



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2011

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visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk

Our Master, Shirley McGill writes...

It's my pleasure to introduce the Newsletter for 2011 which, as always, contains a digest of our activities and a peek forward to what's in store for the coming year. My thanks go to Mary Holden as new collator/editor and to Jeremy Warren and Postprint for their expert printing and publishing.

Our Wednesday night practices in London are currently attracting large attendances – it's quite a job ensuring everyone has a decent ring – but it's very encouraging to see the renewed enthusiasm. My aim is not only to produce good ringing but also to make Wednesdays a good social occasion – I am trying to set a good example by not going home too early but I will have to work much harder to be the last to leave!

2011 was a busy year, as ever, with two very successful Country Meetings. The secret of success is meticulous planning and we certainly had two memorable examples of this. Our thanks go to the 'teams' at Devizes and Skipton both of which ran like clockwork and were great fun as well.

We entered the National 12-bell and unfortunately did not produce our best

ringing but we slightly made up for that by coming second (again) in the now established London competition at Shoreditch. Thanks were extended to Peter Harrison, Jo Dorling and Judith Mack for their splendid organisation of the day, although many others played a strong part to contribute to the success. We look forward to entering both competitions again in 2012.

Looking forward, we have the Dedication of the Bells at St Dunstan-in-the-West in March and then, hopefully, lots of ringing on what promises to be a super new ring in the city. Time to brush up the 10 bell methods...

And then there are the Olympic Games! If you live and work in London it's going to be BIG and I think the same can be said about



ringing in London for the occasion. The phrase 'once in a lifetime' springs to mind and if you can't get a ticket, you can at least do some ringing with any luck! We have already taken part in some special events and there are more planned.

Our **big** event is the Dinner in Birmingham on 8th September. It's the posh one – the one where you are duty bound to make a bit of an effort. The Dinners of this ilk are usually memorable, sumptuous events and this one promises to live up to previous years. Do try to come.

Our website will keep you up to date with events and happenings – do use it to keep in touch – or, even better, join us in London or at an out-of-town event. I look forward to seeing you somewhere during the year.

Young members' peal

The idea for a young SRCY peal originated in early 2010 on a ringing weekend in Bedfordshire. I started to think of potential young ringers in the Society and with a little help from the Cumberland website, other ringers and of course Facebook. I discovered that we had not only eight young ringers, but eight teenage members.

I sent a general e-mail to the other seven explaining what I wanted to do with a few potential dates. Everyone seemed keen and with luck there was one date that suited us all.

I had some concerns that I was bringing ringers from as far as Bristol and York and a lot of us had never met, never mind rung together. However, we gelled quickly and rang a good peal of Bristol Surprise Major at Spitalfields on Saturday 8th January.

Conversation in the pub after, with us all drinking lemonade obviously, turned to when we could do this again before the first person turns twenty!

Some of us stayed in London for the weekend and scored a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St Mary-le Bow the following day which, coincidentally, turned out to be a quite a young band as well.

A good weekend was had by all and we'll hopefully have a similar performance before too long.

Michael Crockett

Peal weekend

Peal weekend this year saw 39 successes from 50 attempts.

Special mention must go to Peter Waterfield who rang 6 peals for peal weekend, conducting 4 of these! Thanks to all who organised or took part in peals, and of course a big thank you to John Barnes for co-ordinating the weekend.

'Not the Dinner Day' 2011

Curry, Cobra and Cumberland Youths

A windy but dry February 5th saw this year's 'Not The Dinner Day' take place.

It was again very successfully hosted in South Croydon. All five peal attempts were scored, at Spitalfields, St George-in-the-East, Fulham, Bermondsey and Beckenham. Thanks to Peter Harrison for organising the peals. Later in the afternoon open ringing took place on the fine Gillett twelve at South Croydon run by the Senior Steward, Adam Greenley.

Proceedings then moved to The Skylark for pre-dinner refreshment before heading for the Fushia to have our meal. The food was excellent and a good range of dishes kept coming as quickly as they were disappearing. The staff were fantastic and very accommodating.

Special thanks must go to Shirley McGill for making the arrangements for a superb evening. This was a top day.

Nick Brown



The Ringing World centenary

As we all know, *The Ringing World* celebrated its centenary in 2011, with a day of events taking place in London in March. The SRCY hosted the young ringers competition at St Saviour's, Pimlico, an excellent opportunity to generate some publicity for the Society with the up and coming ringers of the exercise!

Members turned out in force, making cakes, working in the kitchen, and manning the SRCY stand in the hall to talk to visitors about the Society. Thanks to everyone who helped, especially Judith Mack and Jo Dorling for all their efforts.

We were also delighted to see one of our younger members, Ed Mack, collect the winner's trophy with the Hertfordshire team.





AUSTRALIA TRIP

In 2011, our Australian Master, Peter Harrison, organised a Society trip to Australia. This coincided with an ASCY trip organised by their Australian Master, Phil Goodyer, and the two groups met up in Adelaide. Four members of the SRCY party tell the story:

PERTH – by Janet Menhinick

Friday, 18th February 2011 saw the majority of the party set off for Perth WA from Heathrow leaving behind a cold, icy England. We had an uneventful journey walking off one plane at Singapore and straight onto the next. On Sunday morning we assembled at The Bell Tower for the noon practice with the local ringers, where we were made very welcome and had the opportunity to catch up with old friends. A variety of methods were rung on different numbers of bells. Laura Ivey encouraged us to purchase a souvenir polo shirt to commemorate our visit. Eight of us left the practice early to go and ring the first peal of the tour, Bristol S. Major at the Cathedral. This was immediately followed by a special ringers' even-song. The Cathedral was packed and we were treated to a lively and entertaining bell sermon. The service was followed by a reception by the Cathedral clergy. Finally we adjourned to the Lucky Shag back by the Swan bells.



■ Rosemary Duke, Sue Pacey, Tom Perrins at St Cuthbert's, Adelaide

On Monday, the sun returned and with it temperatures of 40°C+! Ringing continued at The Bell Tower and trips



■ The Bell Tower, Perth

were made out to scenic York for quarter peals, to Mandurah where a peal was successful, and finally to the lofty civic tower at Rockingham.

Tuesday, and we were off to the suburbs once more, visiting the 8 bells at St Hilda's School, Mosman Park, where a peal was scored and the nearby 6 at Claremont where the peal attempt failed.

