



Society of Royal
Cumberland Youths

Newsletter 2020-21



From the Master

It is my pleasure to introduce the SRCY newsletter, which this time is a bumper edition covering 2020 and 2021 and the first to document the Society's steer through a global pandemic. Over this time the Society has enjoyed some familiar activities, both social and ringing but has also faced some unprecedented challenges.

Not the Dinner Day 2020 was a successful event, scoring five peals and an evening social in the usual fashion of beer and a curry in central London. Little did we know that this would be the last official Society event in person until September 2021, and the final event in person for Benjamin Constant during his final year as Master.



The remainder of 2020 saw all Society events held virtually with business meetings and social events held on Zoom. The officers produced The Lockdown Challenge which ran during June 2020 and congratulated winners Jane Beadman and Kathy Howard. The year drew to a close with a very successful Not the Peal Weekend Quiz and social event with Junior Steward, Jack Page acting as quiz master. Events continued in a similar style during 2021 with a Not the Dinner Day Quiz and social event, once again with Jack Page conducting. January, April and July business meetings were all held virtually, which enabled members from around the world to join and provided an enjoyable opportunity to reconnect with members we may not be able to see so often. With the easing of restrictions practices were able to restart in London on 21 July and Northern practices restarted in September and a credible start has been made on rebuilding our 12 bell repertoire. Informal Dinner Day 2021 went ahead in September 2021 and was our first in person event for the year but very much took the format of a NTDD with peals scored in central London followed by beer and a curry. A successful AGM Day and Peal Weekend

followed later in 2021 getting us back into routine after a long break.

With little or no ringing during most of the period that this newsletter covers, it is greatly encouraging to see the high number of complex performances being rung by members as restrictions allowed, demonstrating the strength and resilience of the Society.

As we move into 2022, the Society's 275th anniversary year, I look forward to welcoming members back to Society events including a formal dinner in London and a challenge to encourage at least 275 members taking part in peals during the year.

Michael Crockett

SRCY Officers 2021-22



Master
Michael Crockett



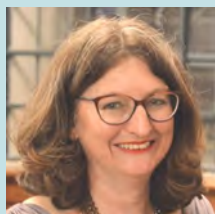
Senior Steward
Tom Mack



Junior Steward
Jack Page



Hon Secretary
Joe Waters



Assistant Secretary
Penelope Sharpe



Hon Treasurer
Claire Roulstone



Librarian
Elizabeth Hibbert

2020-21 Officers: Master, Benjamin Constant; Senior Steward, Shirley McGill; Junior Steward, Michael Crockett, Hon Secretary, David Bath; Assistant Secretary, Elizabeth Hibbert; Hon Treasurer, Claire Roulstone; Librarian, Joanna Dorling

SRCY under Lockdown

Covid restrictions had a big impact on the Society's activities for 2020 and 2021.

The 2020 AGM was held by Zoom, which at least meant that members could attend whatever their geographic location.

The 2021 AGM was able to go ahead as normal in the Crypt at Spitalfields. Two peals were rung beforehand, and after the meeting there was a social at the nearby Kings Stores pub.



In 2020 it was not possible to hold a dinner, but the 2021 dinner went ahead, albeit in the “Not the Dinner Day” format - peals during the day and a curry afterwards. Normal service will resume for the 275th Anniversary Dinner, to be held on 10 September 2022 in the Ballroom of the Clermont Hotel, above Charing Cross Station, in London. Tickets are £75 from the Assistant Secretary.



July country meetings were not possible in 2020 or 2021, but will resume in 2022, based at Hillsborough, Northern Ireland.

The 2020 Not the Dinner Day went ahead unhindered by the virus. In 2021 the usual NTDD date was used for a Zoom Quiz; NTDD was moved to dinner day thus becoming TDD.

Peal Weekend was cancelled in 2020, but Julia Cater, Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay, rang a peal for it anyway on Ringing Room. Peal Weekend was officially back in November 2021, when 19 peals, including two handbell peals, were scored. Peal ringing was at a low ebb in 2020, but started to recover in 2021 with the help of a record number of handbell peals - see pages 12-13.

From your Librarian:

The contents of the Library stored at the London Metropolitan Archive have been verified with them and their online catalogue has been updated to reflect that all volumes are present. Due to Covid restrictions, the contents of the Library at Spitalfields have not been verified, but the cabinets at St Martins have been photographed to check off the contents against the Library List. The Library list has been brought up to date and is with the new Librarian. The Librarian answered some queries over the year about both members and peals. Other than that there have been no requests to view any of the Library contents.

The last three years' Ringing Worlds have been bound - thanks to Derek Sibson for getting that done.

Paul Cammiade

Congratulations to

- Katharine Firman, who rang her 2,000th peal on 2 August 2020, thus becoming the first person to ring 100 peals of Bristol Surprise Maximus on handbells.
- Jack Page, Daniel Page and Alex Riley, who rang a handbell peal of 40,320 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor in 336 methods on 15 September 2021, the longest peal of spliced and most methods rung all the work to a peal so far.
- Julia Cater, Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay, who rang the first ever handbell peal on Ringing Room, with each ringer ringing two dummy handbells. This was also the only peal rung for SRCY Peal Weekend 2020.

Around the Towers

Stockton on Tees

We re-started SRCY practices at Stockton-on-Tees in September 2021, the previous practice having been February 2020. The visitors far outnumbered the members at that first practice, partly because we have extended our remit to include some younger ringers who are taking their first steps in ringing on twelve and doing very well. Numbers are stable at 16 – 18 per practice, but we know that there are other ringers who will return in due course when circumstances permit.



We were very out of practice at 12 bell ringing and the standard is nowhere near what we have achieved in the past. We are gradually improving, but at present the repertoire is not extending beyond Bristol, since it is difficult to make fast progress with only one practice a month.

Looking ahead, I am stepping down from running the northern practices in January 2022. I had to look back to see when I started doing this and the SRCY newsletters have proved invaluable in this. For those who may be interested (and since nothing much has happened in the past year) I am including a precis of what I wrote in the SRCY Newsletter for the year 2000:

There had been 12 bell practices at Stockton in the past, but these had stopped at a time when I began to get interested in doing more 12 bell ringing (because my family had grown up). At the same time, the number of Cumberlands in the north-east had grown, mostly thanks to Ron Warford and his recruitment drive. He asked about the possibility of a northern SRCY practice at the same time as I had decided to try to reinstate the Stockton 12 bell practices and the two ideas gelled and so the Northern SRCY practice was born.

The first practice was in April 1999 and I am grateful to all the people who have attended over the years and made this initiative such a success. After nearly 23 years of organising and running these practices it is definitely time for a change, but I will, of course, still be supporting my successor in any way I can.

Jennie Town

St Martin in the Fields



We entered 2020 optimistic that the St Martin's band would continue the recovery experienced in 2019, and hoping to extend our Sunday service repertoire to include more of the standard eight surprise major. After a strong start, with quarter peals of the standard eight spliced in January and Cambridge Surprise Major in March, the pandemic halted our progress and the bells fell silent.

Once restrictions had been eased we were able to ring seven bells whilst obeying the 'rule of six' on 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 (with one ringer double-handing 7 & 8 and one household on both 1 & 12). When we had got used to this we produced some very respectable touches of Minor with a cover.

In October 2020, the band's secretary sadly passed away following a short illness. The ongoing restrictions made it challenging to organise a peal in his memory. We also had to cancel a peal in memory of John Barnes and have as yet been unable to reorganise that attempt.

At the AGM in February 2021 Tim Forster stepped down as captain, Joe Waters took up the position, and Liz Hibbert formally became secretary, strengthening the band's links with the society.

2021 got off to a quiet start with only a single bell being rung for Sunday services until restrictions were relaxed enough for the band to ring together again. Since regular Sunday service ringing has been allowed to resume, attendance has fluctuated between 10 and 5. However, a good standard of ringing has been maintained despite the dwindling numbers. We hope that with support from the SRCY on a regular basis, the number of ringers at Sunday service ringing will steadily increase.

Peal ringing resumed in the latter half of 2021, with a peal of Orion Surprise Maximus being rung on the Society's AGM Day.

Christmas service ringing was well attended, and two Quarter Peals were rung with the support of the Kensington ringers. A good standard of ringing was produced, and it is hoped that Quarter Peals will become a regular addition to Sunday afternoons at St Martin's.

The relationships between the Society, the St Martin's band and the Church remain strong.

Tim Forster and Joe Waters

St Leonard Shoreditch



As with many towers, our ringing has been restricted over the past almost two years. However, the society has held practices during 2020 and 2021 and some peal ringing has taken place, including two further peals in 2019 not reported in the last newsletter, both of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. Four peals were rung during the early part of 2020 ahead of the lockdown, three on 12 and one on the front 8, and, since peal ringing resumed, three peals were rung during December 2021, two on the 12 and one on the front 8; one of the 12 bells peals was Jack Page's 1,000th peal.

The Church is now part of the Saint Church group, linked to St John at Hackney, and we welcome Al Gordon as Rector along with Naomi Maxwell and Toby Thomas as Lead Pastors. **The main morning service now starts at 10.00am which will hopefully lead to us being able to provide some service ringing, see pages 10-11 for more details.** Improvements have been completed to the church offices and toilets, and in the tower all four clock faces have been renewed. There have also been some changes to the access arrangements as a result of the installation of a new security system.

These changes have of course come after the retirement of Rev. Paul Turp. Many members will know Paul, who has given huge service to St Leonards Shoreditch, having been in post as vicar for 35 years, almost unheard of in this day and age. From day 1 he was a huge supporter of ringers and ringing. We wish Paul, one of our select group of Honorary Members, a long and happy retirement and congratulate him on his service to the church in general and St Leonards Shoreditch in particular.

During the latter part of 2021 Richard Hobbs stood down as Secretary due to a move to Northamptonshire. We all wish Richard well and thank him for all the work he has done in connection with the tower and bells over quite a number of years. I am happy to report that Michael Crockett, our Master, has now taken over these duties.

*Alan Regin
Steeplekeeper, St Leonards Shoreditch*

Christ Church Spitalfields



Like Shoreditch and most other places, ringing has been restricted at Christ Church over the past almost two years. The early part of 2020 saw three peals rung ahead of the lockdown and the only other ringing that took place during the year was the tolling of the tenor on 14 June 2020 72 times, in memory of the 72 that lost their life in the Grenfell Tower fire. The tenor was again tolled on 23 March 2021 as part of the Marie Curie National Day of Reflection and on both 10 April and 17 April 2021 in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Also, the Rev Andy Rider chimed one of the bells to ensure the Church was “heard” during the early part of lockdown.

During 2020 Rev Andy Rider and his wife Carol left Christ Church after a wonderful 17 years which saw the completion of the restoration of the church, Organ and crypt. Andy and Carol have been great supporters of ringing at Christ Church over all of those 17 years and Andy is one of our select group of Honorary Members. Andy has taken up the post of Dean of Mission for the Stepney area so is still in the area. We were very pleased to welcome Rev Darren Wolf as the new Rector of Christ Church. Darren is already a good friend to the ringers having been associated with the church since June 2014.

Since we have returned to ringing there has been one quarter peal, in November 2021, one peal, in December 2021, one society Practice, on 11 August 2021 and, of course, we were delighted to host the AGM of the Society on 2 October 2021. We have maintained service ringing on most first Sundays; the “local” group have been assisted by other SRCY members. We are looking to enhance this help, see pages 10-11 for more details.

*Alan Regin
Steeplekeeper, Christ Church Spitalfields.*

Service Ringing in London

Service ringing has been arranged at Christ Church Spitalfields on the first Sunday of each month over many years but finding the necessary ringers has been more of a challenge in recent times. The Service times at both Spitalfields and Shoreditch have recently changed, which has opened a window of opportunity for us to try and help with Sunday ringing at those two churches and help the band at St Martin in the Fields.

The plan is to see if we can provide ringers to ring at Shoreditch on the first Sunday of every odd month, and to assist the St Martin's band on the first Sunday of every even month and Spitalfields every month; this will look like this for the remainder of 2022:

03/04/2022

09.00am – 10.00am – St Martin in the Fields

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

01/05/2022

09.30am – 10.00am – Shoreditch

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

06/06/2022

09.00am – 10.00am – St Martin in the Fields

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

03/07/2022

09.30am – 10.00am – Shoreditch

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

07/08/2022

09.00am – 10.00am – St Martin in the Fields

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

04/09/2022

09.30am – 10.00am – Shoreditch

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

02/10/2022

09.00am – 10.00am – St Martin in the Fields

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

06/11/2022

09.30am – 10.00am – Shoreditch

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

04/12/2022

09.00am – 10.00am – St Martin in the Fields

10.30am – 11.00am – Spitalfields

It is appreciated that many ringers have local commitments, but if you could spare a Sunday morning every now and then or maybe on a London visit it would be very helpful. We could add you to a monthly circulation list to check availability or simply let Alan Regin aregin5040@gmail.com know you could be available.

*Michael Crockett – Shoreditch
Joe Waters – St Martin in the Fields
Alan Regin – Spitalfields*

Peals Summary 2020-2021

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021 99 peals were rung for the Society, 70 tower bell peals and 29 handbell peals. 3 of the peals were rung in Wales, one was rung in Scotland, one in USA and one was rung using simulated handbells on Ringing Room, with the participants located in Scotland and England. The remaining peals were rung in England. 185 members took part in peals. The most popular method was Bristol Surprise Major.

Leading Towers

St Magnus the Martyr 4 peals

Basingstoke All SS 3 peals

Leading Conductors

Tower Bell Peals

Alex Riley 4

Ian Roulstone 4

Benjamin Constant 3

Matthew Durham 3

Handbell Peals

Jack Page 21

Alex Riley 3

Leading Ringers

Jack Page 48

Adam Greenley 34

Daniel Page 34

Benjamin Constant 30

Michael Crockett 24

Luke Groom 21

Jimmy Yeoman 20

Claire Roulstone 19

Alex Riley 16

David Bath 16

Geographical Spread

Greater London 17

Berkshire 15

Hampshire 12

Surrey 6

Other 49

Methods

Doubles 1

Triples 1

Minor 18

Major 42

Caters 4

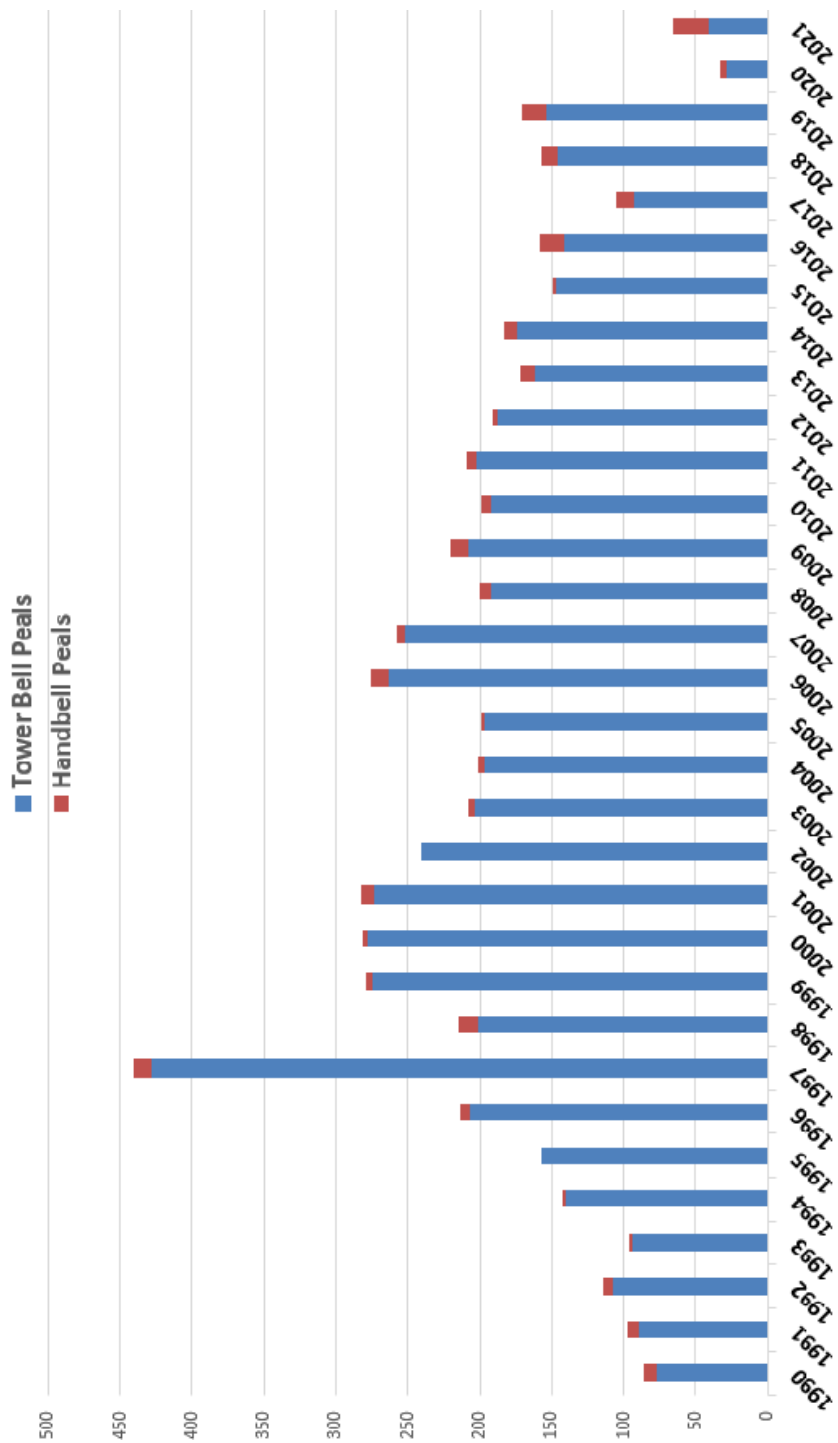
Royal 12

Cinques 4

Maximus 16

Cinques/Maximus 1

SRCY peals per calendar year



Society peals in history

250 Years Ago, 1771-72

8/12/1771	St Mary Whitechapel	6000 Reverse Bob Major	George Gross
22/4/1772	St John Hackney	5040 Reverse Bob Major	George Gross
1/12/1772	St Giles Cripplegate	5111 Grandsire Caters	George Gross

200 Years Ago, 1821-22

22/1/1821	St George in the East	5024 Oxford TB Major	George Gross Jnr
6/2/1821	St Mary Islington	6208 Oxford TB Major	George Gross Jnr
13/5/1821	SS Peter & Paul Mitcham	5120 Oxford TB Major	George Gross Jnr
12/6/1821	St Mary Croydon	5040 Grandsire Triples	Francis Mathew
12/6/1821	SS Peter & Paul Mitcham	5040 Grandsire Triples	Francis Mathew
11/3/1822	St George in the East	5040 Grandsire Triples	George Gross Jnr
15/12/1822	St Matthew Bethnal Green	5056 Oxford TB Major	George Gross Jnr

100 Years Ago, 1921-22

6/1/1921	St Martin in the Fields	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/B)	John D Matthews
5/2/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5088 Kent TB Maximus	John D Matthews
26/2/1921	St Anne Highgate	5040 Grandsire Triples	Thomas Newman
5/3/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5019 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
21/5/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5081 Grandsire Cinques	John D Matthews
2/7/1921	Christ Church Epsom Common	5024 DNCB Major	Alfred H Pulling
27/8/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5016 Plain Bob Maximus	Frank Smith
15/10/1921	St Botolph Northfleet	5088 DNCB Major	John H Cheesman
12/11/1921	All Saints Edmonton	5056 Superlative S Major	Edith K Parker
12/11/1921	St Anne Highgate	5024 DNCB Major	Edgar Wightman
24/11/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5005 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
3/12/1921	St Martin Epsom	5007 Stedman Caters	John D Matthews
10/12/1921	St Clement Danes	5079 Stedman Caters	John D Matthews
17/12/1921	St Anne Highgate	5040 Grandsire Triples	Frank Smith
17/12/1921	130 Clonmore Street	5040 Plain Bob Royal (H/B)	John D Matthews
7/1/1922	St Leonard Shoreditch	5007 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
25/3/1922	St Anne Highgate	5024 Kent TB Major	Frank Smith
22/4/1921	St Leonard Shoreditch	5007 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
1/5/1922	St John Wilton Road	5056 Cambridge S Major	John D Matthews
12/8/1922	St Leonard Shoreditch	5007 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
3/9/1922	Waterloo Tower Quex Park	5007 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
23/9/1922	St Mary Chatham	5024 DNCB Major	Edwin Barnett Snr

30/9/1922	St Michael Cornhill	5005 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
30/9/1922	All Saints Edmonton	5024 London S Major	James Parker
28/10/1922	St Clement Danes	5041 Stedman Caters	John D Matthews
16/12/1922	St Leonard Shoreditch	5088 Kent TB Maximus	John D Matthews

The peal at Cripplegate on 1 December 1772 had two ringers on the tenor, Samuel Mugeridge Jnr and Abraham Smith.

George Gross Jnr was the son of George Gross, the conductor of the 1771-2 peals

All five SRCY peals at Croydon between 1778 and 1827 are shown in the Society's Peal Book as having been rung at the church of St Mary. The 8 bells there and the church, apart from the tower, were destroyed by fire in 1867. Since then the bells have been replaced (twice) and the church has been rebuilt. Nowadays it is dedicated to St John the Baptist.

The peal at St George in the East on 11 March 1822 was rung by fathers and sons, Thomas Gross and George Gross Jnr on Treble and 2nd, John Merrin and Benjamin Merrin on 3rd and 4th, James Stichbury Jnr and James Stichbury Snr on 5th and 6th and Thomas Michael Jnr and Thomas Michael Snr on 7th and Tenor.



While most of the towers used for the peals of 100 years ago will be familiar to many ringers, the church tower and bells at St John the Evangelist Wilton Road, a John Warner & Sons ring of 8 cast in 1878, were seriously damaged by enemy action on 11/10/1940, and what remained of the building was pulled down a few years later; there were 24 peals rung there between 1879 and 1931. The bells that were at St Mary's Chatham are now hanging, as the back 8 of 10, at Gorran, Cornwall. Ringing the 6th at Chatham was one Herbert (Bert) E Audsley, Master of the Society in 1956, whom I met sometime in the mid 1980s.....

Alan Regin

Anniversaries of membership

70 years

Elected 1950: A John Hill ◦ John A Hilton ◦ Herbert M Heaton

Elected 1951: Eric Hotine ◦ John H Gilbert ◦ Peter Newing

60 years

Elected 1960: Margaret A Parker ◦ Jeffrey B Webb ◦ Derek E Sibson

Peter A Sharp ◦ James R Maple ◦ Joe E G Roast ◦ Alan R Syder

Celia F Hughes D'Aeth

Elected 1961: Penny Allen ◦ E Jane Sibson ◦ Avril Ivin

Raymond A Large ◦ Susan Threlfall ◦ Colin W Reed

50 years

Elected 1970: Shirley E Danby ◦ Sandra Dugid ◦ Roger I Kendrick

Jane Owen ◦ Lawrence R Pizzezy ◦ Andrew Swatton

Elected 1971: Derrick P Bailey ◦ Timothy D W Banner ◦ Dale Barton

Pam E Brock ◦ Christine M Carter ◦ David W Hacker ◦ Margaret M Horritt

Peter N Mackley ◦ Helen J Pettet ◦ Brenda P Redfearn ◦ David C Brookes

Mary Carveth ◦ Richard J Chantler ◦ Paul F Curtis ◦ Katherine S Hardy

Andrew C D Mayes ◦ Anne E Mayes ◦ John R Southey ◦ Kathleen Widdup

Clarissa J Caröe ◦ Peter Church ◦ Barry R M Johnson ◦ Adrian Knights

Felicity M R Mussell ◦ Josephine Patterson ◦ Diane Pickett

Geoffrey C Rix ◦ Sonia Rix ◦ Jacqueline Barlow ◦ John P Loveless

David Sloman ◦ Janet M Wilson

40 years

Elected 1980: Elizabeth Chapman ◦ Linda Drew ◦ Stephen A Elwell Sutton

Sarah B Ewbank ◦ Allison K Joiner ◦ David M Joyce ◦ Malcolm J Lodwick

Nicola A Marshall ◦ Philip F Pope ◦ Charlotte Smith ◦ Michael Foulds

Janet S Foulds ◦ Jane R Hedges ◦ Philip J Huxley ◦ Andrew J Mead

Caroline M Mitchell ◦ Peter D Storey ◦ Janet M Walters

Catherine J B Jack ◦ John Kleeman ◦ Christine Potter ◦ Julia V Taylor

Elected 1981: Elva R Ainsworth ◦ Sue Dyson ◦ Christopher H Enzor
Anne Franklin ◦ Lynn Fuller ◦ Christine R Hill ◦ Jane E Manley
Mark J Smith ◦ Ian W Blake ◦ Susan R Blake ◦ Gillian M Postill
Wendy Walters ◦ Michael G Whitby ◦ Paul A Cammiade ◦ Linda M Hyde
Jo Barton ◦ David J Garton ◦ Nicholas J H Small ◦ David G Thorne

25 years

Elected 1995: Alan L Andrews ◦ Heather Blacklock ◦ Geoffrey R Fielding
Catherina E Griffiths ◦ Josephine D Horton ◦ Tamsin M Kilgour
Philip H Larter ◦ Clare J Larter ◦ Caroline E Peverett ◦ Wendy Piercy
John D Sherwood ◦ Jason R Turnock ◦ Michael A Bishop
Anthony Crowther ◦ Maureen Cubitt ◦ Richard Sales ◦ Edna M Sullivan
L Miranda Buck ◦ John J Ford ◦ Reginald Gillard ◦ Nicholas C Watt
Philippa M Whittington ◦ Christina Brewster ◦ Barbara Davies
Jessica Durham ◦ Barry Hale ◦ Harry Poyner ◦ Doreen E Sanderson
Rachel J Storr ◦ Helen J Thompson ◦ Eileen J Butler ◦ Elaine M Hansen
Teresa L Harrison ◦ D Mark Hodgson ◦ Thomas W Holcombe
Carolyn D Perry ◦ Emma J Southerington ◦ Paul Robert Turp
Gregory T Woods

Elected 1996: Nicholas S Blyton ◦ Linda J Etherington ◦ Jennifer A Smith
Noel Anderson ◦ Andrea Beaumont ◦ Ian W Davies ◦ Ian P Hastilow
Katharine Howard ◦ Andrew J Jobson ◦ Duncan Purchase
Margaret H Ross ◦ Nicholas J Clarke ◦ Barbara E Connell
Charlotte Everett ◦ Sarah Morgan ◦ Rachel Page ◦ Stuart D Piper
Jacqueline L Walsh ◦ Melvyn J Blowfield ◦ John Goldthorpe
Lawrence J Haines ◦ Rachael L Peckham ◦ Nicola R Thomas
Emma Ashford ◦ Andrew J Cairns ◦ Janet Crispin ◦ David W Grimwood
Graham D Heath ◦ Alyson Kerr ◦ Stephanie A May ◦ Lee M McCormack
Alan C Moulton ◦ Christine Richardson ◦ Louisa Roughley ◦ Sylvia Semken
Bridget Smith ◦ David Spencer ◦ Jennifer A Town ◦ Jeff Tozer ◦ Sonia
Tucker ◦ Duncan G Walker ◦ Nigel R Woodruff ◦ Stephen J Bailey
Sarah Beukema ◦ Roger G Bull ◦ Jonathan H B Deane ◦ Karen White
Phillip Wilding ◦ Derek J Wilsden

Membership News

Welcome to the following new members, elected during 2020 and 2021:

8 July 2020 - Ian S Bennett

8 July-2020 - Sophie Elise Middleton

6 January 2021 - Ewan G A Hull

6 January 2021 - Rachel L Mahoney

6 January-2021 - Alexander S Riley

14 April 2021 - Leland P Kusmer

14 April 2021 - Bryn Marie Reinstadler

2 October 2021 - Christopher L D Munday

2 October 2021 - Oliver E Rice

2 October 2021 - Michael R A Shaw

Sadly we report the deaths of:

Helen M Diserens ◦ David Pickett ◦ T Mark White ◦ David G Salter

Kenneth R Ballou ◦ Freda D Belson ◦ A Barry Sullivan

Joy M Eldridge ◦ John M Kemp ◦ Allan A Paton ◦ Elizabeth Foster

Margaret E Goodyer ◦ Stella Knight ◦ Linda C Woodford

Thomas M Barlow ◦ Colin A Tester ◦ Valerie J Howard

W Emma S Cundiff ◦ Ian Smith ◦ Diana M Bridle

Michael J Edwards ◦ Sheila Edmondson ◦ Gillian Flitton

Mary Sales ◦ Alan J Munnings ◦ Ronald F Diserens

John F Oultram ◦ William A Brotherton ◦ Margaret A Bale

Bernard C Sadler ◦ Martin Morris ◦ Alan Baldock ◦ David J Gay

The London 12 Bell Competition

The London 12 Bell Competition for the Whitechapel Trophy was held on 23 October 2021 at St Mary le Bow. The SRCY band came 7th out of 10. Congratulations to the winners, St Paul's Cathedral.



The 2021 SRCY London 12 bell band, clockwise from front right:
*Jo Dorling Jack Page Jimmy Yeoman Shirley McGill Mary Holden Ian Mills
Geraldine Forster Michael Crockett Doug Beaumont Alan Regin Thomas Mack
Nick Brown*

Long Peals

Jack Page writes about the record handbell peals of Minor he rang in 2021 with brother Daniel and Alex Riley

On 24 November 2001, a band of SRCY all-stars rang a 10,000 of Nideggen Surprise Royal at St Thomas, Oxford. This was the 10th long length rung by the Society and the first since a Ladies' band rang a 10,560 of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus at Kingston-upon-Thames in 1984. As the ASCY continued to push the boundaries of long peal ringing for the first 2 decades of the new millennium, attempting ever more challenging and foolhardy ventures, 2001 would mark the end of long peal ringing for the Cumberlands. Until 2021. On 18 June, Daniel Page (who was not alive at the time of the previous SRCY long length), Alex Riley and Jack Page rang a 30,240 of Spliced Treble Dodging Minor in 212 methods. This was followed up by a 40,320 in 336 methods on 15 September. Both were the longest peals of spliced yet rung and the most methods rung 'all the work', the latter taking 14 hours and 47 minutes, featuring no repeated methods and 66 previously unringed methods.



Those who wish to know how the compositions for both were devised can read the articles published in the Ringing World. The foundation of both peals we rang was a 25,200 of 'whole course' spliced treble dodging minor in 210 methods, composed by John Warboys and first rung at Ston Easton in December 2019. All these methods featured 'above' and 'below' works from the 147 regular treble dodging minor methods (8 overworks and 15 underworks). Approximately 80 of these combinations were methods that produced irregular lead ends. Peter Ellis then sent us 3 new peal-length compositions featuring some new overworks, which we added onto the 25,200 to get to 40,320.

Considering nearly all of the methods consisted of pieces of work above and below the treble that we as a band had rung plenty of times before, the challenge became how to learn what the names 'mean'. 212 names is a lot to take in and, well, the ASCY band that rang the 25,200 in 2019

didn't bother. If a change of overwork was coming at the end of each course, it was announced early, giving people time to plan ahead, and further narrow down their options of what to ring below the treble. This removes 99% of the challenge of ringing spliced minor, where instant name-recall is where most of the fun comes from. We set ourselves the challenge of learning the names properly, and in both peals succeeded. Alex never really divulged how he memorised the names, perhaps to maintain the façade of being a tormented genius, but the members of the Page family embarked on their learning using the Helen McGregor technique. Anyone who has seen Helen ring 8-spliced with a different foot position for each method knows the premise - no matter how ridiculous or esoteric the rule is, if it works for you then go for it. Some of the rules included:

“Chichester and Gloucester are both Cathedrals containing uninspiring rings of bells, so those methods must be Wells/Durham below the treble.”

“The pivot bell in Ipswich-below methods passes the treble in 4-5, leads and then passes the treble in 4-5 again. This looks like a straight line on paper so Brad-POLE, RAMP-ton and Dearne VALLEY are all Ipswich below.”

When method names include ‘British Scholars’ Pleasure’, ‘Woodcock’s Victory’ and ‘Bangor’, naturally, a lot of the rules for name-association are far too risqué to describe here. If we say so ourselves, this worked very well for the first long peal, with only one minor learning aberration from the ringer of 1-2 in *Sleaford Surprise*. The challenge of adding 126 new names for a 40,320 came with the bonus that a lot of them had not been rung, giving us more control over our own learning. Methods with the same overwork could be named as groups, including Beaches on Alderney, Reading FC legends, and Teletubbies.

Besides learning names, ringing for upwards of 12 hours presented its own challenges. The peal speed never dropped below 1h50. The pace, and the fact that the method was changed every 3 minutes or so meant that falling asleep never really became an issue. However, for one member of the band, bladder control did eventually fail after around 12 hours. Fortunately, the chair I was sat on was very absorbent and my bedroom carpet was an off-white colour already...

Needless to say, the band was pleased to score both peals and bring to an end the drought of SRCY long lengths. Hopefully another 20 years will not elapse before the next one!

Not the Dinner Day

4 February 2020

On Saturday 4th February, I signed up to my first event organised by the society since I joined. After catching at overnight coach from Liverpool (I got an overnight coach back the next day!), I rang in two bands that scored peals of Stedman Triples and Bristol Maximus.



Although both were enjoyable peals to me, the later was an invaluable experience that I feel has significantly progressed my ringing ability, and has since enabled me to be a stronger ringer in local 12 bell practices to others learning the method. Despite that achievement, the highlight of the day was certainly the curry afterwards, which I think was worth going to regardless if you wanted to ring or not. Although this was not an event I initially was planning to partake in, I'm very glad I did and it will certainly encourage me to make the effort to join more society ringing.

Daniel Jarvis

The future's bright

The idea of an 'under 30s' SRCY peal of David Pipe's Classic 11 part Cyclic Six composition arose from, I believe, a discussion over a pint or three between Ed Mack and Jack Page at the 2021 Informal Dinner in September.

Without too much difficulty it was established that, on paper at least, the Society had a band of under 30s capable of ringing the composition. The only issue was one potential band member had a significant birthday a matter of weeks after said discussion (I wonder who that was?!). Nevertheless, in a feat of efficient organisation, Jack managed to assemble a band and arrange a tower in a matter of couple of weeks. We were all set for a one-shot attempt at St. Michael, Melbourne on Sunday 10 October.

Despite the pressure of only having one-shot at it, Melbourne being relatively unfamiliar bells for most and a few wedding reception/student night-out induced hangovers, we duly rang a very respectable peal in 3 hours 22 minutes.

Whilst there is much work to do, this peal represents a very healthy sign for the future of the Society. Indeed, on reflection, there were definitely a small number of other members under 30 who could have rung in this peal. It is also testament to the efforts of many longer-standing members in supporting the development of young talented ringers.



The band, clockwise from front right:

Rachel Mahoney Matthew Pearson Jack Page (Conductor) Ed Mack Jimmy Yeoman Alex Riley Luke Groom Michael Crockett Daniel Page Ewan Hull Jack Edwards Tom Mack

Tom Mack

Calendar 2022



Below is a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

26 March	National 12 Bell Eliminator	Bury St Edmunds
13 April	Business meeting	London
25 June	National 12 Bell Final	Guildford
7-9 July	Country meeting	Hillsborough
10 September	Formal dinner	London
1 October	AGM	London
22 October	London 12 Bell	TBC
19-20 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, Penelope Sharpe, at assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk.

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