



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Newsletter 2015

Inside this issue

Introduction from the new Master



Country meetings in Kettering and Dorset



Triennial dinner in Norwich



Membership news



And more...



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Welcome to the 2015 edition of the SRCY newsletter



It is a pleasure to introduce the 2015 newsletter to you in my first year of office; my thanks go to all who have contributed and, in particular, to Mary Holden for her work in bringing it all together so brilliantly well.

It is a privilege to have been elected as Master at a comparatively young age. However, this won't count for anything unless I rise to the challenges of the job. Indeed, there is never a dull moment and much to be done!

Whilst the society remains vibrant, I believe we must give some serious thought to the future in order to secure our longer term prosperity. It is clear 'the opposition' are extremely strong at present, pushing the boundaries in terms of method complexity and composition, electing more new members and beating us in both 12-Bell competitions over the past year (though it must be noted this has bucked the trend as far as the National Competition is concerned!).

What to do about this? There is no simple answer, but collectively we need to have a stronger belief in what *this* Society has to offer. From my experience, the combination of excellent ringing with an emphasis on striking over premature method advancement, opportunities provided to those wanting to progress and an overarching friendly camaraderie set us apart. We should not be overly reserved in communicating what we are about to the wider ringing world and prospective talent within it. This has to come firstly from myself in terms of backing up these words with strong evidence (!), but also the wider membership in general; our country members are so important in this area!

Over the next year, I urge you to get involved in whichever way you feel able. As you will no doubt see from this newsletter, there are so many ways you can do so. Whether it be coming along to a country meeting, attending a London or Northern practice, or maybe by arranging or ringing a society peal, we'd be delighted to see or assist you. If you have potential members in your area, bring them along to see what we're about. See the website for up-to-date information on the latest goings-on. Our society will only ever be as good as what we collectively put in to it!

Tom Mack, Master

Not the dinner day 2015

The beginning of February was as usual marked by Not the Dinner Day. Peals were attempted across London during the day, with four being successful. In the late afternoon members and friends began to assemble at the Pride of Spitalfields. This popular pub was even busier than usual, so we found ourselves drinking outside in spite of the February chill.

The curry was at a new venue on Brick Lane, the Preem curry house, found by our expert venue-finder, Penny Sharpe. There was a slight delay as we waited for Penny to arrive and remind the restaurant management what they had agreed to serve us, during which there was plenty of time to catch up with friends, and then over 40 members and friends enjoyed a tasty curry.

A successful day once again, with thanks to Alan Regin for co-ordinating the peals and Penny for arranging the meal.

March Country Meeting

The 2015 March country meeting was held in Kettering, organised by Derek and Jane Sibson

Peals were rung in the morning at Burton Latimer, Desborough, Finedon and Titchmarsh. The tour towers were Thrapston, Rothwell and Kettering. It's been a few years since I went on the tour rather than ringing a peal, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We were greeted at Thrapston with a very welcome cup of tea before starting the ringing. I could really settle into this tour thing I was thinking!

As the tour commenced, so did the admin and my mental arithmetic was put to the test! It's rather hard when money is given to you all at once, and your writing can't keep up with the memory of who gave you what. Hats off to Nick, our junior steward who does this seamlessly on a regular basis at the Wednesday night practice! However I digress. Between sums, we rang some lovely touches and the numbers present increased as we moved from tower to tower.

The peal results started to come in at lunchtime, all happy faces and good news. A meeting followed in the church hall at Kettering. We remembered Muriel Reay, the first lady to ring 1,000 peals, and an affectionate tribute was led by John Barnes. Also remembered were long standing members, Dennis Chapman, Pamela (Pam) Humphries and Adrian Semken. We were very pleased to elect our new member Alistair Donaldson, an ex-railway engineer whose application was supported by an ex-signal man; there's got to be a "connection" there somewhere!

Following a superb meal provided by "Chief Cook" Pat Edkins, ably assisted by Anne Cook and others, during which Mr Sibson did sterling work as a waiter, we then proceeded onto the Beetle Drive. Well it's been more years than I care to note, since your writer had drawn beetles, and once the basics had been disturbed in the distant memory, we were fully immersed into the luck of the dice! Finding my beetles were slightly sluggish to get moving and obtain enough legs (once it had been pointed out to me that beetles didn't stand on just two legs!!) we progressed onto the second stage of the game, and Team Edie turned our luck with a very proud shout of Beetle! Maybe at a little excited volume level!

Great fun to be had by all. A really enjoyable country meeting and a good end to the day. Now, to roll for that 2. Our thanks to Derek and Jane and all their team for a very enjoyable Saturday in Kettering.

Jo Dorling



Ss Peter and Paul,
Kettering



Members enjoying the evening.

Left: Jo Dorling and Alan Regin

Above right: Ian Campbell and Peter Emery

Bottom right: Michael O'Callaghan, Jim Benner and Alistair Donaldson



National 12 bell contest 2015

This year we journeyed north for our eliminator at Wakefield Cathedral. Engineering works on the East Coast main line and traffic jams on the M1 made getting there a challenge, but just after the draw the team was all present, much to Alan's relief! We rang 4th, and then made our way to the bar (inside the Cathedral!!) where we found a free round of drinks waiting for us – it seemed someone had kindly bought us each a pint. We couldn't find out who our benefactor was, but enjoyed their generosity. A short while later, the mystery was solved – the pints had been bought by a member of the College Youths for the ASCY team, ringing just after us, but confusion behind the bar meant they were given to us - cheers!

Our ringing was described by the judges as purposeful, with the bells working well together, although there were minor faults accumulating throughout. This resulted in us being placed 2nd, just behind the ASCY and pleased to be in the final once again.

The bells at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich have often been described as challenging, and so they proved. The final was an excellent day out as ever, with the local ringers in Norwich having worked hard to make sure everything went smoothly. Our ringing was not as good as we would have wished, with a couple of method mistakes. The judges commented that we had a good structure but that these mistakes were costly and meant our ringing seemed nervous. This resulted in us being placed fifth, while the ASCY ended the five year winning streak of Birmingham.



The SRCY 12 bell band. Front row, R—L: Lee Pinnington, Shirley McGill, Geraldine Forster, Mary Holden, Katie Hill, Doug Beaumont. Second row L—R: Ian Mills, Steve Bailey, Alan Regin, Tom Mack, Ben Constant, Nick Brown

From your Librarian:

The library is rarely mentioned in the Newsletter so I thought I would remind members that most of the books and some of the artefacts and historical records held in the library cupboard at Spitalfields are available to borrow. The library catalogue may be viewed via the SRCY website. Anyone wishing to borrow an item please email me on librarian@srcy.org.uk.

A few library items have gone missing over the years. There is a full list at the foot of the library catalogue and, if anyone can throw any light on any of these items, please let me know. We would particularly like to trace item 224 'Art of Change Ringing' by Thackrah which has been missing since 1978 and is quite valuable and items 135 – Album Peals 1875-1921 and 368 – Peal Book of George H. Cross which are irreplaceable.

Geraldine Forster

July country meeting

The 2015 July country meeting was held at Wimborne Minster in Dorset

I was very pleased that the Society had received an invitation from Ben and Rosemary Duke to go to the Wimborne area; we had been once before with the meeting at Canford School and I remember us all having a great time on that occasion also.

Lots of planning went into the arrangements which encompassed peals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning along with some quarter peals on the Friday and three open towers on the Saturday morning followed by ringing on the fine 12 at Wimborne Minster immediately before the meeting. 13 peals were successful along with 5 quarter peals. Holiday traffic and the resurfacing of the Dorchester bypass added to the interest and made a few peals rather later starts than anticipated, but, thanks to sterling efforts by the participants, some very enjoyable ringing was had.

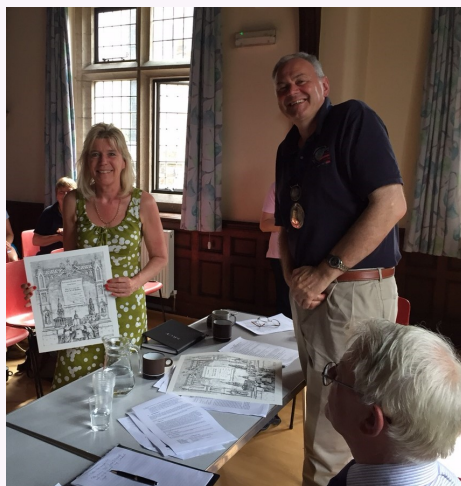
At the business meeting, members spoke to the memory of Canon Geoffrey Brown, a past Vicar of St Martin in the Fields and an Honorary member of the Society, along with Jo Moreton of Wakefield, a stalwart ringer and supporter of ringing over many years. Two new members were elected, Claire O'Mahony and Andrew M Bull and they were both welcomed to the Society. There were many congratulations to be mentioned, most notably Derek Sibson on his 4,000th peal as Conductor.

At close of business it was announced that beer and wine were available downstairs and a very enjoyable evening followed, including a delicious meal and a quiz devised by Rosemary.

Wonderful organisation had been undertaken by Ben and Rosemary Duke very ably assisted by David, Flick and Lucy Warwick, Trish and Eric Hitchens and Sue Smith among others. They were all warmly thanked for their efforts.

Alan Regin

Photos clockwise from top: Alan Regin and Ben Duke; Enjoying the sunshine after a quarter peal at Kingston; Ringing at Wimborne Minster; Alan Regin with new member Claire O'Mahony; St Cuthberga, Wimborne Minster.



Triennial dinner in Norwich



On a bright, warm mid-September morning, the sounds of ringing rolled across the Norfolk countryside. Four bands of Cumberlands were marking the Triennial Dinner Day with a peal, two of Cambridge Major, one of Rutland Major, and one of Yorkshire Royal. All four were successfully added to a further two rung on the previous day (Cambridge Royal and London Major). These six peals, however, were simply a precursor to the main business of the weekend: the evening event.

The Assembly House in Norwich opened its doors and welcomed in a crowd of Cumberlands and their guests for a drinks reception followed by a superb meal in the Noverre Ballroom. I am reliably informed by a College Youth that this used to be a cinema: this was independently verified by a Cumberland. I do not know what scenes were viewed there during the room's time as a cinema, but I doubt any patrons were treated to anything as unexpected as the Bishop of Lynn's rendition of a Flanders and Swann song. Following his after-dinner speech, the Right Reverend offered us a song symbolic of the often difficult relationship between church and ringers. Though he was unaware of a definite connection, the bishop believed he may have been related to the incumbent of St. Peter Mancroft that barred the ringers from the tower in the early twentieth century. Our poor Master had a tough act to follow when he was called upon to speak!

Welcoming the Cumberlands to Norwich for the Triennial Dinner was part of the local ringers' celebrations marking the 300th Anniversary of the First Peal. Simon Rudd, chairman of Appeal300, spoke about the project that Mancroft wishes to undertake and thanked the Society for their grant of £3300 earlier in the year. Wisely, with so many local ringers present, the Master of the College Youths did not dispute Mancroft's claim to the first peal when she spoke. It was particularly fitting that the final part of the weekend was, for those able to get up in time, ringing at Mancroft for the Sunday service.



Above left: Ed Mack and Heather Forster
Below left: Jo Dorling, Gill Knox and Rachael Peckham
Above right: Past Masters of the Society at the dinner
Below right: Alan Regin giving his speech as Master of the Society



SRCY peals 250, 200 and 100 years ago

Society Peals 250 Years Ago, 1766

21/04/1766	St Mary Lewisham	5664 Union TB Major	Samuel Wood
07/10/1766	All Saints West Ham	5040 Grandsire Triples	Thomas Burrell
14/10/1766	St Leonard Shoreditch	5112 Grandsire Caters	Samuel Wood
10/11/1766	St Saviour Southwark	5136 Oxford TB Maximus	George Partrick

The peal at Shoreditch was rung in 3 hours and 46 minutes and had both Francis Wood and William Castle ringing the tenor. The Southwark peal rung in 4 hours and 8 minutes with Samuel Mugeridge and William Lister on the tenor and was possibly the last peal rung for the Society by George Partrick who was the first Master.

Society Peals 200 Years Ago, 1816

13/01/1816	St John Croydon	5040 Grandsire Triples	Francis Mathew
13/05/1816	St Matthew Bethnal Green	5040 Grandsire Triples	William Shipway
15/09/1816	St Mary Lewisham	5040 Grandsire Triples	William Shipway

In the peal book the Croydon peal is recorded as being at "St. Marys Croydon". In the Bethnal Green peal Malachi Channon who had rung in the 1784 peal of 12,000 changes Oxford TB Royal rang the treble and the footnote to the Lewisham peal clearly states "being the first ever rung with all Bobs."

Society Peals 100 Years Ago, 1916

19/02/1916	The Spitalfields Foundry	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
26/02/1916	Southfields, 130 Clonmore St	5056 Plain Bob Major (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
15/03/1916	The Spitalfields Foundry	5040 Kent TB Royal (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
21/03/1916	The Spitalfields Foundry	5120 Kent TB Major (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
23/03/1916	The Spitalfields Foundry	5120 Kent TB Major (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
08/04/1916	The Spitalfields Foundry	5000 Kent TB Royal (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
16/04/1916	St Anne Highgate	5024 Kent TB Major	Frank Smith
24/04/1916	St Leonard Shoreditch	5007 Stedman Caters	John D Matthews
16/09/1916	St Leonard Shoreditch	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
23/09/1916	St Leonard Shoreditch	5040 Grandsire Triples (H/Bells)	James Hunt
15/11/1916	St Leonard Shoreditch	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
16/11/1916	St Leonard Shoreditch	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/Bells)	James Hunt
31/12/1916	All Saints High Wycombe	5002 Stedman Cinques	Fred Hayes

As in 1915 many peal ringing groups' activities were curtailed by the Great War; of the three tower bell peals, the Highgate peal was rung in memory of Henry Dains who had been a Society member for over 40 years and had held the posts of Master, Secretary and Steward and was Treasurer at the time of his death. The Shoreditch tower bell peal was also in memory of Henry Dains along with fellow Cumberland, George Smith and Sir Arthur P Heywood, President of the Central Council. The High Wycombe peal was "Rung with bells deeply muffled in honour of those who have gallantly given their lives for their country in the Great War."

The Spitalfields Foundry band were once again active but only in the first part of the year. The footnote to the Kent TB Royal on 15th March reads "First peal of treble ten in by all and by the Society". During the Shoreditch handbell peals James Hunt rang his 150th handbell peal (15th November) and his 400th peal the next day, 16th November. *Alan Regin*

Peal weekend 2015

The annual SRCY peal weekend took place from the 19th to 23rd November. This year 41 peals were attempted, out of which 31 peals were scored. The peals included two in Australia and one in the USA, which was the first peal of Royal on the new 10 at Rochester. Thanks to all members who took part, particularly those who organised peal attempts. Special thanks as always to John Barnes for co-ordinating the event.

Derek Sibson

SRCY member, peal ringer and conductor extraordinaire!



Derek joined the Society on 20th June 1960 when he was proposed in a belfry election ahead of a handbell peal of Grandsire Caters, this election was ratified at the SRCY meeting on 2nd July 1960. What has followed has been remarkable by any standards!

Derek has been a stalwart member of the Society ever since, being Junior Steward in 1963, Senior Steward in 1964, Master in 1969 and 1970, Secretary from 1965 to 1968 and again from 1972 to 1973, and Central Council representative from 1963 to date. It was a great honour for Derek and for the Society when he was elected President of the Central Council from 2005 to 2008. Derek has always been a very keen and enthusiastic peal ringer and conductor, ringing his first peal, Plain Bob Minor, at Meldreth on 9th July 1957, and at the time of writing this article has rung some 4,532 peals of which he has conducted 4,007, no mean feat! Derek has conducted more peals than anybody in the history of change ringing.

If you look at some statistics, this means an average of just over 75 peals a year for 60 years, including 213 peals during 1997 (the Society's 250th anniversary year), and conducting on average nearly 67 peals per year, (again, 1997 being the top conducting year with 202 peals).

Derek has:

- Rung peals with 1,558 different ringers. Leading the way, of course, is Jane Sibson with 2,852, then Peter Fleckney with 1,156 and Michael O'Callaghan with 1,053.
- Rung 1,773 peals for the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, 1,120 for the Ely DA and 964 for the Peterborough DG and for 53 different Associations in total.
- Rung 502 12 Bell Peals, 698 10 bell peals, 3,194 8 bell peals, 122 peals of minor and 16 peals of doubles.
- Rung 953 peals at Meldreth, 509 at Burton Latimer and 433 at Shoreditch, with his leading American tower being Grace Church Charleston with 27 peals.
- Rung 1,921 different methods or method combinations.
- Rung 325 peals of Bristol Surprise Major, 194 of 8 Spliced Surprise Major and 133 peals of 4 Spliced Surprise Major along with 119 peals of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus and 70 of Bristol Surprise Maximus.
- Conducted ALL of the classic Pitman's Spliced Surprise Major series, 4 to 9 methods from every bell, and
- Was the first to conduct Colin Wyld's bobs only Stedman Triples.

As you would imagine Derek has rung and conducted peals on all 366 dates of the year. Just 115 ringers have conducted peals that Derek has rung in, only 7 of those have conducted 10 or more of those peals, Dennis Beresford having called 84 leads the way in that respect.

Derek rings with his local band at Barton Seagrave and has also helped with numerous bell hanging projects over the years, with particular SRCY connections these include Spitalfields, St Martin in the Fields and Shoreditch but include a number in the Northamptonshire area and beyond. For many years Derek arranged 1st Tuesday peals at Shoreditch and in more recent times also arranged peals on the 3rd Tuesday. Living for much of that time in Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire, this was a huge commitment, but it resulted in some memorable peals. They consisted of a large number of Surprise Maximus methods, either rung for the first time or the first time for the Society - Redcliffe, Smallbrook, Cantuar Alliance, Strathclyde, Bristol, Mottram, Ealing, Bristol Alliance, Avon Delight, Double Coslany Court Bob, Zanussi, Halifax, Betelgeuse, Andromeda, Rigel and Orion all feature!

To congratulate Derek on his landmark 4,000th peal as conductor, which was also Jane's 3,000th peal, the Society presented Derek with a framed peal card designed and crafted by Society member, Teresa Dunstone. Our warmest wishes to Derek, a great servant to the Society and to the exercise as a whole.

Alan Regin



The band that rang Derek's 4,000th peal as conductor, which was also Jane's 3,000th peal

SRCY Peals Analysis 2014-15

(Last year's figures in brackets)



Following an increase last year, this year has seen a drop in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/2014 and 31/7/2015 there were 163 compared with 185 last year which is a fall of 8.4%. There are only 4 (11) handbell peals in that total. The number of towers was slightly lower with 109 (125). Shoreditch is still the leading tower with 12 (11). Geographically the peals were not quite so widespread and this year there were only 2 (4) peals rung in the USA and none (2) in Australia. 2 (0) peals were rung in the Netherlands at Dordrecht. In the British Isles peals were rung in 36 (41) different counties. 11 (11) peals were rung in Northern Ireland and this year 2 (0) in Scotland. There were also 2 (4) in the Channel Islands. In the UK most were rung in London 52 (54), followed by Northamptonshire 14 (5), Hampshire 13 (19), Dorset 11 (2), Hertfordshire 9 (10), Cambridgeshire 7 (5), Suffolk 5 (2) and Surrey 5 (3).

This year the number of members taking part in peals is slightly less at 292 (300). 131 (126) rang in only one peal. Once again Alan Regin is in front.

Ringers: Alan Regin 55 (61), Richard Hobbs 31 (45), Shirley McGill 30 (55), Jo Dorling 29 (29), Thomas Mack 28 (17), Ben Constant 27 (29), Claire Roulstone 27 (31), Adam Greenley 26 (28), Ian Campbell 25 (38), Russell Brown 26 (14), Timothy Forster 23 (28), Ian Fielding 22 (23), Janet Menhinick 22 (23), Michael O'Callaghan 22 (20) and Michael Crockett 20 (37).

The conducting was shared by 48 (51) people this year. Derek Sibson 18 (17), Ian Fielding 15 (18), Richard Hobbs 14 (23), Peter Waterfield 12 (7), Stephen Wheeler 12 (8), Ben Constant 8 (13), Ian Roulstone 7 (5), David Warwick 7 (1), Paul Curtis 7 (2), Graham Duke 5 (5), Matthew Durham 5 (2), Stanley Jenner 5 (2), John Loveless 4 (4), Stephen Pettman 4 (3), Janet Archibald 3 (1), Anthony Cox 3 (2). 6 (10) members with 2 and 26 (23) with 1.

72 (88) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. There remains a reasonable number of 12-bell peals with 16 (24) of maximus and 2 (3) of cinques. Royal 24 (26), Caters 6 (4), Major 97 (106), Triples 2 (5), Minor 14 (14), and Doubles 2 (1). As usual, Bristol Surprise Major heads the list.

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 2041, Derek Sibson 1774, Simon Davies 1307, Jane Sibson 1213, Ian Fielding 1135, Graham Duke 1083, Ian Campbell 1070, Richard Hobbs 964, John Loveless 945, Linda Garton 843, Shirley McGill 806, Catherine Merlane 800, Stephen Wheeler 756, Michael O'Callaghan 712, Peter Fleckney 708, Paul Cammiade 655, Roger Baldwin 580, Paul Curtis 562, Ruth Curtis 544 and Frank Rivett 502. These figures are for peals published in the Ringing World up to December 25th and are therefore by definition out of date by the time you read this!

There are only two towers with more than 100 peals. Not surprisingly they are Shoreditch with 851 and Spitalfields with 197.

It would be greatly appreciated if conductors would please check the peal list published on the web site and notify me of any omissions or errors. Also would conductors please make sure their peals reach the published stage on peals.co.uk. If any other members want a list of their Society peals please get in touch with Derek Sibson at dereksibson@btinternet.com.

Derek Sibson

London 12 bell contest

The 2015 contest was held at St Giles', Cripplegate. The bells present a challenge, but the judges commented favourably on the ringing they heard all day. The SRCY band was placed second with a piece of ringing described as having a consistent rhythm but being perhaps slightly too fast. The band that represented the SRCY is pictured, clockwise from front right: Jo Dorling, Shirley McGill, Ed Mack, Geraldine Forster, Mary Holden, Ben Constant, Russell Brown, Ian Mills, Steve Bailey, Nick Brown, Alan Regin, Tom Mack



Around the towers

Shoreditch

Derek Sibson has now decided to retire from organising first and third Tuesday peals in 2016. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Derek for his organisation of regular peal attempts at Shoreditch for many years. A peal of Bristol Maximus was rung in appreciation. Derek's first peal at Shoreditch was after the 1968 restoration, Stedman Cinques on 16/11/68, and his second was the first peal on the light eight of London Surprise Major. He rang in the Society's first and early peals of Bristol Maximus, long lengths of 170 methods of Spliced Maximus and 204 methods of Spliced Royal. He has rung 433 peals at Shoreditch and conducted 411. 410 were for the Society.

There were a number of landmarks in 2015. Congratulations to Benjamin D Kipling on ringing his 400th peal. A peal of 5056 London Surprise Major was rung to celebrate the birth on 2nd May 2015 of HRH Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge. A peal of 5039 Grandsire Caters was rung to mark the 100th anniversary of the peal of Grandsire Caters rung to the memory of Rifleman Andrew Warner of the Queen Victoria Rifles.

I would like to encourage the membership to come and ring at Shoreditch (whether for quarter peals, peals, outings etc). There is a booking form online and calendar on our website (<http://www.srcy.org.uk/towers/shoreditch.php>) so you can check what dates are available (subject to confirmation).

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

Richard Hobbs



Spitalfields

We have maintained our monthly service ringing on the first Sunday of each month for the 10.30 service along with occasional ringing for the very popular and successful 5.00pm evening service. As always I am very grateful to the small pool of ringers who support this ringing. If anybody is willing to assist please contact me - I will add your name to the circulation list. No major maintenance has been done but it's likely that some clapper work, such as re-bushing, will need to be undertaken during 2016.

The bells have once again proved popular with peal ringers and other visitors. 22 peals have been rung at Spitalfields during 2015. Some significant ones include one of Gallipoli Surprise Major on 25th April on the Centenary of the landings by ANZAC, British and French forces, quickly followed on 28th April by Boulogne Easter Surprise Major, in memory of Rifleman Andrew Warner, a Society member who died of his wounds in France that day 100 years before. On 2nd May, Plain Bob Triples to commemorate the first recorded peal at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on 20th October to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt and on the 6th November a peal of "Spitalfields Crypt Trust Surprise Major" as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Spitalfields Crypt Trust. There have been 2 quarter peal attempts, 3 outing bands, ringing for 5 weddings, 1 Memorial Service, 1 Funeral, 2 SRCY practices and ringing for the Ringers Advent Carol Service which has been restarted by the Middlesex Association and was held at Christ Church.

I am once again grateful to the Rector, Andy Rider, his wife Carol, Honorary Curate, David Stuart-Smith, a regular visitor to the tower on Sundays, who retired during 2015, and the wider members of Christ Church for their support of the Society and the ringing of bells in their Church.

Alan Regin



Stockton on Tees

The last year has been a bit quieter, with the loss of some of our regulars.

We started the year with attendances in the 22- 25 bracket, but it is now more usually 15- 18. We also failed to get enough commitment and availability to be able to enter the National 12 bell competition, so we decided to use the year to re-group and concentrate on striking and method development.

We had a very good weekend visiting all the eliminator towers (arranged before we knew we couldn't enter), particularly because we didn't have to concentrate on Cambridge all the time and so could ring Bristol, Phobos and Avon.

Kris King and David Town have spent some time moving wheels around on the front 3 bells (utilising an old wheel from Northallerton) so that the treble doesn't spin round so fast, making it easier to ring. More work is planned to make it even better.

Jennie Town



St Martin in the Fields

It was another busy year in 2015 for the St. Martin in the Fields band. A special length of 1945 changes was rung on the back eight to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day. There was also a special quarter peal arranged in July for the Memorial Service of Geoffrey Brown who was the Vicar of St. Martin's between 1985 and 1995, and was Vicar when the current bells were installed. We were also pleased to ring for the VJ Day Service in August where HM The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family and distinguished guests were in attendance. The bells were in fact given a special mention in the BBC coverage of the event. Those involved will remember how tight security was that day.

Two peals were rung during the year, the first by the SRCY, and the second was a peal of 5040 Elizabeth R Surprise Royal, rung to celebrate HM The Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch.

Our annual dinner was held in July in the Punch Tavern on Fleet Street. It was the second year in a row that we had been to this venue and we were lucky enough to have the entire back room to ourselves again. Those who attended may (or may not) remember the wide selection of G&Ts!

We were able to welcome several visiting bands during the year and in particular were pleased to welcome those on a Young Ringers' Outing and also a Devon Call-Change band.

The ringing chamber was open to the public as usual for the Saturday of Open House weekend. Thanks to all were able to assist with this and particularly to Edmund for running the demonstrations.

The annual outing was organised by Ben Kipling to Nottinghamshire as a joint event with the Southwark band. Although attendance was a little light, a good time was had by all.

Advent is always a busy part of the Church calendar and we were pleased to ring for the Advent Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, Community Carol Service, between the Parish Carols services and for the annual Knifecrime Service. Thanks to all involved and particularly to those who are not members of our band who were able to give up their time to assist.

Paul Caruana



Congratulations to the following

Members who rang their 1,000th peal during 2015:

John Ford	Simon Woof	Maggie Whiteley
Barry Peachey	Chris Wulkau	Geraldine Forster
Andrew Aspland		

Rebecca Cox on ringing her 2,000th peal
 Ian Smith on ringing his 3,000th peal
 Jane Sibson on ringing her 3,000th peal
 Derek Sibson on his 4,000th peal as conductor

James Blackburn and Sarah Dawson, and
 Doug Bell and Philip Goodyer
 on their marriages during the year

Samatha and Philip Gorman on the birth of Matthew
 Duncan and Gemma Loweth on the birth of Evelyn Anne
 Colin and Zoe Lee on the birth of Adam

Anniversaries of membership

Elected 1945 — 70 years

Raymond Clist	Joan Gray	Tom Page
Alexander Page		

Elected 1950 — 65 years

Frank Matthews	John Hilton	A John Hill
Marjorie Matthews	Herbert Heaton	Eric Naylor

Elected 1955 — 60 years

Roger Baldwin	George Fry	G A Price
A Rex Agg	William Mann	Ian Oram
Margaret Layton	B Johnson	

Elected 1965 — 50 years

Ann Graveling	Colin Butler	Kevin Hohl
Joy Wagstaff	Peter Fleckney	Hilary Brown
Yvonne Grainger	Andrew Hudson	Harold Gibson
Malcolm Powell	John Pratchett	Harold French
Maryl Chambers	Stella Bianco	Susan Page
Peter Wilkinson	Jane Wilkinson	Ian Panton
Graham Winter	Martin Press	

Elected 1975 — 40 years

Judith Bagshaw	Rhian Bagshaw	Russell Brown
Richard Cowley	Robert Gruen	Ian Butters
Christine Northeast	Richard Knight	Ruth Reeves
Susan Spencer	David Beadman	John Connell
Rosemary Duke	Sally Munnings	Alyson Porter
David Warwick	Heather Semken	Anne Rueff
Winifred Warwick	Janet Menhinick	James Benner
Margaret Whiteley	Colin Andrews	Lesley Boyle
Anita Blundell	Michael Belcher	

Elected 1990 — 25 years

Anthony Haywood	Gillian Sparling	Jill Leggett
Helen McGregor	Alison Godfrey	Jane Webster
Michael Wigney	Jill Wigney	Peter Bevis
Jane Deadman	Joan Garrett	Sally Brown
Jonathan Machell	Donald Morrison	Nicola Mason
Norma Henderson	Stephen Peverett	John Regin
Nicola Robson	Karen Semken	Anita Regin
Andrew Aspland	Michael Bentley	Paul Butler
Michael Gibbin	Andrea Haynes	David Herbert
Richard Hobbs	Juliet Lawrence	

Elected 1974 — 40 years

Apologies to the following members who were omitted from the 2014 newsletter:

Patrick Wills	Laura Watson
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Officers 2015-16

At the AGM in October, thanks were given to the outgoing Master, Alan Regin, who was presented with a bottle of wine to help him enjoy his recent retirement. Thanks were also given to Nick Brown, the outgoing Junior Steward. The officers for 2015-16 are:

Master: Tom Mack

Senior Steward: Ben Constant

Junior Steward: Mary Holden

Hon. Secretary: John Ford

Hon. Treasurer: Barry Mack

Assistant Secretary: Penny Sharpe

Hon. Librarian: Geraldine Forster

Note to peal conductors

The Society is grateful to those members who organise and conduct SRCY peals. Please remember that the Society rules require payment of peal fees and steepleage, and submission of the composition, within 3 months. Steepleage is also payable for unsuccessful peal attempts. If the composition is included with the peal on Bellboard, the composition will be picked up from there. If not, please email the composition to the Junior Steward at junior.steward@srcy.org.uk. Payment can also be sent to the Junior Steward. For details of how to pay electronically, please see the Members area of the website or email treasurer@srcy.org.uk.

Membership news

We welcome the following new members, elected during 2015:

Christine Williams

Ruth Suggett

Robert Criddle

Alistair Donaldson

Andrew Bull

Claire O'Mahony

Joanna Knight

It is with sadness we report the deaths of:

Dennis Chapman

Muriel Reay

Adrian Semken

Pamela Humphries

F W (Bill) Garner

Dennis Allcock

M Jo Moreton

William Crouch

Ronald Noon

Revd Geoffrey Brown

Frank Lewis

Hannah Hotston

Beryl Nelson

Mikaela Howard

Revd John Shephard-Walwyn

Calendar 2016

Below is a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

12th March

Country meeting

Hitchin

4th May

Business meeting

London

7th—9th July

Country meeting

Wylam on Tyne

10th September

Informal dinner

London

1st October

AGM

London

19th—20th November

Peal weekend

To find out more, or to sign up for any of these events, please visit the website or contact the Assistant Secretary, Penny Sharpe, at assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk

The newsletter

costs a significant amount each year to produce and post. If you would be happy to download the newsletter from our website, saving postage costs, please let us know by emailing the Assistant Secretary (assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk). If you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to see it continue in future, please strongly consider making a donation. Donations can be sent to the Treasurer, Barry Mack, 12 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6LE; cheques payable to SRCY. If you would like to make a donation electronically, details are available on the website in the Members' only area under "Payments", alternatively please contact Barry at treasurer@srcy.org.uk.

The newsletter is great publicity for the Society. Please share it with prospective new members in your area.



Visit our website @ www.srcy.org.uk