



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2010

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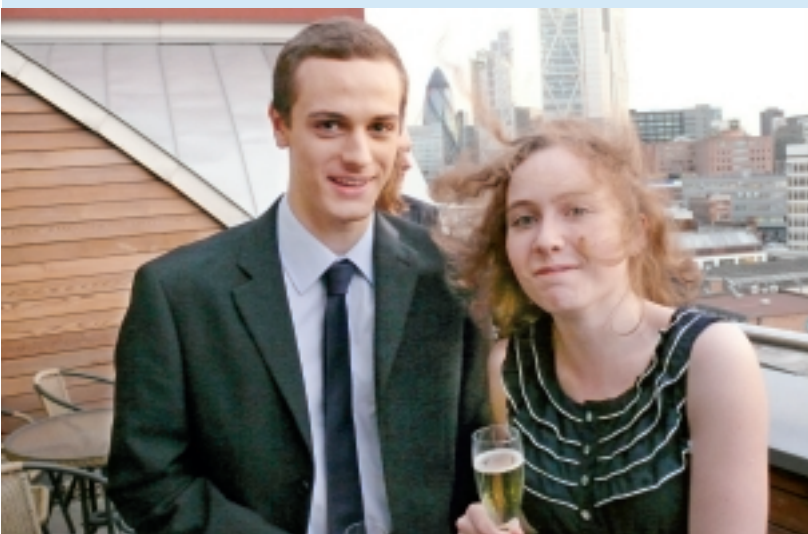
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visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk

Master's introduction

Hello to all members! It's my pleasure as Master to introduce the newsletter which as you will see, includes reports on last year's events and lists the programme for the forthcoming year.

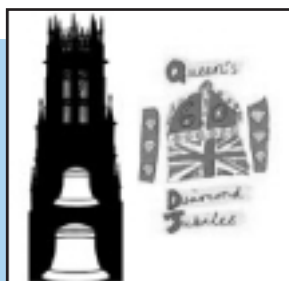
Many thanks to all the contributors for taking time to write articles and send in photos, the newsletter doesn't write itself and we are very grateful to members who give their time towards it – in particular my thanks to Jeremy Warren who publishes the newsletter, for his guidance and professional expertise and to Jo Dorling for collating the articles.

As we currently go to press I'm just back from a very enjoyable Australia tour, we had great time and you'll see a report and photos on the website.

Now I'm back in the UK I do hope to see many of you – I caught up with some at the Ringing World Centenary on 26 March where we hosted the Young Ringers Competition, it was good to see many Cumberland members there and thank you for your help and support on the day with the competition. The July country meeting comes up shortly in Skipton this year, and do put the date in your diaries – it promises to be an excellent few days. We have a dinner on 10th September this year and I would very much like to see you there – it is at the Crowne Plaza in Shoreditch where the restaurant has superb views across the City – well worth a weekend in London. The AGM follows at the beginning of October and hot on the heels of this is the London 12-bell competition on 22nd October which the SRCY are hosting. So as you will see my committee are keeping me very busy and I am hoping that there is something in the programme for all and that I will get to see many more of you later this year.

Finally, although slightly overlapping into 2011 (but you'll understand why with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee fast approaching next year) I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the project of the new ring of bells going in at St Dunstan-in-the-West in London. Please see Alan's article below. This project has stemmed from a sub-committee looking into the use of our BRF funds and I am delighted to launch it now. You'll see many fundraising events occurring in the coming months and I encourage you to support this initiative on behalf of the Society. You will find information on how to donate on the insert with this newsletter should you wish to do so.

Peter Harrison



St Dunstan-in-the-West Diamond Jubilee Bells Appeal 2012

An appeal for £200,000 has been launched to restore bells to the tower at the Church of St Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street. The old ring of 8 bells, long disused, were removed in 1969; the plan is that a brand new ring of 10 bells with a tenor of around 11cwt be installed ready for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012; they will be the only ring of ten in the City of London.

At the January 2011 meeting of the Society, Members agreed to support this project with an offer of grant from the Bell Restoration fund. This provided vital early backing for the project; to date, 6 of the 10 bells have been promised.

A suggestion has been made that the Society Members might also contribute towards an "SRCY Members' Bell". The 8th bell, priced at £20,000, is the target bell for this initiative – thinking of this as £1,000 from 20 members, £500 from 40 members, £100 from 200 members or even £20 from 1,000 members brings this into perspective and it is felt that this is something that we could achieve as a Society. Donations can be Gift Aided through the SRCY Bell Restoration Fund – please see the separate insert in this newsletter which has further details on how to do this. We need to be well on the way with fundraising by September 2011.

Alan Regin is looking to co-ordinate the Members' Bell appeal and is very keen to hear from members who would like more information on the project or would like to contribute.

■ Alan can be contacted at:

aregin@spitalfieldse1.freemove.co.uk ☎ 020 8471 7045 39 Maud Road, London E13 0JT

Not the Dinner Day 2010

The thought of having to get up at 6.00 am on a Saturday morning to travel to London to ring a peal was not the most attractive of mornings I have to admit! Nevertheless I just managed to get the train, which was conveniently late.

It only seemed like a few minutes and I was in London, so I guess the early start did have its advantages. Stepping out of the train onto Paddington platform, I headed towards the Underground to be greeted by announcements that 'the District and Hammersmith and City lines will also be closed due to engineering works this weekend...'. That's my ideal route to Bow out the window, thanks very much London Transport! I decided that I would attempt to get to Mile End and run the rest of the way.

Arriving at a small church situated in the middle of the dual carriageway, I entered exhausted after the long journey to start a peal of Yorkshire Major. We rang the peal and scored it in 3 hours 2 minutes.

Now it was onto the DLR to head toward Bermondsey for a second peal, via a stop for lunch somewhere in east London. On arrival at Bermondsey I thought, 'I've been here before, I know where to go'. This thought backfired when I realised 15 minutes later I had gone in the wrong direction! Finally arriving at Bermondsey church I headed towards some people waiting by the church door. Must be bell ringers! Once I'd managed to get there I realised there are actually more people my age in the society than I

thought! We pulled off for a burst of rounds before starting the peal and then set off into Uxbridge Major, with few mistakes for the first hour, but then at about 1 hour 10 minutes the good ringing descended into a quick fire up and the peal was sadly stood. This was not all bad as it just meant more time in the pub, so I wasn't complaining.

