



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Newsletter 2022



From the Master

It is my great pleasure to introduce the 2022 newsletter covering the Society's 275th anniversary year. The year got off to a strong start on 8 January with a peal in London of 147 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor rung silent and non-conducted – the first time this had been achieved on tower bells. This was closely followed by the return of Not the Dinner Day, after being quarantined the previous year with a good variety of peals as well as the usual social in the form of curry and beers on the Saturday evening.



One of the highlights of my year was the July Country Meeting in Royal Hillsborough, Northern Ireland. A thoroughly enjoyable long weekend of ringing, socialising and sightseeing “on my home turf” was coordinated by Simon Walker. As well as being a member of this Society, Simon is Tower Captain at Royal Hillsborough where the local band were celebrating the 250th anniversary of the casting of the pre-augmented back eight bells during 2022. This provided a mutual opportunity and cause for celebration in our respective anniversary years to come together and I’m very grateful to Simon for the organisation and to everyone who attended.

The formal 275th Anniversary Dinner was held on Saturday 10th September in the Ball Room of The Clermont Hotel on the Strand, just a stone’s throw from St Martin-in-the-Fields. I’d like to make a special thanks to all of the officers who were working hard to make this event happen but particularly to our Assistant Secretary, Penny whose

organising and negotiating skills were instrumental in the success of the evening. Thank you Penny!

The year was peppered with a number of what will become notable events in history which were duly marked by the Society. In February several peals were rung to mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II followed by several peals in June to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, including a peal at St Paul's Cathedral. In September, just two days before the Society's 275th Anniversary Dinner, Buckingham Palace announced the death of Her Majesty with somewhat of a déjà vu feeling for many from 25 years previously when the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales coincided with the Society's 250th Anniversary Dinner. This time all ringing went ahead and peals were scored to mark Her Late Majesty's death and peals to mark the Proclamation of the King.

A challenge to have 275 members ring a peal during 2022 to mark the 275th anniversary was set at the beginning of the year. We had hoped our November peal weekend would have seen this achievement and although we didn't quite make it, largely due to covid lingering and peal ringing not being back to what it was pre-pandemic, the Society was the 4th leading association during 2022 in terms of the number of peals rung. This was the highest the Society has ranked in 15 years, demonstrating the resilience of the Cumberlands despite the challenges in peal ringing throughout the wider ringing community.

The Society enjoyed an extremely pleasing year in both the National 12 Bell Contest, being placed 2nd in the final at Guildford Cathedral and also 2nd in the London 12 Bell Competition, at St Paul's Cathedral.

Some of the other more notable achievements for the Society during the year that I haven't already mentioned include a handbell peal of Cyclic Maximus and peals of Pipe's "Particles" composition on tower bells, both being a first for the Society.

On the eve of the anniversary dinner, I had the great pleasure of meeting at Shoreditch with eleven Past Masters and scoring the 1,000th towerbell peal for the Society in that tower.

On 24th November Linda Garton, David Sparling and John Loveless rang a handbell peal for the Society aboard the MS Roald Amundsen. This was the most southerly peal yet rung and the first peal in Antarctica. This was followed in a couple of weeks by a second peal for the Society onboard the ship while in the Beagle Channel strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago, South America making Linda and John the first people to ring a peal on every continent! Congratulations to all!

The Society was invited by the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers to ring a quarter peal at the Abbey to mark our 275th anniversary year; this was rung for All Saints' Day, with thanks to the Abbey Company for the invitation.

Throughout the year we were delighted to welcome our new members, most of whom have been actively ringing with the Society. We were saddened to mark the loss of members who had died during the year including Tom Page. Tom died on 20 April and was the Society's senior member having been elected in 1945. Tom was also the leading ringer, by quite some margin, in the span between his first and most recent peals. His last being a handbell peal for the Society just eight months before his death and 76 years 341 days after his first peal.

Practices continue weekly in London and as 2022 came to a close we were back to regularly ringing Avon and Orion as well as Zanussi and the other standard methods.

Monthly Northern practices continue in Stockton with my grateful thanks to both Jennie Town, who coordinated and ran these practices for many years and now to Kris King who has recently taken over from Jennie. A full report will be available later in this newsletter.

I'd like to close by thanking all of the officers for the work they put into the Society to make the anniversary year a success and to all the members who attended events and organised peals throughout the year. I very much look forward to 2023 and welcome and encourage all members to continue organising Society ringing and attending Society events.

