social event
19/20th November	Peal Weekend

Make a note in your diary NOW!

New members

The Society welcomed 17 new members who were elected to the Society between January and October 2004:

Andrew R Wignell	Paul James Lewis
Andrew John Wood	Paul Mason
B Haley Barnett	Peter Harrison
James M Bence	Peter Sheppard
Mary A Sloman	Roger B Lubbock
Michael John Stone	Ruth Eagle
Nicky Mason	Samantha George
Nicola Firminger	Steven J Harvey
Paul Bradford	

Losses of members

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

Olive Rogers of Isleworth elected 19th January 1957
Bob Percy of Eastbourne, elected 9th October 1971
Peter Philpott of Sheerness, elected 20th January 1973
Martyn Harbott of Richmond, Surrey, elected 9th February 1946. Auditor 1978 - 1999
Stan Ponting of Horsham elected 16th November 1957
Harold James Radley of Dunholm, Lincolnshire elected 6th April 1968
Ronald Suckling of Bocking, Essex elected 24th October 1936
Teddy Barnett elected 19th January 1929. Master 1971-1972. Trustee 1972-1996

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	Gerald Frost	J.Martin Page
Colin G.. Andrews	Margaret Gamble	M. Pearse
Stephen J. Bailey	Jacqueline Harrison	Anna M.P. Piechna
Terence V. Barnard	Hetty Hawthorne	Maureen A. Popple
W.S. Bonnet	Lance S.F. Hewson	Ian M. Robinson
Amette Bradbury	Alison Hill	James T. Stevens
Cyril Buesden	Susan Houghton	Peter D. Storey
Susan P. Cole	Walter J. Lemon	Valerie Williams
G.D. Fearnough	M.Janet Mattinson	Angela Wright

If you have contact information for anyone listed here, please contact either the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Officers' Report 2003-2004

The Society began the year with a very successful dinner at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Not only was this event enjoyed by the 140 members and friends who attended but it was also a financial success. This set the scene for another active and successful year for the Society. Membership has increased steadily, especially overseas members, and practices and meetings have been well supported. Members continue to support social events both in London and also further afield. Following the work carried out last year on the bells at Shoreditch there has been some preliminary work to improve the acoustics and the members look forward to further developments in this area.

Practices and Meetings

London Meetings

Regular weekly practices were held in London. The highest attended practice was 39 members at St Martin's on 7th January and the lowest attended practice was on 12th May at St Lawrence Jewry with 10 members present. 81 members attended London Wednesday night practices throughout the year, many of whom travelled long distances to ring.

Northern Practices

Jennie Town reports that there have been 2 Northern practices this year. Both have been very well-supported and methods rung have included Orion and Bristol

Midlands Practices / Quarter peals

Mick Angrave reports that two practices were held early in the year, neither were well supported. The second, at Sapcote, developed into a quarter peal of Bristol Surprise Major. Since then there has not been sufficient interest to organise further practices. The plan is to try to move forward during the winter months. After the AGM there will be eight members living in Sapcote alone and with the tower out of use at present it could prompt some action.

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 South Northamptonshire in March and Ledbury in July. Four peals were scored in towers around Weedon while the open ringing proved challenging for the small number of members who supported this. Following the meeting, a very enjoyable social evening was held in the Maltsters pub at Badby. The July country meeting was preceded by a number of peal attempts on the Thursday and Friday. On Thursday evening a special practice was held at Ledbury which was well supported by the members. Following peal attempts on Friday as far afield as Clun and Coalbrookdale (which gave everyone the opportunity to appreciate the beautiful countryside), members gathered at the Talbot at Knightwick. Peals and general ringing followed on Saturday morning followed by the meeting in St Katharine's Hall, Ledbury where the local ringers had provided a magnificent "Ringers Tea". In the evening the Royal Oak at Much Marcle was the venue for a very enjoyable skittle evening attended by 89 members and friends. This was accompanied by the usual beer and a ploughmans. The Master compèred a skittle competition, which was won by JJ Ford.

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

Other Events

Peal weekend took place as usual on the third weekend in November. In total 45 attempts were arranged, of which 31 were successful. Included in this total were nine peals arranged in USA of which 6 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.

On the Monday (17th November) the Master arranged a peal of Cambridge S. Maximus at Shoreditch to mark the 75th anniversary of the first peal of Surprise Maximus for the Society - Cambridge S Max on 17/11/1928, also rung at Shoreditch.

Not the Dinner Day in February followed the usual format with 6 peal attempts (of which 5 were successful) during the day and an excellent curry in the evening.

The Society entered a band for the National 12 bell striking competition and after being placed 1st in the eliminator at Evesham were placed third in the final at Bow in June.

Peal Ringing

187 peals were rung during the year.

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

Ian Fielding on his 1500th peal
John Loveless who rang his 1000th peal as conductor
Jane Sibson on ringing her 2000th peal
Richard Brown on ringing his 1000th peal
Dorothea Mayne on ringing her 1000th peal on handbells
Derek Sibson on his 3000th peal as conductor
Ian Campbell on his 3000th peal

Other notable achievements during the year were

Alan Regin, Frank Rivett and John Loveless for their part in the record peal of 20,160 Bristol Surprise Royal rung at Lyme Regis
John Loveless on turning in the tenor at Exeter Cathedral

New Members

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

Losses of members

During the year the Society lost 4 members whose contribution over the years has helped to shape the Society.

Walter Dobbie of Maidstone elected 2nd February 1946
Olive Rogers of Isleworth elected 19th January 1957
Martyn Harbott of Richmond, Surrey, elected 9th February 1946.
Teddy Barnett elected 19th January 1929

Sunday Service Ringing

Following a Special General Meeting to discuss the organisation of Sunday Service Ringing at Shoreditch, the officers and Simon Holden have shared the responsibility of arranging ringing in those months that peals are not arranged by Derek Sibson. Simon has also acted as the organiser for Service Ringing in intervening weeks. This means that for most of the year the bells have been rung for service twice a month. The Society is very grateful to Derek and Simon for their support in this matter.

With Spitalfields bells back in action and only one service to ring for at St Martin-in-the-Fields, the challenge to provide ringing on Sundays will continue.

Towers

Regular Society practices continue to be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, usually on the first Wednesday in the month. Practices have also been held at Shoreditch and this has included members meeting for acoustic measurements to be taken of the bells.

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).

Library

The process of collating full details of all items is almost complete. This includes details of Society property. This information will be available on the website during the next year. During the year further deposits have been made to the Guildhall library, including the 250th anniversary year peal book. The copy peal books have been transferred to the Master's house until such time as a permanent home that guarantees safe secure storage is found. 1 item is currently on loan.

Society Property

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS

60 years membership

The Revd. Canon G.R.H. Smith elected 6.5.44

50 years membership

Dr R. Bailey elected January.54
Mary Bartholomew elected 12.6.54
William L. Exton elected 18.9.54
John R. Leeming elected 27.1.54
F. William Midwinter elected 18.9.54
June M. Mitchell elected 1954

E.J. Munday elected January.54
Alan H. Sturgess elected 24.4.54
Robin G. Turner elected 18.9.54
Alan Ward elected 18.9.54
Gordon Whewell elected 18.9.54
Ernest F. Willcox elected 19.5.54

25 Years Membership

Barbara J. Barnard elected 20.1.79
Douglas J. Beaumont elected 20.1.79
Joseph St.J. Beaumont elected 20.1.79
Rosemary Cattell elected 20.1.79
Rebecca Cox elected 3.10.79
Anthea Enzor elected 3.10.79
Linda M. Garton elected 20.1.79
Philip J. Gorrod elected 3.10.79
Kevin I. Lucas elected 20.1.79

Janet A. McKernan elected 20.1.79
Barry F. Peachey elected 4.7.79
Anna M.P. Piechna elected 3.10.79
Maureen A. Popple elected 20.1.79
Jean Sanderson elected 3.10.79
Christine R. Sanderson elected 7.4.79
Nigel R. Self elected 4.7.79
P. Charles Sinden elected 4.7.79

This year instead of holding an anniversary dinner in September, a chinese meal in Chinatown was arranged and enjoyed by over 50 members.



During April, May and June, Frank Rivett walked from Land's End to John O'Groats and raised over £3,800 for Oxfam and Christian Aid. During the walk, he stopped off for one peal at Wormhill.