In the pub I got to know more people from the Society. Later in the afternoon some known faces came through the door, arriving from various different peals rung and the small pub seemed to fill with ringers. It soon became time to head down to the Sheraz for the meal; two of us just missed the main crowd and headed off in the wrong direction! We did eventually get to the packed restaurant for a good meal and what was a great evening. As the meal came to an end people started to leave, heading either back to the pub or home. The crowd diminished until only a few of us were left, when an offer we couldn't refuse came from the staff. As a student, I wasn't going to turn down a drink on the house, but when saying I'd like some white wine I didn't really expect I would get a whole bottle to myself. In the end I didn't drink the whole



■ Peter and Jane Wilkinson

bottle but had some help from Penny, who insisted on her glass being filled to the brim, twice!

As the rest of the crowd left, a handful of us went back to the pub to drink a bit more. I won't embarrass anyone by saying how drunk they were, but it was definitely a sign of a good evening!

The whole day was immensely enjoyable and I was very pleased I went. I must say thank you to all the people involved in the organisation of this event as from my point of view, it was a great success.

So overall 7 peals scored, a brilliant meal, and for me some great friends made. It definitely was worth getting up at 6.00 am for! One awesome Not the Dinner Day over... bring on next year!

Simon Percy

ASCY versus SRCY striking competition

This year it was the turn of SRCY to host this event, which has become a regular feature of the ringing and social calendar in London, and so we welcomed the College Youths to our April practice at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Master ran general ringing for an hour before thoughts turned to the main business of the evening. Being the week after Easter a number of our regulars were away on holiday, but in spite of this 23 members turned out to represent the Society across the three legs of the competition, which this year were London Minor, Stedman Triples and Bristol Maximus.

Following the ringing we transferred to the pub for refreshments and the results. With the 6-bell declared a win for the ASCY, while the 8-bell was won by the SRCY, we eagerly awaited the results of the 12-bell which would determine the overall winner. However, this was declared a dead heat with the judges unable to split the teams! The overall result was therefore a draw, with everyone going home happy! Many thanks to all those who represented the Society at this event, both as ringers and judges.

Mary Holden

2010 National 12-bell Competition

A young rookie's experience...

As a young and relatively inexperienced ringer at London SRCY practices, I was delighted to be given the opportunity to participate in this year's contest. Without hesitation I jumped at the chance, perhaps without really thinking about what I had let myself in for. Practices soon began in earnest. My initial thoughts were that this was the perfect place to ring as a rookie to the competition; familiar surroundings with familiar faces, as the Cumberlands were hosting the eliminator at Shoreditch. However, thoughts soon switched to the pressure of performing on home turf. We simply had to qualify, preferably in a convincing fashion!

Eliminator day soon came, and we were drawn to ring sixth. Despite being well practised, I don't think I have ever been so nervous in my life. Plans to act cool, calm and collected went completely out of the window. I am almost ashamed to say I could not stomach more than one of the delicious bacon butties on offer that morning, or indeed any other food being provided by George Unsworth and her fantastic team of helpers. Once up the tower though, nerves soon translated into positive adrenaline. We rang well as a band, producing a consistent piece of ringing that was ultimately good enough for a very satisfying victory. Much of the evening's proceedings remain a blur, though I am fairly sure at least two pubs were run dry before its conclusion!

Of course, a strong performance in the eliminator raised expectations for the final – held at Holy Cross, Crediton. Further intense practice ensued, with the same band and placing, to the point where we were as ready as we were ever going to be. In contrast to previous years no prior practice at the final venue was



Congratulations to the SRCY band who rang in the National 12-bell in 2010 and was placed 2nd: Clockwise from front right: Linda Garton, Ian Fielding (C), Heather Forster, Shirley McGill, Benjamin Constant, Thomas Mack, Mary Holden, Ian Mills, Douglas Beaumont, Oliver Cross, John Loveless and Alan Regin.

permitted, spicing up the competition by adding a further element of uncertainty to the occasion.

For some bizarre reason, I failed to realise that exams would still be ongoing come final time. This would turn out to be rather a nuisance, as Dad insisted on driving the family down to Crediton and back to Hertfordshire in one day. Come the 26th June we arrived in suitable time, before worst case scenario happened – the Cumberlands were drawn last, immediately after Birmingham. Already limited drinking and socialising time was further reduced! However, all was not lost. The event turned out to be a terrific occasion. Alcoholic beverages were plentiful and the sun shone brightly for the whole day. Howard Egglestone and his team did a stunning job of making sure the whole event ran like clockwork.

Come around 3.30 pm our time had come to produce the goods – and produce the goods we did, despite having to listen to a superb piece by Birmingham whilst standing on the church roof raring to go. The judges (of whom chief was fellow Cumberland, Margaret Whiteley) described our ringing as 'very professional'. This translated into an excellent 2nd place finish behind Birmingham, but ahead of the College Youths!

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and felt that my ringing improved significantly with such focused practice. The camaraderie, combined with the positive and constructive atmosphere within the team, was invaluable to our success. I will forever hold fond memories of what is likely to be my first and last opportunity to represent the Cumberlands in the competition for the foreseeable future, as I am now studying at the University of Leeds.

Tom Mack

Joint SRCY/ASCY Peel Day

Saturday 15th May 2010 was the date chosen for a peel day with a difference.

Members of the Society joined with those of the 'other society' to ring peals in central London and around the country. This gave some of the country members such as myself the opportunity to ring peals in London with the London members and to renew acquaintances with members of both Societies.

Peals were rung in London at St Mary le Bow, S. Magnus the Martyr and Willesden. Peals were also scored in Cambridgeshire, Manchester, Somerset, Kent, Lancashire, Surrey, South Wales and as far afield as Perth, Australia. Overall 52 members of the SRCY took part.

