



# Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2016

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Country meetings in  
Hitchin and Wylam



Informal dinner at  
Spitalfields



And more....



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# Introduction from the Master

It is, again, a privilege to introduce our Newsletter in my second year of office. My thanks go to all who have contributed and, in particular, to Mary Holden for her sterling work in bringing it all together.

It is hard to believe that a year has already passed since I put on the Master's badge for the first time. It has certainly been a memorable year from my perspective, full of highs as well as a few lows. Nevertheless, I firmly believe we are making steps in the right direction.

In last year's newsletter, I wrote about what I believed *our* Society has to offer; the combination of excellent ringing with an emphasis on striking over hurried method advancement, opportunities provided to those wanting to progress and an overarching friendly camaraderie. I believe that, certainly closer to London, we have been more successful in communicating and demonstrating this than for some time.

In particular, the quality and complexity of our ringing at Wednesday night practices – at the core of the Society's activities - has much improved. Numbers have increased with members new and old taking the opportunity to expand/revisit their horizons. More often than not, I am a happy man in the pub afterwards! There is a lot more to be done, but the trajectory is encouraging. Some of the ringing talent we have been able to attract over the past year, at least in part following experiences at a London practice, is especially pleasing.

Of course, although the regular weekly activity of the Society takes place in London, our membership is both UK-wide and worldwide. We held two excellent country meetings in 2016, with members enjoying a particularly memorable weekend based around Wylam-on-Tyne, Northumberland; expertly masterminded by Andrew Cairns. It was particularly gratifying to see such a large northern contingent over the course of the weekend! This year's summer meeting is to be based around Melbourne, Derbyshire, with organisation led by Christian Peckham. Given its relatively central location, it would be fantastic to build upon the numbers seen last year!

On the competition front, we had a mixed year. In the National 12 Bell Competition, we once again qualified comfortably through a tough eliminator at High Wycombe. Come the final at

Aston, it was slightly disappointing to be placed 5th. A prominent issue at

Aston was the discrepancy between the sound heard in the ringing chamber and the strike notes picked up by the microphone above the bells, used by the Strikeometer and judges. This is something we evidently failed to adjust to. Happily, we bounced back from this and put in a very solid performance to come 2<sup>nd</sup> (again!) in the London 12 Bell competition, held at St. Sepulchre, Holborn, beating two strong ASCY teams in the process. The 2017 competition will be hosted by us at Shoreditch, no pressure!



Looking ahead to 2017 more generally, one thing is clear above all else: the Society can only ever be what *you*, the members, make it. I urge you to get involved in whichever way you feel able. Whether it be coming along to a country meeting, attending a London/Northern practice, or maybe just by arranging/ringing a society peal - we'd be delighted to see you. If you have potential members in your area, bring them along to see what we're about. As always website or/and Facebook for the latest goings on.

*Tom Mack, Master*



The SRCY band that rang a peal at St Clement Danes, Westminster, on 16th January 2016 to mark the 90th anniversary of the first ladies' 10 bell peal, also rung at St Clement Danes. Band clockwise from front right: Stephanie Pattenden, Shirley McGill, Angela Athawes, Ron Diserens, Penny Sharpe, James Belshaw, Geraldine Forster, Tom Mack, Ben Constant, Adam Greenley. Ron's mother, Freda Orr, rang the 4th in the 1926 peal.

## Not the Dinner Day 2016

### Peal(s), beer and a curry: what more could a ringer want?!

The format of NTDD remains a winning formula and one of my favourite events on the calendar. This year did not disappoint!

We enjoyed a very successful day of peal ringing, with 7 out of 7 peal attempts scored.

For the evening curry we strayed from Brick Lane in favour of a venue tucked away in the heart of the city. Trialled late one evening after an officers' meeting by our Senior Steward and Assistant Secretary, Bangalore Express City proved to be a big step-up in overall quality in comparison to recent offerings from Brick Lane; almost worth missing out on the Pride of Spitalfields for! The food was excellent and the staff more than willing to provide extra where necessary.

Thanks to Ben Constant for arranging the peal venues, and to Penny Sharpe for arranging such a good deal for the evening, as always. This was a quality day out and a great way to start the year.

# March Country Meeting in Hertfordshire

The 2016 March country meeting was based in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and organised by Liz Cranfield.