Losses of Members

EDWIN A BARNETT

Master 1971-1972

Trustee 1972-1996

Edwin Arthur Barnett was born on 15th October 1918 in Bexleyheath, Kent. As a youngster Teddy always said "I am not going to be a ringer" and follow in his father and grandfather's footsteps. However at the end of 1927, he had a change of heart: he asked his father if he could go with him and watch, while he rang for the Sunday evening service at the church of St Paulinus, Crayford. Permission was granted and then, while his father was ringing the treble for five minutes before the service, Teddy was invited to try the backstroke; he must have impressed his father, as he was given his second lesson the next day and then did not look back.

Teddy made quick progress, becoming a member of the Kent County Association in 1928 and within two years of his first lesson he had rung his first peal on 20th December 1929, the treble to Grandsire Triples at Crayford.

Besides his first peal at the age of eleven there are some others that he rang of which he was particularly proud: his first as conductor at the age of twelve, Kent T B Major at Crayford; a peal of Bob Major at Crayford in April 1934 when the average age of the band was 15 years and 2 weeks, a record that stood for 47 years; while still only 13 he called a peal of Cambridge Major from a working bell - this was the last peal in which his grandfather took part; and Carter's Odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples, containing 418 bobs and 2 singles, which he called at Crayford in July 1947, his 100th as conductor.

Many other of his early achievements were notable for the time, though some may since have been superseded, with improvements in transport and the use of computers: his 100th peal at age 15½; calling London and Bristol Major from working bells at ages 14 and 17 respectively; reaching 355 peals by age 21; producing innovative compositions in the field of Surprise Major. For all this he acknowledged the assistance and encouragement of ringing friends, but it was as much due to his own ability and initiative.

From May 1948 to July 1950 no peals were rung as Teddy suffered a long period of ill-health. Handbell peals were resumed, but it was not until December 1952 that a tower-bell peal was rung again; in subsequent years an average of 4 or 5 were rung. This explains why he was unable to take part in the 500th peal at Crayford in February 1952; this was particularly sad, since that tower's availability had accounted for most of his early peals.

Further memorable peals were Stedman Cinqes at St Paul's Cathedral in 1972, the first time that non-members of the College Youths had been invited to take part in an attempt there and Cambridge Royal at Mission City, British Columbia during a ringing tour of Canada and the USA in 1980. In total Teddy rang 733 peals of which 173 were on handbells and he conducted 134.

Teddy started method ringing on handbells after the gift of a set from the Revd W.C. Pearson, founder of the Cambridge University Guild; he rang his first peal on handbells, Bob Major in May 1933. Competence in this field soon grew, culminating in a peal of 13,664 changes of Double Norwich which was a record at the time.

He was first elected to the Central Council in 1945 to represent the Kent County Association which he did until 1947; he was made a Vice President of the Association in 1957 and served as its first elected Chairman from 1968 to 1971.

Teddy was elected an Honorary Member of the Council in 1948, then in 1952 he became Secretary and Treasurer, a post that he held for 14 years. He had already become a Life Member in 1952, as it was an automatic honour for Officers at that time. Teddy was elected Vice President from 1969 to 1975, when he became President of the Council, serving in this office until 1981; in total he attended 50 Council meetings. He was a distinguished writer on matters relating to bell ringing and had a tremendous knowledge of ringing history and its personalities.

Teddy was elected a member of the Society in 1929. While stationed at RAF Compton Bassett he rang regularly with the band at St Mary's Calne and was instrumental in several of the regular ringers at Calne becoming members of the Society - there is a Society peal board in the tower, recording a peal of Grandsire Triples on 11th May 1946, with mostly local ringers and Teddy as conductor. He was Master and Trustee of the Society as noted above. He had rung 70 peals for the Society, including notably Pitman's 'all the work' compositions in 4, 6, 7 and 8 Spliced Surprise Major methods rung silent and non-conducted in 1965 and 1966 and the Society's first peals of up to 24-Spliced Major, Bristol Royal and 3-Spliced Royal.

When the RAF Church of St Clement Danes, London was restored, Teddy was an obvious choice to be responsible for the ringing there, which he organised with his usual efficiency. It was therefore appropriate that a band of Past Masters should ring a peal there as a tribute to him, using one of his compositions.

Time in the RAF in Wiltshire had established a fondness for that county and so Olive and Teddy retired to Zeals in December 1977 where Teddy soon became involved in village life; he joined in ringing at Mere; he was made Tower Captain and took an active part in the rehanging project. He was soon involved in Salisbury Guild activities: he became President of the Guild in 1992 and when he stood down in 1995 he was made a Vice President.

A hip replacement in 1992 marked the start of a decline in his health but he still attended some of the Mere Branch activities until about two years ago. Unfortunately he lost his short term memory which made life very difficult for him and his inability to walk any distance hastened the end which came peacefully on August 2nd at Shaftesbury hospital.

IAN H ORAM

OLIVE ROGERS 1912 – 2004

Most ringers who have rung in London for any length of time will have met Olive at some time, just as I did shortly after I moved to London, although I have not rung a lot with her. She was born Olive Louise Ashbrook in 1912 at Whittington, Staffordshire, but she has lived in Isleworth since the age of 10.

It was in her last year at school that a school friend persuaded Olive to take up bell ringing at All Saints', Isleworth. She was taught to ring by Herbert W Lidbetter and made rapid progress. Her first peal was of Grandsire Caters at Isleworth on 29 September 1934, conducted by Ernest C S Turner. At about that time she started attending practices of the London County Association (LCA) and came under the influence of Thomas H Taffender, who called the majority of her 41 pre-war peals. Apart from one peal at Scarborough (behind which lies a tale of early romance), all these peals were in the London area, and until her death she was probably the last living person to have rung peals at St Magnus the Martyr in the City of London.

At Isleworth Olive became tower captain in 1937 (a post she held until 1943) and proceeded to teach a number of young ringers, including Geoffrey Dodds and Alan Thirst. In 1938 she was elected Assistant Secretary of the LCA, thus beginning a period of service as officer or committee member which continued to 2001 and included 3 years as Master, 5 as General Secretary and 47 years as a Central Council Representative.

On 27 September 1941 Olive married Harold Rogers, whom she had first met in Isleworth tower (where else?!) in 1938. Exactly two years later her son, Christopher, was born and her daughter, Patricia, followed three years later. Family life with small children caused some reduction in her ringing activities, but she remained an active member of the local band, which for several years in the 40s and 50s was regularly ringing peals and quarters of Surprise Royal. She also continued to support meetings and practices of the LCA, attended Central Council meetings and did a certain amount of peal ringing.

In addition to her support for the local band at Isleworth and work for the LCA, she was a member of the Southwark Cathedral Company, ringing there regularly once a month for over 30 years, and for many years she arranged monthly quarter peals successively at Southwark, Shoreditch and Stepney. She had also been a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths since January 1957.

Throughout all this period, with Harold she was regularly taking part in peals at Isleworth, Southwark Cathedral, and elsewhere. For a number of these she organised the bands. She particularly enjoyed their annual visits to Inveraray, where she rang 12 peals on those fine bells. Altogether she rang 814 peals, of which 434 were at Isleworth, 613 for the LCA and 763 with Harold.

Personally, my first memories of Olive date back to the late sixties, just after moving to London, when I rang in a couple of peals at Isleworth with a band mainly from the St Albans area, long before I had any inkling I would eventually settle there. Although Olive was not in those peals she was there to greet us before and after and as with all bands visiting Isleworth, made us feel most welcome with her cheery smile. I only rang three peals with her, two at Isleworth, and all in standard methods; Olive did not ring a lot of fancy methods but what she did ring she rang very well.

In 1995 Olive suffered a fall down the badly worn tower steps at St Leonard's, Shoreditch, from which she sustained an injury to her back which caused her much pain and to her great regret put an end to her ringing. However, she

continued to take an active interest in ringing and was always pleased to welcome ringers to 53 The Grove or meet bands in the London Apprentice after peals. Her last few years were rather marred by ill health and she finally went into the West Middlesex Hospital on Christmas Eve, from which she did not return.

More than anything, Olive devoted her life to helping young people to achieve their aims. Evidence of this is her early teaching career, the support she gave her own children through their school years (definitely no going out ringing until homework was finished!), her work for the Girl Guides and the encouragement given to so many young ringers over the years. Several of those who are leading names in the Exercise today have often expressed their gratitude for the peal and other ringing opportunities which Harold and Olive gave them in their early years.

