



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2008

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visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk

Master's introduction

It's great to be commenting at the start of the 2008 Newsletter – and it is both an honour and a privilege to have been elected Master of the Society at the AGM in October.

The vision and hard work of successive Masters is a key reason why we are such a dynamic and successful organisation. Simon Holden stands up there with the best and I'm sure members would want to join me in thanking him for his energetic yet thoughtful leadership as Master over the last three years.

I also thank the many people who have contributed to this newsletter, notably Jo Dorling, who has commissioned and then co-ordinated most of the copy, and Jeremy Warren for his help and expertise towards designing and printing the finished product.

This newsletter reflects a thriving international ringing organisation that is in excellent shape, and with large numbers of members participating in its events, be they national, regional or local. London practices are well attended and it is pleasing to see some young talent coming through, aiming to learn to ring on 12 bells to a high standard. The 'infrastructure' on Wednesday nights enables us to achieve ringing that is of high quality. However, as with any practice ringing that is meaningful of the term, it cannot be excellent all the time!

March and July Meetings continue to be well attended. We were third (and a whisker away from being the best team from outside Birmingham!) in the National 12-bell Contest at Lincoln. We continue to be a prolific peal ringing society, able to provide opportunity at all levels. A good example of this is the November peal weekend, in which a very large number of members participate.

Regional activity has expanded further – I note it now happens in New York! Eastern (UK) practices, now a year old, demonstrate that such initiatives can have value to members across huge geographical areas where the opportunities the Cumberlands can offer are otherwise not available. These practices can and should be a key recruiting ground for us and whenever appropriate we should look to convert the interest we generate!

And for 2009? We have the usual programme of events in place, with the big highlight coming in September, the Society's dinner in Bristol on the SS Great Britain!

I'm really looking forward to 2009. If you're thinking of organising an SRCY event and would like some help, or have ideas for something new, please contact myself or any of the officers. Enjoy your membership in 2009!

John Loveless



"Jake" – aka John Loveless



Annie Brechin and Simon Davies

in-the-Fields, the Joan Summerhayes Memorial and donations towards the St Katharine Cree project. Finally, there was an insight into the July Country meeting in Norwich with mention of the inter-regional 12-bell striking competition. People were able to collect their new SRCY T-shirts and rugby shirts with the new logo... they were soon being modelled!

With two hours to spare before our supper arrived, members descended upon the local pub which gave the opportunity for a catch-up and a few welcome drinks. An excellent fish and chip supper with apple pie dessert was then enjoyed by the members present. The day was very well attended and the convivial supper rounded off a great day out – thanks to those who organised it all.

Ben Ricketts

March Country Meeting 2008

This year's March meeting took members to Fordham, Cambridgeshire hosted by Roger and Rosemary Palmer – whilst on the same day, across the world there was a gathering of SRCY members in New York City! In the morning five out of six peals were scored at Fordham, Ely, St Neots, Godmanchester, and Meldreth. In the afternoon general ringing was at Swaffham Bulbeck, Soham and Isleham.

The meeting ran ahead of time, terminating within 45 minutes. Discussions took place on the peal boards at St Martin-



Mike O'Callaghan, Andrew Brown and Janet Menhinick

2008 National 12-bell contest – a newbie's impression

I've been a happy bystander in the National 12-Bell for a few years. I've always imagined the great and the good outside listening! Therefore, on making a return to Wednesday night SRCY London practices, I was initially taken aback when my name was being considered for the SRCY 12-bell band. Thoughts of why I shouldn't ring were put aside in discussion with the Master and I prepared to face up to any fears.

THE ELIMINATOR OF DEATH

Practices started in earnest in early February, with our first being at our allocated eliminator venue, All Saints Worcester. I was a bit nervous and I fell off my line a couple of times, but with hindsight it was good to get those demons out of the way early. More London-based practices sorted out everything that needed to be sorted.

Eliminator day came, and we were drawn to ring second. Comments along the lines of "this could be a final" were often heard given the teams present – indeed, one team had dubbed it "the Eliminator of Death" – a subtitle which has quickly gone into the annals of contest folklore. Only one team ringing at Worcester did not have a rep on the 2008 Committee (gained by being a finalist from the previous year or eliminator runner up) – and that was the Cumberlands, whoops!

So much for talk of nerves I was like a cat on hot bricks during the draw for the order of ringing and while the results were being announced, but felt as cool as a cucumber when it mattered up in the tower performing our test piece, and I simply tried to ring my best. Being drawn 2nd to ring meant we had plenty of time for socialising with other bands on a rainy day.