Following the ringing in London, many gathered to socialise in the splendid surroundings of the Black Friar.

Our thanks to the two Masters (Mary Holden and Martin Cansdale) for their organisation of this unique event.

Malcolm Powell

March Country Meeting

The March country meeting was held on a glorious sunny day in Southampton. There were four peal attempts at New Alresford, Milford on Sea, Southampton St Michael and Southampton St Mary. Unfortunately, the peal attempt at St Mary's of Stedman Caters was lost. There was open ringing for all the non peal ringers, the first tower was Hampshire's heaviest eight at Curdridge followed by a ten at North Stoneham and then the tiny 2cwt ring of six at Southampton St Barnabas. The final ring was the lovely 8cwt ring of twelve at Bitterne Park. This was the venue for the business meeting so ringers were able to enjoy a well needed cup of tea and a chat with fellow Society members and also enjoy ringing the bells.

Once the meeting had finished, ringers then mingled or went off to find themselves a well needed pint or two. The venue for the evening was The South Western Arms which is situated right next to St Denys station and therefore was ideal for all those travelling home by train later that evening. The evening was very pleasant and enjoyed by everyone that was there. There were lots of beers to choose from as well as a nice buffet meal to eat. As usual, the country meeting turned out to be a very enjoyable day and I look forward to many, many more country meetings. Although the March meeting is a day meeting, I always like to make a weekend of it and I was very glad to join in Sunday morning ringing at Romsey Abbey.



Phil Bailey ■ Phil Bailey, Rosemary and Roger Palmer.

Cumberlands in Europe!

Since the installation of the light ring of bells at t'Klockhuys in Dordrecht this has, not surprisingly, become a popular destination for ringers from the UK. The first all Cumberland trip was in July 2010, expertly organised by Alan Regin.

On the afternoon of our arrival, we enjoyed some general ringing with the 'locals', which includes ringers from various parts of central Europe, before our first experience of the hospitality extended to visiting ringers. Wines and beers, as well as soft drinks, were produced from the kitchen which conveniently adjoins the ringing room, and an amazing spread of food appeared. Not forgetting the port, of course, which was passed round the group!



■ SRCY members at Dordrecht. From left to right: Alan Regin, Simon Rudd, Ruth Curtis, Paul Curtis, Cath Merlane, Mary Holden, Richard Hobbs, Janet Archibald.

On the Sunday morning we had the unforgettable experience of ringing for Sunday service on the bells of the Grote Kerk. These bells are swung to create a very impressive sound. This was followed by the first peal of our visit on the bells of t'Klockhuys, Bristol Major called by Richard Hobbs, which was the first tower bell peal in mainland Europe by the Society. Fittingly Margaret Gamble, a Society member now living in the Netherlands, was able to ring in this peal.

Two further peals were rung for the Society during the trip, and there were also opportunities for those not ringing to explore the town, before our thoroughly enjoyable visit came to an end. This may have been the first SRCY trip to Dordrecht, but I am sure it won't be the last!

Mary Holden

July Country Meeting

It is always a great comfort to the committee when offers come through to host events! With July and the experience and talent of our past treasurer Heather Kippin, came an excellent country meeting, superbly organised and very much enjoyed by all.

The Thursday peals all ran very smoothly and all were scored. Friday unfortunately had 3 losses – one due to mechanical failure (perhaps a blessing in disguise as the writer had forgotten what 6th place bell Watford was, but as the bell wouldn't strike when Watford was called in the spliced, no one knew that...!). However an earlier finish on the Friday meant more time socialising at the Stable Tavern in Cleobury Mortimer. Our thanks to Chris Kippin for all the tower arrangements and to Derek Sibson for organising the bands. The Master arranged the Saturday peal bands, all 5 of which were successful, and in total over the weekend 17 out of 20 peal attempts were scored.

Saturday came with well attended open ringing towers in the morning. In the afternoon there was open ringing on the glorious 10 at Ludlow followed by the meeting in Cleobury Mortimer. We were very sorry to hear that our Master Mary Holden would not be standing for office following the AGM. On a happier note, we were very pleased to share in her 30th birthday celebrations at the barn dance



SRCY Informal Dinner

11 September 2010



in the evening. Over 100 members attended.

Our thanks to Chris and Heather Kippin and the local ringers who provided the Cumberlands with a very well organised and fun packed few days – and to you, the members for attending and making it such an enjoyable occasion.

Jo Dorling

Ever since our anniversary dinner in 1997, we have celebrated our anniversary in September with a formal dinner every three years and an informal dinner in the other years. For this year's informal dinner we thought it was time for a change from the Hop Cellars where we'd eaten the last couple of times. Jo and I had very enjoyable time searching out a new venue via desk research, following up recommendations and then checking out several rather exciting possibilities.

Some people may find this sort of thing a chore, but as one of my favourite pastimes is eating, drinking and socialising, it was a very pleasant task – combining the fun of negotiating the right price, reading a lot of delicious menus and finding something that will please most. There were a few dead ends along the way (nice but impractical ones, where on visiting we found the room hire was around £10,000 before we started)... It's always a challenge deciding when to cut your losses and stick with a short list, and when to keep looking...

The winner ended up being a recommendation from Spitalfields ringer and resident Philip Vracas,



■ Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch

who suggested the Crowne Plaza Shoreditch, just yards away from the church, where he'd celebrated his 50th birthday. Jo and I had a particularly convincing drink there

continued overleaf...





continued from page 7

one Tuesday after a failed peal attempt at Shoreditch.

This was indeed a winner, with fantastic views and lovely food. There was a balcony where we could enjoy seeing the sun set over the city with our pre-dinner bubbly, and a top floor restaurant which we had all to ourselves. We had organised a delivery of 36 pints of Abbey Bell-ringer (another challenge – how many beer drinkers would drink wine?...) and thankfully JJ Ford was on hand to tutor the bar staff in the art of removing it from the barrel!