Michael Crockett

SRCY Officers 2022-23



Master
Michael Crockett



Senior Steward
Jack Page



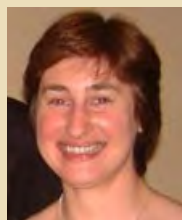
Junior Steward
Sam Cave



Hon Secretary
Joe Waters



Assistant Secretary
Penelope Sharpe



Hon Treasurer
Claire Roulstone



Librarian
Elizabeth Hibbert

Membership News

Welcome to the following new members, elected during 2022:

5 January - Gareth B R Jones, Hannah E L Read

13 April - Rachel C Wells, Roger A Barber, Lewis D Benfield

1 October - Charlotte C Sorell

Sadly we report the deaths of:

William Munton ◦ Audrey Allaway ◦ Trevor Cross ◦ Patricia Cross

Bruce Butler ◦ David Andrews ◦ Yvonne Porter ◦ Frank Blagrove

Jean Jeffery ◦ Pamela Latchford ◦ Tom Page ◦ William Exton

Margaret Chapman ◦ Joyce Dodds ◦ Kenmure Russell

2022 Country Meeting

9 July 2022



In our 275th year, Master Michael Crockett, not to be cautious with the location of the first Post-Covid Country meeting, chose to take the Society back to his motherland. Attendance at the meeting may have been lower than if it had been in Great Britain, however those who made the trip experienced a pleasant long weekend ringing some fine bells, and mostly avoiding the heatwave gripping the rest of the UK at the time.

Northern Ireland had been slower than much of the rest of the UK to come out of Covid restrictions and some towers were yet to resume ringing at the time the country meeting took place, which somewhat limited the choice of venues on occasion. However, peals were attempted at a variety of towers, including the 4 fine rings of 10. The round-the-clock availability of Greyabbey also proved incredibly useful, with 4 peals rung there over the weekend, featuring some carefully-chosen acrostics.

Keen beans met on Wednesday to ring a handbell peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, rung on Granny Jean's handbells. The bells had been acquired in the 1950s and were not in the best state of repair, perhaps foreshadowing some

of the towers visited later in the weekend. Fortunately, the band on this occasion were able to utilise some of the Crockett family's 'no nonsense lubricating oil' to loosen some stiff clappers.

In total 13 peals were rung over the weekend, in addition to two lost attempts – a band fought valiantly at Enniskillen against 10 new and very springy ropes and a still-engaged clock hammer before the indisposition of one member of the band brought the ringing to a premature conclusion. An afternoon attempt at Greyabbey was abandoned before starting due to some offensive moisture left in the tower by the morning band.

The Society then met on Saturday afternoon for general ringing and a business meeting at Hillsborough church, followed by a quiz and much socialising in the Hillside pub. Teams consisting of a mixture of aged wisdom and youthful ears, adept at interpreting the thickly-accented questions, proved to be the most successful combination and 'Jean Jeffery's Barmy Army' claimed their prize of a bottle of wine.

Thanks go to Michael for his expert organisation, and to the ringers throughout Northern Ireland, especially Simon Walker, for their friendly and local welcome. The Society's July country meeting in 2023 will be held in the Leicestershire area, hosted by Sally Brown and Luke Groom from 6th – 9th July.

Jack Page

Congratulations to

- Jack Page on ringing his 1000th peal
- Ian Roulstone on ringing his 2000th peal
- Paul and Ruth Curtis on ringing their 5000th peal together
- Derek and Jane Sibson who celebrated their Diamond Wedding
- Sally Schupke on her award of MBE
- Beryl Norris on ringing a peal on the 70th anniversary of her first peal. Beryl has now been ringing peals for longer than any other woman.

Around the Towers

Stockton on Tees



2022 - A New Year, a new regime!

The turn out at practices started pretty much as we left 2021 with numbers gently returning to pre-pandemic levels. The big change being Jennie's retirement - big shoes to fill! Those of us who are still around as well as many attendees over the years must thank Jennie for her commitment to the Stockton practice for the last 23 years. A huge thank you from everyone who has benefitted and developed their 12 bell ringing over this time - these practices have provided the opportunity to so many over this time, and have certainly helped to maintain and develop 12 bell ringing in the North East.

The practices continue to be a focus for 12 bell ringing 'Up North', covering the D&N and North Yorkshire, with a wide variety of ringing talent from the Society and beyond. We continue to nurture less experienced ringers who have made good progress throughout the year, many of whom have taken their first steps into Bristol Max. At the top of the repertoire we didn't progress past Bristol, mostly due to a lack of consistency of numbers attending. Numbers settled towards the end of the year and plans are underway to add methods during 2023.

In October we entered the Yorkshire White Rose competition at Leeds Minster. We used this as an opportunity for some of the less-experienced in the band to try their hand in an informal 12-bell competition. It was the first time some of the band had rung on the excellent but challenging bells at Leeds, and a first in 12-bell competition ringing for some. It was an excellent day, and we came a

respectable 5th place against some serious competition from Leeds and York.

We were very fortunate to benefit from a 'free transfer' from Bristol, and we welcome Ed & Ellie Mack after their relocation to North Yorkshire. Thanks for joining us! Thanks to everyone who supports the practices and I hope we can continue to develop the band in 2023.