Perth was a wonderful introduction to Australia: an enthusiastic and warm welcome from the local ringers, fine weather, the opportunity to experience some of Australia's excellent public



■ Jane Sibson, Derek Sibson, Lloyd Cartwright at Adelaide Town Hall

transport, superb museums and good beaches – my particular favourite was at Freemantle with its gently sloping beach, fabulous sea temperature and beautiful white sand which was so hot it burnt one's feet!

Perth was memorable too for the number of items lost or left behind by members of the party – sun glasses, sun hats (2), cardigan and a passport !

ADELAIDE – by Tim Peverett

We flew to Adelaide on the Wednesday, where a number of the party were surprised that we had to move our clocks forward by 2.5 hours (not 2 or 3 hours). The Master eventually gave up trying to explain why this is the case. We were quickly driven to the city, our route taking us via Sir Don Bradman Way who our driver explained was the second best cricketer ever after Sachin Tendulkar! There was enough time to hit China Town, sample the first Coopers Sparkling and begin to plan the next few days. For those not in the morning quarter and peal attempts, the Thursday morning brought an early tram, sunshine and a quick soak in the gentle waters at Glenelg, before heading back for a respectable peal at SFX. That evening we were welcomed by Michelle and Matthew Sorell to their place for an excellent pool party with barbecue. One particular highlight was having the chance to ring handbells with "Young Fred" Smeaton, Adelaide's 101 year-old ringer. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves (some more than others, judging by the time and state they left).

Friday morning's adventure to Cleland Wildlife Park gave several the opportunity to meet with Koalas and feed Kangaroos, before returning to Adelaide for unsuccessful evening peal



■ *The Joint Dinner, Adelaide Town Hall*

attempts. The attempt at St Peter's Cathedral lead one ringer to state, "I'm getting too old for this peal ringing lark". I think the heat was just getting to Derek, but at least it meant joining the ASCY's a little earlier than expected at the Queen's Head by the Cathedral, where the draw for the Adelaide Challenge was made.

For those who haven't heard about the Challenge yet, the idea was to get the members of both Societies to ring at all five Adelaide towers on the same day. As some of the teams had more members than others, we had at least two touches at each tower, with the proviso that everyone was meant to ring at each tower. The rules for the judging were a bit complicated at times, but that was left to the Chief Judge (Chris Kippin) to work out.

In the evening after the Challenge, and for what is probably the first time in living memory, both Societies hosted a dinner. It was definitely the first time that such a dinner was hosted outside the UK, and it was in the Banquet Room in Adelaide Town Hall. After a drinks reception we went to our seats to be welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, who innocently made a comment about the lovely bells he had in the Town Hall, and was a little perplexed by the laughter he got in response. He was quickly informed that he had the best Warner 8 in a Town Hall, which no doubt has since been explained to him properly!

The results of the Adelaide Challenge were announced at the dinner. The five teams were the SRCY Master's and SRCY Secretary's bands, while the ASCY fielded Master's, Secretary's and Junior Steward's bands. When the results were read out both Masters felt a little sheepish as they were both beaten by their respective Society's other teams! The

winner in the end were the ASCY Secretary's band.

On the Sunday, perhaps to help people recover from the excellent dinner, we all went down to local ringer David Bleby's place out in the bush where a barbecue was put on for us. As well as the usual meat there was some crocodile on the menu! Some people went for a walk in the countryside, meeting some of the Aussie wildlife in the flesh. SRCY's were even spotted taking a splash in the murky waters but fortunately no live crocodiles were seen. We returned to Adelaide for mixed band QPs at SFX and St Peter's before venturing out for our last evening with the ASCY's.

SYDNEY – by Malcom Powell

Our next centre was Sydney which was our home for 8 days from Monday 28th February, so there was time for a lot of ringing, socialising and sightseeing. We were warmly



■ *Barbecue in the Bush, Inman Valley*

welcomed by the local ringers at their practices and several of them rang with us in the peals and quarter peals.

Peals were rung at both Cathedrals, St Mary's and St Andrew's, and at Christ Church St Lawrence and at Paramatta. The attempt at St Philip's was unfortunately lost and the peal rung at Darling Point was later found to be false. The Master was congratulated after the peal of Stedman Cinques at St Andrew's as it was his first 12-bell peal as conductor.

Wednesday was Geraldine Forster's birthday on which 4 quarter peals were rung. In the evening over 20 members and guests were at a dinner in her honour at Jordan's Restaurant at Darling Harbour where they enjoyed good food with spectacular views of the harbour.

Sydney was also the venue chosen in our week by the alternative society (not the "other society" – they had left their Mardi Gras celebrations which, bizarrely, occurred on Saturday and for which one of our party had acquired a grandstand seat). We all saw some strange and wonderful sights in the city during the week leading up to the event.



■ *Margaret Oram, Ian Oram, Debbie Talbott, Christine Carter, Janet Menhinick, Michael O'Callaghan, Clare McArdle and Mike Rigby, celebrating Geraldine Forster's birthday.*

On our final night we ate with some local members at the Australia Hotel in the aptly named Cumberland Street. It was good to have this opportunity to say a big thank you to them and hope that we will meet again.

It was therefore, on the third Tuesday of our 8 day stay that we said goodbye to Sydney and flew to Hobart.

TASMANIA, MELBOURNE AND BRISBANE

– by Geraldine Forster

The final week of the tour was exceptionally busy visiting Tasmania, Melbourne and Brisbane. One or two members of the party left us for a while to take a trip up to Cairns and Penny re-joined the group.

Hobart

The flight from Sydney to Hobart landed at 4pm. After checking into the hotel, a quick turnaround and brisk uphill walk were required by those who wished to ring at Holy Trinity Church. This 8-bell tower is now part of a Greek Orthodox Church but ringers are still made very welcome.

We later joined the local band at St David's Cathedral for their practice. Building work to install a kitchen was in progress at the base of the tower with large hazardous trenches underfoot. Unfortunately one local young lady ringer missed her footing and fractured her ankle after descending the staircase. With five members of various medical professions present, she was in good hands until help arrived to take her to hospital. Most of the party adjourned to eat at 'The Ball and Chain' – a firm favourite of Derek and Jane, discovered on a previous tour and definitely worth a visit.

The following day (Tuesday) most of the cars took a trip out to Port Arthur to visit the old Penal Colony. After returning to Hobart a good peal of Cambridge Royal was rung at St David's Cathedral including local member, Doug Nichols.