Our guest for the evening, The Reverend Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch, was presented with his Honorary Life Membership certificate by the Master – following his election

in the 1990s! Derek Sibson recounted his contribution to the Society over the years, and Paul expressed his pride at the Society's hosting of the National 12-bell Eliminator in March and at the SRCY coming first on the day (ahead of St Paul's who had been beaten into 4th place)!

We rang peals of course on the weekend, at Shoreditch, Walworth and Spitalfields, and over 40 members came to the dinner. Due to popular demand we have decided to have the dinner at the same venue in 2011. As the Essex Trophy this year is being held in Hertford (again on the same day) which is accessible to Liverpool Street, it will be more possible for those ringing to come to the dinner!

Penny Sharpe

Northern Ireland



Members of the Society have been visiting Northern Ireland for a number of years although it may surprise some that the first peal rung by the Society there was one of Maiden City Surprise Royal at Londonderry Cathedral on 22nd February 1990. Since then 109 further peals have been rung, 110 in total. The leading tower is Ballymena with 17, Greyabbey and Londonderry 13 each, Drumbo, Enniskillen and Hillsborough with 12 each, then a bit of a gap to Carrickfergus, Dundela and Newcastle with 6, Coleraine and St Donard's Belfast with 4, Rostrevor with 2, then Bangor and Lurgan with 1 each. There has also been a handbell peal, Yorkshire S. Major, at The Mill House in Greyabbey.

Most have been rung during peal tours, but there were 6 rung during the super Country Meeting which centred on Ballymena in 1994, organised by Claire and Andrew Hudson. There has been a couple, the first in 1993 at Ballymena, by members all resident in Ireland, and one at Londonderry Cathedral during the 1997 250th anniversary "Cathedral" peal series – the return from that trip was on board a ferry which was caught in a force 10 gale, pretty much all the other trips have been made by aeroplane!

65 members have taken part in these peals, Alan Regin (97), Ian Campbell (89), Ian Fielding (71), Cath Merlane (69) and Paul & Ruth Curtis (54) have rung more than 50.

17 have shared the conducting, Ian Fielding (30), John Loveless (20) and Stephen Wheeler (20) have conducted the most.

56 different method/method combinations have been rung, 4 Spliced S Major (5) leads the way in the method stakes on 8, on higher numbers it is Bristol, Royal (10) and Maximus (4), 7 Surprise Minor (15) lead the way on 6.

Hopefully many more will be rung by the Society in this beautiful part of the United Kingdom.

Alan Regin

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Cumberland Ladies in Dublin



On 18th September 2010, a Cumberland ladies band rang a peal of Stedman Cinques at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. Nothing much to write home about, you might think, as a similar band rang a peal at Exeter Cathedral a couple of years ago; St Patrick's might be considered fairly easy by comparison. However, like any 45cwt ring of 12, St Patrick's still represents a considerable challenge and we felt very privileged to be ringing there, as there have not been many peals there of late and Maggie Whiteley had been specifically invited to take a Cumberland ladies band for a peal. Perhaps an indication of the recognition brought about by some of our past achievements? Thanks again must go to Maggie for making the arrangements, and to the Cathedral ringers and authorities for making us so welcome. We were very pleased to ring a good peal on these excellent bells.

In the pub afterwards over a few pints of Guinness (or cider in my case!) talk turned to ladies' peals of the past. How many have there been for the Cumberlands? How many have there been altogether? The second question may be rather difficult to answer, but on returning home, Martin and Maggie got in touch with Andrew Craddock, and a few days later an e-mail appeared in my inbox containing what is believed to be a complete list of Cumberland ladies' peals.

The list shows 58 peals in total, going back to April 1978 with a peal of

Cambridge Major at Sevenoaks. The first 12-bell peal by a band of SRCY ladies was Stedman Cinques at Shoreditch later that year, followed by a peal of Bristol Maximus at St Peter's, Nottingham in 1980. There are several notable peals, including Avon in 1986, Orion in 1991, and ORABS in 1996, as well as peals at York Minster, Exeter Cathedral and the Queen's Tower at Imperial College in London.

I am a relative newcomer to ladies' peals myself (indeed the list shows that my first ladies' peal, Chandlers 23 spliced at Huntington, York, in 2005,

was the 50th ladies' peal for the Cumberlands), and have only been involved in a very small number of the peals. However, this does include some achievements I am proud to have been part of, in particular the Chandlers 23, and the peals at Exeter Cathedral and the Queen's Tower. Added to this list now is the thoroughly enjoyable peal in Dublin, and I look forward to ringing more peals with this band in the future!

Mary Holden

From the Junior Steward's Steepleage Records

Best attended London practices:

14th April 2010	St Paul's Cathedral	35 members and 1 visitor
16th June 2010	St Martin-in-the-Fields	31 members and 2 visitors
4th November 2009	St Mary le Bow	28 members and 2 visitors

Attendances at London practices have been fairly stable throughout the year with numbers ranging from mid to high teens and rising to the upper 20s/low 30s at our more popular venues. Perhaps not surprisingly, our first Wednesday night visit to St Paul's Cathedral for some years proved the most popular practice, with several members taking the opportunity to grab the tower!

25 practices throughout the year enjoyed the support of 20 or more members.

Russell Brown



The London 12-bell

The 2010 London 12-bell Competition was held at St Mary le Bow on Saturday 30th October. This tower was chosen based on an invitation the committee received from the tower correspondent there. The committee meets twice a year, but does other business it needs to via e-mail where practicable. It organises the touch for the competition, sets the admission fee and finds a chief judge for the day, amongst other administrative tasks.

The competition is a bit different from other ones, in that a ringer can ring for two teams (as long as they're not the same society), and not more than half of the band can ring together for another team. Add in a new rule that you can't ring the same bell if you are ringing twice, and it creates a bit of extra checking to make sure everything goes to plan!

For both years of this competition, we have not entered our National 12-bell team. We have taken this opportunity to give other members a chance to ring in for the Society in a 12-bell competition. Two of the people who rang in the first London 12-bell, rang for the National 12-bell for the first time in 2010.

