



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2012

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visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk

Our Master, Shirley McGill writes...

It is my privilege to introduce the 2012 Newsletter to you in my second year of office. Our Newsletter continues to be a polished, highly readable digest of our past year's events as well as providing some glimpses into what is planned for the future. Mary Holden continues to do a splendid job as Editor, although she and all the Officers recognise the efforts of our regular contributors, both in the written form and photographic.

2012 was a very exciting year to be in London. We had two brand new rings of bells to enjoy, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on our doorstep and all the razzmatazz surrounding the Olympics. Despite all the warnings of transport chaos, it was a great time to be in the Capital and I, along with 8 other SRCY members, will probably never forget the Ladies' Peal at St Paul's Cathedral, rung during the Ladies' Marathon. It was a truly awesome experience!

Although much of our week-on-week activity is centred on London, we have had two excellent Country meetings this year. Both were superbly organised and reached a goodly number of our 'country members'. It was good to see a fantastic turnout at Basingstoke in March and Sapcote in

July and our thanks go to Adam Greenley and Mick Angrave respectively. We look forward to two equally brilliant country meetings in 2013, planned in Hertford in March and Scotland in July.

2012 cannot pass without a mention of the Triennial Dinner held in Birmingham, but there will be lots to read about that particular event in this edition of the Newsletter. For me, it totally surpassed all expectations in terms of location and menu and the table decorations were out of this world – they were certainly something to remember! The company and general ambience was pretty good too!

2013 should be another busy year, with perhaps a slightly less sparkling backdrop of events, but please support the Officers and me whenever you can,



both in a ringing and social capacity. We look forward to seeing you.

Shirley McGill



2012 AGM...
more pictures
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'Not the Dinner Day' 2012

Hot... and cold!

The first Saturday in February is affectionately known as 'Curry Day' – an annual event on the calendar which is always popular with the added excitement of not knowing what extremes of weather to expect.

Peals in and around London are a main feature of this day, and this year was no exception. Six peals were scored, at Sunbury-on-Thames, Rotherhithe, St George-in-the-East, Walworth, Waterloo Road and Spitalfields, with one loss at Shoreditch in the afternoon. This disappointment was obviously stalwartly borne by band members having to endure an extra two hours in the Pride of Spitalfields.



■ Simon Read, Richard Hobbs, Paul Tiebout, Ben Meyer, Heather Forster and Tom Mack



Peals rung, pints downed and it was time for the eponymous curry. The Sheraz Curry House did us proud with a good mixture of dishes to suit most tastes and I heard only compliments for the food and the staff.

While we were eating, it decided to snow rather heavily and Brick Lane was soon buried under a white blanket. Those with miles to travel sensibly took their leave, while others engaged in a serious snowball fight. Not a good time to be sitting near the doorway! And still it snowed – even London-based folk had to start to think very carefully about their transport arrangements. Derek and Jane (although leaving very promptly) arrived home at 2.00 am. Peter Waterfield, using the train, bettered that with 3.00 am!

Shirley McGill

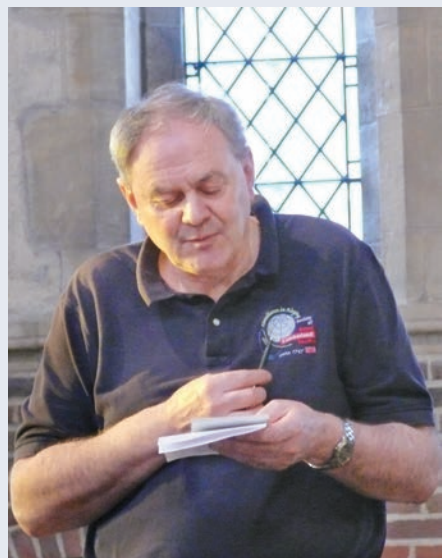
■ Above left: Katherine Young and Heather Forster. Above: Adam Greenley and Peter Harrison



March country meeting

The SRCY Spring Country Meeting this year had a London theme, not for where it was held – that was Hampshire – but because three of the five peal attempts on the Saturday morning were of London, either Major or Royal. All five and one of Spliced Surprise Major on the Friday evening were successful.

For those not in the Saturday peal attempts, there was a mini-tour of four towers: Whitchurch, Overton, and both St Michael's and All Saints', Basingstoke, and while the first few touches at the last tower were on the back eight, all nine bells were made use of later. Tea and biscuits were provided prior to the business meeting in All Saints' church, served by Mark Place and Angela Athawes.



■ Alan Regin



■ General ringing at All Saints', Basingstoke

The meeting heard tributes to five members who had died recently, all of long-standing membership, with the most widely known being Harold Rogers who was elected in 1957. Thanks were offered to the incumbents and ringers of all the towers used for the peals and the tour, and

particularly to Adam Greenley and Ben Constant for their invitation and hard work in organising the towers.

The day concluded with a splendid meal and a variety of liquid refreshments in All Saints' church hall, prepared and served by the Basingstoke ringers. There was ample time



■ Adam Greenley, organiser



■ Penny Sharpe, Janet Archibald, Richard Hobbs, Stephen Wheeler, Fiona Wheeler and Cath Merlane



■ JJ Ford, Honorary Secretary, addresses the meeting

for chatting to friends old and new before, during and after the meal.

Further thanks with acclamation were made to Adam and Ben and all their

helpers for their culinary efforts and for a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Ben Duke

National 12-bell contest

After the disappointment of 2011, the pressure was on at the 2012 eliminators – we simply had to qualify for the final. The draw for the eliminators was kind to us and we avoided some of the top teams, so we knew we had a good chance to do well. You still have perform on the day though, and we were very pleased to be placed a convincing first in our eliminator at Stourbridge.

Cue some serious practising for the final, including a Sunday afternoon trip to Melbourne and Lockington, before the final at Melbourne in June.

The organisers of the final had done a brilliant job, and luckily the weather held for most of the day so the crowds were able to stand outside and enjoy listening to the ringing, and enjoy the beer garden.

We were drawn to ring fifth out of the ten teams, so only a couple of hours



■ **The SRCY 12-bell band.** Front row – 1 to r: Lee Pinnington, Shirley McGill, Heather Forster, Ed Mack, Geraldine Forster, Ben Constant. Back row – 1 to r: Mary Holden, Ian Mills, Doug Beaumont, Oliver Cross (C), Alan Regin, Adam Greenley

to wait, which passed very quickly. We were reasonably happy with our ringing, and were able to enjoy the rest of the day.

Come results time, and the church was absolutely packed to hear the

judges' verdict. Birmingham took the honours once again, with the local team from Melbourne in second. We were very pleased with our third place finish.

John Barnes – Private Investigator!

Some months ago, John Ford mentioned to me that the person with the longest membership of the Society was Mrs Jean Hall, who was elected to the Society in 1935, but that in 2009 her Newsletter was returned indicating that she was no longer living in Earlswood, Warwickshire. I determined to try to find out what had happened to her.

My first action was to write to the address and see whether my letter would be forwarded. A reply came from the present owner who had never heard of Jean. I then contacted Clare McArdle, who kindly asked ringers in the Solihull area, but no-one could remember Jean.

Ian Oram discovered that Jean and Dennis's names appeared in Kent reports under Dartford from 1953 to 1963 and in Sussex reports under Burgess Hill from 1963 to 1967. Quite by chance he happened to mention Jean's name to Stella Knight, a Sussex member of the Society, and she was able to put him in touch with Janet Chatfield, Jean's daughter, living and ringing at Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. The search was over! Janet and I were soon in touch and Janet told me that her mother was very much alive and was living in a care home at Sidcup, just five miles from me!

Janet arranged for me to visit Jean with her on 7th September 2012 and I enjoyed an invigorating few hours with a 98 year-old lady who, although walking with the help of a walker because of a broken hip three years ago, is mentally very fit indeed. I was made very welcome and on behalf of the Society I presented her with a bunch of flowers.

Jean learned to ring at Swanscombe, Kent, where her father, Alfred Thompson, was a member of the band. In the mid 1930s Jean was a member of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Band and rang for the 1937 Coronation! Two years earlier, she had married James Bailey (Jim), whose father, also James Bailey, was one of the famous Bailey brothers of Leiston, Suffolk. Unfortunately Jim died of tuberculosis in 1947, leaving Janet and her sister Christine fatherless. In 1949 Jean married Dennis Hall, a Bexley ringer, and they had a son, Andrew. Dennis's work for NatWest Bank took them to several homes around the country, including Burgess Hill in Sussex, Goostrey in Cheshire, Earlswood in Warwickshire, and Saffron Walden in Essex. Whilst at the latter, they revived the band at nearby Arkesden, where the bells had been silent for some years.

Dennis died in 2007 and Jean moved to a care home in Sidcup. Jean shows continued interest in the Society and I hope that Anne and I will be able to visit her from time to time.

John Barnes



London 12-bell competition

This year the London 12-bell competition was held at Croydon Minster, expertly organised by our Master, Shirley McGill, and her team of helpers from the local band.



■ The SRCY band at the London 12-bell competition

The test piece was a touch of Stedman Cinques, and SRCY were drawn second of the ten teams, a draw we were very happy with! Our ringing was described by the judges as having patches of good ringing, particularly towards the end of the first course, but unfortunately inaccuracies at both the beginning and end of the test piece let us down, leading to a disappointing 6th place finish, well off the pace of the top teams.

Next year the competition returns to St Magnus the Martyr, where it was held the first time it was run in 2009.

Annual SRCY vs ASCY event

This year it was our turn to host the joint event with the ASCY, and so on the last Wednesday in May, several members of the College Youths joined us for our practice at Spitalfields.

The competition element was smaller this year, which allowed for plenty of general ringing first. For the competition itself, the ringers in the bands for each Society drew bells from a hat, and then drew a method from the Standard Eight. The SRCY band rang first and were happy to get Bristol! The ASCY band rang Cambridge.

Following ringing, all went to a nearby wine bar run by Philip Vracas, ringer at Spitalfields, where the results were announced by the judges, Terry Streeter and Shirley McGill. We were very pleased that the SRCY were declared winners, having made the most of our home advantage. The evening finished for most with a curry on nearby Brick Lane, although some people couldn't walk past the Pride of Spitalfields on the way home without popping in.

Peal weekend 2012

Of the 50 attempts organised for peal weekend this year, 40 were successful. These ranged from 41 Surprise Minor to two 12-bell peals. Leading the way were Shirley McGill and Richard Hobbs, who each rang in six peals. Unfortunately things went awry for Don Morrison and his band in the USA, meaning that no peals were accomplished outside the UK.

Thanks as always to John Barnes for co-ordinating the weekend, and to all those members who organised and rang in peals.

July country meeting

The 2012 July country meeting was based around Sapcote in Leicestershire, organised by Mick Angrave.

As is tradition, peals started on the Thursday, with four peals successful. Another seven peals were scored on the Friday, with one non-starter as unfortunately some members of the band were sitting in a car park on the M1. Another four peals were successful on the Saturday, with one on Sunday making sixteen over the whole weekend.

A number of the peals were rung in memory of Alison Regan, who had sadly died in the week before the meeting.



■ General ringing at Narborough



■ Jim Benner and Judith Mack



■ The Master welcomes new member Helen Beaumont



■ Mike O'Callaghan, Janet Menhinick, Richard Smith and Peter Waterfield



■ General ringing

... in Leicestershire



■ Matt Edwards



■ Russell Brown

The Friday saw members convene at the Mill on the Soar near Sappcote where an enjoyable evening was spent catching up with friends over a few drinks. The Saturday passed in the usual fashion, with those members not ringing peals enjoying a tour of some local towers. The tour was very well attended, causing a challenge, as over 40 people crammed into the small ringing chamber at Narborough, but everyone was able to have a ring!

There were tea and cakes at Sappcote as well as general ringing before the meeting, at which we elected four new members, and remembered four members who had sadly died since our previous meeting.



■ Andrew Preston and Tessa



■ Katherine Young, Penny Sharpe and Shirley McGill

The evening event was a hog roast at Stanton Lakes. The food was delicious and plentiful! The Great British Summer weather meant that it was unfortunately a bit chilly to sit outside, although many people did venture out for a while to take in the view over the lake, watch the fish and enjoy the beautiful sunset.

Many thanks to Mick Angrave and his team of helpers for a fantastic weekend.

SRCY Anniversary Dinner 2012

A glass of champagne in the evening sun, enjoyed on the promenade deck of the *SS Great Britain*, prior to dinner in the first class dining room. Bell-ringing rarely produces such glamorous moments and so, three years after that memorable evening in 2009, as members and friends of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths once again donned their finery, the 2012 Anniversary Dinner had a big act to follow. Birmingham was the city of choice this time and the grand Council House the venue for the evening.



The day began in traditional fashion with peals rung at St Paul's, Jewellery Quarter, Edgbaston and Chaddesley Corbett. Other members and friends opted for a more relaxed approach to working up an appetite, joining general ringing at some interesting local towers.

With the necessities out of the way, freshened up and looking significantly more respectable, 107 SRCY members and friends from near and (in some cases very) far made their way to the magnificent banqueting suite for what again promised to be a fine evening. As champagne, beer and wine flowed, conversation developed quickly from the usual analysis of the morning's performances. Over an excellent



■ Matt and Jesse Hetherington

dinner one table seemed to be engrossed in the finer points of tying a bow tie (even drawing on the apparent

expertise of a certain former Master and Central Council President, more than happy to offer a master-class)



■ *Top table*

while another table was overheard in deep discussion, attempting to identify the accurate Polish translation for the word “floozy”...

With coffee came a break in proceedings allowing guests to circulate, study

Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, David Maynard, toasted the Society in highly entertaining fashion to which the Master of the SRCY, Shirley McGill, responded thanking everybody for all

particularly those from the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

The speeches were each greeted with well-deserved appreciation and, with over an hour left of drinking time, there was still plenty of socialising to be done. With last orders finally being called and the prospect of morning ringing at the Bullring looming, the sensible guests started to make their way back home or to their hotels. The rest, heeding the beckoning call of more beer and deciding that enough maybe wasn't quite enough, made for a bonus pint in the Briar Rose. Alcohol induced merriment and Cuban Cigars featured before, finally, bed really did seem the best way forward.

As we made our journey back north the following morning, it was great to reflect on another superb Anniversary Dinner. Once again it was great to see so many friends and enjoy the fun, friendly atmosphere that being a member of the SRCY is all about. It just seems a long time to wait until the next one!

Matt Hetherington



■ *Tom and Christine Langton, and Geoff and Margaret Horritt*

the historical Society peal books on display, buy more wine to counter-act the coffee, or view the impressive firework display over Victoria Square – the superbly timed culmination of a nearby ‘Last Night of the Proms’ Concert. The Birmingham equivalent of the SS *Great Britain* (in SRCY terms at least), though somewhat less seaworthy, was definitely pulling out all the stops!

Fireworks finished, peal books studied and plenty of wine purchased it was time for the speeches. David Sparling offered an entertaining toast to the Church, drawing on various amusing quirks of ringing and ringers. The Very Reverend Catherine Ogle, Dean of Birmingham, gave a gracious reply including some interesting thoughts on the Exercise and what she had found out about our Society. The

the effort that had made the evening what it was. Notable thanks were given to those who had travelled far,



■ *Cath Merlane, Rachael Peckham, Jo Dorling, Ros Keech and Linda Garton*

Around the towers

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Although the band at St Martin-in-the-Fields has perhaps not been quite as busy as in recent years there have been several notable events. We rang two peals and seven quarter peals at St Martin's as well as ringing quarter peals at St Margaret's, Westminster, for the Paralympic Marathons, and at Westminster Abbey on New Year's Day at the invitation of the Abbey Band.

We joined with the Southwark band for the annual outing, ringing at St Albans and Luton, and hope to organise a joint outing this year too. We also ran tower tours with a demonstration of ringing on the Saturday of London Open House weekend and rang to mark several notable occasions: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the passing of the Olympic Torch Relay, and the induction and collation of the Reverend Canon Dr Sam Wells, whom we were delighted to invite, along with his family, to the ringing chamber one Sunday morning to watch us ring.

The annual dinner was held at the Spaghetti House on St Martin's Lane and was well attended; we invited Katherine Hedderly, the Assistant Priest at St Martin-in-the-Fields, and her husband Loren as our guests.

The December period was busy as usual and we rang for several services scoring three quarter peals. We also rang for the special BBC World Service 80th Anniversary broadcast from St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Thank you to all those who have assisted during the year.

Edmund Wratten



Spitalfields

We have continued to maintain our Service Ringing on the First Sunday of every month, ringing eight bells on most occasions, in addition we have rung on occasional other Sundays, including Easter Sunday once again, we also rang for the early morning Ascension Day Service. I am very grateful to the small pool of ringers who support this ringing.

I am pleased to report that our Rector, Andy Rider was, during the year, appointed Area Dean of Tower Hamlets, our congratulations to him on his new role.

We had a clapper break, in the 6th bell, towards the end of the year, repairs have been carried out and the bells are now ringing again.

The bells have once again proved popular with peal ringers and visitors, 18 peals being rung, one was a long peal, 14,688 changes of Glasgow Surprise Major, the band included five Society Members. Another peal of note was one to mark the 90th Birthday of SRCY friend George Williams of Charleston, South Carolina, Charleston Surprise Major being the method rung.

There have been four Quarter Peal attempts, three Outing Bands, three SRCY Practices, and ringing for three Weddings. In this Olympic year we rang "Five Rings Triples" for two of the Spitalfields Festival dates, SRCY ringing for one and

our friends from the Middlesex Association ringing for the other, on both occasions the composer, Howard Skempton, was present in the Ringing Chamber. In addition we joined in the "All The Bells" initiative for the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games having been the launch tower for the project during 2011.

In May we welcomed students from Regent University, Virginia Beach, USA for a demonstration of ringing, they got interested through the reading of Dorothy L Sayers', 'The Nine Tailors', so, of course, we rang Kent TB Major for them!

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

Alan Regin

Shoreditch

It has been quite a quiet year for Shoreditch. Derek Sibson continues to bring a peal band twice a month and the SRCY continue to have a practice once a month. We have had fewer visiting bands this year due I think to new ringing attractions in the city proving popular. However, I would like to encourage the membership to come and ring at Shoreditch, whether for quarter peals, peals or outings. There is an online calendar on the Society website (<http://www.srcy.org.uk/towers/shoreditch.php>) where you can see what dates are available, subject to confirmation with the Church.

Notable performances during the year include Ron Diserens' 1,000th peal, which took place at Shoreditch. Alan Regin has now rung 500 peals at Shoreditch, and Stanley Jenner has rung 200. Congratulations to all of them. Congratulations also to The Young Ringers' Association who rang a peal of Three Spliced Maximus at Shoreditch, in which some of our members took part.

An SRCY peal was rung to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and "Five Rings Triples" was rung by the SRCY for pre-Olympic activities.

2014 will see the 20th anniversary of the current ring of bells, which is quite frightening now we have members who are younger than the bells, especially for those of us for whom it seems like yesterday when they went in.

Thank you as always to the Reverend Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch, who is a wonderful support to our Society; we are all indebted to his continued support.

Richard Hobbs



Solemn Consecration of the new bells

Wednesday 14th March 2012 was a day to remember; the Society cancelled its normal practice to allow as many members as possible to attend the Service of Consecration at St Dunstan-in-the-West.

The Church began to fill up well ahead of the 6.00pm start time; the bells looked wonderful, highly polished, decorated with ribbons and foliage and standing five on either side of the altar,

The Church is most unusual inside. It is octagonal in shape with a high ceiling. Its fine, recently restored, organ was sounding well.

The Church was full by the time the procession entered; the Service was taken by our good friend the Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres, Bishop of London assisted by the Guild Vicar, Rev'd William Gulliford and Parish Clerk and Churchwarden, David Powell.

The Bells were each given a name, five of them were named by SRCY Members, Andrew Brown the treble, Adam Greenley and Ben Constant the



2nd, Geraldine Forster the 3rd, Alan Regin the 5th and our Master, Shirley McGill, the 8th, the Cumberland Bell.

There was much ceremony, Latin dedications, oil of chrism and incense smoke as each bell was consecrated; a wonderful spectacle!

The conclusion of the Service wasn't the end of the evening; very generously C Hoare & Co had invited some 250 of the congregation to refreshments in their beautiful offices directly opposite the Church across Fleet Street. Champagne flowed and, it seemed, a good time was had by all!

Following the Dedication, the bells were initially rung for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, when the first peal on the bells was rung. Since then, work to improve the sound control and acoustics in the tower has continued



■ Adam Greenley and Benjamin Constant

and it is looking like this work is nearly completed and the bells should become more available during 2013 and beyond.

They are a fine ring, a tenor of just under 11cwt; a great example of the work of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

As a trustee of the project I am very grateful to all who have helped ensure that the bells are now ringing, especially the support given and promised by members of our Society, summed up perhaps by the inscription on the 8th bell:

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

Alan Regin



■ The Master and past Masters at the reception following the service



SRCY peals analysis 2011–2012

(last year's figures are in brackets)

This year there has been virtually no change in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/11 and 31/7/12 there were 211 compared with 212 last year. There are 7 (8) handbell peals in that total including 3 in the USA. The number of towers was a little lower with 149 (159). Shoreditch and Spitalfields are the leading towers with 10 each (11 and 8 respectively).

Towers: Shoreditch 10 (11), Spitalfields 10 (8), Barton Seagrave 7 (4), Holybourne 5 (4), Texarkana 5 (0), St Magnus the Martyr 4 (3), Pimlico 4 (2), Augusta 3 (3), Little Rock 3 (0), Marietta 3 (2), Pittsburg 3 (3), St George-in-the-East 3 (1). 14 (11) towers all had 2 and there were 123 (139) with just 1.

Geographically the peals were still widespread particularly with a tour to the USA but sadly only one peal in Australia. The Society's first 3 peals in the Isle of Man are recorded. In the British Isles, peals were rung in 40 (38) different counties including 8 (18) peals in 4 counties in Northern Ireland. 28 (22) were rung in 6 (5) states in the USA, Arkansas 8 (0), Georgia 6 (6), South Carolina 5 (6). In the UK most were rung in London 47 (42), followed by Leicestershire 17 (1), Hampshire 15 (15), Surrey 14 (3), Northamptonshire 12 (11), Cambridgeshire 7 (8) and Hertfordshire 6 (11).

This year the number of members taking part in peals is slightly down at 308 (327). 123 (124) rang in only one peal.

Ringers: Alan Regin 73 (76), Derek Sibson 52 (44), Janet Menhinick 51 (44), Shirley McGill 50 (39), Michael O'Callaghan 48 (40), Richard Hobbs 45 (43), Ian Fielding 44 (40), Ian Campbell 39 (17), Catherine Merlane 39 (15), Jane Sibson 39 (36), Christine Carter 35 (22), Ron Diserens 35 (16), Mary Holden 34 (42), Jo Dorling 31 (42), Paul Curtis 29 (34), Ruth Curtis 29 (34), Graham Duke 29 (46), Janet Archibald 28 (17), Michael Crockett 26 (26), Claire Roulstone 24 (27), Ben

Constant 22 (27), Lee Pinnington 22 (5), Adam Greenley 21 (27), Peter Waterfield 21 (35), Paul Cammiade 21 (19) and Katherine Young 21 (3).

The conducting was shared by 49 people this year compared with 53 last year. Derek Sibson 48 (41), Ian Fielding 31 (26), Ben Constant 11 (8), Peter Waterfield 11 (10), Graham Duke 10 (4), John Loveless 10 (13), Stephen Wheeler 10 (10), Ian Roulstone 7 (4), Paul Curtis 5 (4), Richard Hobbs 5 (4), Ian Butters 4 (6), Anthony Cox 4 (2), Mary Holden 4 (6), Don Morrison 4 (4), Oliver Cross 3 (1), Simon Rudd 3 (4), John Hawes 3 (1), eight (6) members with 2 and 22 (29) with 1.

The variety of methods has increased. 90 (78) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. 12-bell peals have decreased again with 18 (27) but only 2 (6) of Cinques this year. However only 2 (2) 12-bell peals again at Shoreditch.

Maximus 16 (21), Cinques 2 (6), Royal 30 (38), Caters 1 (3), Major 145 (127), Triples 2 (0), and Minor 15 (16). As usual, Bristol Surprise Major heads the list but this year by a much larger margin.

Methods: Bristol S. Major 41 (26), 4-Spliced S. Major 8 (13), 7 Surprise Minor 8 (8), Bristol S. Maximus 7 (5), Yorkshire S. Major 7 (9), 23 Spliced S. Major 6 (1), London S. Major 6 (10), 8-Spliced S. Major 5 (6), Lessness S. Major 5 (9), Yorkshire S. Royal 5 (7), 6-Spliced S. Major 4 (2), Bristol S. Royal 4 (5), Cambridge S. Major 4 (3), Cambridge S. Royal 4 (6), Yorkshire S. Maximus 4 (6), Rutland S. Major 4 (4).

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 1870, Derek Sibson 1712, Simon Davies 1298, Jane Sibson 1166, Ian Fielding 1075, Graham Duke 1036, Ian Campbell 979, John Loveless 904, Richard Hobbs 855, Linda Garton 828, Catherine Merlane 729, Stephen Wheeler 710, Peter Fleckney 694, Shirley McGill 686, Michael O'Callaghan 636, Paul Cammiade 631 and Roger Baldwin 557.

These figures are for peals published in *The Ringing World* up to December 28th 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 but 23-Spliced S. Major might join the list next year – only 5 to go! Bristol S. Major 579, 4-Spliced S. Major 239, Yorkshire S. Major 213, 8-Spliced S. Major 210, 7 methods S. Minor 208, London S. Major 205, Bristol S. Maximus 183, Yorkshire S. Maximus 164, Stedman Cinques 151, Yorkshire S. Royal 147, Bristol S. Royal 146, London No.3 S. Royal 142, Cambridge S. Major 119, Cambridge S. Royal 115 and Rutland S. Major 114.

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 Derek Sibson at dereksibson@btinternet.com

Derek Sibson

Regional practices

Stockton

The Northern SRCY practices continue to be well attended, with a lot of enthusiasm for the ringing and the socialising afterwards. It has been very encouraging to see newly-elected members from the Stockton and York areas at the practices and, being young, they are making very rapid progress.

The method repertoire does not expand very quickly – meeting once a month with a lot to fit into the practice does not lend itself to rapid progress in this respect. We are ringing Phobos regularly and plan to introduce Embankment next, but Avon seems to have been lost as a consequence of this.

We had a disappointing year in the 12-bell competition, when we failed to ring at anything approaching our best in the eliminator at Aston and were (very understandably) eliminated! It is still worthwhile entering the competition, because it focuses attention on striking and gives us impetus to have additional practices.

Jennie Town

Eastern practices

2012 has been a mixed year which has resulted in some debate about the future of Eastern practices.

There are a number of factors which make the logistics of our practices difficult, to say the least. The greatest among these is people's definition of 'The East', which includes the six counties of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Some include South Lincolnshire too and so the region stretches from the country's most easterly point to within an hour of Birmingham at the nation's heart. It therefore requires a two-hour drive to get from one side to the other and, in these 'austere' times, a long drive on a cold Thursday is just not an attractive proposition.

We visited Great St Mary's, Writtle, Bury St Edmunds, St Peter Mancroft, Bedford and Ipswich during 2012 for Thursday practices, with varied attendances. It is clear from several years' experience, that there is a small core of loyal supporters of our practices, some of whom travel a long distance to attend. On at least two occasions in 2012 those long journeys were not rewarded by a viable practice. In brief, the best attended practices have been those most central to the region; Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge. Norwich, Ipswich and Writtle were poorly supported in 2012.

No practice has been arranged for the first two months of 2013, giving us time to re-consider and come up with some alternatives to try.

On a more positive note, the most successful event we have tried is the inter-county Striking Competition.

This year we visited Hemingford Grey on a chilly Sunday in May. Unfortunately the chill in the air stopped us enjoying the beautiful riverside location to the full but, thanks to Richard Smith's good organisation, we were welcomed into a heated church with refreshing cups of tea. As with our first competition, it was a pleasure to welcome our Master, Shirley McGill, to sit in judgement upon us. Six courses of Pudsey Surprise Major were produced before Shirley awarded the 'gold medal' to Essex, followed by Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Over fifty members enjoyed the afternoon and some have suggested it should become an annual event.

In September we visited the extreme East for a picnic on the beach at Southwold. Again, not the warmest of days but we enjoyed the bracing sea air in one of England's nicer seaside towns. There were no quarter-peals this year, but general ringing at Blythburgh (what a joy in so many ways), Wenhaston and Reydon.

So all in all, I think we are going through a period of experimentation to try some new things and to see what works. I am convinced that a significant number of members in the Eastern counties have enjoyed what we have tried over the years and we have had some good events in both social and ringing terms and I know from the emails I have received that a number of you value them. We need to find the right way to maximise the opportunity for as many people as possible to enjoy these occasions and, maybe, a Thursday night just isn't the right thing to be doing?

Simon Rudd

SRCY third in Devon Call Change Competition

On Saturday 4th August, the SRCY entered the Widecombe-in-the-Moor Devon Call Change Competition. Ian Fielding organised the band again and we arrived on Saturday morning from various points in the UK to meet up for practices at Highweek and Bovey Tracey.

We rang fairly early on in the competition, and while we thought there was room for improvement, we were fairly happy with our ringing. Every blow counts (as does every missed blow), from the first chime of the rise to the last of the lower, so we were all working hard (the tenor ringer's hands can testify to this).

After the ringers tea (this is worth the trip alone – when they say tea they mean you don't need to eat for the rest of the day!), the more 'experienced' Devon bands were ringing, so we got to hear some of the other bands produce some very good ringing.

Third was more than we had dared hope for considering we hadn't done this style of ringing for a year, so naturally we were very happy with this!

Peter Harrison



In November 2011, the first peal on the bells at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, was rung by an SRCY band, including local ringer Allen Nunley. Allen sent this photo of the peal board, made by another local ringer, Tom Graf, pictured.

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A trainee bell-ringer?!



2013 Calendar

Below is a list of forthcoming events for your diary.

1st May – May Business Meeting – London

11th-13th July – July Country Meeting – Edinburgh

14th September – Informal Dinner – London

5th October – AGM Day – London

16th/17th November – Peel 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.

AGM Day – Saturday 6th October 2012



■ Ringing at St Martin-in-the-Fields



■ Peter Wilkinson, Margaret Oram, Ian Oram, Jane Wilkinson, Haley Barnett and Chris Griggs



■ Tim and Geraldine Forster



■ Linda Garton and John Loveless



■ Russell and Nick Brown

Membership news...

Anniversaries of membership

Elected 1987 – 25 Years

Phillip M Orme	Andrew D Sibson	Thomas W Farthing
Julia R Cater	Patricia Spink	Andrew W Gordon
Simon J Davies	William Bresler	Nicholas G Robinson
Noel J R Gibbin	Joy M Eldridge	David P Westerman
Jayne M Horne	Andrew Farmer	Ian Willgress

Elected 1972 – 40 Years

Elisabeth A G Bowden	Joyce J Barton	Michael T Stimson
Joyce Clark	Colin D Baugh	Sue Stimson
Cecile Cross	Anthea Butt	Dudley Surman
Philip Day	Richard J Cann	Jennifer M Taylor
Margaret A Edwards	Claudia A Critchley	Christine Mills
Cynthia E Howell	Christopher T Graves	Keith I Davis
Michael H Johnson	Derek J Jones	John Atkinson
Richard C Offen	Karol J Leeves	Peter G Bellamy-Knights
Rev'd Christopher Renyard	Alastair D Macfadyen	Jennifer M Christian
Margaret Sherwood	Ian North	Peter Dyson
Majorie B Winter	Kenneth G Parker	Vivienne Johnson
Stephen Crawley	Anne Potter	Christopher J Jones
Margaret Warford	Kenmure A Russell	Allan A Paton
Adrial Walton	Adrian G Semken	

Elected 1962 – 50 Years

Alan R Baldock	Rachel Lewis	Lucile Corby
Thomas M Barlow	Susan Newman	Brenda Davies
Godfrey M FitzHugh	Geoffrey R Drew	M G R Zobel
Ann Jenner	Ruth N K Foreman	

Elected 1952 – 60 Years

Rev'd John Boutland	Betty Daysh	Mary Hill
George Williamson	Joyce Dodds	S Kathleen M Baldwin
A Muriel Reay	John Schofield	Audrey Harrison

Elected 1947 – 65 Years

John Norsworthy	Jill R Parsons	Pamela Latchford
Pamela H Humphries	Donald R Marshall	Betty Robbins
M Janet Mattinson	Derek E Latchford	David J Gay

New members

We welcome the following new members, elected during 2012:

Molly Waterson
Ted Clark
Timothy Forster
Gillian Leale
Marisa Hayes
Adrian Rowland
Christopher Griggs
Alexander Pym
Helen Beaumont
Sophie Palmer
Andrew Enzor
Lizzie Stokoe
Philip Moyse
Thomas Scase

Losses of members

It is with sadness we report the death of:

Hilda Massey
A Ronald Ling
Francis R Goddard
Rev'd Norman J Smith
Doris Colgate
Eric J Brunger
Mark R Rizzo
Mary Wells
Stephen Nicholson
Sheila Dobbie
Alison Regan
Elizabeth Jeffrey
Desmond G Mayell
Clifford A Vessey
Heather Shorten
Harry E Wells
J Michael Swift
Clive A Brettell
Rev'd John H Greene
Harold W Rogers



Congratulations

We congratulate the following:

Christine Carter on ringing her 1,000th peal, at Great St Mary's, Cambridge on 7th January

Shirley McGill on ringing her 2,000th peal, at Wicken on 25th February

Jason Turnock on ringing his 1,000th peal, at St George in the East, Stepney on 28th February

Pauline Champion on ringing her 2,000th peal, at Thorverton on 14th April

Ron Diserens on ringing his 1,000th peal, at Shoreditch on 17th April

John Loveless on ringing his 3,500th peal, at Wigston Magna on 13th July

Fiona Wheeler on ringing her 1,000th peal, at Slough on 29th July

Christine Andrew on ringing her 1,000th peal, at Minehead on 10th September

June Wells on ringing her 1,000th peal, at Tilehurst on 18th December

Jon and Lizzie Hetherington on the birth of Isabelle Louise

Stephen and Jenny Beckingham on the birth of Isla Rose

David and Karen Garton on the birth of Amos

Simon and Alison Walker on the birth of Jonah

Martin and Helen Marshall on the birth of Peter and James

Andreas and Kelly Schrocksnadel on the birth of Anja Gilgen

Colin and Zoe Lee on the birth of Simon George

Haley Barnett and David Baverstock on their marriage on 26th May

Roger and Rosemary Palmer, who celebrated their Golden Wedding this year

Officers

At the AGM in October 2012, all officers were re-elected unopposed:

From left to right:

Honorary Librarian: Penny Sharpe

Senior Steward: Mary Holden

Honorary Treasurer: Barry Mack

Master: Shirley McGill

Assistant Secretary: Ian Mills

Honorary Secretary: John Ford

Junior Steward: Ben Constant



SRCY PEALS 250, 200 and 100 years ago

Date	Tower	Method	Conductor
1763			
13th June	St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey	6560 Oxford TB Major	Samuel Wood
7th July	St Mary Whitechapel	5088 Oxford TB Major	Samuel Wood
21st November	St Mary Dartford	5120 Oxford TB Major	Samuel Wood

Seems that 1763 was an Oxford TB Major year! Note the length of the peal at the interestingly dedicated Church, Magdalen rather than Magdalene; the peal is recorded as having taken 4 hours exactly.

1813			
9th January	St Leonard Shoreditch	5039 Grandsire Caters	George Gross
24th January	St Alfege Greenwich	5040 Plain Bob Royal	George Gross
26th February	St John at Hackney	6272 Plain Bob Major	Edward Taylor
12th April	St Matthew Bethnal Green	5024 Oxford TB Major	George Gross
11th December	St Leonard Shoreditch	5057 Grandsire Caters	George Gross

As in 1812 peal ringing was kept to the cooler months, good to see Shoreditch in the list again! The peal at Greenwich was the 250th for the Society. The Hackney peal took 4 hours and 20 minutes.

1913			
7th January	St John Egham	5056 Plain Bob Major	Ernest C Lambert
7th January	St Peter Staines	5024 Double Norwich CB Major	John H Cheesman
8th February	All Saints' Edmonton	5088 London S Major	James Parker
15th March	St Nicholas Deptford	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
22nd March	St Sepulchre Holborn	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
19th April	St Augustine Broxbourne	5008 Double Norwich CB Major	James Parker
24th May	St Mary Mortlake	5056 Superlative S Major	Frank Bennett
24th May	All Saints' Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	James Parker
31st May	St Paul Hoddesdon	5040 Stedman Triples	Edith K Parker
26th July	St Catherine Feltham	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
2nd August	SS Mary & Nicholas Leatherhead	5040 Stedman Triples	Alfred H Pulling
2nd August	Waltham Abbey	5088 Superlative S Major	Edith K Parker
20th September	Guildford, Commercial House	5040 Plain Bob Major	Alfred H Pulling
27th September	St Andrew Uxbridge	5088 Double Norwich CB Major	Frank Bennett
4th October	All Saints' Chigwell Row	5040 Surprise Minor, 7 Methods	William Miller
18th October	St Anne Highgate	5040 Grandsire Triples	Frank Smith
18th October	St Mary Slough	5040 Stedman Triples	George Williams
25th October	New Cross, 3 Harts Lane	5024 Plain Bob Major	Frank Bennett
29th November	St Leonard Shoreditch	5007 Stedman Cinques	Frank Bennett
1st December	St Nicholas Deptford	5040 Stedman Triples	Frank Bennett
6th December	St Mary Beaconsfield	5024 Kent TB Major	Frank Bennett
6th December	Guildford, King Edward VI School	5088 Plain Bob Major	Alfred H Pulling
6th December	Guildford, Holy Trinity Belfry	5040 Stedman Triples	Alfred H Pulling
13th December	St Leonard Shoreditch	5058 Grandsire Caters	James Hunt
27th December	Clapham, 58 Manor Street	5041 Stedman Caters	Alfred H Pulling
27th December	Clapham, 58 Manor Street	5079 Stedman Caters	Alfred H Pulling

The year started with the same band ringing two tower bell peals on the same day, the peal at Slough was the first on the new bells, the Stedman Cinques at Shoreditch the first on the restored bells.

The footnote to the Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch was "This peal was rung to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the firm John Warner & Sons Limited, all the ringers being in their employ, and is the first peal of Caters rung by employees of a Bell Foundry".

Six of the peals were rung on handbells, those in December at Guildford (2 venues) and Clapham were rung by same band, Elsie Bennett, Frank Hairs, Alf Pulling and Frank Blondell rang the Guildford ones and Elsie Bennett, Frank Hairs, Alf Pulling, James Hunt and William Nudds the Clapham ones.

Alan Regan



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