The flight back to the mainland was not until the late afternoon on the

Wednesday leaving time to explore some more of Tasmania. Some climbed mountains (Wellington or Nelson), some went to view waterfalls, others to Seven Mile Beach. A privileged few were treated to wonderful coffee, scones, cream and jam at Penny's sister, Melissa's, home half-way up Mount Wellington before continuing the journey to the top by car.

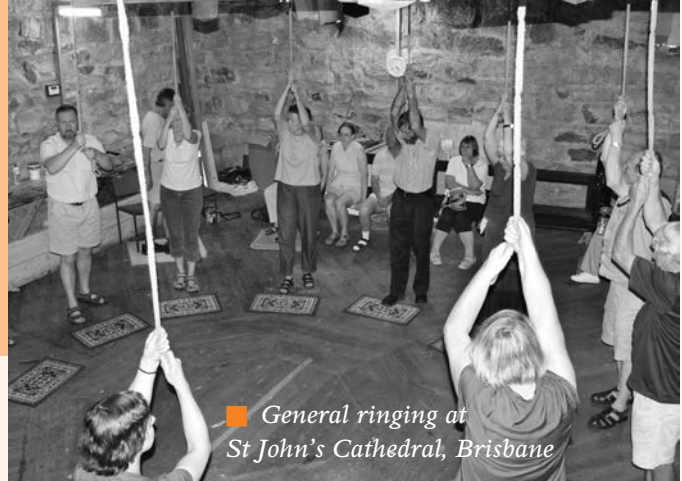
Melbourne

Our time in Melbourne flew by in a bit of a blur but was not without incident. On arrival at the airport, Derek became detached from his suitcase as he changed hands whilst stepping on to an escalator – he sailed away leaving his case at the top. Suitcase retrieved, and with no need for cars as the hotel was close to the airport, we set off on foot in a long line, in very British pouring rain, following Derek and Jane on a rather roundabout route. Jane was pushing a wayward luggage trolley which at one point cantered off into a flower bed causing a massive collision of ringers behind.

Thursday was a busy day. Several quarter peals were successfully rung in the morning but the afternoon peal attempts were both lost. The 29cwt ring of 12 at St Paul's Cathedral defeated the band despite Lloyd Cartwright re-joining the tour after flying in from Perth. Tiredness was beginning to show. Sadly, this broke our run of 12-bell successes. A consolation quarter peal of Yorkshire Maximus was scored. The peal attempt at West Heidelberg School was also lost and then a quarter peal failed due to a power cut – there is almost no natural light in the ringing room. Jane and Debbie let off steam by running a few laps of the school athletics track!

Brisbane

The flight to Brisbane was delayed, but fortunately the local ringers were able to put the afternoon ringing on hold



until we were ready. A quarter peal was duly scored at St John's Cathedral followed by general ringing in which many local ringers participated.

On the final Saturday, with Ben and Rosemary back from Cairns, a peal was rung at St John's Cathedral. We were then treated to an excellent barbecue by the St John's ringers. This was followed by an opportunity to ring on the little 6 of South Brisbane prior to a final quarter peal. Our local escorts gave some members a tour of the area which had been blighted by floods just a few weeks earlier.

In the evening, the whole party gathered at a restaurant for a farewell meal. Gifts were given to Peter and Derek in thanks for all their hard work in organising the tour.

Postscript

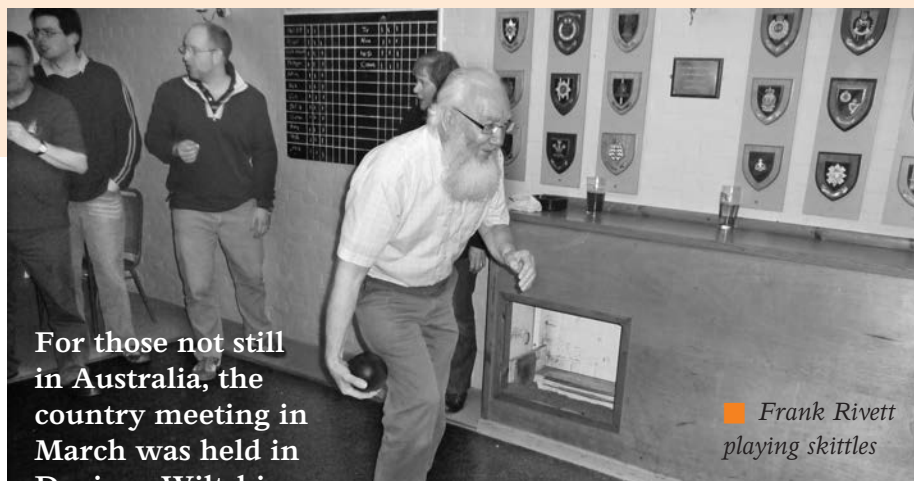
We all had a wonderful time. A huge thank you to Peter for organising the tour; it was a mammoth task co-ordinating the flights and towers, not to mention the people. Thank you also to Derek who booked much of the accommodation and organised the hire cars.

In summary: tired, but happy.



Visit www.srcy.org.uk to see more photos of our Australia trip.

March country meeting



For those not still in Australia, the country meeting in March was held in Devizes, Wiltshire.

■ Frank Rivett playing skittles

A successful morning resulted in four peals scored out of four attempts at Bradford on Avon, Westbury, Edington Priory and North Bradley. For those not peal ringing, there was a selection of towers on the tour. This started with the lovely bells of Bishop's Canning just outside Devizes and then after lunch, moved into the town centre with ringing at St Mary's, St John's and St James'.

Tea and plenty of biscuits were served at the Wyvern Club next to St James' Church and the Society was welcomed to Devizes by the president of the Salisbury Guild, Ross Robertson. With the Master in Australia, the meeting was chaired by Adam, the Senior Steward. Adam did a fantastic job and the meeting was all over in under an hour. This left plenty of time for the evening's events which consisted of a buffet supper, Bellringer beer and West Country skittles.



■ David Hacker, Jennifer Hancock and Derrick Bailey



■ Michael Crockett, Angela Athawes, Ben Constant and Adam Greenley

The evening was enjoyed by all present we drank the bar dry. A huge thank you goes to David Hacker and Derrick Bailey for suggesting that we visit Devizes in celebration of their 40

years of society membership and to Phil Bailey for helping with the organisation of a fantastic weekend.

Samantha Gorman

National 12-bell contest

Eliminators this year were on the first Saturday in April, and were held at Birmingham, Coventry and Evesham, with the SRCY team drawn to ring at Evesham. We were drawn to ring first which at least got it over with and meant we were free to enjoy the rest of the day. It was a lovely sunny day so many people spent some time sitting out on the green by the Bell Tower listening to this fantastic ring of bells, as well as visiting the pub of course.

Unfortunately our ringing on the day was not up to scratch and we didn't make it through to the final. This was obviously a disappointing result for the team, as well as the Society as a whole. What more is there to say? We'll be back aiming to do better next year.

ASCY vs SRCY

This year the competition against the ASCY was held on 17th May. It was an 'away' fixture for us, being hosted by the ASCY at St Magnus the Martyr and St Mary le Bow. Several members joined the ASCY practice at St Magnus before the two legs of the competition held there took place. These were a course of Bristol Major on the back eight and a touch of Stedman Cinques. The 6-bell competition was Surprise Minor at St Mary le Bow, although not on the back six!

It was a close fought competition once again with good ringing from both sides over the 3 legs. The SRCY team were pleased to win the 12-bell, but unfortunately lost both the 8- and 6-bell competitions, meaning the overall result was a 2-1 win to the ASCY.

July country meeting in Skipton

A July country meeting recipe..

120+ people
23 towers
184 bells
27 gallons of beer (plus some emergency supplies!)
250 sausages
16 peals
140 tomatoes
35 pints of cider
3 barbecues
24 bottles of wine
A little bit of orange juice
24 Yorkshire tail ends

Having not been to a Cumberland meeting before, the prospect of a more northerly country meeting seemed too good an opportunity to be missed. Filled with enthusiasm, we signed up and looked forward to the prospect of discovering more of the Society. Next, how many peals to ring? (None as it turned out!) To tour or not to tour? We opted for the best of both worlds, with a peal attempt on the Friday leaving us free to tour on Saturday.

So July rolled round, and we made our way along the M62 to Halifax for the peal. Unfortunately, we ended up arriving late due to heavy traffic, but the rest of the band was very understanding, and eventually we set off into changes.



Alas, our lateness was not to be our only mistake, as the two of us managed to cross over less than 45 minutes in. At this point we were ready to flee the building; it was certainly not the impression we were hoping to make! But once again, the rest of the band forgave us and we pulled ourselves together for a reasonable quarter of Stedman Cinques. And nobody seemed to be complaining when we set off to the pub slightly earlier than planned...

After some difficulty in locating it ('well-hidden' is an understatement!), we made it to Friday evening's pub of choice – the Narrow Boat in Skipton. A large number of ringers had already congregated by the time we arrived (some had clearly been there longer than others!) and we soon spotted folk we recognised and were introduced to many new people too. As the evening progressed, more and more Cumberlands descended on the pub, swiftly taking over first the top floor and eventually most of the space available – not sure what the locals must have thought! Vague foolish ideas about trying to be abstemious on this first night were rapidly forgotten. The mellowing effects of a few pints and

some fantastic food meant the slight fiasco with the peal no longer seemed quite so important; indeed, our tale of woe raised quite a few laughs.

On Saturday, feeling a little apprehensive and anxious to make a good impression, we set off to Ilkley, the first tower of the day. It soon became clear that this was a different kind of tour experience from anything we were used to. In particular, the sheer number of ringers was incredible! Sitting outside in the sunshine at the White Lion at Kildwick, listening to the ringing and being filled in on some Cumberland history and gossip was particularly enjoyable, especially after struggling with the infamous Yorkshire tail ends! Notable during the day was the high standard of ringing. One could catch hold with no idea beforehand whether Plain Bob or 8-spliced would be called for, but with the expectation that you could ring either. This was scary at first but also very refreshing, challenging and good fun!

The tour ended up back in Skipton, where we were also joined by those who had been ringing peals during the day, and after a ring on the superb 8 it was downstairs and into the church hall for tea and a choice of a selection of cakes and scones, an unexpected treat! We then trooped into the church for another first for both of us – an



■ *Lizzy Stokoe and Jessie Hetherington*

SRCY meeting. As neither of us had been present at the meetings at which we were proposed, we had little idea of what to expect and the whole meeting was a very enlightening experience. Hiding at the back, we learnt a great deal more about the Society, its history, mission and current projects and how it operates; as well as gradually working out who was who on the table of exec at the front and putting some faces to names. The part of the meeting where members who had recently passed away were remembered and their contribution to ringing, in particular to SRCY, was marked was quite awe-inspiring.

On arrival at the evening venue, the immense effort put in by Simon and his team during the day soon became clear. The excellent beer and food was enjoyed by all, although we didn't quite manage to finish the pint of cream generously supplied to each table! Thankfully, we didn't stuff ourselves to excess and were able to enjoy the ceilidh dancing too, although this feeling did not appear to be shared by many of the men folk... perhaps the lure of the Golden Pippin behind the bar was too much.

Morning rose all too quickly, and over breakfast it became evident who had over indulged the night before! Any previous rumours of orange juice drinking had certainly been firmly put to rest. Tidying up mission accomplished, we said goodbye to friends old and new and left feeling very much part of the Society and inspired to become more involved. Roll on July 2012!

Judith Moreton and Jo Franklin



■ *Ceilidh dancing*

At our July country meeting, we remembered Dennis Beresford, our past Master who was instrumental in resurrecting the Society's fortunes in the 1960s. Derek Sibson tells the story:

Ringling with Dennis

I first met Dennis in 1957 at a University of London practice at Hart Street, when I went to London for my clinical training at St Bartholomew's Hospital. The practices there always ended with a touch of Spliced, often conducted by Dennis, and usually of a high standard.

The Cumberlands at that period were at a very low ebb. A monthly practice only existed at St Martin-in-the-Fields but was poorly attended. In the late 1950s Dennis started a weekly practice which was by invitation only and not a Society event. A group of 10-12 of us were invited to attend, using St Giles-in-the-Fields bells once a month and St Andrew Holborn once a fortnight leaving out the first Wednesday of each month for the SRCY practice at St Martin's. The method repertoire initially was Surprise Major with occasional Stedman gradually expanding with Glasgow and Belfast. Dennis was a stickler for good striking and was never afraid to 'comment' on our efforts but it had very good results.

In June 1960 I heard that the three Beresfords and Michael Lakin were going to attempt a peal of Yorkshire in



■ *Ed, Judith and Barry Mack helping in the kitchen*



■ *The organisers, Simon and Jo Holden*

hand so I asked if I could come along to listen. When we got there Dennis persuaded me to ring the tenors and call a peal of Grandsire Caters. To my astonishment we were successful and hence I joined the Society (belfry elections were allowed in those days!).

Peal ringing for the Society was not very profuse at that time, the annual total often being in single figures but having been elected Master in early 1960 Dennis slowly started to arrange some peals. Gradually the scope extended with frequent forays into Pitman spliced culminating in 1968 with 6 peals of 9-spliced with different bands on the same day. Ringing on higher numbers was also progressing at first with London Royal and then with Bristol Royal. The Society's first peal of London Royal was in 1963 at Leeds, Kent, but Bristol Royal was not achieved until 1968 at Portsmouth.

Practices on 10 and 12 improved slowly with the availability of Cripplegate as well as Clement Danes. We were, by the middle-late 1960s, practising first Londinium and then Bristol Maximus – Dennis had always had a love of Bristol on all numbers

and the revival of the method just rung to 2 peals at Leicester in 1950 was a very worthwhile idea on Dennis's part. The first peal of Maximus on the restored bells at Shoreditch was this method.

Sunday service ringing took place at St Martin's every Sunday morning followed by either St Giles-in-the-Fields or Shoreditch but we had to oil the bells every time at Shoreditch because of the plain bearings. This made it obvious that something had to be done at Shoreditch and the project to rehang them and at the same time put in sound control because of the nearby block of flats, was organised, coming to fruition in 1968 with the inclusion of a sharp second by a generous donation from the Drapers Company. The hours put in scraping the frame and repainting it, building the sound control and helping with the rehangings were led by Dennis and have proved so worthwhile.

Over the years it had always been Dennis's wish that something should be done at Spitalfields. I remember going to see the rector with Dennis on several occasions to discuss what might be done. Once Shoreditch was completed and with the unexpected availability of the splendid eight from Clapham Park, which was to be pulled down, momentum for the project took off and "2 years' hard slog" (our slogan from a newspaper headline of the time) began, ending in the dedication in 1972. The story of this project really should be recorded elsewhere but the original idea came from Dennis.

Ringing with Dennis was never dull although at times it could be frustrating. There is no doubt in my mind that the Society would probably not have survived without his efforts in the early 1960s and we should all be most grateful to him that it has. It would not be right not to include Mary in this because the support she gave him and the rest of us was enormous. On many occasions she entertained returning peal ringers before letting us go on our various ways home and we are most grateful.

Around the country

Northern practices

The monthly practices at Stockton have continued to attract a good attendance, with some people travelling long distances to attend. The social side of our Wednesday practices and of our weekend 12-bell tours, continues to form an important part of the success of the band.

The method range has been extended to include Avon and Phobos (although we don't always have a band to ring these). Pudsey Maximus was added into the mix prior to the 12-bell final in Leeds – and promptly dropped once it was over!

We were very pleased to win our eliminator at Evesham, where our ringing was rather faster than we had intended but seemed to find favour with the judges. An unfortunate draw at Leeds, ringing first and immediately prior to the winners, led to a rather disappointing result. It also led to a few drink-related incidents, following a long, hot day with nothing to do but help the Leeds ringers by drinking as much of the beer as possible!

Jennie Town

Eastern practices

During 2011 we held practices at Soham (especially at Jon Spreadbury's request), Cambridge (GSM), Norwich (St Giles, Mancroft and All Saints), Chelmsford Cathedral and lastly Bury St Edmunds. The last of these was the best attended practice with 35 present. It also coincided with my first absence from an Eastern practice. The obvious conclusion is that I should stay away more often!

In September we held another Sunday Picnic, meeting this time in pleasant late Summer sunshine in Bridge End Gardens, a delightful and often ignored garden very close to the centre of Saffron Walden in the gently rolling North-West Essex countryside. There are a number of delightful villages in this corner of Essex, slightly off the beaten track but so close to the M11 and, after a sociable lunch, we headed off for simultaneous quarter-peals at Ashdon and Helions Bumpstead, followed by three six-bell quarters at Arkesden, Chrishall and Littlebury.

If you are resident in the Eastern Counties, do please come along and give our practices a try. We try to hold them regularly on the first Thursday of even months, please visit the SRCY website for the list of dates and venues for 2012. The aim is to provide an opportunity to meet and ring with friends old and new in a relaxed atmosphere. We do try to circulate details using an "Eastern" email list. If you don't receive my irregular ramblings, do please let me know on simon@enterprise-cs.co.uk and someone will swap with you!

In addition to the Thursday practices, in 2012 we plan to hold two Sunday events. On Sunday 20th May we will hold a second ESRCY 8-bell Friendly Striking Competition. At the moment we have volunteers to organise county teams from Bedfordshire, Essex and Suffolk. If you are fired with enthusiasm to organise a team, especially from Norfolk, Cambridgeshire or Hertfordshire, then do please let me know. Our first contest at Dalham was a big success with over 60 people attending. Let's ensure we replicate it. I will be seeking a venue central to the region to make a suitable picnic and ringing location although somewhere more beautiful than Dalham will be tricky.

Simon Rudd

SRCY informal dinner

The September informal dinner is always a good occasion in the SRCY calendar – it's without too many formalities and yet a social occasion to be planned for! Hosted by the Master of the Society, it's a good opportunity for many members to relax and socialise together.

This year saw us return to the Crowne Plaza in Shoreditch again. Selling it to us for a second year running was the excellent service and central location, topped by fantastic views over the city from the restaurant on the hotel's 7th floor. We weren't quite so lucky with the spectacular sunset of the previous year, but the balmy autumn evening did allow us to enjoy drinks on the veranda once again.

We were delighted at the turnout for this year's dinner – a real pleasure to welcome members from across the country. We were also very pleased to have the company of Andy Rider (rector of Spitalfields) and his wife Carol, and also Paul Turp, vicar of Shoreditch.

Before the wine flowed too freely, the Master introduced our other guests from St Dunstan's-in-the-West – David Powell, churchwarden of St Dunstan's and Matthew Burroughs, Clerk of the Works at St Dunstan's. David spoke with enormous enthusiasm about the SRCY support for the project at St Dunstan's and the important events in coming up in the year ahead with the bells being installed for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Short speeches over, there was plenty of time left to enjoy the sumptuous food and wine and socialise with all. A real fun occasion.

Other venues had been sampled in the search for this year's dinner, but none matched our enjoyment and service at the Crowne Plaza. A huge thank you to all involved for making this a very successful evening.