Nobody in our team was more delighted than I to find out we had come a convincing second place, beaten only by the Brummies. Now the plans started in earnest to prepare for the Final.



FINAL AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

Intense practices in the run-up to the Final made sure we were close to as practised as we could be... it's not always easy to get 12 Cumberlands in the same tower (or even Country!) given our various other ringing commitments, to say nothing of summer holidays. I thought we were well set to challenge the other teams on the day.

A lot of churchyard punditry I heard seemed to favour our ringing, and although the Brummies shone out ahead of everyone else, we were very narrowly beaten into 3rd place with a solid piece of ringing. All in all a happy day, with everyone's hunger and thirst being amply catered for by the Lincoln ringers.

For me, all past fears of the 12-Bell have gone.... 2009 at St Paul's? Bring it on!!

Alex Britton



SRCY – New York

March 2008

On the weekend of March 7–10, about 20 North American members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths gathered in New York City to ring on the 12 bells of Trinity Church.

Don Morrison led the general ringing session and 12-bell practice on Friday evening. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Cinques was scored that first night, conducted by Don Morrison.

Saturday brought drenching rain and buckets of ringing. Roger Baldwin led general ringing and this was followed by two quarter peal attempts, the first, Plain Bob Cinques was unsuccessful but this was quickly followed by a successful one of Grandsire Cinques. Most of us now were getting the hang of ringing on 12, thanks to the help of the UK-based ringers, and the more experienced North American ringers. Work continued on into the afternoon, culminating in a successful peal of

Plain Bob Cinques that evening. Saturday evening also included dinner at the French bistro “Les Halles”.

Sunday dawned too soon, after we’d all lost an hour of sleep due to daylight savings time. Bleary-eyed folks made their way up the spiral staircase and two nearly vertical ladders to the ringing room for service ringing, led by Trinity ringing master Tim Barnes. Another quarter peal of Grandsire Cinques was successful, but a peal attempt in the afternoon quickly went south. However, a very productive session of 12-bell ringing took place in lieu of the peal and everyone went away feeling much better.



Many thanks to Don Morrison, Roger and Kath Baldwin, Haley Barnett and Alan Regin for their patient help and their stellar conducting skills. Ringing on 12 bells was a steep challenge for many of us, but with their help, we were able to plant our flags on that metaphorical mountain!

Kathryn Tucker



Left to right – Front row: Kathryn Almy, Kathryn Tucker, Haley Barnett, Don Morrison, David Porter and Alan Regin. Middle row: Rob Kakuk and Chapman Knott. Back row: John Danaher, Lynn Kodrich, Kath Baldwin and Danielle Morse

September Dinner 2008



Doug Bell in conversation with Jo Fielding and Mary Cross

On Saturday, 13 September, it was my second-solo trip on the train down to London to attend the Master's Dinner Day – however, this year I didn't need to rush back after a peal to King's Cross, this year I was staying with the Master!

The day started well – peals were rung at Walworth (Bristol) and Spitalfields (London). I enjoyed ringing on the 3cwt of 8 at Walworth and these were the lightest ring I have pealed to date.

In the evening, some members met up in the Paternoster for pre-dinner drinks to start the evening rolling before moving to Davy's Wine Bar for the dinner – an excellent location with a fine selection of food, service and BEER!! I felt privileged to be able to sit on the Master's table and it was good to talk to other members that I had not met before.

This was Simon Holden's last social event before standing down from office. He presented thanks to Jo Dorling for helping him organise the event and said a few words about the Society. Simon Rudd then stood up to congratulate Simon for all he had done for the Society.

The following morning, the Master insisted I go ringing at Kensington as well as completing the "Kensington Circuit". These were all new towers for me and ringing the 5th at Chelsea



Mary Holden and Ron Warford

is certainly an experience that I will not forget!

I feel extremely proud to have become a member of the Cumberlands and the opportunity to meet so

many friendly people is fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed attending this event – and gathering from the photos I've seen, I think Phillip Wilding enjoyed it too....!!

Ben Ricketts

Ringling Roadshow 2008

The Ringling Roadshow, this year at Stoneleigh Park, once again allowed for the showcasing of all things bell-related. Not being a shy bunch, Linda and co. duly set up the SRCY stand in the centre of the exhibition building.

The display this year focused on the Society's events and activities across the country from north to south and east to west. Sparkling wine, (which provided a good excuse for corks to fly in the direction of the ASCY) was on hand to welcome people and it was great to see so many members and renew old acquaintances. People were impressed with how friendly, lively and welcoming those on the stand were.

Society members were keen to catch-up and had the opportunity to search the Society peal base or order a latest design Society T-shirt.

Many thanks to Linda for her hard work co-ordinating it all – and to all those who helped out manning the stand over the two days.

Sam George



SRCY Regional Practices

Northern region – Stockton practices

This has been another successful year for the northern SRCY practices at Stockton-on-Tees, with attendances varying between 15 and 24. We have attracted some new people; some of them are Cumberlands! Several people make long journeys in order to get some 12-bell ringing: Julia Cater, Gail Cater and Nick Tithecott in particular.

Methods have been standard fare with Zanussi being a popular addition and a return to Orion recently. Of course, Lincolnshire featured last year too! We were very pleased to reach the final, having been drawn in the “Eliminator of Death”, but were disappointed with our 7th position there and we feel sure that the best is yet to come!

Jennie Town



Midlands practices

Caroline Peverett continues to organise monthly quarter peal attempts in the Midlands, so far ranging from Leicestershire to South Yorkshire.

The days of the week, destinations and number of bells rung are varied, so hopefully everyone is accommodated. If you would like to ring but haven't been contacted by Caroline, please get in touch with her on tpeverett@innotts.co.uk or 01332 872237.

Eastern practices



ESRCY members on the beach at Holkham

It is strange to consider that only a year ago the new initiative of ESRCY practices was having its first tentative outing at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich. The group has flourished over the intervening 12 months, holding bi-monthly practices which have, without fail, been well-attended.

During 2008, we have visited Ipswich, Bedford, Gressenhall, Writtle, Peterborough and Chelmsford. Practices have been attended by at least 20 members, ringing touches up to and including Spliced Surprise Maximus. London Royal was rung well at both of the ten-bell practices.

The success of the venture is a testament to Simon Rudd's good organisation and the dedication of ringers in this region; a large area with the distant M11 the only sop to motorway travel. In spite of the distances, members have been rewarded with good ringing and company, as the camaraderie within the group has grown during 2008.

Additional events organised for ESRCY during the year were a Quarter Peal afternoon in the Bury St Edmunds area, during which we rang five good quarters and enjoyed a meal afterwards. A picnic at Holkham was also enjoyed during the late summer, with ringing in the local area.

At the country meeting in July, the ESRCY, as hosts, entered two teams in the friendly striking competition. At the AGM later in the year, we were suitably proud to see two of our “locals” elected to the offices of Master and Secretary!

Maggie Ross

Southern practices

Southern practices were started in February 2008, initially with much success at St Mary's Southampton – and then at the newly augmented 12 at Bitterne Park.

These practices have struggled for numbers recently due to a variety of reasons. Hopefully they'll be restarted in one form or another in 2009, especially with Bitterne Park providing the ideal venue.

Devon call change competition

SRCY pick up more silverware at Widecombe-in-the-Moor Competition

After the SRCY success in the National Call Change competition at Branscombe last year, Robert Brown offered to get the SRCY band an invite into the annual competition at Widecombe-in-the-Moor which I was keen to take up.

We were the only non-Devon team competing and were up against many of the well known call change teams. After a couple of practices in London in the preceding weeks, we descended on Devon for a morning of intense practice, which included some coaching from Graham and Maurice Sharland at Dunsford.

After some lunch at Drewsteignton, we drove across to Widecombe where we were able to 'get our ear in' listening to a couple of the preceding teams before it was our turn. We were reasonably happy with our performance and got some favourable comments afterwards. When the results were read out we were very happy to come second! Predictably Egg Buckland won, but we surprised a lot of people! On top of this, Peter Harrison won a prize for the raffle – continuing our success with the raffles as well.

My thanks go to the band for their commitment which made this result possible. The National Call Change competition didn't take place this year, which was a disappointment for us, but we hope to get back to Devon in 2009 if further invitations are received and aim to continue to do well in them.

Ian Fielding



*Exeter Ladies band: (l-r)
Front row: Cath Merlane,
Geraldine Forster, Andrea
Beaumont, Shirley McGill,
George Unsworth and Linda
Garton.
Back row: Maggie Whiteley,
Mary Holden, Bec Cox,
Pauline Champion, Claire
Roulstone, Alison Regan and
Julia Cater*

*The SRCY band: (l-r)
Front row: Ian Fielding
(1), Cath Merlane (2),
James Grant (3)
Back row: Alan Regin
(4), Ian Bushell (5),
Peter Harrison (6)*



Alan Regin and Cath Merlane with the trophy

The results of the Widecombe competition are as follows:

1	Egg Buckland	8
2	SRCY	14.75
3	Kingsteignton	15.5
4	Exminster	17.5
5	West Alvington	18
6	Burrington	24
7	South Brent	24.75
8	Stoke Gabriel	26
9	Lamerton	28
10	Exeter, St Petrock	28.5
11	North Bovey	40
12	South Tawton	46.5
13	Holbeton	49
14	Ide	70.5

LADIES GO TO EXETER

You may remember the SRCY newsletter in 2005 reported a Cumberland Ladies band rang Chandler's 23 spliced. With a few projects since then (and a few more on the horizon) a Ladies band recently completed some unfinished business at Exeter Cathedral.

A peal of Stedman Cinques was rung in 3h55m on 27 September 2008. All peals require good teamwork and this team worked hard to produce some ringing that met with critical acclaim from those listening outside. The back bell ringing received particular praise!

Congratulations to the band... where next?!



Country Meeting – July 2008



Naomi Smith in conversation with Philippa Whittington



SRCY members and friends get dancing



David Brown, one of the judges at the striking competition



Ben Trent and Steve Day of the "Stedman Stompers"

The Cumberlands go to Norfolk

by Richard Turk and Jon Spreadbury

This July the Cumberlands are going to Norfolk. See the invitation from Simon Rudd. What a nicely worded invitation.

See Derek ask for peals in Norfolk. Do you like peals? Derek does. Derek has asked his friend to help him organise towers for peals. Edward likes peals too. What a good job Edward has done organising the towers. See all the little Cumberlands jump and ring for joy. Well done Edward!

Look! There's Simon Rudd. He is asking Richard to research accommodation for the weekend and Naomi and David to organise food. See Richard use the internet for legitimate purposes. What a helpful chap. See Naomi order lots of food from Waitrose. See how clever Naomi is.

Now watch the Cumberlands ring at All Saints. Oh dear, Mr Bailey Place has broken the tenor strap so we'll need a big boy for the tenor. Silly Mr Bailey Place.

Now where have the Cumberlands gone? There they are. They're in the pub. Oh dear. Naughty Mr Hetherington has given little Edward some shandy. Edward is tired from ringing peals and the shandy has made him all tiddy. Naughty Mr Hetherington.



Ian Roulstone takes a break from dancing

Now it's Saturday morning. Some of the Cumberlands aren't feeling very well. Perhaps it's something in the water? Some of the Cumberlands have gone to pretty places to ring peals, and some have gone to Great Yarmouth. Others have gone tower grabbing. Grab, Cumberlands, grab.

See the Cumberlands all come back to ring at St Peter Mancroft. They are having a friendly competition to see who are the best Cumberlands. Mr Brown and Mr Pike are going to tell them. Mr Brown and Mr Pike are very strict and will say nasty things if the Cumberlands don't ring well. Can you ring at Mancroft? The Midlands team can.

Simon wants to turn the tenor in. The tenor is a very big bell and takes a long time to ring. But everyone wants to have a meeting. Can you sit patiently whilst Simon rings the tenor? The Cumberlands can.

Now all the Cumberlands have gone to Hethersett. See the Cumberlands dance. Look, there's Jon in the corner selling beer. And there's Jake buying it. But oh dear, Linda's spotted Jake. Run, Jake, run.

See Mr Brown tell everyone they rang really badly. Mr Brown is a College Youth but we like him. Mr Brown has told Mrs Brown her team came last. Do you know what it's like to sleep on the sofa? Mr Brown does. Poor Mr Brown.

Now it's time for the Cumberlands to go home. Didn't they have fun?



SRCY Midlands region team



St Peter Mancroft team



St Martin-in-the-Fields team



SRCY Eastern region team



Masters Invitational XIII



This year there has been a decrease in the number of peals rung, but an increase in the number of members who have rung a peal!

Between 1/8/07
and 31/7/08
we rang **216**

compared with
262 last year.

The number of members
who rang a peal increased

to **377** from
366 last year.

188 (167)
rang in only one peal.

There are 5 (7) handbell peals in that total including one in the USA and one in Africa. The number of towers was significantly lower with 152 (191). Shoreditch remains the leading tower with 20 (18).

Towers: Shoreditch 20 (18), Barton Seagrave 9 (2), Orwell 6 (1), Spitalfields 6 (4), Augusta 4 (5), Kettering 4 (2), Marietta 4 (7), New York 4 (0), Stamford Hill 4 (1), Charleston Grace Church (3), Hackney (1), St Albans St Peter (1) and Trumpington (1) all had 3, Barrow Gurney (1), Gressenhall (0), Greyabbey (0) and Streatham (3) all had 2 and there were 130 (158) with just 1.

SRCY peals analysis 2007–2008

(last year's figures are in brackets)

Geographically the peals were still widespread, 1 taking place in Australia (33). In the British Isles peals were rung in 35 (37) different counties including 7 (9) peals in 4 counties in Northern Ireland; 22 (28) were rung in 6 (7) states in the USA. In the UK most were rung in London 48 (56), followed by Norfolk 18 (5), Cambridgeshire 16 (6), Northamptonshire 13 (6), Hampshire 7 (3), Hertfordshire 7 (8), Kent 7 (8), Cumbria 5 (0), Somerset 5 (1) and Surrey 5 (10).

Ringers: Alan Regin 75 (103), Derek Sibson 69 (55), Jane Sibson 61 (48), Michael O'Callaghan 47 (49), Ian Campbell 44 (43), Frank Rivett 43 (39), Simon Davies 40 (53), Mary Holden 40 (53), Jo Dorling 38 (41), Ian Fielding 37 (72), Cath Merlane 35 (47), Jason Turnock 34 (39), Graham Duke 31 (35), Shirley McGill 30 (54), Simon Holden 28 (46), John Loveless 28 (39), Richard Hobbs 26 (55), Claire Roulstone 26 (20), Penny Sharpe 26 (14), Ian Bushell 25 (47).

The conducting was shared by 52 people this year compared with 51 last year. Derek E. Sibson 62 (53), Ian R. Fielding 18 (46), Stephen A. Wheeler 18 (48), John P. Loveless 12 (13), Ian Roulstone 11 (8), Roger Baldwin 7 (8), James W. Belshaw 7 (5), Matthew J.L. Durham 7 (6), Simon Holden 5 (2), Peter W. Sheppard 5 (1), six members with 3, ten members with 2 and 26 (30) with 1.

The variety of methods has decreased slightly. 94 (109) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have decreased with 25 (33) including 3 (4) of Cinques this year.

Royal 51 (56), Caters 4 (5), Major 118 (135), Triples 0 (0) and Minor 18 (32).

Methods: Bristol S. Major 25 (25), 8-Spliced S. Major 10 (10), Bristol S. Royal 10 (11), 7 Surprise Minor 9 (8), Bristol S. Maximus 8 (7), Lincolnshire S. Major 7 (6), Cambridge S. Major 6 (5), Yorkshire S. Maximus 6 (11), Yorkshire S. Royal 6 (7), Yorkshire S. Major 5 (12), 23-Spliced S. Major 4 (6), 4-Spliced S. Major 4 (6), Cambridge S. Maximus 4 (4), Cambridge S. Royal 4 (9), London S. Major 4 (8), Rutland S. Major 4 (7), Stedman Caters 4 (4), Superlative S. Major 4 (2) and Swindon S. Royal 4 (1).

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 1585, Derek Sibson 1505, Simon Davies 1260, Jane Sibson 1001, Ian Fielding 936, Ian Campbell 882, Graham Duke 865, John Loveless 819, Linda Garton 773, Peter Fleckney 681, Richard Hobbs 666, Stephen Wheeler 637, Catherine Merlane 619, Ian Bushell 598, Paul Cammiade 548 and Shirley McGill 544.

These figures are for peals published in the *Ringing World* up to November 7th and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this! Jane Sibson reached her 1000th peal for the Society at Shoreditch on 17 August and Derek Sibson rang his 1500th for the Society at Barton Seagrave on 26 July. 11 of the 18 members elected during the year rang their first peals for the Society.

It would be greatly appreciated if conductors would please check the peal list published on the web site 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

Peal Weekend 2008

In 2006, I ventured over the border to ring in my first SRCY peal. As part of the November peal weekend, two peals were scored that day in the Newcastle area. I vowed that I would organise an attempt in Scotland however it took until 2008 to get enough resident members in the same place at the same time!

On Sunday 16 November, six ringers met at the recently restored ring of 8 at St Andrew's & St George's in Edinburgh. A very respectable peal of Surprise Minor was scored, and included many firsts. Not only was this the first peal of minor on the bells, but a first peal for the Society for both Bill and Helen Brotherton. After checking with various people, it transpired that this was the first tower bell peal in Scotland for the Society by a band who were all resident in Scotland.

Hopefully this will be the first of many as we continue to wave the Society flag in Scotland.

Matt Edwards

SRCY v ASCY

On 23 April 2008, the SRCY hosted the annual striking competition with the ASCY.

Ringling took place at Shoreditch (12-bell contest) and Spitalfields (6 and 8-bell contests).

Afterwards both Societies adjourned to the Shooting Star for socialising and the results:

SRCY 3 – 0 ASCY

A good 'home win' – we look forward to the away fixture in 2009.

SRCY peal weekend

Tremendous thanks to John Barnes for his continuing efforts each year in the huge task of organising peal weekend.

**42 out of 54 peals
were scored**

with peals being rung as far apart as

**Devon, Edinburgh, Yorkshire,
Marietta USA and Suffolk.**

6 Cumberlands

also rang a peal in Cumberland!

If you would like to be involved in peal weekend next year you can sign up via the website, tick and return the insert list, or contact any one of the officers or John directly (john4bells@waitrose.com).



When did Jake start this venture? ... and does Linda get loyalty vouchers?!

Around the Towers...

St Martin-in-the-Fields

It has taken somewhat longer than expected for life to return to normal at St Martin's after closure of the church during the restoration work. Our major project now is to have removed the huge quantity of dust and grit in the bell chamber – a result of the contractors failing to take adequate steps to protect the inside of the tower and spire during the sand-blasting of the exterior. Fortunately, the bells and fittings do not appear to have sustained any damage. It is also hoped that the SRCY library and some of the peal boards will return to the ringing room very soon.

In November 2007, the Society rang a peal of Diamond Delight Royal at St Martin's (the Royal Parish Church) to mark the 60th wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The highlight of the year was the official reopening of the church on Monday 28 April, attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Prior to the service, a band comprising ten present and two past members of the Sunday service band rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. We were grateful



to one of the St Martin's ringers (a College Youth) who kindly stood in at the last minute due to the indisposition of one of the intended band – otherwise the peal would have been accredited to SRCY.

Maintaining a regular 12-bell band for Sunday services in Central London is never easy and even occasional help from more Society members would be much appreciated.

Elizabeth Hibbert

Christ Church, Spitalfields

On the maintenance front a major event at Christ Church has been the installation of a brand new air conditioning unit (very unusual for a UK ringing chamber). This was kindly paid for by the Friends of Christ Church and we are very grateful for their generosity. However, getting somebody to wire the thing in has proved a bit more of a challenge than you would think. I hope to report that it has been completed by the time of the next newsletter – watch this space!

Peal ringing has again been popular some 21 being rung since the last newsletter – highlights have been a long length, 10,080 45 Spliced Surprise Major; a peal, suitably named, for the 300th anniversary of Christ Church Primary School; one of Rider Delight Major to congratulate the Rector, Andy Rider and his wife Carol on their 25th



Spitalfields Open Day

wedding anniversary. On a personal note I was VERY pleased to ring my 4,000th peal at Christ Church, it was also my 250th on the bells.

There have also been a few quarter peals; two well-attended SRCY practices; we were very happy to host both 2007 and 2008 SRCY AGMs; special ringing for the Spitalfields

Festival and the East Festival during the summer; four weddings; a striking Competition held by the Middlesex Association and, oh yes, we beat the ASCY at Devon Call changes as well!

We have continued to maintain the first Sunday ringing with the odd extra Sunday – we do still rely on a small number of regular ringers and I am very grateful to those and others who have supported ringing at Christ Church during the year. Remember, if you are

in London on the first Sunday we are likely to be ringing (from 10.00 am until 10.30 am), so get in touch with me to confirm.

Once again we are very grateful for the support that we receive from all involved with Christ Church, especially the Rector, Andy Rider.

Alan Reglin



Shoreditch

Work has progressed on the improvement of the acoustics at Shoreditch this year and whilst it is a continuing project I would like to thank Doug Beaumont for his continued hard work in this area, together with the help of Alan Regin and John Ford.

Shoreditch continues to be a very available tower for the Society and other ringing groups and we are indebted to the church and Paul Turp for allowing us so much use of the bells.

A peal of Bristol Royal was rung at Shoreditch by the Society on Sunday 5 October to celebrate Paul Turp's 25 years of being vicar of Shoreditch. Other notable peals have been a peal of Cambridge Maximus by the Society to mark the 80th anniversary of the first peal of Surprise Maximus for the Society which was rung on 17 November 1928 at Shoreditch. Also commemorated was the 100th anniversary peal of the first peal of Surprise Maximus rung at St Mary le Tower, Ipswich on 15 August 1908.

Sunday service ringing does take place at Shoreditch and I am very grateful to both Derek's peal band and the University of London Society who help out with this. As is too often the case in London, service times do clash in the capital and there are times when, like other churches, we could always use available ringers – so do please contact me should you find yourself in London at a weekend and in need of a tower at which to ring.

Ian Fielding

SRCY PEALS 1759 / 1809 / 1909

Date	Tower	Method	Conductor
01/04/1759	St Mary, Whitechapel	5088 Union TB Major	Samuel Wood
07/02/1809	St John Hackney	5040 Grandsire Triples	Edward Taylor
08/03/1809	St Mary Islington	5040 Grandsire Triples	William Shipway
19/11/1809	St Alphage Greenwich	5039 Grandsire Caters	William Shipway
09/12/1809	St Leonard Shoreditch	6000 Oxford TB Maximus	George Gross
23/01/1909	SS Peter & Paul Dunstable	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Bennett
06/02/1909	All Saints Edmonton	5280 London S Major	James Parker
06/02/1909	SS Peter & Paul Mitcham	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Bennett
08/02/1909	St Margaret Barking	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
13/02/1909	St Mary Lewisham	5056 Superlative S Major	Frank Bennett
27/02/1909	St Anne Highgate	5024 Plain Bob Major	Frank Smith
06/03/1909	St Andrew Hillingdon West	5184 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Smith
03/04/1909	St Clement Danes	5023 Stedman Caters	Frank Bennett
01/05/1909	St Mary Battersea	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Smith
01/05/1909	All Saints Edmonton	5088 Superlative S Major	James Parker
31/05/1909	St Mary Hitchin	5088 Superlative S Major	Frank Bennett
12/06/1909	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	James Parker
04/09/1909	St Giles Camberwell	5029 Stedman Caters	Frank Bennett
11/09/1909	St Martin Gospel Oak	5040 Treble Bob Minor (7)	William Nudds
02/10/1909	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	George Paice
23/10/1909	All Saints West Ham	5002 Stedman Caters	Frank Bennett
04/12/1909	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	James Parker
04/12/1909	St Anne Highgate	5088 Kent TB Major	Frank Smith
18/12/1909	Christ Church Southgate	5056 Superlative S Major	Frank Bennett

Only one peal in 1759, with just four in 1809, the Shoreditch peal being of particular note 6,000 changes taking 4 hours and 33 minutes.

In 1909 19 peals. The footnote to the 1 May Edmonton peal is of interest, relating to Edith Parker, "The first peal of Surprise Major in which a lady has taken part". Edith also rang in the 4 December Edmonton peal with a footnote "This is the first peal of London Surprise in which a lady has taken part".

Alan Regin

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SRCY – Events 2009

14 March – March Country Meeting

This is around Pulborough in Sussex this year. Please do sign up and come to Sussex for the day. The country meetings have been popular events in our calendar – but to keep that happening they need your support. Peal towers will be available in the morning and open ringing will take place in the afternoon prior to the meeting at Pulborough Village Hall at 4.30 pm.

6 May – Business Meeting

To be held in central London. Please see website for confirmation of venue. It's a good date to visit the weekly SRCY practice too!

9–12 July – July Country Meeting

This is based around the Lincolnshire/Stamford area this year. We hear that great plans are afoot ... do join in for the regular Thursday/Friday and Saturday peals and evening socials. There will be a 6 bell striking competition at Deeping St James on the Saturday afternoon. The evening social will be a quiz and curry night. We had a fantastic time last July – let's repeat the fun this year – add the date to your diaries now!

7–11 September – Pre-Dinner Ringing Tour

Based in Bristol with days out by train and car, possibly to Devon, Bath, Somerset heavy 8s and 12 bell towers. A mix of general ringing, quarters and peals will take place. To register your interest please contact Linda Garton (linda.garton@btconnect.com) or telephone: 01462 819074.

12 September – Formal SRCY Dinner

This year is our triennial dinner year, and following the format of moving around the country this year finds us, or rather we hope yourselves, on the SS Great Britain in Bristol. This promises to be a spectacular venue with much work having already been done behind scenes. However, numbers are limited. Tickets will be sold on receipt of payment – strictly no IOUs or e-mail reservations! The preferred payment method on this occasion is by cheque made payable to SRCY and sent to The Treasurer, Flat 2, 134 St Albans Avenue, London W4 5JR. Paypal is not an option for this event but if you would like to pay electronically, please contact the treasurer for further details (treasurer@srcy.org.uk). Tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. So book early to avoid disappointment. The ticket price is £60 per person. Pay now, and it feels like a free event months on! We look forward to seeing you there.

3 October – AGM

This will be held in central London with peal towers available in the morning. Again, please do come along and support the Society – your attendance is valued and it is a good social day.

22/23 November – Peal Weekend

This is co-ordinated by John Barnes. If you would like to ring or are in need of information for further members of a band, contact John Barnes on john4bells@waitrose.com or any one of the officers.

Further details of all events are available on our website – www.srcy.org.uk

Thank you to the outgoing Officers

...to Olly Cross, Shirley McGill and Simon Holden for all their hard work. Thanks to Peter Harrison for producing and maintaining the Society's website. Thanks to the many members who help the Officers with varying tasks – we cannot make the Society work without your continued help and support!

Membership news

New members

Janet E. Archibald	Faith Pearce	Sally C. Walker
Michael Crockett	Maureen A. Roberts	Elizabeth J. Hetherington
Rev'd Andrew J. Davey	Jonathan J. F. Stokoe	Rosemary E. Hill
Heather M. Forster	Colin A. Johnson	Linda D. E. Jasper
Gill Knox	Susan E. Marsden	Philip M. Pratt
Martin W. Marshall	Jonathan C. Adkins	
Sue Ottley	Kristine Fowler	

Losses of members

Mrs Jean A. Darmon of Timperley, Cheshire – elected January 1960
Mr Jocelyn Gardiner of Catfield, Norfolk – elected 12 October 1946
Mr Brian Jeffrey of Edenbridge – elected 7 December 1957
Mrs Jessie Kippin of Billericay, elected 27 September 1947
Mr John Rance of Crowthorne, Berkshire – elected 22 January 1938
Mr Peter F. Romney of Hildenborough, Kent – elected 15 May 1955
Mrs Shirley Rymer of Calne, elected 19 March 1953
Ms Audrey Short of Taunton, elected 27 September 1947
Mr Sampson Walklate of Derby, elected 30 March 1957

Congratulations to...

Alan Regin on ringing his 4000th peal on 18.09.08 – being the first SRCY member to achieve this total. Alan was closely followed by Derek Sibson also ringing his 4000th later in the year on 31.10.08

Ian V. J. Smith on ringing his 2000th peal

Jane Sibson on ringing her 1000th peal for the Society – the first lady in the SRCY to achieve this total

To Gail Randall, Emma Southerington, Mary Dunbavin, Martin Mitchell, Ann Smith, Ian Oram, Pauline Campling and Alan Baldock on ringing their 1000th peals

Marriages – Ian Hastilow and Angie Moss, Angela Franklin and Andrew Preston, Simon Walker and Alison Culbert, Conrad Warford and Nicky Thompson, Gilly Knox and David Brown, Richard Turk and Laura Wood

Civil Ceremony – Paul Butler and Neil Harper

Engagement – Sam George and Phil Gorman

Births – Rachael and Christian Peckham on the birth of their son Cameron James Edward

90th Birthday – Congratulations to Muriel Reay on her 90th birthday

New officers 2008/2009



Master
John Loveless



Senior Steward
Peter Harrison



Junior Steward
Alex Britton

Membership

70 YEARS

Phil Tocock

60 YEARS

Peter N. White
Mrs E. Smith
Mr P. D. Huckstepp
Peter J. Eves
Geoffrey W. Seaman
Poul-Erik Jensen

50 YEARS

Rupert L. Caporn
Diana Handley
Marguerite McGlue
John A. G. Ball
Alan Boyd
W. S. Bonnet
Patricia Jenkins

40 YEARS

David J. Forder
Deborah Vining
William Munton
Rev'd Edward F. P. Bryant
Anthony J. Leeves
Bruce N. Butler
Annette Bradbury
Christopher Starbuck
Christopher Groome
Ian M. Robinson
Brian Foley
Christopher B. Fynes
Richard Wilsher
David Phillipson
Jacqueline Harrison
Yvonne A. Towler
Elizabeth Foster
Richard Newby
Susan Jones
Susan Houghton
Richard Webster
Jill K. Clay
Richard Weeks
Colin Wyld
Martin Ostler
Philip R. Down
Tony Skilton



Officers 2008–2009



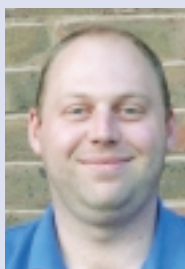
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Secretary
George Unsworth



Treasurer
Mary Holden



Senior Steward
Peter Harrison



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Alex Britton



Librarian
John Ford



Assistant Secretary
Jo Dorling



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