Kristopher King

St Martin in the Fields

2022 has been a rather mixed year. Attendance for Sunday service ringing has not been ideal, with ringing mainly on the middle six, though also on the front and back eights when possible. However a good standard has been maintained. Two good quarter peals were rung on Sunday mornings in 2022, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Triples.

Ringing for Christmas services including Christmas Day was well attended. With the departure of myself, Patrick and Edmund, Sunday service ringing now faces further challenges. I would encourage ringers to attend Sunday service ringing. Thanks also to SRCY who have encouraged their members to join us when possible.

As usual there has also been ringing for special services, weddings and other special occasions - thanks Liz and Edmund for organising this.

The Platinum Jubilee was marked with a peal of 5070 Stedman Cinques by SRCY. The open ringing on the day of the pageant, which passed close to the Church, was well attended by band members and visitors. In stark contrast, early September saw the country in mourning for Her Late Majesty. The St Martin in the Fields Band of Bellringers marked this by tolling the day following the announcement, and by ringing during the journey of HLM's coffin from Buckingham



Palace to Westminster Hall for the laying in state and on the day of the funeral. All the ringing was of a fitting standard. Thanks again to Liz and Edmund for organising this, and finding 12 for the majority of occasions at short notice.

Two peals were rung, one for the Platinum Jubilee by SRCY, and one by ASCY for their Dinner Day. Unfortunately, during a peal attempt on SRCY AGM day, the tenor clapper failed. While we have spare tenor clappers, this is a continuing problem; the officers are looking into it.

As I step down, I would like to thank all those who have supported ringing at St Martin's for the many occasions, joyous and solemn, over the past year. I would also like to thank the clergy and staff of St Martin's for their ongoing support to myself and the band. They really are our greatest supporters and always show appreciation for any ringing that takes place.

St Martin's has been a large part of my life during my time in London, and it has been a great honour to have served as Captain. *Joe Waters*

Christ Church Spitalfields

I am pleased to say that ringing has continued at Spitalfields during the past year, not quite back to pre-pandemic levels but getting there.

We were able to toll the tenor to remember HM Queen Elizabeth II 96 times prior to the state funeral at Westminster Abbey and again, later in the day, 96 times, prior to the committal service at St George's Chapel Windsor; this was appreciated by many around the church.

We were pleased to welcome four outing bands. The Society held three practices and ringing was arranged for three weddings and a funeral. There were thirteen peals rung during the year; one of these, on 24/05/2022 was of Whitechapel Road Surprise Major rung for the



opening of the new Elizabeth line. The method rung appears on a plaque at Whitechapel station explaining the local connection with bells and that the blue line for Whitechapel Road Surprise Major has been abstracted and translated into dots on the concrete panels which surround the Durward Street shaft. Christ Church Spitalfields is about 50m south of the westbound Elizabeth line tunnel (which is approximately 30m below street level between Liverpool Street and Whitechapel stations). The peal rung on 23/09/2022, Bristol Surprise Major, was rung exactly 50 years after the first peal on the current Spitalfields bells, using a composition by Stanley Jenner, as was the first peal. Ringing in both peals was James M. Hills! Graham A. (Ben) Duke was unable to take part on the day but is very firmly associated with the peal.

We are very grateful to Rev Darren Wolf, Rector of Christ Church, and the staff, who keenly support the ringing of "their" bells.

We have maintained service ringing on most first Sundays; the "local" group have been assisted by other SRCY members but this is becoming increasingly challenging and if anybody is able to help with this ringing it would be very much appreciated - do let me know.

Alan Regin, Steeplekeeper, Christ Church Spitalfields

St Leonard Shoreditch

During 2022 we saw 38 various ringing occasions at Shoreditch with ten peals scored on the bells, seven of which were for the Society, two for 'the other society' and one other. The other was rung for The Seahorse Society which was the first non-laminated peal of PAZORABS, in which six members of the Cumberlands took part.

On Friday 9 September the Master met with eleven Past Masters and scored a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, rung half muffled to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This



was on the eve of the Society's 275th Anniversary Dinner and was the 1,000th towerbell peal for the Society in Shoreditch.



The Past Masters peal band

A further three handbell peals were scored for the Society on the handbells in the ringing room.

One quarter peal was rung by a visiting band and we also welcomed outings from the Melbourne, Oxford, Southwark Cathedral, Sussex and St John at Hackney bands as well as the ASCY's UK22 tour where the tower keys had an exciting trip to the United States before safely making it back to East London! We also rang for two weddings and continue to enjoy a healthy relationship with the church, providing ringing when requested with grateful thanks to all of those who have rung and supported when requested.

Michael Crockett, Secretary

Service Ringing in London

- St Martin-in-the-Fields 09:00 - 10:00
- Spitalfields 10:30 - 11:00 (First Sunday only). Please let Alan Regin, aregin5040@gmail.com, know if you are planning on being there
- Clerkenwell approx 12:15 (Second Sunday only - ringing after morning service)

St James Clerkenwell

Sunday ringing continues to take place once a month and has resumed very positively after the lockdown pause. Eight bells have been rung on all occasions with methods including Grandsire Triples and eight spliced Surprise Major.

Professional maintenance was carried out in April 2021 and no major problems were identified.

There have also been some occasions where visiting bands have been welcomed, and the bells were rung for one wedding. The church people were delighted when a quarter peal of Jubilee Surprise major was rung in June 2022. On the sad announcement of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, a Past Master of the Society tolled the tenor to mark the occasion and a half-muffled quarter peal was rung. We look forward to maintaining the Sunday ringing commitment in 2023.



St Andrew Holborn

The major building works at St Andrew's were completed in 2019 and the church is now a popular venue for special events. As a Guild Church there is no Church of England worship here on a Sunday and the church is closed on a Saturday. Some weekends the church acts as host for the Orthodox Parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God.



However there are regular weekday services and we have been invited to ring for some of these service about once a month. Arrangements for access have also become more flexible and visiting bands have been welcomed. The Society held one practice at St Andrew's in 2022 and it is planned that another one will take place in 2023.

Stephanie Pattenden

The London 12 Bell Competition

The London 12 Bell Competition for the Whitechapel Trophy was held on 22 October 2022 at St Paul's Cathedral. The SRCY band came 2nd out of 10.



The 2022 SRCY London 12 bell band, clockwise from front right: Shirley McGill, Geraldine Forster, David Bath, Jack Page, Ian Mills, Mary Holden, Ruth Corney, Benjamin Constant, Douglas Beaumont, Nick Brown, Tom Mack, Sam Cave.

No matter how many times I ring at St Paul's there is still something about ringing there that makes me nervous, so I approached the London 12 bell this year with a certain sense of trepidation, mixed with some relief that I'd recovered from a bout of Covid in time to actually take part. Unfortunately Michael was unable to ring at short notice, so many thanks to Nick Brown for stepping in. We were drawn to ring 7th, which meant those of us not ringing for another team had plenty of time to make the most of the free entry to the Cathedral for those attending the competition.

We had been happy with our ringing at our practice at St Paul's a couple of weeks earlier, however our short practice piece on the day of the competition did not go to plan! We were able to put that behind us and produced what we felt was a solid piece of ringing in the test piece, then it was off to the pub.

The results were given by chief judge Chris Kippin in the pub, much

to the bemusement of the few non-ringers who were enjoying a quiet drink! He didn't have much to say about our ringing, so it was difficult to have an idea from the comments where we might be placed. As the results were given in reverse order, we were very pleased to find we had beaten the bands from St Paul's and finished in a very creditable second place. Congratulations to the ASCY on their win.

Mary Holden

National 12 Bell Contest

Our 2022 eliminator was at Bury St Edmunds where we came second behind Birmingham with 78%. These placings were repeated at the final at Guildford Cathedral on 25 June. Birmingham won with 93% and SRCY were second with 86%.



The 2022 SRCY National 12 bell band, clockwise from front right: Shirley McGill, Geraldine Forster, Jack Page, David Bath, Ian Mills, Mary Holden, Ruth Corney, Michael Crockett, Nicholas Hagggett, Douglas Beaumont, Claire Roulstone, Tom Mack.

Not the Dinner Day

5 February 2022



After what seemed a very long time, with the dastardly corona virus finally having settled down again after its mercifully brief winter encore, for the first time in two years the infamous “Not the Dinner Day” was once again hosted in London. The traditional and much-loved format of morning and afternoon peal attempts, followed by a

delectable curry and socialising was indulged in by around 35 members, including several of the society’s younger ringers.

Three out of the five attempts were scored which included the standard 41 spliced surprise minor and two peals of Bristol, one being of major at Spitalfields and the other of Royal at Kensington. Unfortunately, both morning peal attempts came to grief. Nonetheless, it proved to be a great day to catch up with other society members and it was worth my early start from Birmingham.

My thanks go out to the officers for their superb organisational skills for putting together another great day.

Jimmy Yeoman

From Your Librarian

The Society's Library is housed in three places:

- St Martin-in-the-Fields: bound copies of The Ringing World, Bell News and facsimiles of the Society's Peal Books
- Christ Church, Spitalfields: books and other documents
- The Metropolitan Archives: the Society's original peal books going back to the foundation of the Society.

In September/October 2022, a complete physical verification of the library held at SMITF and Spitalfields was carried out. I am very grateful to Jo Dorling for help in checking the books and documents held at Spitalfields and for arranging access with the church authorities. The Metropolitan Archive confirmed the books they are holding by email.

The Library contains bound copies of The Ringing World up to and including 2020. We are seeking donors for 2021 and 2022. **If you are willing to donate copies for these years, please let me know.** The Society will arrange for them to be bound. Looking to the future, we may have to consider means of storage other than hard copy and the officers will keep this under review.

Elizabeth Hibbert

Peal weekend 2022

18-21 November 2022

Fortunately the third weekend of November 2022 was unaffected by “Government restrictions” or transport strikes, so the Society’s annual Peal Weekend could go ahead as usual.

2022 being the Society’s 275th anniversary year, the Master’s overall aim was to have 275 individual members ring at least one peal during the year. Peal weekend seemed to give that ambition a considerable boost, with 152 members taking part. For those of us interested in statistics, there were 26 attempts across the weekend, of which 22 (19 on tower bells and 3 on handbells) were successful. The peals were rung in 19 different towers, and 18 different methods were rung, ranging from Surprise Minor to Surprise Maximus, as well as some peals of spliced.

Thanks to all of the organisers and those members who took part, and to the Senior Steward, Jack Page, for co-ordinating the weekend.

29 November 2023 marks the fortieth anniversary of the first peal of Norman Smith’s composition of 23 Spliced Surprise Major for the Society – something to consider for 2023 peal weekend perhaps?

David Bath

Peals Summary 2022

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 127 peals were rung for the Society, 103 tower bell peals and 24 handbell peals. One of the peals was rung in the USA, two were rung in Scotland, two were rung on board a ship, three were rung in the Channel Islands and there were 12 in Northern Ireland. The remaining peals were rung in England. 224 members took part in peals. The most popular methods (6 peals of each) were Bristol Surprise Major, Yorkshire Surprise Major and Stedman Cinques.

Leading Towers

Shoreditch	10 peals
(one was a handbell peal)	

Farnborough	4 peals
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Spitalfields	4 peals
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Leading Conductors

Tower Bell Peals

Jack Page	42
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Alex Riley	6
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Luke Groom	5
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Handbell Peals

Jack Page	12
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John Loveless	3
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Leading Ringers

Jack Page	76
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Daniel Page	43
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Michael Crockett	38
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Adam Greenley	34
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Benjamin Constant	33
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Claire Roulstone	29
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Alan Regin	29
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Luke Groom	28
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Geographical Spread

Greater London	31
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Hampshire	16
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Northern Ireland	12
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Berkshire	10
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Other	58
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Methods

Minor	24
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Triples	2
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Major	38
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Caters	3
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Royal	29
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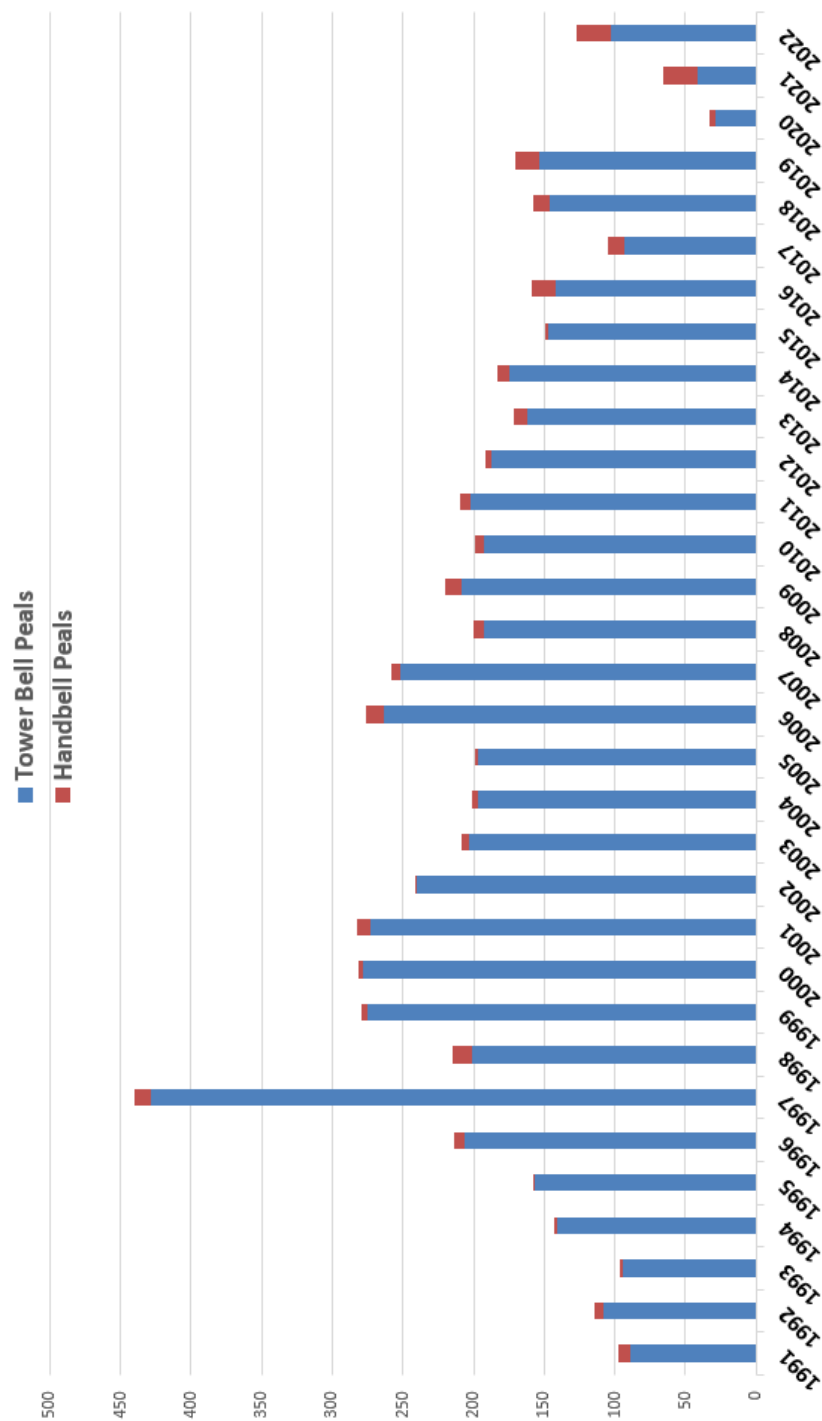
Cinques	6
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Maximus	21
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Triples/Major	1
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Cinques/Maximus	3
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SRCY peals per calendar year



Society peals in history

250 Years Ago, 1773

21/3/1773	St Mary Abbots Kensington	5040 Plain Bob Major	George Gross
24/4/1773	St Leonard Shoreditch	5039 Grandsire Caters	George Gross
1/6/1773	All Saints Gravesend	5152 Plain Bob Major	George Gross
25/9/1773	SS Peter & Paul Bromley	5184 Oxford TB Major	George Gross
11/10/1773	St George Southwark	5072 Cumberland Grandsire Major	George Gross
13/11/1773	St Leonard Shoreditch	7001 Grandsire Caters	George Gross

200 Years Ago, 1823

19/5/1823	St Leonard Shoreditch	5213 Grandsire Cinques	George Gross Jnr
3/7/1823	All Saints Poplar	5094 Grandsire Caters	George Gross Jnr

100 Years Ago, 1923

10/02/1923	All Saints Edmonton	5024 Bristol S Major	James Parker
17/02/1923	Christ Church Southgate	5019 Stedman Caters	Edith K Parker
03/03/1923	St Leonard Shoreditch	5021 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
10/03/1923	St Anne Highgate	5056 Kent TB Major	Frank Smith
16/06/1923	All Saints Edmonton	5040 Stedman Triples	James Parker
16/06/1923	SS Peter & Paul Swanscombe	5040 Stedman Triples	John H Cheesman
04/08/1923	St Leonard Shoreditch	5011 Stedman Cinques	Frank Smith
15/08/1923	St Botolph Northfleet	5008 DNCB Major	John H Cheesman
31/08/1923	In a Railway Train	5056 Plain Bob Major (H/B)	John D Matthews
01/09/1923	St Mary the Virgin Painswick	5013 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
22/10/1923	St Anne Highgate	5024 DNCB Major	Frank Smith
08/12/1923	St Giles Ashtead	5056 Superlative S Major	Alfred H Pulling
10/12/1923	St John Wilton Road	5040 Stedman Triples	John D Matthews
22/12/1923	St Leonard Shoreditch	5015 Stedman Cinques	John D Matthews
29/12/1923	St Anne Highgate	5040 Grandsire Triples	Frank Smith
31/12/1923	Holy Trinity Guildford	5088 Superlative S Major	Alfred H Pulling

The first peal rung by the society in 1773 was at St Mary Abbots Kensington which was the first peal ever rung there. Of course this was rung in the previous tower, two people ringing the tenor, George Gross and George Fleuri (sometimes spelt Fleury) - the Society also rang the last peal in the old tower, 24/06/1869, Grandsire Triples, and the first peal in the new tower 18/01/1882, Stedman Caters - five of the bells still in the tower today, cast in 1772, would have been used for all three of those peals. The peal rung at St George the Martyr Southwark is shown in the peal book as "Cumberland Grandsire Eight in" but does

appear to have been what we know today as Grandsire Major and was in fact the first peal ever rung of that. The final peal in 1773 was a significant length, 7,001 changes, Grandsire Caters, and took 4 hours and 52 minutes to complete.

The peal of Grandsire Cinques at Shoreditch on 19/05/1823 mentions “being the first on the bells”, it appears that two new trebles were cast around 1807 to augment the bells to 12 but they were replaced in 1823 and I believe the footnote refers to the two “new” trebles.

The peal at Southgate on 17/02/1923 was the 100th tower bell peal rung by the conductor, Edith K. Parker.

A very interesting handbell peal was rung on 31/08/1923, Plain Bob Major, as you can see it was rung on a train, said to be the first on a train. It started shortly after leaving Paddington and was completed after passing through Stroud, rung in six counties, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. I guess it was a compartment train and I hope that the witness, Frank Smith, managed the ticket inspection..... The band and others were travelling to ring a peal at Painswick the next day; that was also successful. The peal at Highgate on 22/10/1923 was rung as a wedding compliment to two Society members, Cecil J Matthews, son of John D Matthews, and Miss Kitty Smith, daughter of the conductor of the peal, Frank Smith. The final peal for the Society in 1923, at Holy Trinity Guildford, was the 300th tower bell peal for the conductor, Alfred H. Pulling. *Alan Regis*

1304

In a Railway Train

On Friday Aug. 31st 1923 in 2 hrs 22 min.

A PEAL OF

Bob Major

5056 CHANGES

JOHN SPARROW	1-2
JOHN D. MATTHEWS	3-4
CECIL J. MATTHEWS	5-6
THOMAS NEWMAN	7-8

COMPOSED BY F. BENNETT

CONDUCTED BY J. D. MATTHEWS

THE PEAL WAS COMMENCED AT 8 PM. ON LEAVING PADDINGTON AND WAS COMPLETED AFTER PASSING THROUGH STRAID, HAVING BEEN RUNG IN THE 6 COUNTIES OF MIDDLESEX, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE, WILTSHIRE, AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE. IT IS THE 100th PEAL RUNG IN A RAILWAY TRAIN. MY EIGHTH HAD THE TREBLES OF THE PEAL WHICH WAS HEARD BY THE WHOLE PARTY WAITING TO DEPART.

Anniversaries of membership

70 years

Elected 1952:

John Boutland ◦ Betty Daysh ◦ Audrey L Harrison
John Schofield ◦ Mary Hill ◦ S Kathleen M Baldwin

60 years

Elected 1962:

Ann Jenner ◦ Rachel Lewis ◦ Lucile Corby ◦ Brenda Davies
Michael G R Zobel

50 years

Elected 1972:

Elisabeth A G Bowden ◦ Joyce Clark ◦ Stephen Crawley
Cecile Cross ◦ Philip Day ◦ Margaret A Edwards
Cynthia E Howell ◦ Michael H Johnson ◦ Richard C Offen ◦
Christopher Renyard ◦ Margaret Sherwood
Elizabeth Thornton ◦ Marjorie B Winter ◦ Adrial Walton
Margaret Warford ◦ Joyce J Barton ◦ Colin D Baugh
Anthea Butt ◦ Richard J Cann ◦ Keith I Davis ◦ Derek J Jones
Karol J Leeves ◦ Alastair D Macfadyen ◦ Christine Mills
Ian North ◦ Anne Potter ◦ Michael T Stimson ◦ Sue Stimson
Dudley Surman ◦ Jennifer M Taylor ◦ John Atkinson
Peter G Bellamy-Knights ◦ Jennifer M Christian
Peter Dyson ◦ Susan A Faull ◦ Vivienne Johnson ◦
Christopher J Jones ◦ Allan A Paton

40 years

Elected 1982:

Janet Dew ◦ Stephen V J Bounds ◦ Ivan R Howitt ◦ Jill Joyce
Elizabeth Kenrick ◦ Anne C Orme ◦ Keith A F Record
Ian Roulstone ◦ Susan C Barnes ◦ Alison L Brooke
Timothy Jones ◦ Penny Lowen ◦ Ann M Saunders
Christine C L Seaman ◦ Janice Taylor ◦ Ian G Mills
Philip A L Rioch

25 years

Elected 1997:

Mark E R Gill ◦ Richard C L Brown ◦ Barry R Care
Stephen J Day ◦ Patricia M Newton ◦ Katherine M A Probert
Louise R Whitehead ◦ Jean Barnes ◦ Wendy Belsey
Hugh N Lawrance ◦ Simon Ogier ◦ Alison A Willgress
Peter J Wycherley ◦ Teresa J Brown ◦ C J Cantwell
Elizabeth J Cranfield ◦ Brian Heys ◦ Janet M Jones
Clifford Nicholls ◦ Richard Parsons ◦ David Porter
Douglas A Bell ◦ Geoffrey M Brewin ◦ Kate E Coldrick
Tim Hart ◦ Adam J Jenkins ◦ Pauline C McKenzie
Paul R Meyer ◦ Alice Robertson ◦ Ian N Robinson
Penelope J V Sharpe ◦ Timothy P T Soanes ◦ Rebecca Tozer
Andrew A Ward ◦ Benjamin D Constant ◦ Joanne R Holden ◦
Michael H Tompsett ◦ June D Wells ◦ Pamela M White

275th Anniversary Dinner

10 September 2022



In normal times, the SRCY's grandest social engagement is a triennial event. However, as all of us are only too aware, we have not been living in 'normal' times, and so it was with a great deal of anticipation that members, friends, and guests gathered in the Ballroom of The Clermont, Charing Cross, for the first time since 2018.

In the days leading up to the dinner several peals had been rung, including some notable firsts for the Society and some of its members. It was, in fact, during one of these peals that the sad news of





the Queen Elizabeth's declining health became public. Following the announcement of the Queen's passing the officers did sterling work to maintain the programme of ringing, the dinner itself, and ensure the Society paid its respects to the late monarch.

Upon arrival at The Clermont we were greeted with a generous amount of pre-dinner

champagne, or orange juice if such a thing were required, and an extremely convivial atmosphere as friends from all over the globe came together. Once seated in the grand ballroom we were treated to some very fine cuisine, and memorable speeches from Nick Holtam (Bishop Emeritus of Salisbury, former Vicar of St Martin in the Fields and an honorary member of the Society), Linda Garton and SRCY Master Michael Crockett.



As ever, Penny Sharpe had done a fantastic job in organising the dinner and the only slight downside to the evening was not of her making; who could have guessed that such an establishment as The Clermont would own not a single pint glass and that we would be forced to enjoy the Brewer's Gold in halves!

Following the conclusion of the formal part of the evening the jollification continued at a suitable late-night venue. Much of that section of the evening is probably unprintable although the sight of an extremely stylish young man in a tuxedo sipping a Jägerbomb as his choice of digestif will live long in my memory. Here's to 2025... *Sam Cave*

New Technology for Meetings

COVID-19 and rail strikes have made the Society's usual in-person meetings difficult for several years. As a result, many meetings have been held virtually, with each participant typically connecting using a laptop computer or its equivalent. While this could be disruptive, it created an opportunity for the many members for whom travel to London is difficult to take part in meetings.

In time, the pressures subsided and in-person meetings were able to resume, but many members distant from London still wanted to be able to attend meetings remotely. So a hybrid meeting, where some of the attendees gather in person and others join remotely, was considered. Unfortunately this is far more difficult to manage than an all-virtual meeting. Among the problems are:

- Computer manufacturers typically include cameras, microphones and speakers of a sort intended only for use by a single person sitting right in front of the machine, or at most two or three huddled together right in front of it.
- Cloud based video conferencing systems, such as Zoom, only know how to switch between individual laptops. They cannot adjust cameras and microphones to accommodate individuals speaking from different angles and distances.

Until recently the only way to deal with this has been to have a lot of complicated, expensive hardware at the site of the meeting and connected together, along with an expert at using it running things. This would have been beyond the means of the Society.

However, we're not the only ones dealing with this genie having escaped its bottle; many businesses are confronting similar problems and need to hold hybrid meetings. So a number of firms have been creating new hardware solutions to try to address this need, and some of them can be purchased for little more than £1,000.

A dozen members resident in North America who had become addicted to attending meetings remotely agreed to pool their resources to buy and donate such a device, if the Society's officers decided it would make hybrid meetings practical.



The officers obtained on loan an Owl Pro, probably the most popular such device, and tried it out for the January meeting. While not flawless, things seemed to go well, and the officers decided it was worth purchasing and using for future hybrid meetings.



Owl Pro

The Owl Pro has a 360 degree camera that can “see” the entire room around it, and software that helps it zoom in on the individual in the room who is currently speaking. The complete system also has multiple microphones, with software that can adjust their sensitivity to the distance away of the person speaking, and multiple loudspeakers able to direct sound throughout the room without causing the dreaded squeal of audio feedback. The creators of the Owl have endeavoured to make it easy to configure, largely just requiring it to connect to a laptop. Then Zoom, or whatever conferencing system is in use, can be configured to use the Owl as its camera, microphone and speaker.

While not perfect, it does a reasonably good job. Perhaps the most common difficulty is that it can be a little over sensitive when it decides who is speaking, and momentarily shift its attention to the attendee who just coughed. Fortunately the software in the Owl can be overridden by a remote control, typically running in the mobile phone of a meeting’s organiser, so that the software does attempt to learn over time how it is being used, and may improve. And, it being software, it is upgraded as the manufacturer, Owl Labs, learns how to do things better. Of course, over time, those running the meetings will learn how best to organise them to take advantage of the technology and run the most effective hybrid meetings. While the goal remains to have as many members as possible attending meetings in person, it is wonderful to be able to augment that attendance with some of the many members who are unable to travel to London.

Don Morrison

Calendar 2023



Below is a list of upcoming dates for your diary:

25 March	National 12 Bell Eliminator	Melbourne
13 May	Business meeting	London
24 June	National 12 Bell Final	Sheffield
6-8 July	Country meeting	Loughborough
9 September	Informal dinner	London
7 October	AGM	London
21 October	London 12 Bell	St Magnus the Martyr
18-19 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.

The SRCY Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded from the SRCY website by anyone. Members on the newsletter mailing list receive printed copies. To have your name added to the list please email assistant.secretary@srcy.org.uk or write to Penelope Sharpe, SRCY Assistant Secretary, 21 Baring Road, Lee, London SE12 0JP. 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 are on the members' area of the web site (<https://srcy.org.uk/members/payment.php>), or you can get them from Claire at treasurer@srcy.org.uk.

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