Three peals were scored, at Ampthill, St Neots and Campton. The general ringing tour finished with ringing on the 12 at Hitchin.

51 members attended the meeting in Church House and enjoyed the meal that followed.

Thanks to Liz for her organisation of the day.



St Mary's Hitchin, and general ringing at Hitchin

## From your Librarian:

A reminder that most of the books and some of the artefacts and historical records held in the library cupboard at Spitalfields are available to borrow. The library catalogue may be viewed via the SRCY website. Anyone wishing to borrow an item please email me on [librarian@srcy.org.uk](mailto:librarian@srcy.org.uk).

A few library items have gone missing over the years. There is a full list at the foot of the library catalogue and, if anyone can throw any light on any of these items, please let me know.

*Geraldine Forster*

# National 12 Bell Contest 2016

Our eliminator in 2016 was at High Wycombe, where we came second behind the ASCY. The judges commented that the first leads of our test piece were very good, but unfortunately a trip in the fourth lead unsettled the ringing slightly.

The final was held at Aston, where there was nearly as much conversation about the referendum result the day before as there was about the ringing. The judges described our ringing as being solid with a good overall structure. However, they noted some disagreement on speed, and this resulted in us being placed 5th, with Birmingham taking top spot.

The SRCY 12 bell band, clockwise from front right: Michael Crockett, Shirley McGill, Geraldine Forster, Mary Holden, Adam Greenley, Doug Beaumont, Nick Brown, Steve Bailey, Tom Mack, Alan Regin, Ben Constant, Claire Roulstone



# July Country Meeting

## Wylam-on-Tyne



The July Country meeting was held in Wylam-on-Tyne on Saturday 9 July. Over the preceding Wednesday to Saturday morning 11 peals were scored in the surrounding areas. On the Saturday morning we also enjoyed general ringing at Gosforth, Jesmond and Ovingham.

The meeting was preceded by a striking competition where a number of bands competed to win a round of drinks provided by the Master at the evening do. A course of Newcastle Surprise Minor on the heavy 6 at St Oswin's proved a good test. The competition was judged by local College Youth, Alan Barber, who revealed the results in the evening. He commented that, while the bells are not easy, the overall standard of ringing was good. First place was taken by "The FADWABS" - well done to Geraldine Forster, Ben Duke, Rosemary Duke, Russell Brown, David Warwick and Flick Warwick. Their ringing was the quickest of the day, and described by Alan as a very nice piece of ringing. The local team, "Great North Eastern", came second with a test piece that was uncertain to start with but had a very good second half.

During the meeting, appreciation was passed onto Linda Garton (along with Jo Dorling, Judith Mack and others who helped with catering) for her efforts at organising the Ringing World National Youth Contest. Ian Oram reported on the Central Council meeting; members voted in favour of a potential BRF grant to the Ypres project, led by Alan Regin, and the Treasurer gave notice of a potential rule changes to be proposed at the AGM.

The dinner and ceilidh that followed the meeting were attended by around 75 members in the lovely setting of the Wylam Institute Hall with views of the church from out of the lofty windows, and plenty of delicious food and liquid sustenance. Many thanks to Andrew and Angela Cairns and their family and helpers, for the organisation of such an enjoyable event.



Left: Members listening to the striking contest at Wylam. Above right: Andrew and Angela Cairns. Below right: Winning team, "The FADWABs"

# Membership news

We welcome the following new members, elected during 2016

- |                   |                  |                 |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Graham Hayward    | Simon Kemp       | Lizzie Pawley   |
| Lucy Warwick      | Sam Cave         | Ruth Corney     |
| David Horne       | David Pearson    | Matthew Pearson |
| Jennifer Heyworth | Andrew Thackeray |                 |

It is with sadness we report the deaths of:

- |                   |                 |               |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| George Williamson | Donald Jennings | Amy Coburn    |
| Marjorie Matthews | Diana Handley   | Michael Brown |
| David Redfearn    |                 |               |

# September dinner

## Spitalfields



It is always difficult when there are many other events on the same day, Heritage Open Day, Essex Trophy, Surrey University Dinner etc, but just shy of 50 people attended the Informal Dinner on Saturday 10th September. Being informal it is nice to go out for the evening without having to worry about tying a bow tie although there was one in evidence, in true Charleston style and very smart too.

Having visited Spitalfields on many occasions but never below stairs (apart from the obvious facilities) I was looking forward to the informal dinner in the Cafe in the crypt. I was not disappointed as it proved to be an excellent venue. I was greeted at the door and had my name checked off a list and once I had parked my soaking umbrella found the pre-dinner drinks and an opportunity to mingle. To avoid a mad scramble to find a seat we had been allocated to one of the three large tables and could then choose whom we sat with. The bar was well staffed with no queues and the wine reasonably priced. The food was excellent and well presented and the around table gossip was up to the usual standard which to be honest, when I don't come up to London very often, is the one of the main reasons for being there. As it was informal, there was no speech as such but the Master took the opportunity to thank Penny for organising the event.

Notable events were one couple (both senior members) arriving after most people had finished eating, I never did find out why and at the end of the evening another (different) senior member stuffing her bag with as many of the flowers from the table decorations as she could cram in, much to the amusement of onlookers.

All above board and agreed with Penny, or so we were told.

*Paul Cammiade*





# Officers 2016-17

At the AGM in October, thanks were given to Ben Constant, standing down as Senior Steward. The officers for 2016-17 are:

Master: Tom Mack

Senior Steward: Heather Forster

Junior Steward: Mary Holden

Hon. Secretary: John Ford

Hon. Treasurer: Barry Mack

Assistant Secretary: Penny Sharpe

Hon. Librarian: Geraldine Forster

## London 12 bell

The London 12 bell contest took place on 22nd October at St Sepulchre, Holborn. The SRCY came second (again!), this time behind St Paul's Cathedral.

The band representing SRCY, is pictured. Clockwise from front right: Jo Dorling, Shirley McGill, Heather Forster, Michael Crockett, Geraldine Forster, Mary Holden, Ian Mills, Doug Beaumont, Steve Bailey, Ben Constant, Alan Regin, Tom Mack



## Congratulations to the following

Stuart Talbott on ringing his 1,000th peal

Sue Marsden on ringing her 1,000th peal

Paul Curtis on ringing his 4,000th peal

Ian Campbell on ringing his 5,000th peal,



# Society peals in history

## Society Peals 250 Years Ago, 1767

03/08/1767 St Edward the Confessor Romford	5120 Union TB Major	Samuel Wood
12/10/1767 St Mary Whitechapel	5312 Court Bob Major	Samuel Wood

You may remember from earlier articles that Union TB was an early name for Oxford TB. Another interesting peal venue at Whitechapel, the peal rung in 3hours 24 minutes with Samuel Mugeridge on the tenor.

## Society Peals 200 Years Ago, 1817

15/02/1817 St Leonard Shoreditch	5039 Grandsire Caters	George Gross
07/09/1817 St Mary Lewisham	5040 Grandsire Triples	George Gross
13/12/1817 St Leonard Shoreditch	5000 Oxford TB Royal	George Gross

William Shipway rang in all three peals this year.

## Society Peals 100 Years Ago, 1917

03/02/1917 The Spitalfields Foundry	5040 Plain Bob Royal	John D Matthews
13/03/1917 The Spitalfields Foundry	5040 Plain Bob Major	Edgar Wightman
27/03/1917 The Spitalfields Foundry	5040 Kent TB Royal	Edgar Wightman
02/04/1917 The Spitalfields Foundry	5088 Kent TB Major	Edgar Wightman
19/04/1917 The Spitalfields Foundry	5120 Kent TB Major	Edgar Wightman
28/04/1917 St Anne Highgate	5024 Kent TB Major	Frank Smith

As in 1915 and 1916 many peal ringing groups' activities were curtailed by the Great War. The Society rang just one tower bell peal during the year. Two of the peals, March 27th and April 28<sup>th</sup> were rung in memory of Albert E Brightman who was a regular peal ringer for the Society, ringing his last Society peal on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1916 at Highgate. As you can see the Spitalfields Foundry band were once again active but, as in 1916, only in the first part of the year.

*Alan Regin*

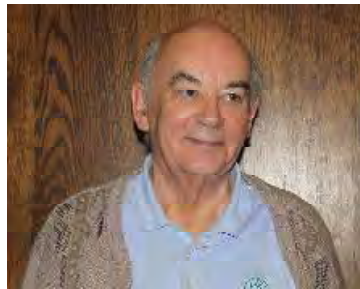
## Peal weekend

SRCY peal weekend took place from 17th—21st

November 2016. This year 40 peals were attempted, and 29 scored. 219 members took part. Thanks to all those who organised peal attempts, and particular thanks to John Barnes for co-ordinating the event. Whether or not you took part in 2016, now is the time to start planning your peals for the 2017 weekend!

# Peals analysis 2015-16

(last year's figures in brackets)



This year has only seen a slight drop in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/15 and 31/7/16 there were 156 compared with 163 last year. There are 12 (4) handbell peals in that total. Shoreditch is still the leading tower with 13 (12).

Towers: Shoreditch 13 (12), Spitalfields 7 (7), Basingstoke (All Saints) 5 (2), Garlickhythe 3 (3), and St. George in the East 3 (3). 15 (13) towers all had 2 and there were 100 (86) with just 1. 4(1) of the handbell peals were rung at Harford Drive, 3 (2) were rung in the Channel Islands and 2 (0) in Pittsburgh.

Geographically the peals were more widespread this year in the UK. In the USA there were 2 handbell peals and 1 (2) tower bell peal. This year there were 2 (0) in Australia but none (11) in Ireland or Scotland: a sprinkling in Wales. In the British Isles peals were rung in 30 (36) different counties although several did not have any rung in them. In the UK most were rung in London 44 (52), followed by Hampshire 17 (13), Cambridgeshire 10 (7), Norfolk 9 (3), Tyne and Wear 8 (3), Durham 6 (0), Bedfordshire 5 (2), Dorset 5 (11), Hertfordshire 5 (9) and Surrey 5 (3).

This year the number of members taking part in peals is slightly less at 271 (292). 135 (131) rang in only one peal. The conducting was shared by 44 (48) people this year.

Top 5 Ringers: Alan Regin 55 (55), Claire Roulstone 40 (27), Jo Dorling 30 (29), Ben Constant 29 (27), Shirley McGill 28 (30).

Top 5 conductors: Ian Roulstone 20 (7), David Warwick 15 (7) Richard Hobbs 12 (14), Peter Waterfield 11 (12), Ben Constant 9 (8).

The variety of methods has risen slightly. 76 (72) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. There remains a reasonable number of 12-bell peals with 11 (16) of maximus and 3 (2) of cinques. On less than 12, the figures are Royal 21 (24), Caters 5 (6), Major 92 (97), Triples 1 (2), Minor 21 (14), and Doubles 2 (2). This year London Surprise Major heads the list.

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 2100, Derek Sibson 1776, Simon Davies 1309, Jane Sibson 1215, Ian Fielding 1160, Graham Duke 1102, Ian Campbell 1096, Richard Hobbs 986, John Loveless 961, Linda Garton 843, Shirley McGill 840, Catherine Merlane 800, Stephen Wheeler 761, Michael O'Callaghan 720, Peter Fleckney 712, Paul Cammiade 679, Roger Baldwin 581, Paul Curtis 580, Ruth Curtis 554 and Frank Rivett 513.

These figures are for peals published in the Ringing World up to January 1st and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this!

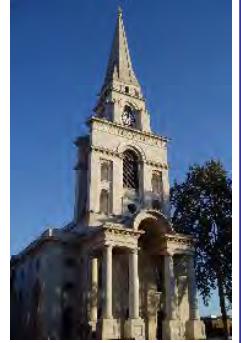
It would be greatly appreciated if conductors would please check the peal list published on the web site in the 2016 minutes and notify me of any omissions or errors. If any member wants a list of their Society peals please get in touch with Derek Sibson at dereksibson@btinternet.com.

*Derek Sibson*

# Around the towers

**Spitalfields** We have maintained our monthly service ringing on

the first Sunday of each month for the 10.30am service along with occasional ringing for the 5.00pm evening service. As always I am very grateful to the small pool of ringers who support this ringing. During the year we said goodbye to Andrew Brown and Craig Homewood who have both moved away but have been very regular supporters – thanks very much to you both. If anybody is willing to assist please contact me - I will add your name to the circulation list.



A great loss to the tower and the wider ringing community was the tragic and unexpected death of Philip Vracas on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Philip was a very active ringer, a great supporter of the ringing at Christ Church, a warm and genial host and a friend to many Society members. We remembered him at a Society meeting and we miss him very much indeed.

The bells have once again proved popular with peal ringers and other visitors. 13 peals have been rung at Spitalfields during 2016. Two of these were rung in memory of Philip Vracas, Plain Bob Major by members of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild (Philip was President of the Middlesex County Association) on the morning of his funeral and Cambridge Surprise Major by SRCY members of the local band on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

There have been 3 quarter peals, 4 outing bands, ringing for 4 weddings, 1 Royal visit, Prince Charles visiting the Church and newly refurbished crypt in September, 2 SRCY practices - after the November one we joined Andy Rider and his wife Carol for refreshments in the Rectory, and we were very pleased to host ringers taking part in the National Youth Striking Competition. It was also very good to see another group of students from Regent University, Virginia Beach, USA for a demonstration of ringing.

This year saw some major work done on the clappers which were all overhauled by Martin Hough of MBH engineering and fitted with adjustable crown staples. An excellent job was done. I am most grateful to Jo Dorling who helped take them out and to Stephanie Pattenden and Peter Blight who helped put them back in!



I am once again grateful to the Rector, Andy Rider, his wife Carol and the wider members of Christ Church for their support of the Society and the ringing of bells in their Church.

*Alan Regin*

## Stockton on Tees

The year began in much the usual way, although it finished rather unexpectedly with a few challenges to our continued practices. We have not managed to progress the method repertoire as I might have wished, mainly because there is insufficient time owing to more people coming along wanting to learn to ring on twelve. We rang a few quarter peals (and lost one date touch) which we feel gives the opportunity for sustained ringing so that we can concentrate on striking. We did have one month where only 13 ringers made it to the practice, but a more normal number is around the 18 mark, with the highest attendance being 25. Some people travel a long way for the practice so I do my best to ensure that it is worthwhile.



We entered the White Rose competition (the Yorkshire Association 12 bell competition) which was held at Bradford in 2016 and we were placed second to the York band, who were deserved winners. We got many encouraging comments about our ringing, which was described as “exhilarating at times”. Only half of the band were Cumberlands but a couple are potential members, so it was good to have some success here.

The situation at York had a knock-on effect as the Durham Diocese started to take a close look at safe-guarding issues in relation to bell-ringers. This was exacerbated at Stockton Parish Church when the elderly tower captain retired and suddenly there was no band at all at the tower. This led to the Vicar taking a keen interest in the bells, including safeguarding and finances and at one point it looked as though the ringing might stop. Fortunately, we have a good relationship with the Vicar, who realises that our band cannot ring there on Sundays because of commitments at our own towers, so matters were resolved, although not without an increase in the tower fee for practices. This necessitated lots of emails to the SRCY officers and I am very grateful for their support and advice in somewhat difficult circumstances. I am hoping for a calmer year in 2017.

*Jennie Town*

## St Martin in the Fields

It was another busy year in 2016 for the St. Martin in the Fields Band. Three quarter peals were rung at St Martin's, one of them being rung to celebrate the birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II, one on the morning for the Memorial Service of Sir Neville Marriner CH who was the co-founder and Life President of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the final by the University of London Society during their 70th Year. Two peals were rung during the year, the one by the University of Bristol Society and the second was a peal to celebrate the official 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the 95th birthday of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. *(continued overleaf)*



## *St Martin in the Fields, continued from previous page*

The ringing chamber was open to the public as usual for the Saturday Open House weekend. Thanks to all were able to assist with this. There were lots of positive comments from the public and great publicity for us.

Advent is always a busy part of the Church calendar and we were pleased to ring for the Advent Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, Community Carol Service, between the Parish Carols services and the annual Knifecrime Service. Thanks to all involved.

Practices have been low on numbers most weeks with Major playing a big part in them. This, however, has not been a detriment to people though, as we have been able to revise, or in some cases learn, the standard eight Surprise Major. Going forward, we plan to continue the practices on all but the fourth Monday, which will be replaced by a quarter peal. This will allow us to bring in new people whilst also consolidating what we are focusing on at practices or when we need to bring a few extra people in.

## Shoreditch

There has been a continued demand for the bells during the year for weddings, quarter peals, outings and peals. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May a peal was rung in Memory of Philip Vracas who was a supporter and friend of our Society.

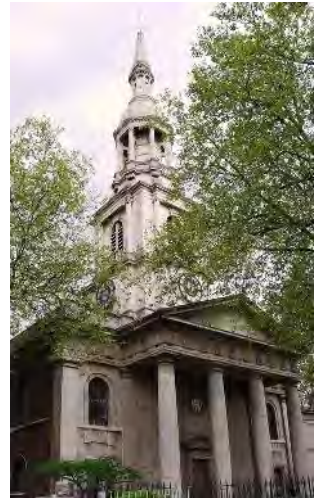
Landmarks in the year included a Society peal of Bristol Maximus on 10th November, rung to mark the 250th anniversary of the first peal of Maximus (Oxford Treble Bob) rung by our Society in 1766 at SS Saviour & Mary Overie, Southwark. This was also the 1,500th tower bell peal at Shoreditch.

There were also notable firsts for Society members. Congratulations to Ruth Corney and Samuel Cave who rang their first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus, and to Stephen Aldridge who rang Bristol Surprise Maximus for his first of Maximus.

I would like to encourage the membership to come and ring at Shoreditch (quarter peals, peals, outings etc), there is a booking online booking form and calendar on our website (<http://www.srcy.org.uk/towers/shoreditch.php>) to check what dates are available (subject to confirmation).

Thank you to the Reverend Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch, and the church authorities for supporting our Society; we are all indebted.

*Richard Hobbs*



# Anniversaries of membership

## Elected 1941—75 years

Freda Belson

## Elected 1946—70 years

Mark White

## Elected 1956—60 years

Mary Beresford	June Mitchell	Norman Steere	Philip Barker Brown
Frank Bloomfield	Gwen Bloomfield	Joan Hopwood	Beverley Winter

## Elected 1966—50 years

John Gander	Simon Humphrey	Patricia Morris	Paul Raithby
Ann Smith	Christopher Sharp	Susan Smith	James Woolford
Heloise Collier	Dorothy Kirby	Hazel Davies	Jacqueline Downing
John Laverack	Peter Wakefield	Valerie Williams	David Tubbs
Alison Bayley			

## Elected 1976—40 years

David Collins	Rachel Collins	Ann Davies	Dorothea Mayne
John Hawes	Geoffrey Parting	Lavinia Sullivan	Christopher Roberts
J David Adams	Geraldine Forster	James Smith	Christopher Jenkins
Susan Burchell	Alison Hill	Ian Smith	Hilary Beresford

## Elected 1991—25 years

Carol Taylor	Barbara Wheeler	Anne Body	Naomi Burgess
Janet Cafe	Paula Cochrane	Stephen Donovan	Deborah Donovan
Susan Ferrie	Paul Male	Mark Pendery	Linda Rankin
Keith Sibson	Ruth Stokes	Alistair Brown	Christine Farthing
Mary Burke	Ian Fielding	David Graves	Jacqueline Hobbs
Michael Hansford	Kathryn Lesh	Samuel Letters	Maud Lindsay
Roger Lindsay	Vanessa Martin	Donald McLean	Richard Pearce
Theresa Rice	John Schreiner	Kevin Skillings	T Jefferson Smith
Sarah Stevens	Pamela Timms	Linda Woodford	Neville Withington

# Calendar 2017



Below is a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

11th March	Country meeting	Warnham
3rd May	Business meeting	London
6th—8th July	Country meeting	Melbourne
9th September	Informal dinner	London
7th October	AGM	London
18th—19th November	Peal weekend	

To find out more, or to sign up for any of these events, please visit the website or contact the Assistant Secretary, Penny Sharpe, at [assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk)

## The newsletter

costs a significant amount each year to produce and post. If you would be happy to download the newsletter from our website, saving postage costs, please let us know by emailing the Assistant Secretary ([assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk)). If you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to see it continue in future, please strongly consider making a donation. Donations can be sent to the Treasurer, Barry Mack, 12 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6LE; cheques payable to SRCY. If you would like to make a donation electronically, details are available on the website in the Members' only area under "Payments", alternatively please contact Barry at [treasurer@srcy.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@srcy.org.uk).

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