All this was brought out in a moving address given at her funeral by George Pipe, a friend for over 50 years. The church was full, the handbell ringing first-rate and the tower-bell ringing before and after was excellent. Olive could not have wished for a better send-off.

Graham Duke

MARTYN HARBOTT 1926 – 2004

Auditor 1978 - 1999

Martyn started ringing at Egham in 1943 at the age of 17. Immediately hooked, he also rang at St Peter's in Staines and St Mary's in Windsor. In 1945 he started his National Service with the Corps of Signals, serving in Germany and was discharged in 1948. In 1952 Martyn moved from Egham to Wimbledon YMCA and in 1958 he married Christine, also a ringer. They moved to Ashstead in Surrey, where their son Christopher was born and Martin lived there until December 2002 when his deteriorating health prompted his move to the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. The son of a bank manager, Martyn's entire working life was spent at Barclays Bank.

Martyn was elected to join the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1946 and later served as its auditor for over 20 years until 1999. He was truly devoted to "the Society" and his membership certificate had pride of place on the wall of his room at the Royal Star and Garter. Almost of equal importance to him was the North American Guild of Change Ringers, of which he was Assistant Treasurer for many years. Add to this Martyn's membership of the Guild of St Agatha, where he was again Treasurer during the 1980's and it is easy to see where his passion lay. His home tower since 1963 was St Martin of Tours, Epsom and for 16 years until 2003, he acted as auditor of the tower accounts, always spurning the offer of a calculator in favour of mental arithmetic. He never made a mistake. Martyn's dedication to bellringing led him to collect a total of 1400 towers and around 50 peals and he kept details of all these in his truly remarkable memory which remained sharp to the end.

Martyn was a "character". He perfected the image of the grouchy old man, cantankerous, totally lacking in social grace and yet underneath this there was a heart of gold, a willingness to support any new ringers showing interest in the "ancient art" and to help any friend in difficulty. This generosity of spirit had a practical side too, for he was a stealthy donor of funds to many causes close to his heart. Martyn liked to send surprise gifts to his friends, and in recent years I have been charged with ordering at least 25 Ringing World calendars for him, usually followed by a request for "just half a dozen more as he realised he had forgotten someone."

Martyn loved the past and in many ways he lived in a bygone age. He spurned modern technology, telling me more than once that in his opinion, computers were "just a phase" that would pass, and people would then return thankfully to the old ways. It wasn't worth arguing with him.

Martyn had a total disregard for material comforts in his personal life but he would put himself out for any friend. And there were many. He built up a huge network of friends, with whom he kept in touch mostly by telephone, regardless of the lateness of the hour, and always ending messages in a short wave radio style "over and out". When he became frail he reluctantly accepted that his ringing days were over but his interest in "the exercise" were as strong as ever. The arrival of The Ringing World on Thursdays was the highlight of the week.

He was a man of quiet but strong faith and this sustained him to the end. He was certainly unafraid of "meeting his Maker" and with characteristic dry humour he obtained great pleasure from planning his own funeral and contemplating a great gathering of his friends. His funeral was indeed just that with some good ringing thrown in. He would certainly have enjoyed it.

Margaret Bale

The National 12-Bell 2004 – Evesham and Bow.

The Band

(Pictured clockwise from bottom right)

1. Simon Davies
2. Linda Garton
3. Shirley McGill
4. Joanne Fielding
5. Jim Belshaw
6. Ian Fielding
7. Simon Holden
8. Doug Beaumont
9. Ian Bushell
10. Frank Rivett
11. John Loveless
12. Alan Regin



I was 'lucky' enough to arrive in Evesham on Friday night. I wandered the streets from pub to pub (the atmosphere was already building as locals talked of nothing else except the need for tight backstrokes) and found a few beers to keep me busy. Olly Cross and Mary Sloman joined me, just in time to witness a pub brawl (Olly and I jumped and fled like girls while Mary got ready to use her wine glass in defence). We left that pub and joined a few others elsewhere. I went to bed feeling the worse for wear thanks to the St Martins contingent being unusually generous and plying me with beer and whiskey – all is fair in love, war and striking competitions.

I managed to shake off the worst of my fuzzy head by the time the draw was made. Third – seemed ideal to me, time for a cuppa, check the line for Cambridge Max and all over in time for lunch. Waiting to ring seemed to take an age though; and I was itching to get my hands on a bell rope and get on with it – sad eh?

Once in the tower it all passed quickly. A few adjustments and a quick rehearsal – we settled quickly and I didn't seem to have lost the ability to ring. A few words from the Master to encourage us to 'keep it tight at the back' (Sir!) and then we just rang it. It felt like a good piece of ringing, but I found it hard to take it in when you're concentrating on sticking your own bell in its spot.

Feeling relieved and back in the real world there only seemed to be one option – the pub. No brawls this time, despite the presence of a few CYs (nursing their beer as usual – nothing to do with their late draw I would suggest). It was a good afternoon, with much bonhomie, banter and beer; and of course some churchyard punditry.

The results were professionally delivered and well received. Just time for a couple more drinks before some CY baiting on the train home. Bow?..... bring it on!!!

And so to Bow...

The final took a while to come around. We put in a few good practices at Bow and our confidence was high. All we needed now was a good draw and nerves of steel. It's a strange feeling, knowing that you are capable of doing something, but needing to pull it out of the bag for 15 minutes – something you just can't practice.

A damp day's weather saw the country's elite (bell-ringers) gather at St Mary-le-Bow. We were not too fussed to be drawn late, but it was a long time for me to hide from the Master in the pub. The atmosphere was lively and full of conversation, helped by quality food and quantities of beer. I listened to a few of the bands and thought we were in with a good chance if we performed to our potential.

The hour came nearer and we listened to the CYs before we went up. General wisdom seemed to be that they were in the box-seat and had produced a good bit of ringing. I found it helpful to know what we were up against, nothing like the old-enemy to focus the nervous energy.

The ringing chamber was insufferably warm and humid – I couldn't imagine anything worse (until I heard Wilby Snr had rung "topless" for Towcester!). We cracked on with it and the practice went OK. The test piece was OK too, but not our best ringing. I thought we were just holding back – perhaps just playing safe and not going all out?

Pundits were divided on who was favourite, most had either us or the CYs as winners with Brum third..... anyway at least it was time to get my lips round a College Youth – and Fuller's had done their research well – an old fashioned beer (not one for the ladies), with a fusty aroma and bitter aftertaste.

The result we all know; the London teams beaten on their own patch and Birmingham breaking the duck of teams ringing first, but disappointment was short-lived on an excellent day – just extra motivation for next year!!

Simon Holden

Country Meetings

This year we held two very successful country meeting, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped organise these events.

The Spring Country Meeting in South Northamptonshire - March 13th 2004

- 0820 Leave home.
- 0940 Find Whilton church after uneventful journey, due to excellent Northamptonshire signposts that still point you towards places you might want to go to unlike some parts of the country. Simon Davies is there already. We do not get out of our cars, as it is cold.
- 0950 Various other members of the peal band arrive. Simon tells us about the bells, which he has rung several peals on. Flighty trebles, long draft.
- 1000 Master arrives with wife and apologies for being late. They took a wrong turning. We get the bells up. I am detailed to ring the treble. Not sure if this is a good thing (won't have to worry about drifting off the line) or a bad thing (will have to worry about displaying incompetence at ringing flighty bell with long rope).
- 1015 Finally we start the peal. The church is very cold. Ringing the treble turns out to be a good thing as is not difficult to control and draught does not seem excessive. The Master calls bobs, sorts out occasional prangs and gripes about the striking to little effect. The peal takes nearly 3 hours. We agree the bells are quite nice, the ringing was OK, not brilliant but OK. We ring down.
- 1330 The pub! All the food is expensive so I opt for the most expensive item on the menu, game pie on the grounds that it is not much more expensive than the cheapest thing on the menu. It is good, although served in a separate dish with puff pastry lid, a bit naff. It is also rich filling and sleep-inducing. Peter Fleckney tells me of techniques for making stone and pumping machinery some of which I understand.
- 1440 I am supposed to be at Badby at 1500 hrs but decide to pick up prescription at Daventry en route.
- 1520 After two abortive visits to chemists in Daventry, finally get the right pills and find Badby church, which is surrounded by cars. I conclude that here must be at least 50 people trying to get a ring on the 6 bells, so no obligation to stay. Relieved, decide to find village hall for possible tea and cake. Village hall is a strange affair with stone ends but brick sides in a transport yard. There is some problem with the electrics so no tea. Go to car to fetch crossword and am summoned to the pub by Simon Holden.
- 1600 We are supposed to be at the meeting. Reluctantly finish beer, extinguish pipe and report for duty.

- 1620 Meeting eventually gets under way. I decide to try to stay awake for the obituaries in case of being thought disrespectful. I nod off in the minutes of the last meeting. Wake briefly for new members, who as usual strike immaculately, are prodigiously talented, have never been known to go wrong and when not ringing are helping old ladies to cross the road. They are all elected nem con. Wonder how I ever got elected. Wake again. Thanks to St Martins ringers for paying for the restoration of a table damaged by ingress of water. This could develop into one of the surreal moments that sometimes illuminate our meetings. And it does! Who does the table belong to? As it has been placed in the church and apparently cannot be got out of the church does that mean it belongs to the church? John Barnes ventures to suggest that as the church wardens have agreed it belongs to the Society, it must do. But no, it doesn't matter what the church wardens say. Anyhow the table, it seems, is there to stay.
- 1800 The meeting is over. It hasn't been too bad and no has noticed that I have been unconscious for most of it. Am trapped by Jo Dorling and fail to find good excuse for not writing this report. To the pub and virtually alcohol-free evening as have to drive home. Contemplate pint of virtually alcohol-free Greene King IPA. Usual small talk. The main party in a smoke-free function room but I am with a splinter group in the bar. This is a problem for Penny and the Master's wife who exhort him to circulate. The Master has obviously had enough having called our peal and run the ringing at Badby, but the ladies don't appreciate that he is in no mood for meeting and greeting. I silently sympathise with him. To add insult to injury (perhaps injury to insult) his supposedly medium-rare steak turns out like something out of a horror movie. It is return for more cooking. Presently it emerges apparently cremated but is declared excellent. I grab some food from the communal supply, which is reputed to be in short supply, but is not so in fact – perhaps because there is a limit to the number of chicken legs that the average ringer is willing to eat. The Master circulates.
- 2130 I agree to take Penny and Simon to a station and we leave for Stevenage.
- 2234 Drop off Penny and Simon for 2237 train, which hopefully they caught.
- 2300 Pour large whisky and collapse in front of inane TV programme. The end of a long day.

John Ford

July Country Meeting (Ledbury)

Beer (and don't forget the cider) and skittles – what a lark! Which is harder - counting your dodges with 40 all stars lining the ringing room walls or bowling straight at the pins to the accompaniment of a chorus of cockney catcalls? The loudest cheers were for Derek Sibson's duck, while boos and hisses greeted Bernard Taylor ("Bernard Taylor? How did he get in?" was heard from Glint). The prize on offer was a snog with Stephen Wheeler for the winner and two for the runner-up so the contest was a serious matter. Couldn't stay up all night though, had to be up early to ring at St Peter's Bromyard. To get there one passed through Barley Gate – presumably another preserve of St Peter? Everywhere we were made welcome, the ringing was to dream of, can't wait for next year and hope it's as good as Herefordshire.

Julia Lysaght

How did Bernard Taylor get in? Well he probably heard that the Cumberlands know how to enjoy themselves and living locally (and providing accommodation for some of the attendees), it probably seemed like a good opportunity to see for himself! The July country meeting has grown into a significant event in the calendar and this year was no different. The welcome, organisation, weather and scenery were all excellent. Jane Mason and her helpers laid on a ringers tea that will go down in history. Some members spread their wings by visiting a local vineyard and a special practice held on the Thursday night at Ledbury was well attended. These events do not happen without a lot of hard work by the organisers and our thanks go to Geoff Brewin and all the other people involved – you did us proud!

Northern Practices

We have held three very successful practices at Stockton this year, with another one planned for November. Numbers present have ranged between 16 and 24 and methods have included Cambridge, Yorkshire, Bristol, Ariel and Orion, with touches of Stedman too. We started the year with Ariel as the special method and changed to Orion later in the year - I haven't yet tried persuading people to turn up knowing both. "Him Indoors" grumbles enough at having to revise one of them so I use that to gauge the reaction of others!

The practice in March benefited by having quite a few York ringers attending. It is always encouraging when support comes from a new area, and Helen Bradley repeated the journey for the July practice too, bringing a "Young" man with her (Matt Young to be precise!) The September practice was the least well attended but possibly because of this, had the best ringing of the year. Some of it was very good indeed and we hope to build on this in the future.

The format remains unchanged, in the absence of any complaints or take-over bids; Rachael Dyson acts as unofficial Junior Steward by taking the money and has recently usurped David's previously unchallenged position as door-minder.

Once again we held a "North meets South" SRCY peal weekend, with Bristol successfully scored at Ossett and a very nice peal of Zanussi at Rotherham on the Sunday. My over-riding impression from the year's events has been a group of smiling faces; Cumberlands certainly know how to enjoy themselves when they get together !

Jennie Town

News from our Towers

Clerkenwell

Sunday Service ringing continues regularly at St James, Clerkenwell once a month with methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to spliced surprise major. There have been a few weddings as in previous years but the vicar is reluctant to allow visiting bands. The tonal quality of the bells is much appreciated.

Stephanie Pattenden

Shoreditch

Shoreditch has continued to be used regularly for peals, quarters, outings and practices. The acoustics are still being investigated with a view to try to improve them. Simon Holden in conjunction with the officers and Derek Sibson have provided regular service ringing at Shoreditch. Ringing has also been provided by the UL during term time and our thanks go to Martin Cansdale who worked to make this initiative a success and also by Paul Cammiade who has brought bands to ring occasionally. Members are encouraged to contact Simon Holden if they would like to bring a local band up to Shoreditch to ring for services. Ringing is from 10am – 10.45am. Members are invited to ring on 8, 10 or 12 and there would usually be the opportunity of a peal or 1/4 peal attempt following the service (at approx 12:15).

Fiona Wheeler

St Martin in the Fields

Olly Cross and Fiona Wheeler were re-elected as Tower Captain and Vice Captain at the 2004 AGM in February. Jo Fielding stood down as Secretary and Andrew Brown was elected to the post. While there have been some serious ups and downs in the numbers attending service ringing during the year, the standard of ringing has remained consistently high – whether it's been five ringers ringing the middle six to Grandsire Doubles (a very rare event) or Orion Surprise Maximus (an equally rare event). The Sunday service staples however continue to be Bristol and Cambridge Surprise Maximus and Stedman Cinques. Although the bells are now much more readily available for peals, only two have been scored since the AGM – the second of these was a band peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus in October. There have been a number of visiting bands during the year and a personal highlight was to watch a Devon Call Change band lower the twelve in peal. The band outing in April was a walking tour around Norwich

arranged by Jo Dorling and in November we will be involved in the St Martin-in-the-Fields Fair and will have our annual dinner. In August we lost the midday Visitors Service and now ring from 9am to 10am on Sunday only. If you are interested in joining the band and getting involved in the life of St Martin's please contact me at avb@btinternet.com or on 01308 485096.

Andrew Brown

Spitalfields

After a long period of restoration to the church, Spitalfields Christchurch has now re-opened. If you haven't yet had a chance to visit the church it is certainly well worth doing so to see the magnificent work that has been done. Service ringing is taking place on the first Sunday of each month, from 10-10.30 am. Please do contact me if you are available to ring.

It is hoped that the maintenance work on the clappers and the re-painting of the frame will take place in the early part of next year – thank you to all those who have volunteered help. I will be contacting you shortly.

Work also needs to be done on the sound control, more so now after a long period of silence from the bells. We also need to be aware of the increase in residential housing that has developed around the church since we last rang there regularly. This together with increased use of the church buildings may limit us as to when the bells are available for quarters/peals/practices.

Alan Regin

North American Guild

Despite the fact that the percentage of Cumberlands is high in North America, there is very little activity except for Cumberland Peal Weekend. This year it is hoped that there will be several attempts including Kent Treble Bob Royal in Toronto, a new method in Kalamazoo, an attempt at Little Rock and a Royal handbell peal.

Bruce Butler

London Practices July 03 – July 04

Practices were held at the following London towers

St Martin in the Fields,
Cornhill, Shoreditch,
Cripplegate,
St Saviours Pimlico,
St Mary le Bow,
Aldgate,

Guildford Cathedral,
Southwark Cathedral
St Andrew Holborn,
St Sepulchre,
St Clement Danes,
St Lawrence Jewry.

The highest attended practices were 40 at Shoreditch on 5th May, 39 at St Martins on 3rd March and 31 at Cripplegate on 23rd July.

80 people attended at least one practice.

Highest Non-officer attendance:

Jo Dorling = 41, Doug Beaumont = 40 and Simon Holden = 39

Results of Peal Weekend 2004

The Society had another very good Peal Weekend with forty peals being attempted. Twenty-nine were successful and eleven failed. We express our thanks to all who organised, conducted and stood in the attempts. Well done! Marvellous support.

In Suffolk members scored four out of five attempts over three weekends. There was one disappointment - illness and accident contrived to reduce the St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich attempt from Cinques to Caters - but the overall result was wonderful!

In Australia four attempts were organised in Sydney, two of which were successful. The Grandsire Cinques rung at St. Andrew's was the Society's first peal on twelve bells in the Southern Hemisphere. On the Saturday evening members enjoyed a Dinner. On the North American continent, four peals were scored out of four attempts. It had been hoped to ring Kent Treble Bob Royal at Toronto, using the same composition that was rung on the bells by the Society in 1904 whilst they hung at Bermondsey. Alas! Illness forced a change of plan. We are most grateful to our overseas members for all their efforts.

At High Wycombe a handbell peal was lost in the final half-lead of Cambridge Surprise Royal; we share the band's disappointment. The band at Benenden had Tom Barlow in their thoughts; Tom had instigated the attempt and had arranged it with the help of Simon Davies. However, Tom is still recovering from a heart attack and whilst he has rung a peal on a light ring of bells, he thought that discretion was the better part of valour at Benenden and stood down, Ian Mills ringing in his place.

The peal at Shoreditch was the hundredth of Bristol Surprise Major as conductor for our Master, Ian Fielding. Congratulations, Ian! One wonders whether this is a record. In London, Ian Bushell arranged for one band to ring two peals of Surprise Royal, London No 3 at Greenwich and Bristol at Camberwell. Well done! - and we understand that there were some blisters after Camberwell!

In the north, the attempt at Hexham had to be transferred to Roker and reduced to Major; a peal of Bristol was rung.

At Stevenage, after about two hours an attempt for Yorkshire had to be stopped because of the indisposition of one of the band. We hope that they will have a second attempt in the New Year. In the New Year we also hope that there will be a peal on George Francis' light ring of bells at Warnham, West Sussex. Margaret Reeves arranged a band but the bells were not available when needed.

Lastly, missing from this year's list is our Essex band who were concentrating on events celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Essex Association. We look forward to their return in 2005.

John Barnes

The antipodean Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Peal (and Dinner) Weekend
Sydney 19th, 20th & 21st November 2004

Late on the evening of Saturday 20th it was pointed out that, as the junior member of the Society (Mike Stone is older than me), that I should be writing some notes for my report on the weekend's proceedings. This was a bit like nominating the minute-taker at the end of a meeting! Particularly as it was also halfway through dinner and the second bottle of Cullen's!

Most of the members flying in for the weekend, arrived on Friday, two from New Zealand, one from Tasmania and two from WA. The writer, hoping to get in a bit of much needed practice, arrived on Wednesday into warm and very humid conditions, which did not auger well for peal ringing. The weather on Thursday was similar and Friday was, if anything, hotter and more humid. Rachael and I were bemoaning our fate over afternoon tea when the heavens opened, (by Royal command?). By the time the band gathered at Christ Church St Laurence, an hour later, the temperature had dropped dramatically and the outlook was much more conducive to peal ringing. Unfortunately, an on-on-on-going service prevented us from starting on time but the delay enabled a few old acquaintances to be renewed and a fair amount of gossip to be caught up with. Eventually, we got under way ringing Yorkshire Royal, to an interesting Harry Poyner composition, ably conducted by Christian in his usual cool (well mostly) and confidence boosting fashion. We were under a bit of time pressure (mainly from closing time) but 2:56 was not uncomfortable - not from where I was standing anyway! In spite of the outrageous start time for

the next morning's peal at St Andrew's, we managed a few beers, from glasses that, from a distance look like pints but are actually somewhere between that and a half – just as well probably.

Everyone was in fact present and correct at 0815 the following morning but once again our planned start was thwarted, this time by a recalcitrant alarm system, which re-energised itself for no apparent reason and then refused to allow itself to be turned off! This occupied the conductor for almost 30 minutes and once again then we started under pressure (that's my excuse anyway), this time from a potential wedding conflict. Grandsire Cinques, (a 5015 by T Hooley), was probably a good choice. St Andrew's are a difficult twelve to get a good tune out of but everybody gave it 100% producing some really nice music, particularly in the handstroke parts. The peal was completed in 3:13 and congratulations are again due to Christian for a very confident job.

Lunch was the next highlight of the day, no alcohol in sight but the fatal words, "well that's two out of two" were definitely uttered. There was some minor dissent concerning the method choice of Little Bob for the Sunday peal. A fair bit of lobbying took place, the writer was offered relief from his stand-in duty for the afternoon peal of minor to go and brush up on his Yorkshire Max. With hindsight, that might have been a good option!

The afternoon peal attempt was seven minor methods on the recently re-hung 15cwt six, in Broadway. Unfortunately this attempt came to grief in the fifth extent after some pleasant ringing. I'm told that the opportunity for the odd consolation pint of Guinness was appreciated.

A relatively quick turn round was required to ensure that the everyone was assembled in time for dinner at the Lord Nelson, in The Rocks, a pub well used to greeting bellringers. They brew their own beer, which means that it stands out in a land where most brewers think hops are what little furry animals do! I'm sure Bibendus, Max must have trod these boards? We started with a brew called Three Sheets', which, had we stuck to it, could well have turned out to be quite apt. There had been a request that it be 'black tie', (fortunately rejected), the only thing coming close being a tie sported by 'the Lloyd Cartwright' and the nearest to 'formal wear', Mike Stone's Society tee shirt. We were eighteen for dinner, the meal was excellent and I think it was about halfway through the snapper and the second bottle of Cullen's, that I was nominated as the scribe! There were no speeches but there was a photograph, taken under the watchful eye of Lord Nelson himself. The writer actually went to the same school as the famous seafarer - although several years later! The photographs signaled the end of a very enjoyable evening and everyone repaired to their various accommodations.

Sunday morning saw most of us at St Andrew's for service ringing, this was followed by tea and coffee, entertainment provided by the children. Midday was soon upon us and the band for the afternoon peal (LB 12) at St Mary's arrived more or less on time. Unfortunately, the ringing never properly settled down and Christian stood it up after something less than an hour. We practiced some Yorkshire Max that went better than the Little Bob, a fact that the lobbyists of the previous day relished the opportunity of pointing out!

Fortunately the East Sydney Hotel is used to peal bands and ringers in general, celebrating and commiserating with the same gusto. Starting drinking at 3 o'clock in the afternoon is usually a recipe for disaster but on this occasion the Cooper's seemed quite benign, possibly due to the excellent company. Unfortunately, flights and other entertainment, (where did Lloyd go?), meant that some had to forgo some socializing time, although those left did manage to keep commiserating for a few hours.

The weekend was undoubtedly a huge success, for which we all thank Rachael and Christian whose efforts made it so. In all sixteen, out of what we believe to be twenty Australian and New Zealand Cumberlands took part in the weekend's activities, including what was the first twelve-bell peal for the Society in the Southern Hemisphere. Traveling to Sydney for the weekend for some of us is like flying from London to Nicosia but the fact that we are already talking about getting together again soon to improve our twelve-bell ringing is, I think, an indication of the enthusiasm within the group.

Thanks to everybody for making the effort this time, maybe next year we can visit one of the other capital cities.

Roger Lubbock

Blue Peter

It was a fairly uneventful morning in early October, until John strolled up the garden from his office for his usual mid-morning cup of tea and nonchalantly mentioned that Robert, Editor of the Ringing World, had phoned and asked whether we, and our young ringers from Campton, Bedfordshire, would like to be involved in filming for the children's programme, Blue Peter. The BBC had contacted Robert and asked for some help and advice with producing a Christmas item for Blue Peter about bellringing. They were keen to film a presenter learning to ring with a young band in the country and then going on to have a ring with them at a 'big town church or Cathedral'.

A meeting was scheduled between Robert, John, myself and Ed Willson from the Blue Peter film team to discuss venues, script and the logistics of filming. Prior to this, John and I met on two occasions with Robert to brainstorm our ideas for the programme. We all saw this as a fantastic PR opportunity for ringing in general and as a recruitment opportunity for youngsters in particular, so felt that we needed to plan our input carefully to make sure that we maximised the potential.

We met with Ed on October 15th in London. He was keen to find out as much as possible about ringing, though it was evident that he had already done a lot of very thorough research. He outlined his ideas for the 9 minute slot, which would involve me teaching presenter, Simon Thomas, to ring. We were very pleased that Ed's initial ideas were not vastly different from our own, and he was very receptive to our suggestions. It was not difficult to persuade Ed that Liverpool Cathedral, though housing the largest ring of bells in the world, was possibly not the most practical venue for Simon's ringing finale. He was enthusiastic about our suggestion that Simon should ring for a carol service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, perhaps linking this with the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square.



Stars of the Blue Peter ringing event at St Martin-in-the-Fields

It was an interesting, and not particularly easy, teaching situation. As well as focussing on the bell handling, Simon and I had to chat on camera about all sorts of aspects of ringing. Each sequence was shot several times, from different camera angles, which at least meant that Simon got lots of ringing practice, but I had to remember the eloquent answers that I'd just given to Simon's questions!

The second filming session was scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th..

"Look to, trebles going ..." and off we went. Simon did really well, as did our young ringers who took it in turns to ring. The extra practice on Sunday and earlier in the afternoon had paid off. The last shot was the end of the ringing. The plan was that I would call "Stand" and everyone would cheer and clap Simon. Would he set his bell first time? ... He did! ... What a pity that we had to do 3 more takes!

A really big thank you to all the members of the Society who came to ring with us for our practice and the filming!

Linda Garton

July Country meeting – 9th/10th July 2005

Clive Moon has put together some excellent plans for the Country meeting in Hexham 2005. The meeting would be held in Trinity Methodist church in Hexham, just across the road from the Abbey, a large hall capable of accommodating over 100 people. Tea & cakes would be available prior to the business meeting.

For the evening the plan is that it should be held at Ridley Hall, 11 miles west of Hexham (near Bardon Mill). Ridley Hall could also provide reasonable accommodation for up to 65 people. The event, which would start at 19.30, would make full use of the beautiful grounds of Ridley Hall and would also include a barbecue & music. It is proposed that a coach could provide transport between Hexham and Ridley Hall for those staying in Hexham. A local pub would run a real ale bar.

Ridley Hall, as mentioned above, can provide reasonably priced B&B accommodation (£18.50 per person per night) for up to 70 people. The Hall is a grand building, with large oak panelled rooms on the ground floor, and impressive staircase, a full size snooker table, rooms appropriate for handbell ringing, and 27 acres of beautiful grounds.

Camping within the grounds is also a possibility. It is adjacent to Allen Banks, a National Trust owned wooded gorge. More information about Ridley Hall can be found at www.ridleyhall.com and more pictures of the grounds can be found at www.growability.co.uk – follow link to Tynedale Horticultural Service.

In addition to this there is a wide range of guest house and hotel accommodation and camping and caravanning sites in and around Hexham and full details of these could be provided.

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

SRCY Country Meeting in Australia

As some of you are aware, prior to returning 'down under', Lloyd Cartright suggested that we arrange an SRCY Country Meeting in Australia. Following up on this, at the July country meeting last year the members present were asked to fill in a form with their preferences if they would be interested in such an idea. The results of this exercise were reported at the AGM, showing that there were 14 positive responses, covering 19 people. However, this obviously did not cover all of the membership and it was agreed to include a wider survey with this newsletter.

In order to give a little more substance to this survey, I volunteered to make some initial enquiries to gain an outline itinerary and estimate of cost. While the original invitation was from Lloyd to visit the Perth area, obviously we would want to include some time in Sydney and probably Melbourne, with possibly other areas, maybe as optional extras. The most likely times so far are just after Easter 2007, or possibly October 2006. While there will obviously be interest in ringing some peals and quarters, almost all the respondents so far have indicated a preference for a 50/50 split of ringing time and sightseeing time, and obviously we would be keen to ring with and help the local ringers.

As far as cost is concerned, a round-the-world economy class ticket after Easter next year with Qantas would cost just about £1000 (so perhaps £1200 two years later) and allow 7 stopovers, including 3 in Australia. I have not yet done a lot of investigation into accommodation costs but I would expect 3 weeks to be in the region of another £1000 per room or £500 per person (based on shared occupancy) so perhaps £2500 per person would cover flights, accommodation, living expenses, tower fees etc.

The itinerary I am thinking of, although this may well change, is something like:

- Fly from UK to Perth.
- 5 days in Perth and surrounding area.
- Fly to Sydney.
- Stay a week or 8 days in the Sydney area.
- Fly to Melbourne.
- 2 or 3 days in Melbourne.
- Fly back to UK, or optionally fly on to Adelaide and/or New Zealand.

A survey form is included with this newsletter – please fill it in if you would be interested in such a venture and you did not fill one in at Ledbury.

Graham Duke

S.R.C.Y. PEALS 2003 – 2004

Aug 1 2003	Hackney	5,024	8-Spliced Surprise Major	J. W. Belshaw
Aug 8 2003	Londonderry	5,000	Bristol Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 8 2003	Coleraine	5,024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Aug 9 2003	Dundela	5,040	Anglia Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Aug 9 2003	Enniskillen	5,040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 10 2003	Ballymena	5,186	Avon Delight Maximus	J. P. Loveless
Aug 11 2003	Hillsborough	5,031	Stedman Caters	I. R. Fielding
Aug 16 2003	Chatham	5,120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 16 2003	Maidstone (St. Michael)	5,120	6-Spliced Surprise Major	R. A. Pearce
Aug 17 2003	St. Lawrence, Jewry	5,088	Lee Wood Delight Major	S. A. Wheeler
Aug 17 2003	Shoreditch	5,040	Filwood Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Aug 25 2003	Southwark	5,040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	R. Baldwin
Sep 6 2003	Trumpington	5,056	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Sep 6 2003	Cambridge (Roman Catholic)	5,184	Cambridge Surprise Major	M. J. Bright
Sep 11 2003	Limehouse	5,088	Virgo Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 13 2003	Haddington	5,040	Stedman Triples	M. J. L. Durham
Sep 14 2003	Berwick-upon-Tweed	5,152	23-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Sep 20 2003	Leicester Cathedral	5,088	Ariel Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Sep 20 2003	Nottingham (St. Peter)	5,136	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Sep 27 2003	Haslemere	5,079	Stedman Caters	K. J. Darvill
Oct 4 2003	Eltham	5,024	Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Oct 4 2003	Shoreditch	5,024	London Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Oct 4 2003	St. Martin-in-the-Fields	5,040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	O. D. Cross
Oct 5 2003	Shoreditch	5,042	Orion Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Oct 7 2003	Shoreditch	5,000	6-Spliced Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Oct 11 2003	Bury St. Edmunds	5,040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Oct 16 2003	Shoreditch	5,056	Libra Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Oct 17 2003	Shoreditch	5,042	Orion Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Oct 19 2003	Shoreditch	5,000	London No.1 Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Oct 25 2003	Kettering	5,040	Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	D. E. Sibson
Oct 25 2003	Broadclyst	5,088	Bristol Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
Oct 26 2003	Plymouth	5,000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	I. R. Fielding
Oct 27 2003	Great Torrington	5,040	Double Norwich Court Bob Major	S. A. Wheeler
Oct 27 2003	Okehampton	5,088	Uxbridge Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Oct 28 2003	Stratton	5,024	Heptonstall Surprise Major *	J. P. Loveless
Oct 28 2003	Kilkhampton	5,184	Cornwall Surprise Major	H. W. Egglestone
Oct 29 2003	St. Mawgan in Pydar	5,056	Cambridge Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Oct 29 2003	St. Columb Major	5,120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Oct 31 2003	St. Stephens-by-Launceston	5,184	Ealing Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
Oct 31 2003	Launceston	5,120	Bristol Surprise Major	P. M. Fleckney
Nov 1 2003	Minehead	5,040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Nov 4 2003	Shoreditch	5,000	Grantham Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Nov 7 2003	Wandsworth (Holy Trinity)	5,024	Premier Surprise Major *	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 8 2003	Acton	5,152	Glasgow Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 8 2003	Bethnal Green	5,120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 8 2003	Northampton (St. Benedict)	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Nov 8 2003	Flore	5,040	21 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Nov 9 2003	Edmonton	5,024	4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 13 2003	Bow	5,024	Scorpio Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Nov 13 2003	Barrow Gurney	5,056	Uxbridge Surprise Major	A. J. Cox
Nov 14 2003	Shoreditch	5,120	8-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 14 2003	Cambridge (Mass)	5,024	Uxbridge Surprise Major H/B	D. F. Morrison
Nov 15 2003	Stradbroke	5,040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	A. P. Cotton
Nov 15 2003	Chatham	5,088	Bristol Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless

Nov 15 2003	Northfleet	5,088 London Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Nov 15 2003	Sapcote	5,024 Bristol Surprise Major	R. J. Angrave
Nov 15 2003	Westbourne	5,120 Wendy Surprise Major *	J. W. Belshaw
Nov 15 2003	Charleston (Grace Church)	5,040 Plain Bob Caters *	R. Baldwin
Nov 15 2003	Rendham	5,184 Bristol Surprise Major	S. D. Pettman
Nov 15 2003	Caversham	5,056 Cambridge Surprise Major	D. J. Beaumont
Nov 15 2003	Kingsteignton	5,120 Superlative Surprise Major	H. W. Egglestone
Nov 15 2003	Portsmouth (St. Mary)	5,120 Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 15 2003	Thorverton	5,040 Jacobs Creek Surprise Royal *	D. B. Carter
Nov 15 2003	Alverstoke	5,024 4-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 15 2003	Weston-super-Mare	5,088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major	C. R. Nicholls
Nov 15 2003	Brighton (St. Nicholas)	5,040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	A. R. Baldock
Nov 15 2003	Werrington	5,056 Yorkshire Surprise Major	I. V. J. Smith
Nov 15 2003	Benington	5,152 Lincolnshire Surprise Major	G. A. Duke
Nov 15 2003	Meldreth	5,088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major	A. D. Downs
Nov 15 2003	Kalamazoo	5,056 Plain Bob Major H/B	R. T. Kakuk
Nov 15 2003	Foxborough	5,056 2-Spliced Treble Bob Major H/B	D. F. Morrison
Nov 16 2003	Terling	5,056 Yorkshire Surprise Major	J. L. Towler
Nov 16 2003	Newcastle (Delaware)	5,040 4 methods Minor	Theresa M. Rice
Nov 16 2003	Boston (Mass)	5,040 7 methods Surprise Minor	D. F. Morrison
Nov 16 2003	Lambeth	5,056 Ashtead Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Nov 16 2003	Ipswich (St. Mary-le-Tower)	5,040 Grandsire Triples	S. D. Pettman
Nov 16 2003	Sydney Cathedral	5,040 7 methods Minor	C. M. Peckham
Nov 16 2003	Keele	5,088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Patricia A. M. Halls
Nov 16 2003	Maidenhead	5,040 Kent Treble Bob Royal H/B	K. J. Darvill
Nov 17 2003	Shoreditch	5,042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	O. D. Cross
Nov 22 2003	Ansteyb (Herts)	5,040 7 methods Surprise Minor	J. P. Loveless
Nov 27 2003	Boston (Mass)	5,056 8-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 4 2003	Marietta	5,152 Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 13 2003	Canterbury	5,042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	J. W. Belshaw
Dec 20 2003	Eastwood	5,056 Ytterbium Surprise Major	I. Butters
Dec 20 2003	Mansfield	5,088 Lessness Surprise Major	P. F. Curtis
Dec 21 2003	Nottingham (All Saints)	5,024 10 methods Surprise Major	R. P. Graves
Dec 21 2003	Shoreditch	5,024 6-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Dec 30 2003	Barton Seagrave	5,024 Zoolith Surprise Major *	D. E. Sibson
Jan 1 2004	Wanstead	5,024 Wanstead Surprise Major *	D. E. Sibson
Jan 3 2004	Crick	5,024 Quethiock Surprise Major *	D. E. Sibson
Jan 3 2004	Downham	5,040 7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Jan 6 2004	Shoreditch	5,040 Garthorpe Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Jan 8 2004	Bermondsey	5,088 Capricorn Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jan 8 2004	Barrow Gurney	5,024 4-Spliced Surprise Major	J. StJ. Beaumont
Jan 17 2004	Houghton-le-Spring	5,024 4-Spliced Surprise Major	M. J. L. Durham
Jan 19 2004	Meldreth	5,024 Rutland Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jan 20 2004	Shoreditch	5,040 4-Spliced Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Jan 24 2004	Radlett	5,040 7 methods Surprise Minor	R. A. Pearce
Jan 30 2004	Barton Seagrave	5,024 Rutland Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jan 31 2004	Stoke-next-Guildford	5,040 Spliced Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Jan 31 2004	Trumpington	5,024 Quoditch Surprise Major *	D. E. Sibson
Feb 3 2004	Shoreditch	5,040 Isleworth Surprise Maximus +	D. E. Sibson
Feb 7 2004	Limehouse	5,024 London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 7 2004	Shoreditch	5,024 Uxbridge Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Feb 7 2004	Rotherhithe	5,056 Bristol Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Feb 7 2004	Wandsworth (Holy Trinity)	5,024 4-Spliced Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Feb 7 2004	Wimbledon	5,216 Bristol Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Feb 8 2004	Allendale	5,152 23-Spliced Surprise Major	E. Alyson Kerr
Feb 8 2004	Glasgow	5,056 Cambridge Surprise Major H/B	S. J. Gay
Feb 12 2004	Hackney	5,024 Aquarius Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler

Feb 14 2004	Buckland	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Feb 15 2004	Shoreditch	5,040	Ilkley Moor Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Feb 19 2004	Ditcheat	5,120	London Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 19 2004	Wincanton	5,152	23-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Feb 20 2004	Westbury	5,120	Bristol Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 20 2004	Marston Bigot	5,056	10-Spliced Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Feb 21 2004	Chewton Mendip	5,152	Glasgow Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Feb 21 2004	Ston Easton	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Feb 28 2004	York	5,042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Mar 6 2004	Deptford	5,088	Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Mar 11 2004	St. Andrew, Holborn	5,152	8-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Mar 13 2004	Crick	5,056	Yorkshire Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
Mar 13 2004	Wicken	5,088	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Mar 13 2004	Daventry	5,040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	G. A. Duke
Mar 13 2004	Whilton	5,184	Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Mar 20 2004	Stoke D'Abernon	5,040	11 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Mar 20 2004	Hammerwood	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Mar 20 2004	Northfield	5,080	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	M. Angrave
Mar 25 2004	Stamford Hill	5,088	Sagittarius Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Apr 3 2004	Godstone	5,120	Bristol Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Apr 3 2004	Barton Seagrave	5,024	Newhey Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Apr 4 2004	Hexham	5,040	Bristol Surprise Royal	D. G. Walker
Apr 9 2004	Maidstone (St. Michael)	5,008	Double Oxford Bob Major	P. H. Larter
Apr 17 2004	Staverton	5,040	12 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Apr 17 2004	Greens Norton	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	I. R. Fielding
Apr 22 2004	Shoreditch	5,152	10-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Apr 24 2004	St. Andrew, Holborn	5,024	Rutland Surprise Major	G. A. Duke
May 1 2004	Bristol	5,040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
May 1 2004	Banwell	5,040	Anglia Surprise Royal	I. Roulstone
May 2 2004	Wilton	5,080	6-Spliced Surprise Royal	A. J. Cox
May 3 2004	Berkeley	5,040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	P. F. Curtis
May 3 2004	Lydney	5,002	Bristol Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
May 4 2004	Shoreditch	5,040	Herschel Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
May 6 2004	Shoreditch	5,024	8-Spliced Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
May 13 2004	Shoreditch	5,152	13-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
May 15 2004	Tenterden	5,120	Cambridge Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
May 22 2004	Walsall	5,042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
May 23 2004	Watford	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor H/B	R. Baldwin
May 29 2004	Wye	5,000	London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
May 29 2004	Ripon	5,002	Bristol Surprise Royal	D. V. Craggs
May 29 2004	Selling	5,152	Lessness Surprise Major	R. M. Hobbs
May 30 2004	Benenden	5,136	Bristol Surprise Maximus	J. P. Loveless
May 31 2004	Ash-next-Sandwich	5,040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	P. F. Curtis
Jun 1 2004	Shoreditch	5,040	Tyneside Surprise Maximus *	D. E. Sibson
Jun 10 2004	Bermondsey	5,152	13-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jun 11 2004	Watford	5,056	Yorkshire Surprise Major H/B	R. Baldwin
Jun 12 2004	Semley	5,040	7 methods Surprise Minor	J. C. Hetherington
Jun 12 2004	Ossett	5,042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Jun 13 2004	Rotherham	5,088	Zanussi Surprise Maximus	I. Roulstone
Jul 1 2004	Barton Seagrave	5,024	Eardley Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jul 3 2004	Enfield (St. Mary Magdalene)	5,152	Glasgow Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 3 2004	Great Stanmore	5,184	Northwood Surprise Major *	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 4 2004	Walworth	5,012	Boston Alliance Major *	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 6 2004	Shoreditch	5,040	Ladybank Surprise Royal *	D. E. Sibson
Jul 8 2004	Colwall	5,040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Jul 8 2004	Hanbury	5,024	Bristol Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Jul 8 2004	Pershore	5,056	Cornwall Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler

Jul 8 2004	Pebworth	5,040 Boston Surprise Royal	D. E. Sibson
Jul 8 2004	Great Hampton	5,056 Uxbridge Surprise Major	A. J. Cox
Jul 9 2004	Much Wenlock	5,024 Evesham Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jul 9 2004	Clun	5,040 London No.3 Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Jul 9 2004	Knighton	5,056 4-Spliced Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Jul 9 2004	Eardisland	5,088 Watford Surprise Major	D. E. Sibson
Jul 9 2004	Welshpool	5,088 Ipswich Surprise Major *	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 9 2004	Claverley	5,056 Bristol Surprise Major	J. P. Loveless
Jul 10 2004	Ross on Wye	5,024 Rutland Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 10 2004	Kingstone	5,152 Yorkshire Surprise Major	I. R. Fielding
Jul 10 2004	Tewkesbury	5,040 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	D. E. Sibson
Jul 10 2004	Bromyard	5,088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	D. B. Carter
Jul 10 2004	Worcester	5,040 Cambridge Surprise Royal	J. P. Loveless
Jul 11 2004	Holme Lacy	5,120 Cambridge Surprise Major	R. Baldwin
Jul 11 2004	Stourbridge	5,042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jul 15 2004	Pimlico	5,152 14-Spliced Surprise Major	S. A. Wheeler
Jul 17 2004	St. Martin-in-the-Fields	5,136 Bristol Surprise Maximus	J. P. Loveless
Jul 24 2004	Amersham	5,042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	I. R. Fielding
Jul 29 2004	Shoreditch	5,080 Cambridge Surprise Royal	S. A. Wheeler

+ denotes first peal in the method

* denotes first peal in the method for the Society

Peals Analysis

This year there has been a further decrease in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/03 and 31/7/04 there were 187 compared with 235 last year. This time handbell peals have increased to 7 (2) in that total and 3 of these were in the USA.. The number of towers was again less with 142 (168). Shoreditch is still the leading tower but only one other tower, Barton Seagrave, 4, had more than two peals during the year. The major work at Spitalfields has of course removed that tower from the list. With no Society trip to the USA, those towers are also significantly missing.

Towers: Shoreditch 23 (14), Barton Seagrave 4 (4), 13 towers with 2 and 127 with just 1.

Geographically the peals were still widespread, being rung in 40 (41) different counties in the British Isles, but only 8 (25) in 5 (7) states in the U.S.A. and 1 (3) in Australia. Most were rung in London 49 (48), followed this time by Northants 14 (7), Kent 11 (8), Somerset 11 (3) and Cornwall 7 (4). As usual the change in distribution each year is a reflection of where we hold the country meeting, although this year it was spread over several counties, and where any tours have been held, Northern Ireland having 6 (7) again this year.

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

Ringers: Alan Regin 75 (86), Stephen A. Wheeler 58 (49), Ian R. Fielding 56 (54), Richard Hobbs 52 (35), Simon J. Davies 50 (53), Fiona M. Edwards 47 (45), Shirley E. McGill 44 (41) John P. Loveless 41 (43), Catherine N. Merlane 38 (35), Linda M Garton 37 (37), Derek E. Sibson 34 (70), E. Jane Sibson 33 (67).

The conducting was shared by 43 people this year compared with 49 last year. Derek E. Sibson 33 (63), Stephen A. Wheeler 33 (36), Ian R. Fielding 31 (31), John P. Loveless 19 (17), Roger Baldwin 7 (5), Ian Roulstone 6 (8), Richard Hobbs 5 (2), five members with 3, seven members with 2 and 24 with 1.

The variety of methods has once again fallen. 85 (101) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have remained similar with 21 but there were no peals of Cinques this year.

Methods: Bristol S. Major 16 (16), 7 Surprise Minor 11 (10), Bristol S. Maximus 8 (7), 4-Spliced S. Major 7 (11), Cambridge S. Royal 7 (1), London S. Major 7 (11), Yorkshire S. Major 7 (6), Cambridge S. Major 6 (5), 8-Spliced S. Major 5 (12), Lincolnshire S. Major 5 (1), Uxbridge S. Major 5 (3), Bristol S. Royal 4 (10), Cambridge S. Maximus 4 (0), Rutland S. Major 4 (3), Yorkshire S. Royal 4 (4).

Derek Sibson

The mystery of the Pewter Mug

During the year we received an email from a Thomas Hawley of Connecticut.

Hello,

I am a member of the British Pewter Society, living in the USA, and am trying to research an early quart pewter beer mug in my collection. The mug is engraved on the front, " The Society of Cumberland Youths " and " Instituted 1746 ". In the center of the inscription is a large bell and the date " 1828 ". On each side of the mug is engraved a gentleman in early dress with the inscription, " Gulielmus Duos Cumbriae ". The mug was made in London and is excised with a George IV mark, meaning that the mug was made in his reign, probably circa 1825. I would assume that this is the same as your Society and that the " Royal " was added at some time after my mug was made and engraved.

I know from my years of collecting pewter that there were bell-ringer flagons for the ringers to drink ale out of. In fact in the " Nine Tailors " by Dorothy Sayers there is mention of a bell ringers flagon. I am thinking that this could be a bellringer mug which was passed around the ringers during their sessions.

Do you have any History of your Society that you could provide to me. I would like to write an article for The Pewter Society Journal and perhaps, if you would like, an article for your publication.

Many thanks for any help you could provide

Alan Regin replied to Mr Hawley

Dear Thomas,

Thanks very much for the message that was forwarded to me by our Secretary. Sounds like you have a very interesting article there, certainly it has often been said that ringing and ale go hand in hand!

The Society was certainly active right through the 19th century and you are right that the "Royal" was added after the transfer of headquarters from Shoreditch to St Martin-in-the-Fields (where it still has it's HQ) in the middle of the 1800's - the reason behind that was that Buckingham Palace was in the Parish of St Martin's and the ringers were therefore the "Royal" ringers. It is important to note that the ringers added the title themselves, it was not given to them, so we keep a bit quiet about it these days.

We have an interesting connection with the United States, the very first peal rung there, at Christ Church Philadelphia, was rung with some local ringers by four members of the Cumberland Youths who were travelling with the Barnum Circus, ringing tunes on handbells in fact, the board recording this very historic event is still at Christ Church but unfortunately the bells are not at present hung for ringing.

I would be very happy to try and provide any information you need and, as Philippa says, an article would be great to have in our annual newsletter.

Let me know what we can do and I will see what can be done.

A photo of the mug would be wonderful.

We felt further information would be of interest to members. However since then we have been unable to contact Mr Hawley. If any of our American members would be interested in pursuing this locally, please contact the Secretary who has the relevant contact details.

Contributions

We would welcome contributions to the Newsletter from members at any time of the year. If you attend or are organising an event, please remember that other members might like to hear what is going on. Each year we receive letters from members, who are not able to be as active in the society as they would like, telling us of the enjoyment they get from reading about events during the year. Articles can be sent at any time of the year to the Secretary. Pictures are always welcome – either prints or negatives which can be scanned in (and will be returned) or digital pictures.

ELECTED OFFICERS 2003 -2004

Master	Ian R. Fielding
Senior Steward	Shirley E. McGill
Junior Steward	Simon R. Holden
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	Elizabeth A. Hibbert Michael H. D. O'Callaghan
Central Council representatives	John S. Barnes Ian H. Oram Derek E. Sibson
Newsletter editors	Jo Dorling Philippa Whittington

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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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