The SRCY team quickly settled down and produced some good ringing. We were happy with our effort. The judges also seemed to enjoy it, but not quite enough for us to win. We



■ Cumberland Team at Bow. Clockwise from front right: Joanna Dorling, Shirley McGill, Penelope Sharpe, Edward Mack, Mary Holden, Benjamin Constant, Barry Mack, Adam Greenley, Peter Harrison (c), Ian Mills, Douglas Beaumont and Oliver Cross.

came 2nd to the 'other lot', but not by much and look forward to closing the gap in the future competitions!

For 2011 the SRCY offered to host the London 12-bell competition, and

this offer was accepted. We hope that we can move up that extra place in the results at our home tower!

Peter Harrison

Peal Weekend, 2010

Some 53 peal attempts were arranged for Peal Weekend, about the same number as in 2009. Of these, 39 were successful, 11 were unsuccessful and three had, for various reasons, to be cancelled after bands had been arranged. Two attempts were of Maximus, three were of Cinques, 11 were of Royal, one was of Caters, 31 were of Major and two were of Minor. One of the latter had to be reduced from Major because one ringer was held up in Friday evening traffic.

The three cancellations were unavoidable and we share the disappointment of those who were looking forward to ringing a peal for the Society. For one member it was to have been their first for the Society. At Marietta the attempt had to be abandoned because of work going on in the tower. Perhaps the most interesting loss was Cumberland Exercise Treble Bob at Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

The Society expresses thanks to all those who organised the attempts and to all who participated, including those members who travelled considerable distances. Whilst the percentage of losses was a little greater than last year it was nevertheless a successful and enjoyable weekend which brought members together, both to ring and meet socially.

John Barnes

Around and about our Towers

St Martin-in-the-Fields

2010 was a busy year at SMITF. We hosted one of the National 12-bell Striking Contest Eliminators in March



and we were very pleased that all ran smoothly and that the home team won, resulting in a tumultuous round of applause from the congregation in church the next morning! Although we were placed 7th in the Final at Crediton in June,

our test piece was nevertheless a very creditable piece of ringing. Later in the year, we came 3rd after ASCY and SRCY in the London 12-bell Striking Contest on the challenging bells at St Mary le Bow – as the vicar commented “the best Sunday service band in London”!

Canon Geoffrey Brown (vicar 1985–1995) celebrated his 80th birthday on Maundy Thursday and Lucy Woodward’s sparkling composition of 5080 Stedman Cinques on Easter Monday did full justice to the occasion.

The 30th anniversary of the vicar’s (Rev’d Nicholas Holtam) ordination was marked with a quarter peal. As many will know, he is a ringer and joins us in the tower from time to time. We also rang for the ordination at SMITF of the Rev’d Will Morris, one of the clergy team.

In October, the Trefoil Guild held a service at SMITF to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding and the writer duly dusted off her bellringer’s Guide proficiency badge (now withdrawn!) and joined in the ringing which the Ladies’ Guild/Trefoil Guild had organised. The church was packed and the service included the Trefoil Guild Handbell Ringers whom I had not heard perform before.

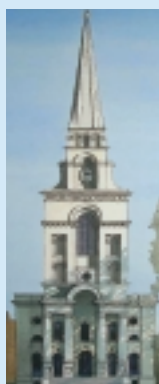
Between the patronal festival (14th November) and the end of December, the bells were rung for an additional 12 services which gives some indication of the demand there is for bells to be rung both before and after services.

We’ve had a few melodramas, not the least of which was the clock bell hammer which strikes the hour on the tenor, falling during morning ringing! – fortunately no damage done but we will be considering options to eliminate this risk in future. Drawings for the design of the tenor clapper turner have now been supplied by Whitechapel so the days of balancing on the frame to do this are hopefully numbered.

Sunday morning ringing is from 9.00 am – 10.00 am and visitors are always welcome.

Liz Hibbert

Christ Church Spitalfields 2010



Another good and active year at Christ Church. We have maintained our Service Ringing on the First Sunday of every month, ring 8 bells pretty much every time, and in addition we have rung on a few other Sundays as well. Easter Sunday fell on the regular First

Sunday this year so we additionally rang for the 8.30am communion service as well as the 10.30am worship service. I am again grateful to the small pool of ringers that regularly support this ringing, especially to Spitalfields ‘local Ringer’ Philip Vracas who provides coffee and biscuits for the ringers at his wonderful Spitalfields house.

Very little maintenance has been required this year – an inspection revealed a cracked stay which was quickly replaced!

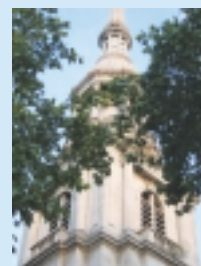
The bells have once again proved popular with peal ringers and visitors, 13 peals being rung and 1 or 2 lost, 3 Quarters Peals, 11 Outing Bands, 3 SRCY Practices, the Middlesex Association Open Day, the Southern Universities Striking Competition, London Open House, 2 weddings, 1 Memorial Service, the opening of an

art exhibition and ringing for a big party for a local celebrity that was held in the Church!

Once again we have been supported by the whole Church and community at Spitalfields, especially the Rector, Andy Rider and his wife Carol.

Alan Regin

Shoreditch



Many peals have been rung at Shoreditch this year, and it is a popular tower with both visitors and peal ringers alike. The tower correspondent is always kept busy! On this note the Society would like to thank Ian Fielding for his contribution in this role – with a change in job Ian has left London to work in Bristol. It is no small job being a correspondent as the other tower secretaries will vouch for. So with a new job comes a well earned rest! We are very grateful for his contribution and wish him well in his new job.

Richard Hobbs is now the tower correspondent for Shoreditch. You can contact Richard by e-mail on richard_hobbs@yahoo.com, but you can also access the Shoreditch calendar online via the SRCY website – this has been set up by Richard and the Master. Paul Turp, vicar of Shoreditch, is a wonderful support to the bellringers and we are indebted to his continued support. Having hosted the 12-bell eliminators at Shoreditch, we worked more closely with church members and the event wouldn’t have been so successful without their support and encouragement – so a huge thank you to Paul and Shoreditch church from the Society.

Our continued thanks also to Derek Sibson and his peal band who continue to provide Sunday ringing on the 3rd Sunday of the month – due to conflicting service times across London churches this has proved an invaluable contribution for the Society.

Jo Dorling

SRCY Practices around the Country

Eastern SRCY practices 2010

During the year we visited St Mary-le-Tower, Mildenhall, Coggeshall, St Peter Mancroft and Bedford for our regular bi-monthly practices on the first Thursday of even months. All were well attended and jolly occasions as usual. The last practice of the year at Soham fell victim to December's severe weather.



Dalham Church

This year we tried something different for the first of our two 'Sunday Social' events. In May we were a little ambitious and tried an inter-county Striking Competition and I must say a big thank you to everyone who turned out, and to the local ringers for making us welcome. Between 50 and 60 members met at Dalham and enjoyed a picnic on the spacious green-sward in front of the church, soaking up atmosphere of the magnificent location. The 'East' is a huge region and we invited local organisers from the seven counties loosely termed

'Eastern', to enter an 8-bell team in a friendly contest. On the day, six teams representing Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire arrived at Dalham. Mary Holden and Martin Whiteley sat in judgement (well, sat in my car actually) on us and listened to several touches of spliced Stedman and Double Norwich. Happily each team navigated their way through the piece without mishap! After deliberating briefly, the results placed Hertfordshire in first place followed by Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. It truly was a great

afternoon out and shortly afterwards I received the following in an e-mail, unsolicited I hasten to add... "We all had a lovely afternoon... as always the Cumberlands are such a pleasant bunch of people to be with". Below you'll see all of the pleasant bunch!

We'll be looking to hold a similar event in 2012 and we have the beginnings of a cunning plan for something new in 2011.

The September picnic this year took us back to my home patch, the North East corner of Essex, bordering Suffolk. David and Gill Sparling researched and arranged everything for us, from the picnic on the banks of the Stour, close by the setting for Constable's world famous 'Haywain', to the simultaneous quarter-peals at Mistley, Langham and Higham, followed by Boxford, Ardleigh and Hadleigh. Thanks Gill and 'Sparky' for a lovely afternoon. This year we hope to have a similar event on 18th September.

I could give you some stats about methods rung and that sort of stuff but I don't think that really reflects what we see as the real value of our ESRCY practices. Members from across the Eastern Counties, for whom a trip down to London on a Wednesday evening is either logistically difficult or perhaps a little daunting, have the



chance to ring with fellow members in a variety of towers across the region. There is a strong 'family' atmosphere to our get-togethers and our time together is always fun! Since we began our practices, firm friendships have been either established or strengthened and we are always happy to welcome first-timers.

We are also happy to welcome ringers considering membership. This year James Saunders from Bedford was elected as a member. James first attended one of our practices at St Paul's in Bedford and had such a good time, he asked if he could good attend a few more practices with a view to being proposed as a member. Well, mission accomplished James!

If you haven't been along to see us, we meet on the first Thursday of even months at a variety of towers. We try to publicise the venues on the Society website. We also maintain a mailing list to keep everyone up to date with what's going on. If you'd like to be added to it, please let me know by e-mail to the following address – simon@enterprise-cs.co.uk.

Thank you to everyone whose enthusiasm and support made 2010 a memorable year. Here's to more fun in 2011!

Simon Rudd



■ Above: Christine Richardson and Dot Salmon and Right: Chris King and David Craggs on 12-bell Eliminator Day.



Northern Practice Report

Living in Cumbria certainly has its advantages – scenery, walking potential, a plethora of good pubs. Ringing opportunities however – particularly in the South-West corner of the Lake District – are somewhat limited. Unless, that is, you are prepared to travel...

So, it's a little after 3.30 pm on a Wednesday afternoon and after making my excuses to leave early from work, the monthly expedition to the SRCY Northern Practice at Stockton on Tees has begun. First stop, Penrith to change, drop off the car, and take advantage of an excellent sandwich spread provided by Duncan and Sally

Walker to sustain us for the evening ahead. After a slightly rushed tea (often finished off 'en-route') the "Cumbrian Charabanc" heads off along the A66, arriving in Stockton just in time for the start of the practice.

The practice is well supported with often 20+ regular ringers from the greater surrounding area together with occasional visitors. Though not entirely, the contingent is predominantly SRCY and everybody is made to feel very welcome. The practice is run extremely effectively allowing the best possible opportunities for all creating a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Stedman Cinques, Cambridge and Bristol Surprise and Avon Delight Maximus are regularly rung to a good standard which is a far cry from the Grandsire and Plain Bob diet of the South Lakes! The practice maintains a strong social quality and after the practice the majority of ringers decant for some liquid refreshment at either the local Wetherspoon's or the rather more 'agricultural' Sun Inn.

Needless to say, the Stockton proverb seems to be "those with furthest to go, stay longest in the pub" and after a pint and some good banter we pile in the car to make the long journey West. It's approaching midnight as I rejoin my car at Penrith for the final 90-minute leg of the journey home but as I turn up for work bleary eyed on Thursday morning, I am safe in the knowledge it'll all be happening again in one month's time.

Mark Place

Matt Hetherington

Southern SRCY Practices

Southern members of the SRCY congregate on the 4th Sunday of each month to practice their 12-bell ringing at the Ascension, Bitterne Park in Southampton. Numbers have been healthy throughout the year (up to 25 in attendance with 14 members present with a dip of 14 in attendance with 7 members present in August). The practice attracts members from Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Wiltshire and is supported by a number of ringers from the other society.

We have progressed through a number of methods throughout the year: Erin and Stedman Cinques as well as Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lyddington, Newgate and Bristol Surprise Maximus. We rang Trigate, sorry, Tritone Surprise Maximus (an error by a member of the other society, of course) as well as starting to splice Stedman and Bristol, and Orion and Bristol. We're now working on our Orion and hope to organise a special additional practice for this method later in the year.

On the social side, the Southern band have made good use of the beer in the South Western Arms in St Denys after each practice and have been for at least one curry to the fabulous Kuti's on Oxford Street.

We welcome all members in the South and hope to see you at a practice soon.



SRCY peals analysis 2009–2010

(last year's figures are in brackets)

This year there has been a decrease in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/09 and 31/7/10 there were 200 compared with 223 last year. There are 6 (13) handbell peals in that total including one in the USA. The number of towers was lower with 139 (162). Shoreditch remains the leading tower with 15 (17).

Towers: Shoreditch 15 (17), Spitalfields 6 (7), Augusta 5 (0), Barton Seagrave 5 (4), Campton 4 (1), Greyabbey 4 (2), Marietta 4 (1), St George-in-the-East 4 (1), Dordrecht 3 (0), Kettering 3 (3), St Martin-in-the-Fields 3 (2). 10 (20) towers all had 2 and there were 117 (134) with just 1. 2 (8) of the 6 (13) handbell peals were rung at 15 Harford Drive.

Geographically the peals were more widespread particularly with tours to New Zealand, Australia and the USA. In the UK peals were rung in 42 (45) different counties including 11(9) peals in 4 counties in Northern Ireland; 15 (26) were rung in 4 (8) states in the USA, and 2 were rung in Canada. In the UK most were rung in London 49 (37), followed by Worcestershire 11 (3), Hampshire 10 (5), Co. Down 8 (6), Northamptonshire 8 (8), Devon 7 (3), Cambridgeshire 5 (7), Essex 5 (6) and Hertfordshire 5 (19). As a result of the tour, the Society's first peals were rung in New Zealand, both North and South Islands, Tasmania and Queensland, and there was a local peal in Western Australia. In addition the Society's first venture into Europe resulted in 3 peals in the Netherlands.

This year although there were fewer peals rung the number of members taking part in peals is slightly up at 355 (353). 165 (136) rang in only one peal.

Ringers: Alan Regin 66 (67), Richard Hobbs 56 (42), Graham Duke 55 (38), Derek Sibson 52 (49), Jane Sibson 44 (42), Mary Holden 41 (50), Michael O'Callaghan 41 (33), Janet Menhinick 41 (24), Jo Dorling 37 (38), John Loveless 30 (16), Cath Merlane 28 (30), Frank Rivett 28 (33), Christine Carter 26 (23), Shirley McGill 24 (27), Ian Fielding 24 (38), Linda Garton 23 (12), Ian Campbell 20 (26), Paul Curtis 20 (21), Ruth Curtis 20 (21).

The conducting was shared by 52 people this year compared with 59 last year. Derek Sibson 47 (44), John Loveless 20 (9), Stephen Wheeler 17 (19), Ian Fielding 14 (29), Anthony Cox 10 (7), Roger Baldwin 9 (13), Mary Holden 7 (4), Graham Duke 6 (2), Matthew Durham 5 (14), Ian Butters 4 (4), Paul Curtis 4 (1), Ian Roulstone 3 (6), James Belshaw 3 (4), Jonathan Hetherington 3 (3), Don Morrison 3 (1), Simon Rudd 3 (1), Emma Southerington 3 (2), Peter Waterfield 3 (2), two (15) members with 2 and 32 (30) with 1.

The variety of methods has also decreased. 78 (98) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have remained the same with 21 (21) including 4 (5) of Cinques this year. Peals of Royal were 44 (42), Caters 5 (6), Major 116 (128), Triples 0 (2), Minor 13 (24) and Doubles 1 (0).

Methods: Bristol S. Major 27 (22), Yorkshire S. Royal 11 (7), London S. Major 11 (6), 4-Spliced S. Major 10 (11), Bristol S. Maximus 9 (4), Yorkshire S. Major 9 (7), 7 Surprise Minor 8 (8), Lincolnshire S. Major 6 (9), Cambridge S. Major 6 (6), Bristol S. Royal 5 (6), Cambridge S. Royal 5 (5), Lincolnshire S. Royal 5 (1), 8-Spliced S. Major 5 (4), Lessness S. Major 5 (4), Glasgow S. Major 4 (2).

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 1733, Derek Sibson 1604, Simon Davies 1266, Jane Sibson 1085, Ian Fielding 1005, Ian Campbell 925, Graham Duke 964, John Loveless 869, Linda Garton 807, Richard Hobbs 783, Peter Fleckney 681, Stephen Wheeler 685, Catherine Merlane 675, Paul Cammiade 59, Shirley McGill 608, Roger Baldwin 532 and Michael O'Callaghan 543.

These figures are for peals published in the Ringing World up to December 31st and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this! Ian Fielding rang his 1000th peal for the Society on 16th October 2010 at Newcastle.

In methods, those with more than 100 for the Society since the computer records began in 1934 has changed just a little with Cambridge S. Royal joining the list and Yorkshire S. Royal overtaking London No.3 S. Royal. Bristol S. Major 511, 4-Spliced S. Major 217, 8-Spliced S. Major 195, Yorkshire S. Major 198, 7 methods S. Minor 190, London S. Major 189, Bristol S. Maximus 171, Yorkshire S. Maximus 155, Stedman Cinques 145, Bristol S. Royal 137, Yorkshire S. Royal 135, London No.3 S. Royal 133, Cambridge S. Major 111, Cambridge S. Royal 104 and Rutland S. Major 104.

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

Membership news

Milestones to report

Congratulations to:

Ruth Curtis on her 3500th peal and Paul Curtis on his 3000th – rung at West Hallam 21st November 2010

Nicky Turner on her 3000th peal at Milton on 20th June 2010

● Simon Davies on his 3000th peal at Plympton St Maurice on 11th August 2010

Ron Warford on his 2000th peal at Gosforth on 20th March 2010

Linda Garton on her 2000th peal at Campton on 11th June 2010

Claire Roulstone on her 2000th peal at Ripon on 31st July 2010

Ian Fielding on his 1000th peal as conductor at Wootton St Lawrence in April 2010 and on his 1000th peal for the Society at Ballymena on 16th October 2010

Nicola Firminger and Steve Borman on their wedding – 10th April together with Joanne Fielding and Simon Holden on 10th April 2010

Jessie MacLeod and Matt Hetherington on their wedding 7th August 2010

Gail Harrison on the birth of her daughter Aoife on 15th March 2010

Angela and Andrew Preston on the birth of their daughter Tessa in October 2010

Losses of members

It is with sadness we report the death of:

Robert Stokes of Minnesota

Jean Sanderson of Cambridge

Phil Tocock of Dorchester

Laurence Knowles of Egham, Surrey

Kenneth Newman of Wheathampstead

Elizabeth Wycherley of Leigh-on-Sea

Malcolm Tyler of Weston Flavell

Eileen Sweet of Harborne

Barbara Raithby of Balderton

Beryl Paton of Dorchester

Betty Murtagh of Wakefield

Olive Barnett of Mere, Wiltshire

New Members

We welcome:

Callum Crofton

Simon Percy

Stephen Hall

Jonathan Daniels

Jesse Hetherington

Jonathan Galloway

Joanna Franklin

Charles Heilker

Nicola Beaumont

David Parker

Alison Halliday

Adam Greenley

Michelle Sorrell

Michael Hinton

Anne Haskard

Brian Owen

James Saunders

Calvin Chai

Did you know...?

Emma Southerington has conducted more peals than any other woman.

2011 Dates for your diary

7th–10th July – July Country Meeting – Skipton

10th September

Anniversary Dinner – The Crowne Plaza, Shoreditch

1st October – AGM, London

22nd October – London 12-bell Striking Competition

19th & 20th November – Peal Weekend

If you would like to sign up for any of the events detailed above please do so by either completing the sign up list on the website or by contacting the assistant secretary (assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk or telephone: 07584 906347), or by contacting any of the officers.

Anniversaries of Membership

Elected 1940 – 70 Years

Alan Ball

Elected 1945 – 65 Years

Ron Noon	Ray Clist
Tom Page	Harold May
Joan Gray	Alexander Page

Elected 1950 – 60 Years

Alfred Patten	Frank Matthews
A. John Hill	Marjorie Matthews
Eric Naylor	Harry Wells
John Hilton	

Elected 1960 – 50 Years

Jeffrey Webb	Peter Sharp
Margaret Parker	Joe Roast
Derek Sibson	Alan Syder
James Maple	
Howard Egglestone	
Celia Hughes D'Aeth	
Rev'd John Shephard Walwyn	

Elected 1970 – 40 Years

Monica Savage	Sandra Dugid
Ian Minns	Roger Kendrick
Jane Owen	Andrew Swatton
Shirley Danby	
Rev'd Lawrence Pizze	

Elected 1985 – 25 Years

Gerald Bacon	Rosemary Adams
Stephen Cheek	Elizabeth Orme
Christine Jennings	Connie Raynor
Carol Marchbank	John Peverett
Jenny Scase	Ralph Earey
David Sparling	Peter Hill
Marcus Wheel	Daphne Pegg

Correction to publication of the anniversaries in last year's edition: [apologies – Ed]

Elected 1983 – 25 Years

Ruth K. Simon



SRCY PEALS 250, 200 and 100 years ago

Date	Tower	Method	Conductor
1761			
21st July	St Giles Camberwell	Plain Bob Major	Samuel Wood
18th January	St Giles in the Fields, Holborn	Union Treble Bob Major	Samuel Wood
26th January	St Leonard's Shoreditch	5760 Cumberland Fancy Major	George Partrick
13th April	St Mary's Whitechapel	5056 Union Treble Bob Major	Samuel Wood
11th May	St Paul's Bedford	5040 Plain Bob Major	Samuel Wood
13th December	St Mary's Whitechapel	5088 Union Treble Bob Major	Samuel Wood
Quite a prolific year for the Society for those days, Union Treble Bob was the original name for Oxford Treble Bob and the peal at St Paul's Bedford was the first on the bells! We have no idea what Cumberland Fancy actually was but it is believed that the name alludes to the composition used rather than the method rung.			
1811			
10th February	St Matthew's Bethnal Green	5248 Oxford Treble Bob Major	George Gross
18th February	St Edward Romford	5248 Oxford Treble Bob Major	George Gross
26th March	St John at Hackney	5168 Plain Bob Major	William Shipway
A good start to the year seemed to peter out pretty quickly!			
1911			
7th January	St Margaret's Westminster	5000 Forward Royal	Frank Bennett
28th January	All Saints Edmonton	5056 New Cambridge S Major	Edith K. Parker
1st February	All Saints Edmonton	5088 Superlative S Major	Edith K. Parker
11th March	St Mary's Battersea	5056 Superlative S Major	Edith K. Parker
25th March	All Saints Isleworth	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Smith
8th April	All Saints Edmonton	5184 Superlative S Major	Edith K. Parker
22nd March	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	James Parker
22nd April	St Mary's Lambeth	5088 Double Norwich CB Major	John D. Matthews
6th May	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	James Parker
27th May	All Saints Edmonton	5056 New Cambridge S Major	Edith K. Parker
1st July	St Mary the Virgin Prittlewell	5067 Stedman Caters	Frank Bennett
30th September	All Saints Edmonton	5088 London S Major	Edith K. Parker
9th December	Waltham Abbey	5088 London S Major	Edith K. Parker
16th December	St Mary's Rotherhithe	5088 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Bennett

The peal at Battersea was published in the very first edition of *The Ringing World*, March 24th 1911, as you can see Edith Parker was the leading conductor in the year calling half of the 14 peals!

Alan Regan

And finally...

It's over and out from your news-letter editor. Firstly though my sincere apologies for this edition being so late onto door mats, desks or PCs. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work, it has been a struggle this year to keep up with events as well as this edition of the newsletter. However, please do feel free to tell me what you think of it (assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk) – it's always good to receive feedback.

All I can say now is that efficiency is on its way and Mary Holden, our past Master, has very kindly stepped into the breach and volunteered to take over the reins. So please do support her and send all future articles to Mary (newsletter@srcy.org.uk).

Jo Dorling



visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk