



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2017-18



From the Master

Hello and welcome to the SRCY newsletter, which this time is a bumper edition covering 2017 and 2018. It's good to look back at so many enjoyable occasions, in particular the Country Meetings which serve to bring together members from the various counties of the UK and sometimes beyond.

Without doubt the Anniversary Dinner on 8th September 2018 was the major highlight during this period. Set in the stunning surroundings of the nave of Christ Church, Spitalfields (one of our Society towers), entertaining speeches, a delicious meal and excellent company made for a most memorable event which would be difficult to top! You can read more about it on page 7. David Bath and Penny Sharpe are to be thanked for much hard work behind the scenes, ensuring that everything went without a hitch.

Such a fantastic event also served as a fitting culmination to three years of hard work by our then Master, Thomas Mack. Tom has striven tirelessly to maintain ringing of the highest standard, which has been reflected by our success in the London 12-bell Competition for two years running - also reported in these pages. Wednesday night practices in London have seen Zanussi join Stedman, Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol as staples of the repertoire, spiced up with Phobos, Avon, Orion, and spliced involving various combinations of these methods.

It's a great privilege to be elected to serve as Master, and I look forward to seeing many of you at a practice or event during the coming year.

Benjamin Constant

SRCY Officers 2018-19



Master
Benjamin Constant



Senior Steward
Shirley McGill



Junior Steward
Michael Crockett



Hon Secretary
David Bath



Assistant Secretary
Tim Forster



Hon Treasurer
Claire Roulstone



Librarian
Geraldine Forster

From your Librarian:

The SRCY facsimile and copy peal books along with a complete set of Bell News and Ringing Worlds are housed at St Martin-in-the-Fields. All other books and artefacts are stored at Spitalfields. Most items at Spitalfields are available for loan to members - full catalogue on the SRCY website. If anyone wishes to borrow an item please email me on librarian@srcy.org.uk. New additions to the library in 2018: bound copies of 2017 Ringing Worlds and peal books and other records of Howard W Egglestone. *Geraldine Forster*

Congratulations

5,000th peal - Ruth Curtis

4,500th peal - Paul Curtis

4,000th peal - John Loveless

1,000th peal - Malcolm Powell

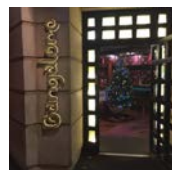
1,000th peal - Janet Menhinick

Alan Regin - awarded MBE

John Barnes - 70 years ringing

Not the Dinner Day

4 February 2017 and 3 February 2018



There are not many societies that would bother to mark the fact that they are not having a dinner by ringing peals, but since 1994 the Cumberlands have done just that, on each first Saturday in February. In both 2017 and 2018 the traditional format of peals and a curry was followed once again, with dinner at the Bangalore Express City, in the heart of the City of London.

On both occasions, there were five peal attempts of which four were successful. After a few drinks in the Crosse Keys around 50 members and friends sat down for a curry. It was particularly pleasing in 2018 to see the Society's two youngest members taking part in two peals during the day, making the most of the opportunities provided.

This is an excellent event, enjoyed by all and the last two years were no exception. Thanks to the Senior Steward for arranging the towers, the Assistant Secretary for the evening venue and of course to the Master for accommodating specific requests for peals and ensuring the best chance of success for those ringing.

Tom Mack and Adam Greenley

Ed Mack remembers the 2017 National 12 Bell Competition



Here is what I remember about the 2017 National 12 Bell contest.

At the eliminators in March we were placed second. The top 3 go through, so this was OK. Southwark Cathedral was the venue for the final. I remembered these bells as being rather difficult to ring and our practices there as being, well, not our best. So it ought to have been good news that the bells had been overhauled in 2016. Except that as each team went for their practices in May and June, there seemed to be a new set of horror stories about the bells. I even heard reports that one team struggled to ring rounds. The condition of the Southwark bells dominated pub talk for some time.

Sadly on 3rd of June there was an attack on London Bridge (just a stone's throw from Southwark Cathedral) where 7 people lost their lives. As a result we were unable to arrange a practice until the Wednesday before the Final. It was good to finally get there, but I remember not feeling very optimistic.

Our practice was really promising however. It seemed to me that the horror stories about the bells had been exaggerated (unless you were on the 10, 11, or 12, but that wasn't me, so that was ok...!).

On the day of the Final we were drawn third out of ten teams. This kind of slot is usually considered quite desirable for drinking. I think our team rang some of (if not the) best ringing of the day. Sadly our last lead was poor, and in the end we were placed fourth.

After the ringing (but not before) we found that there was lots of good beer and cider to be drunk. It was a very good day out, and I particularly enjoyed a tipsy visit to Pizza Express! The Southwark band put on an excellent day for us all and, challenging though the bells are, they were enjoyable and rewarding to ring.

When the results were announced, we learnt that we had the slowest peal speed of the day at 4h 10. The comments from the judges were short on detail, but they said that we 'took time to settle but once did, excellent. Lost energy towards the end'.

Ed Mack

The National 12 Bell Competition

Our 2017 eliminator was at St Margaret, Leicester where we came second behind Bristol (82%) with a mark of 80%. In the final at Southwark Cathedral on 24 June, which was won by Birmingham (75%), we were fourth with 70% (more at page 4).



In 2018 our eliminator was at Selby Abbey. We came third with a mark of 80%. At the final at Cambridge on 23 June we again scored 80%, coming fourth equal. The winners were Birmingham who scored 90%.

The 2018 SRCY National 12 bell band. Clockwise from front right: Shirley McGill, Michael Crockett, Ed Mack, Geraldine Forster, Ben Constant, David Bath, Mary Holden, Ian Mills, Doug Beaumont, Steve Bailey, Alan Regin, Tom Mack.

The London 12 Bell Competition

The Society hosted the 2017 London 12 Bell Striking Competition at St Leonard's Shoreditch on 28 October 2017. Congratulations to all who took part - particularly our winning team - and many thanks also to those who helped with the hosting and provision of cakes and refreshments. This was a particularly satisfying result for us at one of our home towers, having been placed



second 6 times in the previous 8 competitions. The band was: 1 Heather Forster, 2 Shirley McGill, 3 Michael Crockett, 4 Geraldine Forster, 5 David Bath, 6 Ed Mack, 7 Mary Holden, 8 Ian Mills, 9 Steve Bailey, 10 Doug Beaumont, 11 Ben Constant, 12 Tom Mack. To prove it wasn't a fluke we also won the 2018 competition, held at St Michael's Cornhill on 27 October.

The 2018 SRCY London 12 bell band. Clockwise from front right: Jo Dorling, Shirley McGill, Geraldine Forster, Paul Cammiade, David Bath, Adam Greenley, Mary Holden, Doug Beaumont, Steve Bailey, Ben Constant, Alan Regin, Tom Mack.

John Ford

March Country Meetings

11 March 2017 - Warnham

Where better to go in early spring than Sussex? Masterminded by Ian Oram, SRCY's 2017 March Country Meeting was held on Saturday 11 March at Warnham in West Sussex, Ian's home tower.

Four of the best rings of bells in the area had been selected for peal attempts: Henfield, Horsham, Petworth, and Withyham. These were all successful, and a rare Society handbell peal was also rung in Warnham Parish Room. For those not peal ringing a selection of other towers were open, finishing with the ring of ten at



Warnham. Whilst this was going on tea and cake were served. It was then off to the nearby hall for the business meeting, when Margaret Oram was presented with her 50 year membership certificate. The room was next set up for supper, allowing time for over 50 members and friends to chat and visit the bar which was offering a selection of Sussex beers. Local ringers provided the catering and bar staff, all arranged by Ian and Margaret to whom a big thank you was extended. There then followed more socialising, and further tasting of Sussex beer!

Kathy Howard

10 March 2018 - Farnham

On 10 March 2018 over 60 members took part in the Country Meeting at Farnham. Three peals were rung, and during the meeting we heard from Alan Regin, who had been honoured in the New Year with an MBE. He had that week been to Buckingham Palace to be presented with his medal by Prince Charles, and he brought the medal to the meeting to show members.

Congratulations were also offered to Matt and Jessie Hetherington on the birth of their daughter, Eilidh. The day finished with a



convivial and delicious meal in The Mulberry, conveniently located near the station. Thanks very much to Mark Place for all his hard work.

Penny Sharpe

September Dinners



Informal Dinner On Saturday 7 September 2017 the Society held a most enjoyable informal dinner at the Northbank Restaurant overlooking the Thames and the Tate Modern. We enjoyed sunset over the river, with pre-dinner drinks and convivial eating in this elegant restaurant with excellent company. A peal of Stedman Cinques was run in the morning.

Triennial Dinner On Saturday 8 September 2018, 129 of us enjoyed a superb evening at Spitalfields Church on the occasion of our formal triennial Anniversary Dinner. We were pleased to welcome Spitalfields Rector Andy Rider and his wife Carol, and the ASCY Master Henry Coggill and his wife Saskia as our guests.

After a prosecco welcome followed by dinner, we were entertained by speakers Alan Regin, who proposed the church, Andy Rider who responded, Jack Page who proposed the Society, and Master, Tom Mack who responded. All of this was smoothly held together by Barry Mack, as Master of Ceremonies. This was an evening to remember with guests travelling from far afield in the UK as well as from the United States and Australia.

Having seen the nave dressed for many fabulous occasions in the past, it was such a pleasure to be in the centre of such a beautiful venue for our own very special event. For many of us, the evening was rounded off in the usual style in the Pride of Spitalfields.



Penny Sharpe

July Country Meetings

8 July 2017 - Melbourne

The venue for the 2017 July Country Meeting was Melbourne, Derbyshire, with peal attempts arranged from Thursday 6 July to Sunday 9 July. In the run up to the meeting, 11 peals were scored at Whitwick, Oaks in Charnwood, Clay Cross, Ripley, Eastwood, Duffield, Breadsall, Belper, Overseal, Netherseal and Coleorton. A 12-bell striking competition was held at Melbourne church, with a twist; ropes were allocated by numbers from a hat. Afterwards 72 people filled the hall, for the meeting at the Melbourne Community Centre. Following the meeting, we enjoyed delicious homemade food, thanks to Rachael Peckham and her helpers, and were entertained with a quiz, organised by Christian Peckham followed by a fashion show, which allowed some of our older models to steal the limelight. A handbell peal attempt was completed late on Saturday evening, bringing the total to 12.



Ian Mills

14 July 2018 - Worcester

SRCY descended on the city of Worcester for their annual summer country meeting early in July. As always, the programme extended forwards into the middle of the previous week for the avid peal ringers, and twelve peals were scored by members from across the country, giving opportunities for ringing with friends at desirable towers in new and well-practised methods. Saturday drew some fresh faces, more peals, and a tower-grab of local churches followed by the meeting in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. Sadly, Tom Mack the Master could not be present, so his father (Barry) ably chaired the business in super-quick time, and his brother (Ed) organised the ringing for Evensong at the



Cathedral under the watchful eyes (and ears) of Mark Regan and Bernard Taylor.

The evening social was held in the glorious setting of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club, with drinks on the balcony overlooking the pitch in the bright summer sunshine. The buffet feast was accompanied by frenzied brain-storming of the Chris Kippin quiz - the table of young ones jointly sharing the prize with the Roulstones. The whole event was masterminded and expertly executed by Heather Kippin - a triumph of organisation and success. *David and Flick Warwick*



Membership News

Welcome to the following new members, elected during 2017 and 2018:

2017

March: Paul M Mason ◦ James Hughes ◦ C Luke Heaton ◦ Daniel J Page

July: Hayley Messenger ◦ James Morgan ◦ Catrin Morgan

October: David L Wilcox

2018

January: Jack L Edwards

March: Rosalind J Burrough ◦ Annabelle F Frost

May: Christine B J de Cordova

October: Eleanor C Talbot ◦ Ewan Grant-Richardson ◦ Joseph E T Waters
Luke G Groom ◦ Rowan P Wilson

Sadly we report the deaths of:

David Redfearn

Richard Cowley

Eric Naylor

Valerie R Crouch

Christopher Roberts

Elizabeth Smith

Evelyn Bowen

Rupert Caporn

Margaret Anderson

Jonathan Wilkinson

Michael E Brown

Freda Cannon

Ruth Foreman

E Vivian Williams

Frank G Bloomfield

Sam Letters

Kathleen Brown

Howard Oglesby

Michael J Platt

Godfrey FitzHugh

M Jill Staniforth

Margaret Large

Jacqueline Downing

Joan Gray

Geoffrey R Drew

Peter Beresford

Christopher T Graves

Christine Andrew

Anne Haskard

Society peals in history

Society Peals 250 Years Ago, 1767-68

3/8/1767	King Edward the Confessor Rumford	5120 Union Treble Bob	Samuel Wood
12/10/1767	St Mary Whitechapel	5312 Court Bob	Samuel Wood
18/12/1768	St Mary Whitechapel	5040 Bob Major	George Gross
Rumford is now called Romford			

Society Peals 200 Years Ago, 1817-18

15/2/1817	St Leonard Shoreditch	5039 Grandsire Catons	George Gross
7/9/1817	St Mary Lewisham	5040 Grandsire Tripples	George Gross
13/12/1817	St Leonard Shoreditch	5000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal	George Gross
16/02/1818	All Hallows Barking	8448 Oxford TB Major	George Gross
24/09/1818	St Lawrence Stroudwater	5000 Oxford TB Royal	George Gross
25/09/1818	St Mary Painswick	5200 Oxford TB Royal	George Gross
5/12/1818	St Margaret Westminster	6360 Oxford TB Royal	George Gross

Stroud was called Stroudwater in those days.

Society Peals 100 Years Ago, 1917-18

3/2/1917	St Leonard Shoreditch	5040 Bob Royal (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
13/3/1917	Spitalfields Bell Foundry	5040 Bob Major (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
27/3/1917	Spitalfields Bell Foundry	5040 Kent Treble Bob Royal (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
2/4/1917	Spitalfields Bell Foundry	5088 Kent Treble Bob Major (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
19/4/1917	Spitalfields Bell Foundry	5120 Kent Treble Bob Major (H/Bells)	Edgar Wightman
28/4/1917	St Anne Highgate	5024 Kent Treble Bob Major	Frank Smith
8/7/1918	St Leonard Shoreditch	5039 Grandsire Catons (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
3/8/1918	St Leonard Shoreditch	5075 Grandsire Catons (H/Bells)	Frank Smith
20/10/1918	130 Clonmore Street	5040 Bob Royal (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
26/10/1918	St Leonard Shoreditch	5000 Bob Royal (H/Bells)	John D Matthews
28/12/1918	St Leonard Shoreditch	5002 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews

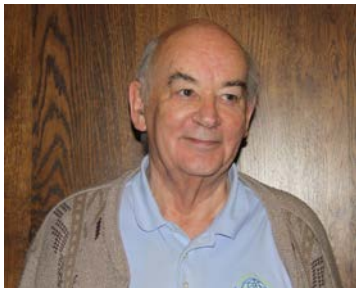
The only tower bell peal rung by SRCY in 1918 was “a compliment to the American nation on the 62nd birthday of their President Woodrow Wilson, on the occasion of his official visit to London during the armistice in the Great War”.

Alan Regin

Peal weekend is the third weekend in November. In 2017, 45 peals were arranged, 29 scored and 240 members took part. Claire Roulstone rang the most peals (4) and Ian Fielding was the leading conductor (3). In 2018 (17-18 November) 40 peals were arranged, 31 were scored and 208 members took part. Alan Regin and Ian Campbell rang the most peals (5 each) and Ian Fielding and Matthew Durham were the leading conductors (2 each). Thanks again to John Barnes for co-ordinating these events.

Peals analysis 2017-18

(last year's figures in brackets)



This year has seen a further drop in the number of peals rung. Between 1/8/17 and 31/7/18 there were 126 compared with 136 last year, which is a fall of 7.4%. There are 9 (14) handbell peals in that total which is also a drop. The number of towers was slightly lower with 96(103). Shoreditch is still the leading tower with 11 (7).

Towers: Shoreditch 12 (7), Basingstoke (All Saints) 6 (5), Holybourne 4 (2), Barton Seagrave 3 (1), 4 (6) towers all had 2 and there were 87 (91) with just 1. 6 (10) of the handbell peals were rung at Harford Drive but none was rung abroad this year.

Geographically the peals were more widespread in the UK. In the British Isles peals were rung in 30 (30) different counties but there were none in Ireland or abroad. In the UK most were rung in Greater London 25 (25), followed by Hampshire 16 (9), Worcestershire 11 (0), Hertfordshire 8 (15), Dorset 6 (1), Kent 6 (3), Surrey 6(4) and Norfolk 5(4). Several counties had 4 and 3 but there were still a number of counties with none.

This year the number of members taking part in peals is again slightly less at 225 (246). 118 (116) rang in only one peal. There has been a change in the leader with David Bath on 37.

Ringers: David Bath 37 (10), Ben Constant 36 (23), Adam Greenley 36 (23), Claire Roulstone 34 (23), Alan Regin 31 (38), Felicity Warwick 28 (13), David Warwick 27 (15), Ian Roulstone 26 (15), Shirley McGill 26 (27), Jack Page 21 (10) and Daniel Page 21 (4).

The conducting was shared by 40 (42) people this year. Jack Page 15 (3), Ian Roulstone 14 (12), David Warwick 11 (8), Richard Hobbs 9 (6), Ian Fielding 7 (8), Roger Baldwin 6 (13), Ben Constant 6 (7), Graham Duke 6 (2), John Loveless 6 (2), Paul Curtis 3 (7), Andrew Gordon 3 (0), Peter Waterfield 3 (19), 9 (9) members with 2 and 19 (21) with 1. The members conducting peals changes from year to year and it is good to see several new names among them this year.

The variety of methods has risen slightly. 67 (56) different methods or groups of methods (e.g. 4-Spliced) were rung. The number of 12-bell peals has increased with 16 (10) of maximus, 1 (0) of cinques and maximus and 1 (5) of cinques. Still only 2 (1) peals of maximus was rung at Shoreditch, and the remainder are spread between 11 (6) towers. This year there are 2 (0) peals of 23-spliced S. Major.

Maximus 16 (10), Cinques and Maximus 1 (0), Cinques 1 (5), Royal 22 (22), Caters 0 (0), Major 71 (72), Triples 1 (0), Minor 13 (26), and Doubles 1 (0). This year Bristol Surprise Major heads the list.

Methods: Bristol S. Major 10 (13), London S. Major 7 (9), Bristol S. Maximus 6 (3), London No.3 S. Royal 6 (4), 4-Spliced S. Major 5 (3), 7-Surprise Minor 4 (14), 8-Spliced S. Major 4 (9), Superlative S. Major 4 (1), Yorkshire S. Major 3 (5), Glasgow S. Major 3 (2).

This year there are 7 (5) peals of Spliced Maximus from 3 to 6 methods.

To update the personal totals for the Society of those who have rung over 500, the list is as follows: Alan Regin 2144, Derek Sibson 1777, Simon Davies 1309, Jane Sibson 1213, Ian Fielding 1181, Graham Duke 1131, Ian Campbell 1119, Richard Hobbs 1016, John Loveless 987, Shirley McGill 879, Linda Garton 826, Catherine Merlane 800, Stephen Wheeler 762, Michael O'Callaghan 730, Peter Fleckney 713, Paul Cammiade 699, Roger Baldwin 608, Paul Curtis 599, Ruth Curtis 573, Frank Rivett 520, Russell Brown 512 and Jo Dorling 502. Jo Dorling is the only addition to the list this year. These figures are for peals published in the Ringing World and appearing on Peals.co.uk up to September 30th 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 change very little with only a few changes in order. There are no additions but one or two methods are getting near 100. Bristol S. Major 670, 4-Spliced S. Major 274, 8-Spliced S. Major 262, 7 methods S. Minor 260, London S. Major 259, Yorkshire S. Major 240, Bristol S. Maximus 209, Yorkshire S. Maximus 178, Bristol S. Royal 168, Stedman Cinques 166, London No.3 S. Royal 164, Yorkshire S. Royal 156, Cambridge S. Major 139, Cambridge S. Royal 131, Rutland S. Major 121 and 23-Spliced S. Major 106.

There are only two towers with more than 100 peals. Not surprisingly they are Shoreditch with 880 and Spitalfields with 202. Once again no additions but St. Martin's is getting close.

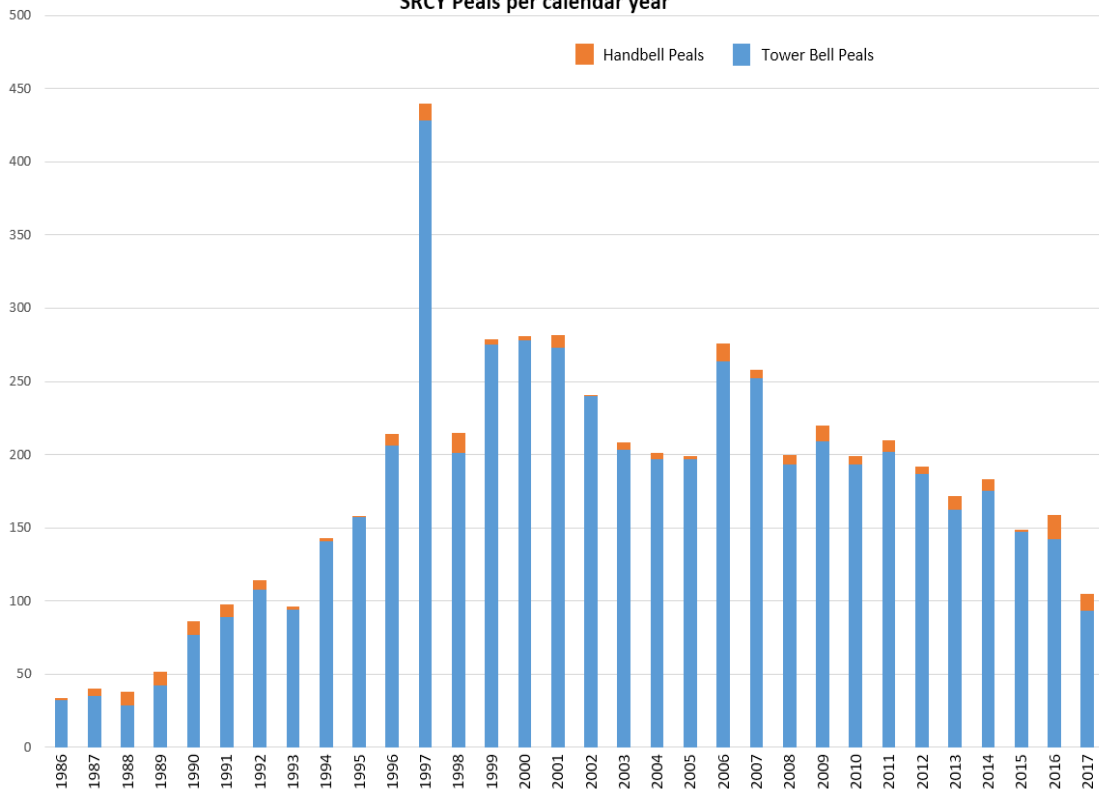
I have now been forced to retire from peal ringing due to inability to stand for the length of time involved and cramp in my hands, so 1777 will be my final total. I would like to thank all the many members who have rung peals with me. I shall of course continue to look after the Society's peal records.

Each year a list of SRCY peals rung in the year ending 31 July is published on the web site as part of the annual composite minutes file, which may be found at Members Only – Previous Minutes. It would be greatly appreciated if conductors would please check these lists and notify me of any omissions or errors. Also would conductors please make sure their peals reach the published stage on peals.co.uk and please include first names of composers in the peal reports submitted.

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

Derek Sibson

SRCY Peals per calendar year



Stockton on Tees

Practices have continued every month at Stockton Parish Church, but we have had a quieter year with numbers mainly steady around 19/20 ringers, although we had a couple of months where we only just had enough to make the practice viable. We have attracted a few new people, but many of our former regulars are not able to come along so often. This is due to a combination of factors: new additions to the family, job relocation and increasingly, people having to travel long distances to meetings or working late.

The method repertoire has remained fairly static: Bristol, Stedman and right place surprise are the standard methods, with additions of Phobos and Newgate when possible. We entered the National 12 bell competition and were drawn at Selby. Unfortunately, on the day we didn't ring as well as we had at our practice session, but it was very good experience and the practices leading up to the competition were very worthwhile.

Jennie Town



St Martin in the Fields

The year so far has been a disappointing one in terms of attendance at Sunday morning ringing. We have not rung all twelve on a Sunday morning for some months, and there have been a few Sunday mornings recently when we have only had six or seven ringers. We have also struggled for numbers with practices, and in September this year took the decision to change from weekly to monthly practices, with the possibility of arranging quarter peals on request.



In spite of this, there have been some notable events and achievements during the year. Not least among these was the celebration of John Barnes' 70 years as a ringer held on Sunday 14 January 2018. A quarter peal of Spliced Cambridge and Double Bob Maximus was rung in John's honour by members of the St Martin-in-the-Fields band, and this was followed by a celebration lunch. A past master of the SRCY, John has been a member of the St Martin-in-the-Fields band for 27 years, and continues to show a dedication and commitment to Sunday service ringing second to none. I am sure you will all join me wholeheartedly in congratulating John on reaching such an impressive milestone, and in thanking him for all he has given and continues to give, both to St Martin's and the SRCY, and to ringing in general.

Other notable events during the year included a special Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday, which was broadcast live from St Martin's by the BBC, with some of the ringing being recorded and used as the soundtrack for the opening credits. On Saturday 29th September band members and friends rang a peal of Stedman Cinques. This was conducted by Lucy Woodward and, among other firsts, was Geoff Foster's first of Stedman Cinques. It was also a compliment to John Barnes for his 70 years of ringing.

We were unfortunately not able to enter either the National or the London 12 bell competitions this year due to lack of numbers.

The planned outing in September, kindly organised by Vice Captain Tim Forster, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to transport issues and low numbers.

On Sunday 11 November we rang three times, half muffled in memory of the fallen before the morning service, open at 12.30pm in celebration of the centenary of the Armistice, and open again in the evening for the annual patronal festival service.

Looking forward to the remainder of the year, we will be ringing for a memorial service for Victims of Homicide in December, as well as the usual extra ringing for Christmas services.

Jonathan Galloway

Shoreditch

Paul Turp (Honorary Member)

A peal was rung to mark the retirement of Paul Turp, Vicar of Shoreditch 1983-2018, in appreciation of his support for our Society. Happy retirement Paul.

Ringling

I would like to encourage the membership to come and ring at Shoreditch (quarter peals, peals, outings etc); there is an online booking form and calendar on our website (<https://srcy.org.uk/towers/shoreditch.php>), where you can check what dates are available (subject to confirmation).

London 12 Bell Striking Competition

On 28 October 2017 the Society hosted the London 12 Bell Striking Competition, which we won; congratulations to the band. Thanks also to those who helped out with the hosting of this event, and provided cakes.

Landmarks

- 27 June 2017. A peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal to mark the retirement from peal ringing of Derek Sibson and to thank him for his contribution to the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, the Central Council and the Exercise generally over many years. This was Peter Waterfield's 1700th peal, his 300th peal for the Society and 100th peal for the Society as conductor.
- 3 October 2017. A peal of Glasgow S. Major in memory of Private Charles Frederick Dell, killed in action on 4 October 1917. Private Dell is remembered on the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths' war memorial at this church.
- 16 January 2018. A peal of Spliced Surprise Major to congratulate Alan Regin on being awarded an MBE in the New Years' Honours.
- 20 March 2018. A peal of Spliced Surprise Major as a 30th wedding anniversary compliment to Roger and Geraldine Forster (Society Librarian). This was the 100th peal for the Society by Assistant Secretary Tim Forster.
- 3 June 2018. A peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus to mark Paul Turp's retirement as Vicar of Shoreditch, and in appreciation of his support for the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths during this time. The band



would like to associate Alan Regin, Ian Fielding and Derek Sibson with this performance.

- 17 July 2018. A peal of Spliced Surprise Major to mark the 50th anniversary of Colin Wyld's election to the Society.
- 31 July 2018. Ruth Corney and Sam Cave rang their first peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus.
- 21 August 2018. A peal of 5100 Remembrance Alliance Major in memory of Private Frank Laflin. He was killed by enemy fire 26 August 1918 and was great uncle of Liz Hibbert who also rang her 250th peal for the Society.
- 16 October 2018 Colin Wyld rang his 250th peal for the Society.

Thank you to Shoreditch Church Authorities for your continued support to our Society.
Richard Hobbs

Christ Church Spitalfields

We have maintained the regular Sunday service ringing on the first Sunday of each month; this is regularly supported by a dedicated group of ringers, a number of whom travel some distance to help. We have also rung for some special services and church events. If you would like to help with service ringing please contact Alan Regin.

During 2017 the bells were well used with ten peals being rung along with three quarter peals. We welcomed four outing bands, and rang for three weddings and one funeral. The Society held two practices along with the 2017 AGM in the newly refurbished crypt area.

2018 has seen a further ten peals to date along with three quarter peals, a special touch of 1750 changes, two outing bands and one Society practice. We have rung for six weddings so far.

The popularity of the Church premises as a venue has meant occasional conflicts with ringing events but the ringers work well with the events and premises team. We thank the Rector, the Rev. Andy Rider and his wife Carol for their support and friendship during the year.

As members will know the Society held its dinner at Christ Church on 8 September 2018.

Alan Regin – Steeplekeeper at Christ Church



Anniversaries of membership

75 years

Elected 1943: John Davis

70 years

Elected 1947: M Janet Mattinson ◦ Jill Parsons ◦ Donald Marshall

Derek Latchford ◦ Pamela Latchford ◦ David Gay

Elected 1948: Peter Eves ◦ Poul-Erik Jensen ◦ Geoffrey Seaman ◦ Peter Huckstepp
Mary Perry ◦ Peter White

60 years

Elected 1957: Heather Steere ◦ David Walklate ◦ Richard Dean ◦ Anthony Mann
Philip Mehew ◦ John Kape ◦ Colin Tester

Elected 1958: W S Bonnet ◦ Alan Boyd ◦ Patricia Jenkins ◦ John Ball
Marguerite McGlue

50 years

Elected 1967: Jenny Brunger ◦ Jillian Curry ◦ William Allsopp ◦ Gillian Clark
Margaret Oram ◦ Derek Tysoe ◦ Susan Cole ◦ M Louise Hamilton-Glover
Raymond Helliwell ◦ Allan Keen ◦ John Kemp ◦ I E Margaret Manby
Michael O'Callaghan ◦ Peter Watson ◦ Caroline Bott ◦ James Hills
Hilary Muirhead ◦ Beryl Norris ◦ Gwyneth White

Elected 1968: Edward Bryant ◦ Bruce Butler ◦ Brian Foley ◦ David Forder
Christopher Fynes ◦ Christopher Groom ◦ Anthony Leeves ◦ Amette Ley
W John Munton ◦ Ian Robinson ◦ Christopher Starbuck ◦ Deborah Tiltman
Richard Wilsher ◦ Jill Clay ◦ Julie Bell ◦ Elizabeth Foster ◦ Jacqueline Harrison
Susan Houghton ◦ Susan Jones ◦ Richard Newby ◦ David Phillipson
Yvonne Towler ◦ Gillian Trowbridge ◦ Richard Webster ◦ Richard Weeks
Colin Wyld ◦ Philip Down ◦ Tony Skilton ◦ Ian Wickens

40 years

Elected 1977: Heather Barrington ◦ Charlotte Kirwan ◦ Dawn Offen
David Andrews ◦ Anne Anthony ◦ E S Bailey ◦ George Bailey ◦ John Bell
Lucy Hopkins Till ◦ Peter Smith ◦ Nicholas Wilkins ◦ Sheila Williams
Lynne Butters ◦ Sarah Humphries ◦ Michael Fiander ◦ Rosamund Durham
David Mossop ◦ Janet Penney

Anniversaries of membership

40 years

Elected 1978: Rosemary Campbell ◦ Graham Cane ◦ Richard Clements
Helen Diserens ◦ Peter Emery ◦ Nicholas Fulford ◦ Christopher Gill ◦ Jill Hansford
Jane Harper ◦ Peter Harper ◦ Geoffrey Horritt ◦ Heather Kippin ◦ Linda La Velle
Julian Lees ◦ Peter Neville ◦ Stephanie Pattenden ◦ Heather Peachey
Sandra Stallibrass ◦ Celia Till ◦ Nicholas Tithecott ◦ Janice Baldry
Michael Baldry ◦ Claire Barlow ◦ Janet Barter ◦ Stephen Bedford ◦ Diana Bridle
Elizabeth Coke ◦ David Culham ◦ Carol Franklin ◦ Susan Haslam
Elizabeth Hibbert ◦ Sylvia Kendrick ◦ Christine Knight ◦ Richard Knight
Julian Morgan ◦ Philip Ramsbottom ◦ Susan Record ◦ Amanda Richmond
Simon Rudd ◦ David Smith ◦ Alan Trebble ◦ Christine Webb ◦ Brian Whiting
Jillian Wright

25 years

Elected 1992: Paul Andrews ◦ Andrew Bicknell ◦ Jane Boden ◦ Gilian Davis
Joanne Diamond ◦ Cheryl Hamby ◦ Elizabeth Heaton ◦ Valerie Howard
Elizabeth Johnson ◦ Iain Mitchell ◦ Jayne Mitchell ◦ David Riley
Margaret Romano ◦ Hazel Rothera ◦ Stuart Talbot ◦ Jonathan Williamson
Simon Gay ◦ Jeremy Warren ◦ Henry Bettinson ◦ Alison Brittliff
Vanessa Farnham ◦ Philip Gay ◦ Nicholas Green ◦ Mary Hall ◦ Michael Hawkins
Anne Pettifor ◦ Louise Pink ◦ Katharine Salter ◦ Paul Stannard ◦ Mary Symes
Ann Thompson ◦ Richard Thumwood ◦ Simon Woof ◦ Michael Angrave
David Bagshaw ◦ Georgina Barratt ◦ Mark Boylan ◦ Margaret Bulleid
David Cochrane ◦ Andrew Downs ◦ Elizabeth Gatland ◦ Richard Hamby
Gail Harrison ◦ Eric Jacobson ◦ Roger Lawson ◦ Alison Leach ◦ Catherine Lewis
Christopher Lindsay ◦ Edward Manley ◦ Christine Marchbank ◦ Ann Martin
Fiona Prince ◦ Michael Semken ◦ Susan Stott ◦ Andrew Taylor ◦ Diana Wraight
Elected 1993: Helen Audley ◦ Martin Davies ◦ Elizabeth Dunford ◦ Rachael Dyson
Elaine Grant ◦ James Grant ◦ Laura Leyland ◦ Christian Peckham
Claire Roulstone ◦ Adam Shepherd ◦ Nicola Turner ◦ Clare Watson
Alison Williams ◦ Caroline Carter-Smith ◦ Sheila Edmondson ◦ Betsy Hosler
Jean Jeffery ◦ Alan Marchbank ◦ Mark Smith ◦ Jean Thompson ◦ Stephen Wheeler
Rebecca Bruce ◦ David Craggs ◦ Clive Dunbavin ◦ Mary Dunbavin
C James Hustler ◦ Andrew Ingram ◦ Mary Mears ◦ Diana Bleby-Williams
Malcolm Edwards ◦ Catherine Finn ◦ Christopher Kilgour ◦ Clare Rodliffe
Sally Schupke ◦ Jane Weller ◦ Fiona Wheeler ◦ David Carter ◦ Amanda Harris

MY (SMALL) PART IN THE YPRES BELLS PROJECT

by Ben Duke

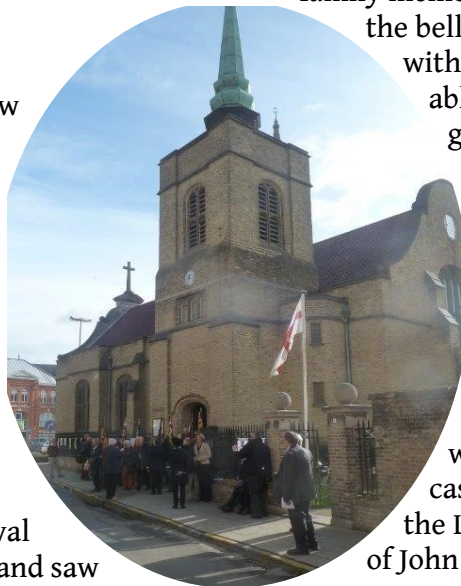
My maternal grandfather, George Henry Hutchinson, was killed in action in WW1 on July 30th 1917, near Ypres in Belgium. He was born in Nottingham in early 1886, the second eldest of four children, and with his father worked in the famous Lace Market.

He joined up to 'Kitchener's Third New Army' in September 1914 as a member of the 25th division - only a couple of months after the declaration of war. They assembled and trained in the area around Salisbury and landed in France in late September 1915.

George was in the Royal Field Artillery (RFA), and saw action at Vimy Ridge, the Somme, Thiepval and the battles of Barzentin, Poziere and the Ancre Heights, before he was killed, most likely by German counter-battery fire, just before the start of the 3rd battle of Ypres. He is buried in the Perth Cemetery a few miles south of Ypres.

As a ringer I was therefore very pleased to hear from Alan Regin about the proposal to install a ring of bells in the Anglican Church of St George in Ypres as a commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the

Great War. The trustees of the project had decided that the best way to finance the scheme was to solicit up to 100 donations of £3,000, with each donor being given the opportunity to have the name of a family member inscribed on one of the bells. I was therefore, with the help of my family, able to ensure that my grandfather would be remembered on one of the bells. With so much interest in the scheme it did not take long for the money to be raised and so on Thursday 27th April last year we were invited to see the casting of the 4th bell at the Loughborough Foundry of John Taylor & Co.



Last July was the centenary of the death of my grandfather, so I arranged a long weekend in Ypres for a group of 14 family members spanning three generations. We spent some time at my grandfather's graveside and visited other cemeteries and memorial sites around Ypres, among them Hills 60 and 62 which both saw many months of fighting. We also attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate on the Saturday. Soon after returning from that trip, I was pleased to be



able to see the bells on display at the Great Dorset Steam Fair. This annual event has included an area dedicated to commemorating the Great War since the 2014 event, including a re-creation of the WWI trenches. The display of the Ypres bells fitted into this theme very well. It was my first opportunity to view the finished bells and read the inscriptions for myself. I thought that Alan Regin and his helpers did a fantastic job of explaining to many, many visitors the significance of the bells and their inscriptions, and the planned route they would take on their way to Ypres on two vintage WW1 lorries. I was so happy that I was able to see 'Grandad's bell' so close to my present home.

It did not seem to be long before the bells were hung and ready for the



dedication ceremony in late October. Rosemary and I were able to travel with a party arranged by Derek



Sibson. This was a wonderful occasion with over 200 people, mostly UK ringers, attending, and the church was packed. As reported in the Ringing World of 3 November 2017, everything about the project has been completed to the highest standard and the bells are a delight to ring. The Ringing Room panelling is especially splendid. I was honoured to be asked to ring in the first touch after the service, a course of Ypres Surprise Major. We had a practice the day before to ensure all was well, while a BBC East Midlands team did some recording both in the Ringing Chamber and the Belfry, the access to which is through a small trap-door which was open most of the time! The post-service touch with a few non-ringing dignitaries in attendance in the small Ringing Chamber was rather unnerving, but in the circumstances was rung well.



I was again honoured to be invited to take part in the first peal on the bells, also of Ypres Surprise, on 10 January 2018. Despite the pressure, an excellent peal was scored.

Ben Duke



Penny Sharpe talks to **Alan Regin MBE**

Early Influences Alan learned to ring at Ottershaw, Surrey, on a heavy 16½ cwt six. He was introduced to ringing by his brother Jack who was already a ringer. At his first lesson, Alan was fascinated by the fact that just by pulling a rope you could set a weighty bell spinning and turning. Coming into contact with two other young brothers, he was also drawn by the fact that ringers came from such a range of backgrounds and ages, from their teens to their 80s and 90s; meeting many older people other than parents broadened the horizons of a budding ringer. Everybody getting together and just enjoying ringing was an inspiration.

Early on Alan met Tom Page at a local practice. Tom noticed Alan and straightened out his handling. Alan left London at 16 for his first job at Loughborough bell foundry. But after a few months he decided to head to London for work, where he would find more advanced ringing. In those early days he rang heaps of QPs, conducting many. He rang with a group on Saturdays, often ringing six quarter peals in a day. Living in Alperton, he joined the local band at Bushey. There he met some amazing ringers including Roger and Kath Baldwin and Christopher Woolley. Roger in particular was to become a great influence, introducing him to the world of peal ringing.

Alan then went to work for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and thus started to attend Kensington. Here he met such people as Stephanie Pattenden and Jim Belshaw who were also to have a significant impact on his ringing development.



SRCY Membership In those early days in London, Alan attended the practices of SRCY and ASCY. Feeling more at home with the Cumberlands, he joined the Society in January 1983. A year later he was Junior Steward, and in 1987 he became Master. A highlight of this first stint as Master was in 1989, when the Society won the National 12 bell competition for the first time at Redcliffe.

Peal Ringing At this point in the 80s, Alan had already started organising peals in London and further afield, ranging from midweek peals of spliced surprise major to 12 bell peals. He also started to organise ringing tours. It was not just ringing though; from the late 80s Alan led tours that involved no ringing, to such places as Moscow, Albania, and China.

In 1988 he was involved in the first of the big overseas tour to Australia and New Zealand with David Brown, and other members of the St James's Guild. Then to the USA in 1992, with many other US and Canada tours following (he has rung 473 peals in the US to date), many of the North American tours being SRCY tours. Then in 1995 was the first big tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe, again with the St James's Guild.

Alan's second stint as SRCY master covered the 250th Anniversary in 1997, which we celebrated with peal attempts at every cathedral, and that fantastic dinner at Middle Temple Hall. The Society also won the National 12 Bell Competition again that year. These were heady days for the Society. The aim was to ring 250 peals, and we ended up ringing between 400 and 500. Alan arranged many special peal days too, with historical themes, or just for the challenge: such as the 250th anniversary of the first peal of Bob Major, a 23 Spliced day, and a Pitman's day, involving many members from near and far.

Alan is a very proud member of the Society as demonstrated by his commitment and service to the Society over many years. I asked him what it is about peal ringing that drives him to be one of the leading peal ringers in the world. He said it's the satisfaction and happiness you get from achieving the best ringing you can, the travelling, and meeting different people in in different places.

Alan is a very gregarious ringer, having rung at least one peal with 1818 different people, over 100 peals with 81 people, over 1000 peals with five people, and over 2250 with Ian Campbell.

Rolls of Honour Alan's interest in the history of ringers who died in combat was sparked at Bushey, where there were photos of two ringers, Bertram Prewett and Robert Stavert, who had been killed in World War I. He visited their graves in France in the mid 80s, and as time went on he looked them up in the Central Council's Rolls of Honour at St Paul's Cathedral. These hand written books, dating from 1921, contained a list of 1150 names with the tower and guild of each ringer. Alan wanted to find out more, starting with where they were buried or commemorated. Bit by bit he photographed each page, and listed the names in a spreadsheet gathering more information on each ringer as time went by.

He started to find people who were not in the first book, and this led to a second book. Alan managed to raise £4000 from ringers to produce this second book, which, like the first, was hand written and bound in leather vellum. He was also building an archive of information about the ringers; the idea was to collect as much information as possible, as well as where and how they lived and died, their parents, marriages and children.

Alan has been working on this for over 15 years, and 11 years ago he became Steward of the Rolls of

Honour. He has now gathered information for all but 30 names, and there are now over 1500 names recorded.

Great War Centenary and Ypres

Alan wanted to complete his work on the Rolls of Honour for the centenary of the Great War in 2018. Taking early retirement, and with the assistance of four family history helpers, he got all the information he had collected together and had it published in the Ringing World. The information will in time be added to the Central Council Roll of Honour web page, for all to see.

Alan has visited many war graves and memorials throughout Europe, including St George's Memorial Church in Ypres, which had a bell tower! So the Ypres project was launched to install a ring of bells in the tower, with the aim of completion by the end of the centenary year; but the fundraising was so successful that that by 22 October 2017, the bells were being dedicated.

All the bells are memorials to the Great War, remembering individuals, as well as groups such as Harrow School for the tenor and ANZAC for the seventh. The whole installation has been completed to a very fine standard, a Rolls Royce job to complement the wonderful new ring of bells,

It is not just ringing but the honouring of fallen ringers which brings people together. Alan received a call the other day from London, Ontario, Canada, from Robert Stavert's grandson, who did not know

that his grandfather had been a ringer. He had visited his grave in France in August 2018 and wrote his name, as a grandson, on a British Legion cross which he left on the grave. He had also put his name and town in the visitors' book at the cemetery. Alan discovered the cross, and was able to contact the grandson, who sent a message of appreciation to the band after a centenary peal was rung for Bertram Prewett and Robert Stavert, at Bushey in November 2018.

Ringing Remembers Alan came up with the idea of Ringing Remembers as a result of his work on the Rolls of Honour. As 1400 ringers were (at that time) recorded in the Rolls of Honour, the idea was to recruit 1400 new ringers to replace those lost. This was taken on board by ringers around the world and over 2000 new ringers have now been trained.

MBE We Cumberlands are very proud of Alan's achievements and services to ringing, which were recognised by the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours in 2018. Alan is very grateful to Ian Campbell, who nominated him, and the many people who supported his nomination. We were able to help Alan celebrate with champagne at our January meeting in London, and he brought the medal along to our March meeting just days after receiving it from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace.

What next? There is an opportunity for a new ring of bells in France, with towers being considered. Alan says - watch this space. *Penny Sharpe*

Calendar 2019



Below is a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

2 January	Business meeting	London
2 February	Not The Dinner Day	London
9 March	Country meeting	Redhill
1 May	Business meeting	London
11 - 13 July	Country meeting	TBC
14 September	Informal dinner	London
5 October	AGM	London
16 - 17 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, Tim Forster, at assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk.

The Newsletter costs a significant amount each year to print and, in particular, to post. It costs nothing to put it on the website, as compilation and typesetting are done by volunteers. The newsletter mailing list is being replaced. From 2019, members will only receive printed copies of the newsletter if their names are on the new mailing list.

To have your name added to the list please email assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk or write to Tim Forster, SRCY Assistant Secretary, Flat 9, Livingstone Lodge, Admiral Walk, London W9 3TN. There is no charge, but a donation towards the cost would be very much appreciated. You can make a donation by PayPal from the SRCY web site (<https://srcy.org.uk/donate/>), or by sending a cheque payable to SRCY to the Treasurer, Claire Roulstone, 3 Stocks Farm Cottages, The Street, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5BP; or you can make a direct payment. The details for direct payments may be obtained from the members' area of the web site (<https://srcy.org.uk/members/payment.php>), or from Claire at treasurer@srcy.org.uk.

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