Jo Dorling



■ Above: James Belshaw, Russell Brown and Doug Bell
Right: Shirley McGill, Michael O'Callaghan and Janet Menhinick



London 12-bell competition

The 3rd edition of the London 12-bell was hosted by the SRCY at Shoreditch, masterminded by Peter Harrison. The day was a big success. Luckily the sun shone as we had a beer tent outside the church which did a roaring trade all day. Those in the kitchen producing bacon sandwiches, teas and coffees were kept busy as well. Thanks to everyone who helped, particularly Judith Mack, Jo Dorling and Alan Regin.

On the ringing side, we were disappointed not to win on our own bells, coming second in this competition for the third year running. We did manage to beat the College Youths this year, but that was not quite enough for overall victory as the team from Cornhill took the honours.



■ The Band that rang for the SRCY, clockwise from front right, Jo Dorling, Shirley McGill, Heather Forster, Michael Crockett, Ed Mack, Doug Beaumont, Mary Holden, Ian Mills, Geraldine Forster, Ben Constant, Ian Campbell, Alan Regin

Returning bells to St Dunstan-in-the-West

The church which stands on Fleet Street has not had a peal of bells since their previous ring of 8 were removed in 1969, and those had not been ringable for many years; the last peal, rung by the Cumberland Youths, was recorded on 11th January 1879. In total 25 peals were rung at St Dunstan's.

Work on the current church building was started in July 1831. The new church was consecrated in July 1833; the bells from the old church were recast and were already hung in the new tower in 1832.

In 2010 an appeal was launched to provide a new ring of 10 bells to celebrate particularly the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Trustees for the project are two members from the church, David Powell and Matthew Burroughs and three members from the London ringing community, Dickon Love, Paul Mounsey and Alan Regin. These were augmented by a fund raising committee of fellow ringers, David Dearnley, Michael Royalton-Kisch and Philip Vracas.

This project received immediate support from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths with an offer of up to £25,000.00 from the bell restoration fund which encouraged the trustees to believe the project could succeed; the Society also gave a further offer of fund raising to provide the 8th bell of the new ring. In addition Society Members Andrew Brown, Ben Constant, Geraldine Forster and Adam Greenley provided support to fund the

treble, 3rd and 5th bells of the new ring.

As part of the fund raising efforts Viridor Credits, who deal with applications for grants from the Landfill Communities Fund, were contacted and an application for a grant made. St Dunstan's qualified as being **just** within the catchment area of the landfill site at Beddington, Surrey. This application very quickly resulted in a grant of up to £200,000.00 being offered effectively funding the project along with money that had already been raised.

This presented an odd situation for the trustees of the project who had to effectively stand down the many significant offers of help including the £25,000.00 from the Society along with the £20,000.00 for the 8th bell – this situation was managed superbly by Barry Mack, the Society Treasurer!



■ Casting the bells at Whitechapel

The project has raced ahead, all 10 bells have now been cast, the frame and associated fittings have been made and the building work required in the tower has commenced. The dedication of the bells on the floor of the Church by the Bishop of London is set for Wednesday 14th March 2012 and the bells **will** ring to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday 5th June 2012 and, we hope, for many years to come!

To mark the support offered by the Society the 8th bell bears the following inscription:

“THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY
OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND
YOUTHS ENSURED THESE BELLS
WILL RING OUT”

The Society will also take an active role in the management of the tower in the future.

Alan Regin



Around the towers



Shoreditch 2011 has seen another busy year at Shoreditch with the highlight in the calendar being to host the London 12-bell striking competition in October. The Reverend Paul Turp made an excellent introductory speech and set high expectations. Unfortunately we have still to achieve these (coming second – Paul has told us to get practising some more!).

The other main event which puts Shoreditch perhaps a little bit more in focus is the filming of the BBC comedy *Rev.* Previously reported in the newsletter for series 1 as *Handle with Prayer*, the title was changed before its release. It definitely put Shoreditch on the map, and we're very proud to have one of "our" churches associated with the series. A little less ringing occurs around filming time perhaps, so one or two peals were relocated elsewhere.

There have been some major building works as part of the church renovations this year. Both of the flat roofs either side of the ringing chamber were repaired in this major project, they are not quite so flat now! This involved much use of the ringing chamber by the builders and this led to some major clean up sessions before we could ring for some practices. Now all work has been finished – and the ringing chamber boasts two brand new windows as part of this work.

Our thanks to all involved in supporting ringing at Shoreditch. In particular to Derek Sibson and his peal band who have been providing service and peal ringing on the third Sunday of every other month. Derek has been a stalwart supporter of ringing at Shoreditch over many years, and while he is continuing to arrange regular Tuesday peals he has decided to take a well-earned rest from making regular Sunday arrangements there. If anyone would like to organise a band for Sunday service please let me know.

Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch is a wonderful support to our Society and we are all indebted to his continued support.

Richard Hobbs

Spitalfields 2011 was another good year at Christ Church, we have continued to maintain our Service Ringing on the first Sunday of every month, ringing 8 bells very often and in addition we have rung on occasional other Sundays, including Easter Sunday once again. Ringing was also done for the service arranged by East End Churches to welcome the new Bishop of Stepney and the new Archdeacon of Hackney. I am again grateful to the small pool of ringers that regularly support this ringing.

We were happy to receive some of the Society Library items, those that had outgrown the space available at St Martin's along with the new cupboard bought specially for the purpose.

The bells have once again proved popular with peal ringers and visitors, 24 peals being rung, including one by an SRCY Young Ringers band arranged by Michael Crockett, one to mark the 100th anniversary of *The Ringing World*, one to mark the welcome to the new Bishop of Stepney & Archdeacon of Hackney mentioned above and one to mark the 350th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Hawksmoor, the Architect of Christ Church.

We enjoy a very good relationship with the church and community at Spitalfields. Our special thanks to the Rector, Andy Rider, his wife Carol, for their support of the Society, and also to Leah Elsey who co-ordinates the many events at the church.



Alan Regin

St Martin-in-the-Fields

The year 2011 proved to be a very eventful one for SMITF. St Martin's is the Royal Parish Church and we joined in the national celebrations for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in April, ringing a peal of Cambridge S Royal on the morning after the wedding. In May, we held an informal lunch in the crypt to mark John Barnes' 50 years as a Sunday Service ringer at SMITF. John was presented with a framed print of a John Burroughs' painting of St Martin's from Trafalgar Square.

The most exciting news for SMITF was the appointment of the vicar, the Rev'd Nicholas Holtam, as Bishop of Salisbury. Prior to his departure, he joined us to ring the tenor behind to a quarter peal of Stedman Triples, his first quarter for 34 years. As Salisbury Cathedral has no bells, we hired The Charmborough Ring for the day of the enthronement on 22nd July, and rang a quarter peal of Cambridge S Minor before the service.

We opened the tower again in September for London Open House with demonstrations of ringing and a camera link so that some of the bells could be seen ringing and we were clearly an unusual attraction for our visitors, many of whom were foreign tourists. We also became a "party venue"! The tower secretary was somewhat phased to be told at very short notice that a wealthy parishioner was celebrating his 60th birthday and intending to bring over 50 people up the tower.

This year saw the start of a twice monthly evening practice for the SMITF Band, in addition to the well-established 3rd Sunday lunchtime fixture. Sadly, the huge number of activities at SMITF meant that there was no weeknight evening when we could have a regular practice there. Fortunately, St Magnus the Martyr have been able to accommodate us and practices take place on 2nd and 4th Mondays from 19.00 – 20.30.

Sunday ringing is from 9.00 – 10.00 and any members of the Society and others visiting London are very welcome to join us.

Elizabeth Hibbert





SRCY peals analysis 2010–2011

(last year's figures are in brackets)

This year there has been a slight increase in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/10 and 31/7/11 there were 212 compared with 200 last year. There are 8 (6) handbell peals in that total including two in the USA. The number of towers was higher with 159 (139). Shoreditch remains the leading tower with 11 (15).

Towers: Shoreditch 11 (15), Spitalfields 6 (6), Barton Seagrave 4 (4), Greyabbey 4 (4), Holybourne 4 (0), Augusta 3 (5), Kettering 3 (3), Charleston Grace Church 3 (1), St Magnus the Martyr 3 (2), Raleigh 3 (0). 11 (10) towers all had 2 and there were 139 (117) with just 1.5 (2) of the 8 (6) handbell peals were rung at 15 Harford Drive.

Geographically the peals were still widespread particularly with tours to Australia and the USA. In the British Isles peals were rung in 38 (42) different counties including 14 (11) peals in 4 counties in Northern Ireland, 1 (0) peal was rung in Southern Ireland. 22 (15) were rung in 5 (4) states in the USA, Georgia 6 (9), South Carolina 6 (3), North Carolina 5 (0). In the UK most were rung in London 42 (49), followed by Yorkshire 18 (2), Hampshire 15 (10), Hertfordshire 11 (5), Northamptonshire 11 (8), Co. Down 10 (8), Cambridgeshire 8 (5) and Wiltshire 5 (0). As a result of the tour to Australia 12 peals were rung in 5 states.

This year the number of members taking part in peals is slightly down at 327 (355). 124 (165) rang in only one peal.

Ringers: Alan Regin 76 (66), Graham Duke 46 (55), Janet Menhinick 44 (41), Derek Sibson 44 (52), Richard Hobbs 43 (56), Jo Dorling 42 (37), Mary Holden 42 (41), Ian Fielding 40 (24), Michael O'Callaghan 40 (41), Shirley McGill 39 (24), Jane Sibson 36 (44), Peter Waterfield 35 (17), Paul Curtis 34 (20), Ruth Curtis 34 (20), Ben Constant 27 (3), Adam Greenley

27 (0), Claire Roulstone 27 (16), Michael Crockett 26 (11), Christine Carter 22 (26), Simon Rudd 22 (13), John Loveless 21 (30).

The conducting was shared by 53 people this year compared with 52 last year. Derek Sibson 41 (47), Ian Fielding 26 (14), Roger Baldwin 14 (9), John Loveless 13 (20), Peter Waterfield 10 (3), Stephen Wheeler 10 (17), Ben Constant 8 (0), Ian Butters 6 (4), Peter Harrison 6 (1), Mary Holden 6 (7), Paul Curtis 4 (4), Graham Duke 4 (6), Matthew Durham 4 (5), Richard Hobbs 4 (1), Don Morrison 4 (3), Ian Roulstone 4 (3), Simon Rudd 4 (3), Colin Lee 3 (1), six (2) members with 2 and 29 (32) with 1.

The variety of methods remains the same. 78 (78) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have increased slightly with 27 (21) including 6 (4) of Cinques this year. However only 2 (4) 12-bell peals at Shoreditch.

Royal 38 (44), Caters 3 (5), Major 127 (116), Triples 0 (0), Minor 16 (13) and Doubles 1 (1).

Methods: Methods: Bristol S. Major 26 (27), 4-Spliced S. Major 13 (10), London S. Major 10 (11), Lessness S. Major 9 (5), Yorkshire S. Major 9 (9), 7 Surprise Minor 8 (8), Yorkshire S. Royal 7 (11), 8-Spliced S. Major 6 (5), Cambridge S. Royal 6 (5), London No.3 S. Royal 6 (3), Yorkshire S. Maximus 6 (3), Bristol S. Maximus 5 (9), Bristol S. Royal 5 (5), Lincolnshire S. Major 5 (6), Double Norwich 4 (0), Rutland S. Major 4 (3).

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over

500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 1797, Derek Sibson 1645, Simon Davies 1292, Jane Sibson 1119, Ian Fielding 1037, Graham Duke 1002, Ian Campbell 938, John Loveless 884, Linda Garton 814, Richard Hobbs 810, Stephen Wheeler 691, Catherine Merlane 687, Peter Fleckney 685, Shirley McGill 642, Paul Cammiade 613, Michael O'Callaghan 587 and Roger Baldwin 551.

These figures are for peals published in *The Ringing World* up to 30th December and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this!

In methods, those with more than 100 for the Society since the computer records began in 1934 has changed very little with only Yorkshire S. Major overtaking 8-Spliced S. Major and Yorkshire S. Royal overtaking Bristol S. Royal. Bristol S. Major 540, 4-Spliced S. Major 230, Yorkshire S. Major 206, 8-Spliced S. Major 202, 7 methods S. Minor 198, London S. Major 200, Bristol S. Maximus 178, Yorkshire S. Maximus 161, Stedman Cinques 149, Yorkshire S. Royal 144, Bristol S. Royal 143, London No.3 S. Royal 135, Cambridge S. Major 114, Cambridge S. Royal 111 and Rutland S. Major 108.

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

If any member wants a list of their Society peals please get in touch with me at dereksibson@btinternet.com

Derek Sibson

Membership news

Milestones to report

Congratulations to:

Tim Peverett on ringing his 1,000th peal, at Melbourne on 5th February.

Ian Fielding on ringing his 2,500th peal, at Alton on 5th March.

Ben Duke on ringing his 1,000th peal for the Society, at Heptonstall on 8th July.

Roger Baldwin on ringing his 4,000th peal, at Thatcham on 31st August.

Cath Merlane on ringing her 2,000th peal, at Texarkana on 1st December.

James Belshaw and **Stephanie Pattenden** on ringing their 1,000th peal together, at Southwark Cathedral on 12th November.

Clive and Lucy Smith on ringing their 1,000th peal together, in Lichfield on 30th November.

Paul and Ruth Curtis on ringing their 3,000th peal together, at Houston on 26th November.

Paul Bradford and **Audrey Reynal** on their wedding on 2nd July.

Colin Lee and **Zoe Roberts** on their wedding on 21st May.

Ben Hockenhull and **James Marchbank** on their civil partnership on 3rd September.

Rachel Town and **Simon Robinson** on their wedding on 1st October.

Haley Barnett and **David Baverstock** on their engagement.

Peter and Roxy Sheppard on the birth of Molly Rose.

Simon and Jo Holden on the birth of Thomas Edward.

Steve and Nicola Borman on the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth.

Richard and Claire Angrave on the birth of Charlotte.

Losses of members

It is with sadness
we report the death of:

Harold A May
Harold Reynolds
Alan Ball
Bessie Hacker
Dennis Beresford
Monica Savage

Jack King
Renée Armstrong
Violet Castle
Bernard Castle
Geoffrey Dodds

New members

We welcome the following
new members, elected during
2011:

Richard Smith
Simon Read
Bill Davidson
Katherine Young
Amy Cousins
Patrick Albon

Noah Smith
Caroline Skinner
Philip Gorman
Sharon Stimpson
Jennifer Hancock
Angela Athawes

SRCY clothing

An order will be placed shortly for Society clothing. If you would like to buy a Cumberland polo shirt, long sleeved shirt or rugby shirt, please see the website for details or contact the Assistant Secretary, Ian Mills, at assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk

Officer changes

Following the AGM in October, the new officer team is:



From left to right: Penny Sharpe (Honorary Librarian); Mary Holden (Senior Steward); Barry Mack (Honorary Treasurer); Shirley McGill (Master); Ian Mills (Assistant Secretary); John Ford (Honorary Secretary); Benjamin Constant (Junior Steward).

A huge thank you to the officers who stepped down at the AGM; Peter Harrison, Adam Greenley, Russell Brown and Jo Dorling.



Anniversaries of membership

Elected 1941 – 70 Years

Freda Belson Mary Wells

Elected 1946 – 65 Years

F W Garner T Mark White
Desmond G Mayell
Francis R Goddard

Elected 1951 – 60 Years

Eric Hotine Rev'd Peter Newing
Ron Diserens Jacqueline S King
John Gilbert Gillian Flitton
Frank Lewis Mary Sales

Elected 1961 – 50 Years

Penny Allen Raymond Large
Jane Sibson Avril Ivin
Elizabeth Jeffrey Mikaela Erik
Margaret Large Susan Threlfall

Elected 1971 – 40 Years

David Redfearn Paul Curtis
Brenda Redfearn Susan O'Neill
Pam Brock Alan Munnings
Margaret Horritt Adrian Knights
David Hacker Dr Felicity Mussell
Derrick Bailey Peter Church
Rev'd Dale Barton Clarissa Caroe
Timothy F Banner Ron Warford
Peter N Mackley Barry Johnson
Christine Carter Diane Pickett
Mary Carveth David Pickett
Richard Chandler Geoffrey Rix
Patrick Harrison Sonia Rix
Neil Belson David Sloman
John R Southey John Loveless
Andrew Mayes Clive Bretell
Anne Mayes Jacqueline Barlow
Katherine Hardy Janet Wilson
Rev'd David C Brookes
Josephine Patterson

Elected 1986 – 25 Years

Cath Merlane Clare Mitchell



SRCY PEALS 250, 200 and 100 years ago

Date	Tower	Method	Conductor
1762			
12th December	St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey	5152 Union Treble Bob Major	Samuel Wood
Following the prolific year for the Society in 1761 with 5 peals there was just this one peal rung during 1762. Union Treble Bob was the original name for Oxford Treble Bob – in fact this was the last peal recorded in the Society Peal Book with that “old” name. There is no longer a ring of bells at this interestingly dedicated Church, Magdalen rather than Magdalene; the last peal recorded there was in 1776, also by the Cumberland Youths.			
1812			
8th February	St Martin-in-the-Fields	5424 Oxford TB Maximus	George Gross
19th February	Waltham Abbey	5040 Grandsire Triples	George Gross
1st November	St Alphege, Greenwich	5219 Grandsire Caters	Samuel Wade
23rd November	All Saints', Edmonton	5040 Grandsire Triples	George Gross
13th December	St Mary, Lewisham	5040 Grandsire Triples	William Herbert
28th December	St Matthew's, Bethnal Green	5856 Plain Bob Major	George Gross
Keeping peals to the winter months with an impressive peal of Maximus (for those days) early in the year and an interesting footnote to the Bethnal Green peal, “containing as many courses as weeks in a year, as many leads as days in a year, and as many changes as hours in eight months” – Note that 1812 was a Leap Year!			
1912			
16th March	Waltham Abbey	5056 Cumberland D Major	Edith K Parker
11th May	St Paul's Bedford	5051 Stedman Caters	Frank Bennett
25th May	All Saints', Edmonton	5088 London S Major	Edith K Parker
27th May	Waltham Abbey	5088 Superlative S Major	George Williams
20th July	St Peter's, Benington	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Bennett
27th September	Southwark Cathedral	5007 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
26th October	SS Peter & Paul, Tring	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
2nd November	St Mary's, Beddington	5056 Plain Bob Major	William J Nudds
9th November	130 Clonmore Street, Southfields	5056 Plain Bob Major	Frank Bennett
The peal year started with the first ever peal of Cumberland Delight Major, very few Delight Major methods had been rung at that time and it is interesting to see a handbell peal in the list. This included three Officers of the Society, Frank Bennett (Secretary), his daughter, Elsie L Bennett, his future son-in-law, Frank I Hairs (Junior Steward) and John D Matthews (Master). As you can see Frank Bennett was the leading conductor in the year, calling 4 of the 9 peals.			
Alan Regin			

2012 Dates for your diary

2nd May – Business meeting – Central London

14th July – Summer country meeting – Leicestershire

8th September – Anniversary dinner – Birmingham
(see enclosed booking form or the website for more details)

6th October – AGM – Central London

17th/18th 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 by contacting any of the officers.

visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk