



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Newsletter 2006

Masters report for 2005-06



Country meetings in Bedford and Devon



Anniversary dinner in York



Australia Trip latest details.



York dinner 2006

New website launch see <http://www.srcy.org.uk>

Welcome to the SRCY newsletter

We hope that you will like the new format which the officers feel more closely reflects the spirit of the Society in this modern age. Our thanks go to all the contributors for taking the time to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard!) and especially to Jo Dorling who has ably persuaded people to contribute and to Richard Hobbs for designing and compiling the newsletter. In order to reduce the costs we have not included either the list of peals or the officers' report but these together

with the accounts are available on request from the Secretary.

We endeavour to give a flavour of the complete range of the activities of the Society over the previous year and would encourage anyone who organises or takes part in an event (however small) to send in a report for the Newsletter. So please send us contributions, donations and adverts for next year if appropriate and we would also welcome any feedback on this new look newsletter.

Philippa Whittington

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Master's report 2005-2006

The officers have received a lot of comments about the SRCY newsletter and the purpose it serves, we've taken the decision to revamp the format around a few principles - shorter, news-type articles; less reporting of information; more up-market production; and to encourage different contributions. Let us know what you think.

We also receive comments about the cost of the newsletter - the officers have considered the Society's position and believe it is an initiative worth investing in and we are prepared to bear the cost. There are two things you can do to help contribute to reducing expenditure on the newsletter - please let us know if you are willing to receive the newsletter via e-mail and please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of your newsletter.

During my first year as Master I have not sought to make radical changes. I've been happy with how Wednesday night practices in London have been going - we've rung some different things and I feel we've been on an upward curve and have developed a greater purpose in what we are ringing. I've been pleased to see continued activities outside of London and a steady flow of SRCY peals with some different names and some more ambitious projects. So, my mid-term report could be summarised thus - I think we are doing the right things for us as a Society, but there are areas where we could make significant improvements - some need to be led centrally by the officers (things like communication) and

some could be driven by members (organising local SRCY events). There has been work going on behind the scenes on a new website. This has taken longer to complete than I would've liked, but we are keen to get it right. This is an important area as the Society seeks to improve its communication with members - several issues were raised at the AGM which pointed to the website as a solution. The Society's approach to communicating with members and the ringing fraternity is something I plan to focus on for the coming year - the website is central to this.

One of the biggest challenges for the Master and officers is having the time to consult with members about their views on what we're doing and ideas for things we could be doing. There is tremendous scope for members to take the initiative themselves (peals, a practice, a social event or a combination of the above) - something I encourage you to do - and contact us for support and assistance.

I look forward to seeing you at Society events during the coming year.

Simon Holden

Officers

Master

Simon Holden



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Michael O'Callaghan, Frank Rivett

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Representatives

John Barnes, Ian Oram, Andrew Preston and Derek Sibson

NTDD Saturday 4th February 2006

A firm fixture in the calendar for many years now, not the dinner day (NTDD) has proved a popular social event with both members and non members alike. As someone who doesn't get to travel to London as often as they would like, events like this give a great opportunity for some peal ringing and a good get together in the evening. On the peal ringing side, this year my fortunes were varied. Successful at Limehouse, the first I had rung since they were augmented to 10, but not so successful at the Isle of Dogs in the afternoon. Peals were also scored at Hendon, Kensington and Spitalfields.

Pride of Spitalfields

Filling in the time before the curry and finding the Pride of Spitalfields very crowded, I spent a very entertaining half hour sitting in Derek's car leafing through the diary fixing as many peals as we could so that I could hit my target of 500 for the society on the 1st July. As is turned out, this proved to be a very valuable exercise and as someone who doesn't stay up too late, infinitely preferable to the late night phone calls!

"I spent a very entertaining half hour sitting in Derek's car"

Evening venue



This year saw a move of evening venue to the Clifton at the lower end of Brick Lane. There was always going to be a bit of apprehension when we had been served so well by the Shiraz for many years. But there was certainly nothing to worry about, as the restaurant, food, service, company all exceeded expectations. I think this could well become our new NTDD home for the foreseeable future.

Many thanks to the Officers for their superb organisation, I am looking forward to the 2007 event already. If you haven't joined us before or have missed a few years, get your name down early. It will be good.

Paul Cammiade



Congratulations

Jennie Town on ringing 1-2 to 12,000 Rigel in hand.

Jennie Town and David Garton on ringing their 1000th peal.

John Loveless on ringing his 3000th peal.

Paul Cammiade who rang his 500th peal for the Society on the 25th anniversary of being elected.

Marriages

Rachel and Christian Peckham on their marriage and the birth of their baby.

Ian and Claire Roulstone.

Christina and Andrew Brewster.

Tom and Christine Langton.

David and Lucinda Woodward.

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News from our towers



Shoreditch

There have been 30 successful peals (and numerous losses!) so far this year, and the bells continue to be regularly used for peals, quarters and general ringing. The long awaited work to improve the internal acoustics is soon to be undertaken which will hopefully make the bells even more ringable than is currently the case. I am grateful to all those

who have helped out with Sunday Service and wedding ringing over the last year, in particular the University of London Ringers. Thanks also to the Vicar, Paul Turp for allowing us to ring the bells pretty much whenever we want.

Ian Fielding

Steeplekeeper's report

Peter Hayward from Hayward Mills has inspected the frame and has come up with a plan to incorporate a ladder into the work to install a walkway above the bells that will be undertaken soon, this will greatly assist with access to the bells on the lower level of the two tier frame. Apart from that we have suffered a broken tenor clapper in August which was replaced within two weeks and, rather surprisingly, a broken rope (less than two years old). 5 New ropes are on order! We have also had new lights installed on the stairs and in the ringing chamber making a marked improvement to our ringing environment.

Alan Regin

St. Martin-in-the-Fields

Sunday service ringing is from 9am to 10am and has generally been well attended throughout the year with Stedman Cinques and Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol Maximus being rung. Practices are held on the 3rd Sunday from 11.30am to 1pm and on the first Monday from 7pm to 8.30pm and usually concentrate on spliced surprise maximus with the addition of Newgate to the standard methods. The Monday practice has often been an arranged quarter peal so please ring or email me before you come to confirm that it is an open practice.

St Martin-in-the-Fields is going through a major refit and rebuild and will be closing after the Sunday Eucharist on the 6th of May. The congregation is moving to St Mary-le-Bow and the band has been asked to ring for them there from 9am to 10am every Sunday until the first service back at St Martin's which will be on the 30th of September. Practices should continue on the same schedule at St Mary-le-Bow but please ring or email to confirm.

Contact details - avb@btinternet.com (preferred) or 020 7700 6487 or 07816 342651.

Andrew Brown

Jo Fielding and Ben Kipling featured on the hoardings outside St Martin-in-the-Fields



Spitalfields

Maintenance

On the maintenance front, apart from general checks the only thing that has needed action has been the completion of the lime washing in the belfry, this is now looking very smart indeed! Thanks to Jo Dorling and Philip Vracas for their assistance with this work. A quick inspection by Peter Hayward from Hayward Mills Associates confirmed that everything is looking good!

Following a complaint received during May we undertook some improvements to the sound control system, this seems to have worked and we are still on friendly terms with our neighbours!

The further work required on the lighting in both the Ringing Chamber and the Belfry and other improvements has not yet been started, the delay is because the funding for this work is not coming from the Society and we are just waiting for everything to fall into place.

Service ringing and peals

We have continued to ring at least once a month for service on a Sunday, generally the first Sunday, this has often been challenging to get ringers along due to the various other ringing commitments most of us have – if you happen to be in London on a Sunday, particularly the first Sunday, do get in touch as we



are likely to be ringing. I am, as always, very grateful to the ringers that regularly support this Service Ringing.

We have also rung on other occasions for special services and events, this has included a service attended by the Bishop of Stepney back in March, Easter Sunday, a visit by the Archdeacon of Hackney in June, for Harvest Festival in October a memorial service for Simon Sainsbury in November and 4 weddings during the summer.

The regular Third Sunday peals attempts have mostly been used during the year as well as other attempts, there have been 15 peals rung since the last newsletter, this included John Loveless's 3,000th peal – congratulations John!

Finally, a new peal board recording the record length of London Surprise Major was hung in October, and very fine it looks as well.

Festival and other events

Other events have included ringing for the Spitalfields Festival, both the Winter Festival in December 2005 and the Summer one during June 2006 and also the London Open House event in September where tours to the Ringing Chamber with a demonstration of ringing was given, during the day some 140 visitors came up the tower, £100.00 was raised and this was given to the Middlesex Association Bell Restoration Fund as they had provided most of the ringing helpers on this occasion.

We are, as ever, very grateful to the Rev Andy Rider, Rector of Spitalfields for his keen support.

Alan Regin

An Irish exile SRCY member

Smiths 23

In February 2006 Julia Lysaght rang her first peal of Norman Smith's 23 spliced surprise major. A benchmark for many of us – but in Julia's case demonstrating an exceptional determination and challenge, coming from a more remote location (in ringing terms). So here's a submission from Julia in response to my questions:

How initially did you get into ringing?

I had a late start – the church I was taken to as a child had no bells and I read the Nine Tailors, where all the ringers were blacksmith sized! But in 1993 I went to an ordination in Cork and where the bells sounded glorious in the street. I don't know what made me ask how do you learn to do that and can women do it, but I was told you can learn in

Doneraile, 10 minutes from your house. I asked the Doneraile tower captain and on 22 October 1993 after harvest I went along – hooked from day one!

What was your introduction to SRCY?

I was invited to a Wednesday practice as a guest of Mike Wigney. I didn't expect to ring much as I had virtually no experience on 12 bells (there isn't any 12 bell ringing in Ireland). It happened to be a practice with a record number of people which was a little daunting. Anyway, I was given a bob course of Stedman to ring and having got through that I prepared to slip out – when someone approached me and said "Do come and ring with us any time you are over here". I asked Mike who he was, and it turned out to be a

former Master. This friendly gesture made me think – these are the people I want to ring with. It was Kath and Roger Baldwin, bless their hearts, who later proposed me.

When did you embark on 23 spliced as a project?

I rang a peal of 8-spliced in March 2003 and found it was my favourite kind of peal ringing; at the same time I was starting to treble for a Gloucestershire band who were working up to Smith's 23. Joining in seemed the perfect next step. Thanks to them in December 2003 I rang 12 spliced, 15 spliced in March 2004 and 17 spliced in May 2004. Most unfortunately the band dispersed, moved away had babies etc. I'm very grateful to the Cumberlands who gave me my big day!

How did you "tailor" your learning?

Some of the 15 and 17 spliced I had rung were not in Smiths so in fact I had 10 new methods to learn. I took care to memorise them at least 5 days apart so I couldn't muddle them. I told myself that Ipswich was home-counties like Ashted, Cray was a village in Cornwall and Cassiobury was in Devon near Tavistock because of the place bell orders. Then I said each line to myself lead by lead whilst tapping the treble's path with my fingers. Sounds odd, but it does work!

Julia's first peal of Smith's 23 was a resounding success. What's next?!

Article by Jo Dorling,
interviewing Julia Lysaght

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths War Memorial at Shoreditch

Between two Society peal boards at the bottom of the tower at Shoreditch is a War Memorial listing the names of Society members who died in "The Great War" 1914 - 1918.

Let us take a moment to consider their sacrifice around 90 years ago, the five names and some information about them are below:

C Dell

C Dell, (Charles) was a ringer at Isleworth and served as a Private with the Middlesex Regiment and died on 4th October 1917 (age unknown), he has no known grave but his name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. There is a photograph of Charles in the ringing chamber at Isleworth and his name appears on at least two peal boards. A newspaper cutting copied and passed on by Harold Rogers mentions that he was also a keen rower as well as a ringer.



H J Dewey

H J Dewey. (Henry John) was a ringer at Reigate and served as a Private with the Royal Army Medical Corps and died in India on 10th February 1917 aged 20, he is buried at the Bolarum Cavalry Barracks Cemetery in Secunderabad and his name appears on the Madras 1914 - 18 War Memorial in Chennai. A note in the Ringing World dated July 7th 1916 tells something of his Military service, he writes "have been out to France twice and sent home wounded each time: the first was a bayonet wound in the arm, and also the effects of being caught with a shell; but I recovered and was

sent to the front again and at Loos, while resting in a dug-out, a shell came and buried me, and I was unconscious for nearly a week". He goes on to say "I am pleased to say I am in the best of health now".

The Ringing World of March 16th 1917 gives news of his death, it gives and carries a photograph of this brave young man who started ringing aged 10 and on April 17th 1910 rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples at St Mary's Billingshurst.

W C Lee

W C Lee (William Charles) was a ringer at Streatham but was a native of Sudbury in Suffolk, he served as a Lance Corporal in the Suffolk Regiment and died on the 10th October 1916, he has no known grave but his name appears on the Thiepval Memorial in France.



H C Stubbs

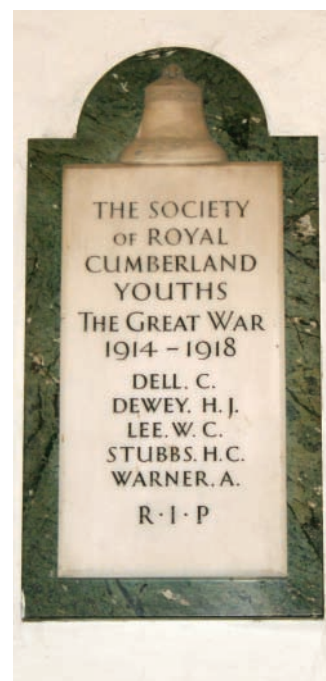
H C Stubbs (Henry Charles) was a ringer at Stamford Hill, he served as a Private (Signaller) in the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) and died on the 4th December 1918 aged 30, he was wounded and was in The Fusehill War Hospital in Carlisle when he died and so is buried in the Carlisle (Dalston Road) Cemetery. His name appears on a peal board at Stamford Hill and the peal book there shows that he rang at least one peal for the Society.



A Warner

A Warner (Andrew) was a ringer at Shoreditch, he served as a Rifleman in the London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) and died on the 28th April 1915 aged 28, he is buried at the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery and on his gravestone it has carved, "HERE LIES A CHURCH BELL FOUNDER OF LONDON". From this you will no doubt work out that he was a member of the well-known firm of Messrs

John Warner & Sons. The Ringing World dated May 7th 1915 gives the following account, "Rifleman Warner received serious injury in the storming of the now famous Hill 60, being struck in the head by bursting shrapnel during a charge. He was removed to hospital in a desperate condition and unhappily succumbed."



The Society rang a peal of Grandsire Caters on May 8th 1915 at Shoreditch as a last tribute of respect to Andrew Warner, that band included 6 employees of Messrs John Warner & Sons.

Alan Regin

Note: I am continuing my research into the 1,100 ringers that died in the First World War who are (mostly) recorded in the "Memorial Book of Church Bell-Ringers" which is in St Paul's Cathedral, if any member has any photos or other information in their towers I would be very keen to have details of it to aid this research.

Forthcoming events

10th March	Country meeting at Northfield
22nd April - 12th May	Trip to Australia
2nd May	General meeting
14th July	Country meeting in South Nottinghamshire
6th October	AGM day
17/18 November	Peal weekend

Please note that during 2007, St Martin-in-the-Fields will be closed for building work. During this time there will be no practices or Sunday Service Ringing at the church. Please keep an eye on the Ringing World and the Website for details of practices.

SRCY descend on Bedfordshire



Frank Rivett (tea-boy) and Simon Davies

Peals

5 peals were attempted during the course of the morning on the eights at Biddenham, Biggleswade, Eaton Socon, Henlow and Husborne Crawley and these were all scored. A peal of Bristol Maximus was also scored at St Paul's Bedford the following afternoon. As the peal towers were all fairly local some of those taking part also took the opportunity to visit some of the open towers as well.

The afternoon's arrangements eventually converged on Clifton for more open ringing, socialising in the Church, and an opportunity to marvel at Frank's expertise with the teapot!!

Business meeting

73 members attended the business meeting, which took place in the Church Hall. Fittingly, tributes were made to the memories of two long standing local members, Eric Edmondson of Harpenden and Eddie Jeffries of Bromham, a very well respected Bedfordshire ringer and conductor.

Supper

Following the meeting Terry Brown sped off to the Henlow Fish Bar to collect the first course of our supper, and the evening eating / socialising got underway. Following the Fish/Chicken etc. course, Linda and her helpers set about dishing out delicious helpings of Apple/Apple & Blackberry Pie, Cheesecake, and Chocolate Gateau, all of which seemed to disappear very quickly. Quality control was clearly in safe hands. Allegedly the Master had managed to sample them all!!

Gradually those with journeys ahead of them said their farewells and headed for home leaving the usual "hardcore" to (after clearing up) adjourn to a local hostelry to reflect in the traditional way on what had been a truly excellent day.

Particular thanks must go to Philippa Whittington, Frank Rivett, Terry Brown, Linda Garton and all their helpers for the venue and excellent catering arrangements, Russell Brown for the peal and open ringing towers and of course to the incumbents and tower correspondents for kindly allowing us the use of their bells.

Russell Brown

The 2006 12 bell contest

Twass on a sunny late March day
The ringers came to town,
To ring the bells at Southwark
Towards the 12 bell crown

Our 2nd place to ring the bells
Was met with general glee
Cos once we rung, we could adjourn
To the local hostelry

We met to hear the comments
Of how the band had rung
The Cumberlands placed second
Meant our work today was done

But many hours of Stedman
Took place from then 'til June
On practice nights and special days
Until we knew the tune.

To Worcester for the final
Well met on College Green
With beer and bells and sunshine
And TV film and screen

A documentary film crew
Were around all day
To watch us eat and drink and ring
And while the hours away.

Our 7th placing in the draw
Meant pacing our imbibing
Our ringing did not reach the heights
But not for lack of trying

The world cup match was over
The judges reappeared
To tell the ringers of the day
Of all they'd seen and heard.

If you had been a betting man
You would have lost your money
The favourites failed to win the crown
St Paul's band took the trophy.

The Cumberlands came 4th this time
A judgement seen as fair
But we'll be back to join the fray
At "12 bell" time next year

Philippa Whittington



Mary Sloman, Penny Sharpe, Philippa Whittington and Jo Dorling at Worcester



Top: Peter Waterfield, Ian and Claire Roulstone in typical summer dress

July Country Meeting

This year's meeting took place in Exmouth under the very expert arrangements of Howard Egglestone and Ian Smith. It really was a weekend for everyone, ringer and non-ringer alike. If you were there for good company, there as an excellent pub venue on the Friday night. For the ringing, countless opportunities to ring a many or as few peals as you wished. For pure enjoyment of the outdoors we were surrounded by beautiful areas to walk and visit (myself, Lizzie and Master Joshua (still too young for peals!) visiting a butterfly farm and otter enclosure – sadly the peal wasn't long enough to fit in the steam train ride too!).

After the meeting there was a boat trip for those that wanted – together with sumptuous buffet and bar.

We were privileged to have some distinguished members attend the weekend events. It was good to see Alf House at the meeting, one of our oldest members. And in the evening on the boat trip we were joined by Dennis and Mary Beresford, Peter Beresford and Joan Summerhayes – I'm sure many on the trip reminisced about events past.

All this very much represented the tradition and great camaraderie of the Society and of the exercise in general.

A very successful and enjoyable country meeting.

Jo Dorling

What has our newest CC Rep been up to?

Following my election as an SRCY CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) representative in December 2004 I was fortunate enough to be elected to the Towers and Belfries committee. This is the largest of the sub committees yet its capabilities do not seem to be passed onto the ringing public (indeed the same may be said for most of the CCCBRs work). I find this increasingly disappointing not only because the expertise of the Council is relatively untapped but also because of the advantages that could be realised for the whole ringing community.

Tower movement measurement

The T&B (Towers and Belfries) committee is a good example of this: Over the last few years tower movement measurement equipment has been developed to model the behaviour of towers when excited by movement of bells. This development is cutting edge, and not widely available commercially, certainly at an affordable price. The equipment allows the modelling of the tower structure (assuming no frame movement) to find the resonant frequency of the tower. With some basic

measurements of bell properties this resonant frequency can be compared to the swing speed of bells when ringing. For hard going rings of bells where tower movement is a significant issue this allows recommendations to be provided for ideal swing times of bells (how high the bells are "tucked-up" and wheel diameters) and for augmentations/alterations to the ring it can be shown how new bells would interact with the tower.

Current inspections

Currently inspections have been carried out at Great St Mary Cambridge, Holy Trinity Guildford and Halewood due to ringing difficulties, at St Margaret Leicester during the 2006 CCCBR meeting as a demonstration, at Ludlow, Monks Kirby and St Michaels Cornhill as part of proposed alterations to the rings. In addition measurement of movement has been carried out at Sapcote, Leicestershire to aid with diagnosis of the excessive increase of spire movement.

Andrew Preston

Losses of members

David S Johnson of Hull
elected 8th January 1992
Dickie Furminger of
Colchester
Pat Saltmarsh of
Chelmsford elected
8th December 1962
Eddie Jeffries of Bromham
elected 13th October 1945
Eric Edmondson of
Harpenden elected
19th August 1950
Reginald Kyte of Evesham
elected 12th April 1947
Derek Sawyer of Toronto
elected 8th January 1966
Nicholas J Davies of
New Romney elected
15th September 1962
David G H Hollis of
Dulwich elected
10 July 1971

SRCY Dinner September 9th 2006

When we first heard that the dinner was to be held in York we knew we just had to be there! As it is difficult for us to get to practices and meetings, the triennial dinner is the perfect event for us to get together with all our Cumberland friends. So we booked the grandparents to have the children overnight and treated ourselves to 24 hours of freedom, the first in 5 years!

We found ourselves a little hotel just a short distance from the Minster and enjoyed the walk up on what turned out to be a perfect late summers evening.

The impressive medieval building of St. William's

College proved the perfect venue for the dinner. The evening got off to a good start with plenty of time for the pre-dinner drinks and a chance to meet everyone. We then sat down to an excellent 3-course meal, which was served in the oak beamed hall.

We were honorary Sandersons

for the evening, sitting with Doreen & Ron and their family. This gave David a chance to catch up with his old university friends (Peter & Christine) for the first time in a long while.

The meal was followed by the speeches, which had a common theme of having a pop at Glint!

"24 hours of freedom"

The rest of the evening was spent chatting with lots of old friends from all parts of the country and as usual with these events the time went all too quickly.

Some of us continued late into the night/early morning ending up in a disco pub by the river. The diehards consisted of a statistically high percentage of survivors from the now infamous 1997 tour of the USA who waxed lyrically over their beers about their memories and the forthcoming 10th anniversary.

Thank you to all the organisers, a good time was certainly had by all and we've already booked the grandparents for 2009!

Gill & David Sparling

At the races

In addition to the pre-dinner peal ringing, Christine Potter arranged a day at the races for those that wanted to increase their bar money fund for the dinner... or so we thought! We positively set out early on Friday afternoon, Racing Post tucked under the arm, sure that today was "a lucky day!". Superb weather, binoculars to watch the race – see your horse just cross the winning line away in the distance having left the others trailing... hoping for a glimpse of Frankie Dettori! Well we got some of our dream!

The tough bit was the decision – did you take it seriously and study the past form of the horses, go look at them in the enclosure, weigh up the prospects.... or did you go for the pure "I like the name" so let's see if it wins! Far more complicated than ringing!!! Then it was to see which bookies were giving the most favourable odds, and then to try and queue up at the bar, down your drink before going out to watch the race! A very entertaining afternoon. Thanks very much to Christine and David for hosting a lovely buffet lunch and arranging the day for us.

Then onto the Saturday, a peal in the morning followed by a really successful dinner.... over to Gill to write about that.

Jo Dorling



SRCY tour of Australia trip 2007



The plans for this tour this Spring are now well advanced. It has been decided because of flight costs that we will leave the UK on 20th April, and spend the three weeks to May 12th there (as those travelling already know). Thanks to Alan Regin, all of the flights are now booked and the itinerary is:

Perth	Sunday April 22nd to Saturday April 28th
Adelaide	Saturday April 28th to Wednesday May 2nd
Sydney	Wednesday May 2nd to Saturday May 12th

Accommodation

I am currently investigating hotels in each of the centres; unfortunately, the one I had provisionally booked in Perth has changed ownership and now is expected to be undergoing refurbishment in April! I am therefore investigating other options, but if anyone has any recommendations, I would be very pleased to hear them. Ian Mills is looking into YHAs and can provide more information on these.



Sydney, Australia

Once we have the accommodation reserved, we'll start on the task of sorting out the ringing details. While we will attempt to satisfy the wishes of as many as possible, I do not think it is going to be an easy task with nearly 40 people involved and I hope everyone will be willing to be reasonably flexible and understanding.

I have been in touch with many people in Australia and I would like to thank them for the help they have given me so far and hope this will continue. I would particularly like to thank Richard Offen who has been immensely helpful. We are all very much looking forward to the trip.

Ben Duke



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E-mail: admin@ringingworld.co.uk

Where are they now?

Please help us to find up to date addresses for the following people:

Nicholas S. Blyton, W.S. Bonnet, Amette Bradbury, Cyril Buesden, Janet R. Café, Susan P. Cole, G.D. Fearnough, Gerald Frost, Lawrence J Haines, Jacqueline Harrison, Lance S.F. Hewson, Alison Hill, Susan Houghton, Nicola A. Hughes, Walter J. Lemon, Nicola D. Mason, M. Janet Mattinson, David Mossop, Peter G. Neville, M. Pearce, Maureen A. Popple, Ian M. Robinson, James T. Stevens, Peter D. Storey, Valerie Williams, Angela Wright

Peals analysis

This year has seen a large increase in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/05 and 31/7/06 there were 243 compared with 198 last year. There have been 8 (7) handbell peals in that total but this year all were in the UK. The number of towers was just one less with 157 (158). Shoreditch remains the leading tower with 27 (17). As usual new towers get into the list by virtue of where our country meetings are held but this year is a little different because we rang several at both Thorverton and Huntsham during the very successful country weekend when all 19 attempts were scored!

Towers (last year's figures in brackets):

• Shoreditch	27 (17)
• Spitalfields	6 (2)
• Thorverton	6 (0)
• Barton Seagrave	5 (2)
• Huntsham	5 (0)
• Augusta	4 (2)
• Charleston Cathedral	4 (0)
• Kettering	4 (2)
• Texarkana	4 (0)
• Fulbourn	3 (0)
• Trumpington	3 (0)
• Wandsworth	3 (1)

16 (17) towers with 2 and 134 (137) with just 1. 6 of the 8 handbell peals were rung at 15 Harford Drive.

Geographically

Geographically the peals were still widespread, being rung in 30 (39) different counties in the British Isles, 24 (20) in 5 (7) states in the U.S.A. and 2 (2) in Australia. Most were rung in London 60 (45), followed again by Devon 34 (11), Northants 16 (9),

Hertfordshire 14 (4), Surrey 14 (7), Cambridgeshire 11 (3), Bedfordshire 8 (0), Hampshire 8 (4) and Kent 8 (4). As usual the change in distribution each year is a reflection of where we hold the country meetings and where any tours have been held, the U.S.A. being the only one this year.

Ringers

This year there has been an increase in the number of members taking part in peals, 312 (289). 137 (127) rang in only one peal.

• Richard Hobbs	93 (58)
• Alan Regin	86 (80)
• Ian Fielding	69 (64)
• Derek Sibson	64 (50)
• Stephen Wheeler	61 (44)
• Shirley McGill	58 (40)
• Jane Sibson	54 (45)
• Ian Bushell	45 (21)
• Frank Rivett	42 (26)
• Simon Holden	41 (40)
• Simon Davies	40 (35)
• Jo Fielding	40 (36)
• John Loveless	39 (37)
• Michael O'Callaghan	39 (21)
• Ian Campbell	38 (24)
• Jo Dorling	38 (38)

Conducting

The conducting was shared by 47 people this year compared with 38 last year.

• Derek E. Sibson	57 (43)
• Ian R. Fielding	49 (43)
• Stephen A. Wheeler	41 (28)
• John P. Loveless	15 (17)
• Roger Baldwin	9 (9)
• Tony Cox	8 (4)
• Ian Roulstone	7 (4)
• Matthew Durham	5 (2)

four members with 3, five members with 2 and 30 (20) with 1.

Methods

The variety of methods has once again risen slightly. 102 (97) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have increased with 18 (15) including 2 of Cinques (2) this year.

Royal 51 (48), Caters 2 (2), Major 140 (114), Triples 0 (0) and Minor 32 (19).

Methods rung:

• Bristol S. Major	26 (22)
• 7 Surprise Minor	11 (5)
• 8-Spliced S. Major	9 (9)
• Cambridge S. Major	9 (6)
• London S. Major	9 (9)
• Yorkshire S. Major	9 (6)
• Yorkshire S. Royal	9 (7)
• 23-Spliced S. Major	8 (3)
• 4-Spliced S. Major	8 (5)
• Bristol S. Maximus	7 (4)
• Cambridge S. Royal	7 (10)
• Bristol S. Royal	6 (9)
• London No.3 S. Royal	6 (4)
• Superlative S. Major	6 (0)
• 7 Treble Dodging Minor	6 (2)
• Lincolnshire S. Major	5 (2)
• Rutland S. Major	5 (2)

In methods, those with more than 100 for the Society since the computer records began in 1934 has increased by 2.

• Bristol S. Major	415
• 4-Spliced S. Major	186
• 8-Spliced S. Major	168
• Yorkshire S. Major	164
• London S. Major	161
• 7 methods S. Minor	157
• Bristol S. Maximus	145
• Yorkshire S. Maximus	130
• Stedman Cinques	129
• London No.3 S. Royal	116
• Bristol S. Royal	108
• Yorkshire S. Royal	103

The two newcomers are Bristol and Yorkshire S. Royal.

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows:

• Alan Regin	1418
• Derek Sibson	1371
• Simon Davies	1164
• Jane Sibson	882
• Ian Fielding	843
• Graham Duke	800
• Ian Campbell	798
• John Loveless	754
• Linda Garton	696
• Peter Fleckney	677
• Richard Hobbs	597
• Stephen Wheeler	567
• Catherine Merlane	543
• Ian Bushell	526
• Paul Cammiade	500

These figures are for peals published in the Ringing World at the time of writing and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this! 4 members reached their 500th for the Society since last year's list, Stephen Wheeler at Warwick on 29/8/05, Richard Hobbs at Brixham on 26/9/05, Ian Bushell at Southampton on 8/4/06 and Paul Cammiade at Barton Seagrave on 1/7/06, the 25th anniversary of his election to the Society. 15 of the 24 members elected during the year rang their first peals for the Society, as did 8 members previously elected.

It would be greatly appreciated if conductors would please check the peal list and notify me of any omissions or errors.

Members can contact me for a list peals at sibson@bartonseagrave.freeseve.co.uk

Derek Sibson

Thoughts on compositions

The recent Cumberland's AGM took the decision to keep collecting compositions of peals rung for the Society. Collecting and proving compositions rung for a Society can stop false peals circulating and avoid repetitions of them. I do think, however, that simply collecting and proving compositions should only be a first step. Compositions rung for a society represent a snapshot of the progress of the Society and a valuable historic record of trends in ringing. I would like to suggest that the compositions rung for the Society are made publicly available. This could be done via collecting together compositions rung through the year and posting of that year's proved compositions on the Society web site. I have no idea how far back the Society's records of compositions go, I very much doubt it is to anywhere near 1747, but I'm sure a large number of ground breaking compositions have been rung for the Society over a number of years and making them available would not only showcase the achievements of the Society but also provide inspiration for current and future generations of composers.

I'm sometimes asked 'What makes a good composition?'. This seems like a very simple question but in reality it's quite hard to answer. What may be a really clever and innovative composition when looking from the perspective of a composer, may turn out to be totally inappropriate when you are a novice conductor looking for a suitable composition to ring on some rough bells with a mixed band.

Composer

If we look at compositions from the composer's viewpoint, then originality, musicality, elegance of construction are all features that I think would rate highly. The practicalities of ringing often take a lower priority. There seems to be a tendency for composers (and composing programs) to try and cater for the top end of the market by attempting to maximising the highlights (be it roll ups, little bell runs, etc) but not to minimise the low-lights and this can lead to compositions which are unbalanced from a more practical viewpoint or to the use of obscure calls (which seem to be universally disliked by ringers).

Conductor

However when we look at what a conductor wants, it's often somewhat different from what the composer is trying to achieve. The conductor wants to maximise the chances of ringing a good peal (or sometimes just to maximise the chances of ringing a peal at all). Conductors come with a range of abilities and confidence so that a range of different composition types are required to suit these different needs. For many this means simplicity is important and peals in parts are favoured over more complex constructions, although there always some who see the most complex compositions as a personal challenge.

I would suggest that it is becoming increasingly difficult for conductors to find a composition that fits their needs - there are now easily available programs which will generate thousands of peals for most methods and web sites with ever increasing selections of compositions. The problem is not finding a composition, but choosing between the hundreds or thousands available, and conductors often don't have the time or ability to make an informed choice.

If conductors are already suffering information overload, would making Cumberland peals available not just add to this overload? I would suggest not, for two reasons:

- (i) the Cumberland's compositions would be a historic record of the achievements of the Society and so have value from this perspective;
- (ii) the compositions rung for the Society have been through a selection process undertaken by leading conductors in the exercise - composed by ABC, conducted by XYZ, rung for the Cumberlands, gives a triple stamp of authority to a composition. Not only did ABC think it worth disseminating, but XYZ thought it was worth ringing!

Tony Cox

Congratulations on 60 years membership to

Mr D.G. Mayell, Mr F.R. Goddard, Mr T.M. White, Mr J.B. Gardiner, Mr G. Dodds, Mr F.W. Garner, Mr C.A Vessey

50 years

Mrs D. Beresford, Mr D. Beresford, Mrs Ossei Kumah, Mr N.Steere, Mrs R. Armstrong, Mr D.R.Reed, Mr E.J. Brunger, Mr P.P. Barker Brown, Mr J.R. Mossop, Mrs G. Bloomfield, Mr F.G. Bloomfield, Mrs J. Ward, Mr G.D. Fearnough, Mrs B.A. Winter, Mr C.E. Slade

40 years

Miss Susan Smith, Mrs A. Smith, Mr S. Humphrey, Mr J.A.D. Woolford, Mr P. Raithby, Mr C.J. Sharp, Mr J.W. Gander, Mr K.A. Betesta, Miss Jacqueline Downing, Mrs H. Collier, Mrs D. Kirby, Miss Valerie Williams, Mr J.J. Laverack, Mr P. Wakefield, Mr H. Stacey, Mrs A. Bayley, Mrs H.A. Davies, Mr D.J. Tubbs

25 years

Miss Elva Ainsworth, Mrs S. Dyson, Mrs E. Perrins, Mr C.H. Enzor, Mrs A. Franklin, Mrs L. Walters, Mr A.G. Parry, Mrs C.R. Hill, Mr M.J. Smith, Mrs A.K. Regan, Mr I.W. Blake, Mrs S.R. Blake, Mrs G.M. Postill, Mrs W. Walters, Mr M.G. Whitby, Mr P.A. Cammiade, Mrs L.M. Hyde, Mrs C.M. Ladd, Mrs J. Barton, Mr D.J. Garton, Mr N.J.H. Small, Mr D.G. Thorne



Naomi and David Smith, Ben Trent and Jon Spreadbury

New members

Pam M Bailey, Philip D. Bailey, Ronald Edge, Benjamin F. Ricketts. Peter Rogers, Catherine P Brown, Mary Platt, Kathryn Tucker, Deborah Adams, Wilton T Adams, Christian J Haller, Katharine A Hill, Stuart McKernan, Anita Sherriff, Robert Sherriff, Dawn Uebelhart, David S Wiedner, Naomi Smith, David Smith, Ben Trent, Jon Spreadbury, Jack D Aylward, Lyn A Barnett, Richard Chandler, Richard M Dearnley, Pat Lubbock, Lorraine Trebble