



# ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

SPRING 2000

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*The Top Tables immediately before the Society's March Business Meeting. Left to right, Stan Mason (Trustee), John White (Immediate Past Master), Chris Pickford (Junior Steward), Phil Rogers (Secretary), Paul Carless (Master), Andrew Stubbs (Treasurer), Paul Mounsey (Senior Steward), Rodney Meadows (Trustee), Jim Phillips (Librarian).*

Welcome to the 2000 Newsletter. I hope that members will find the contents interesting and stimulating.

The Society has made much progress over the last year. The main challenge confronting the officers and other members has been how to implement the rapid change and more open culture voted for in 1998 without damaging the essential character of the Society.

We realised early on that instant, revolutionary change was neither necessary nor desirable. We did, however, immediately reverse the Decision preventing women non-members from attending our Business Meetings and the Rule requiring members of the Cumberlands to wait at least 1 year after leaving that Society before they could be proposed for membership.

Other changes have been more subtle. The Society's practice is in many ways the heart of our ringing activities in London. It is pleasing to be able to report that, after a period when we were wondering whether a weekly practice could be sustained, we are now considering whether we need more special practices to cope with the numbers. With one exception, there has been a minimum of 25 members attending each weekly practice this year. Meeting attendances are also up, the average now being over 50 members.

We are electing more London ringers as members than for some time, adding to the quantity and

the quality of our Tuesday night regulars. We could, however, do with more proposals from outside London. Some areas have been very active in recruiting members but we are seeing virtually no-one being proposed from some traditionally strong CY areas.

As part of a move to a more open culture, the Society is increasing its communication with members and others. During the year our Web Site was established and members who have not yet done so are urged to visit it on [www.ascy.org.uk](http://www.ascy.org.uk). The site was designed and is maintained by Dickon Love and I think it is generally agreed that he has done an excellent job. A further service for members with Email is being introduced later this year. This will be used to communicate news without duplicating other information channels. Hopefully, members with Email will pass on the information to others in their area.

The year has been a busy one in terms of our regular activities. In June we held a superb Country Meeting in Norwich, the sun shining from start to finish. The towers were organised by Neil Thomas and other local members and we enjoyed a dinner at the Swallow Nelson Hotel at which almost 60 members and their guests were present. Two peals were also rung during the course of the weekend, at Yarmouth and St Peter Mancroft.

In August, we dedicated a plaque at Brereton Church in memory of William, 2nd Lord Brereton, first Master of the Society. We are developing close links with Brereton and in 2001 have been invited to ring a peal on the 5 bells on the occasion of the Grand Brereton Family Reunion when Breretons from around the world will be descending on the village. Tony Kench has written an article on the Brereton connection, please see pages 8 to 9.

The 362nd Anniversary Dinner was again held in Chartered Accountants' Hall in London. It was the first time that we had opened the event to members and their lady and gentleman guests. The objective was to allow this change to take place without spoiling the character of the occasion and the majority feeling seemed to be that this was achieved. We were particularly lucky with our speakers, especially our clerical guests, Victor Stock, Rector of St. Mary-le-Bow, who regaled us with stories of his Tower Captain, Mark Regan, and Canon Lucy Winkett of St. Paul's (a self-confessed "small weapon of mass destruction") who proved once again that it is quality not quantity which counts. During the evening our former Secretary, Tony Kench, was presented with an engraved silver tankard made in 1937 (the Society's tercentenary). Donations by members raised over £500, a tribute to Tony's achievements. Also on Dinner Day, we dedicated a Peal Board to commemorate the 12,675 Stedman Cinques rung by the Society at Southwark in May 1998.

Shortly after the Dinner a very special event occurred, John H Crampion's 70th anniversary of joining the Society. A social occasion preceded by ringing was held in London and Jack entertained everyone there afterwards by his memories of the Society over the years. Jack has not been too well lately but we hear that he is now recovering and send him our very best wishes. Remarkably, another member, Walter Trueman, also celebrated 70 years' membership in 1999. Walter retains an active interest in the Society despite being well into his 10th decade.

Throughout the year, David Hilling has been selling Oranges and Lemons prints for the Society's Bell Fund. It has to be said, that there was some cynicism when the project was first announced but it has turned into a triumph. The full story is on pages 10 and 11.

In ringing terms, there have not been the spectacular achievements of last year. No striking contest victories (even St. Buryan eluded us this year) or long peals. The Society is, however, making progress in a more fundamental, if quieter, way. The success of the practice has already been referred to. The number of peals is increasing. The total for last year was well up on the previous year and numbers are continuing to rise. Peal Day was more successful and we hope to do better still this year. Local member practices have been held in Cornwall and Bradford. It would be nice to have more local area practices but we need members to take on the organisation.

The Society's work of bell restoration continues. 1999 saw the restoration of the ringing room ceiling, decoration of the ringing room and installation of sound

control at Cornhill, the latter at the expense of the church. At St. Giles, Cripplegate more effective sound control has been installed by the Society and peals at this tower are now possible again. This year, the Cathedral authorities at St. Paul's are carrying out a major restoration of the bells paid for by the Friends of St. Paul's which will put the tower out of action for about four months following a Society peal on 4 August planned to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday.

Along the way there have been many sadnesses with the loss of old friends. It is always difficult to single out individuals but the loss of Ken Hesketh in his prime came as a particular shock. George Pipe has penned a moving tribute on page 5. Earlier this year we lost Tom Fox, the Society's senior Past Master, who died on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Mention must be made of John White, who led us so well during 1998/9. Much of the achievement in this period has been down to John's quiet but friendly approach to the job, treating everyone as an equal. He has handed the baton over to Paul Carless who has continued to build on John's achievements.

Stronger practices, more peals being rung, more new members, coupled with the retention of the Society's core values of good ringing and good social occasions. The Society is moving forward but there is a lot more that we could do. We should seek to involve as many members as possible in Peal Day. We should all be on the lookout for suitable people to introduce to the Society (if we all found 1 new member, think of the impact on membership). Potential members do not have to be able to ring Bristol Maximus, although we do look for people with a good grounding in ringing and potential to develop. It would be nice to sell out the Dinner (55 more people required than last year). We could hold more events outside London. The Officers will do what they can but we need your help if we are to make the Society what we all want it to be, the premier national and international ringing society.

Good ringing, and I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at our events over the coming year.

*Phil Rogers*



*No peal of bells, but a magnificent building. Norwich Cathedral formed the backdrop to the Society's Country Meeting in June.*

## Master's Report

I have been reflecting recently upon the health and fortunes of the Society, and the changes it has undergone in the past few years. A useful indicator of the health of the Society is the level of activity of its members. There are two particular areas of activity that have stood out to me this year. First, is the number of peals that the Society is attempting, all round the country. We have seen at the monthly business meetings in London, a very substantial increase in peal attempts. Not very long ago we would see 5 or 6 a month; now we are seeing 12-15 every month, from all over the country. Members are organising their own activities without being part of established bands, and this has to be encouraged. More on this theme later.

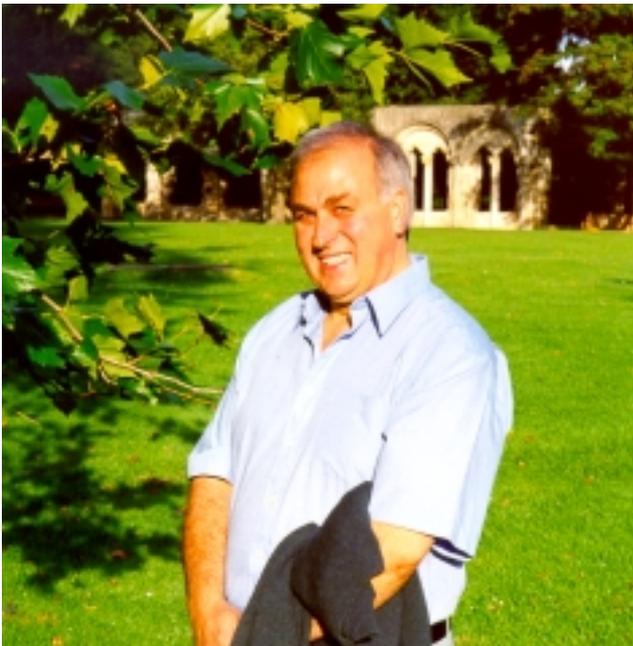
The second area of activity that I am personally pleased about is the level of attendance at Tuesday night practices. So far this year we have had a minimum attendance of 25. There is a lot of interest in the Society, and practices are a good advertisement to potential new members. It is also encouraging to see such an interest and participation by our younger members. I appreciate that this is occurring in London, and many of you might feel left out.

Well, we have had one northern College Youths practice which was on February 18th at Bradford Cathedral. Despite the delay in our notices being published in the Ringing World that month, we had a comfortable turn out and some very creditable ringing. More importantly, those present decided to organise another practice themselves, for Friday 11th August, hopefully at Leeds Parish Church, because they feel an active part of the Society.

This brings me to the main message. We are growing as a Society, with new members being elected continually. London is certainly the roots of the College Youths, but it certainly should not control the activity of the rest of the country. If you feel, "what does the College Youths do for me?", I say "Get involved. Try organizing an area practice, or a peal, or just a social event." You know the members in your area, don't wait to be asked. I and the other officers will do our best to support in whatever way we can.

So is the Society healthy? Absolutely. We are really pushing ahead. Let's keep going.

Paul Carless



## MEMBER DECORATED

David Potter was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. The citation reads "For services to bell ringing in York".

As well as being a long standing and loyal member of the Society, David was Ringing Master at York Minster for over 25 years. During that time he taught numerous ringers in the City. David is a great enthusiast for bell restoration and has seen a number of projects to completion

# THE 104 PEALS RUNG IN 1998/99

Information compiled by Philip Saddleton, Peal Recorder

Date	Tower	Method	Cond
11 Nov 98	Gerrards Cross, 1 Elmwood Park		Bristol
Surprise Maximus		(AFB)	
21 Nov 98	Neston, Ches	Spliced Surprise Maj (8m)	(PDH)
25 Nov 98	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(PABS)
29 Nov 98	Whitehaven, Cumb	Grandsire Caters	(JW)
--	<i>In memory of Roger W D Wetenhall</i>		
12 Dec 98	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Surprise Max (4m)	(DPH)
12 Dec 98	Leeds, W Yorks	Stedman Cinques	(REJD)
2 Jan 99	Chelmsford Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	(CHR)
6 Jan 99	Croydon, Surrey, S Peter	Stedman Caters	(DCB)
9 Jan 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Maximus (6m)	(DEH)
9 Jan 99	West Ham, Essex	Superlative No.2 S Royal	(JA)
24 Jan 99	S Mary-le-Bow,Cheapside	Bristol Surprise Maximus	(SAC)
27 Jan 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(DJS)
2 Feb 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Grandsire Caters	(RL)
6 Feb 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Surprise Max (4m)	(JNHD)
10 Feb 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Caters	(PNM)
13 Feb 99	Guildford Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	(SAC)
13 Feb 99	Wotton Under Edge, Glos	Bristol Surprise Major	(DIB)
16 Feb 99	Salford, Manchester	Spliced Surprise Maj (8m)	(PCR)
21 Feb 99	St Albans, 9 Falstaff Gardens	Spliced Maximus (4m)	(JNHD)
24 Feb 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(DCB)
25 Feb 99	Croydon, S Peter	Stedman Caters	(BHT)
27 Feb 99	Wedmore, Som	Spliced Surprise Maj (4m)	(MCB)
3 Mar 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
6 Mar 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Surprise Max (4m)	(JNHD)
10 Mar 99	Croydon, S Peter	London Surprise Major	(SMA)
13 Mar 99	Kingston, Dorset	Stedman Triples	(TFC)
13 Mar 99	York Minster	Stedman Cinques	(SAC)
20 Mar 99	Hereford Cathedral	Stedman Caters	(PSB)
31 Mar 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
10 Apr 99	Coventry Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	(RCS)
18 Apr 99	Hexham Abbey	London Surprise Major	(DH)
18 Apr 99	Kimpton, Herts	Stedman Triples	(JP)
20 Apr 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Cambridge Surprise Royal	(RL)
24 Apr 99	Royston, 49 King Street	Spliced Maximus (5m)	(PNM)
24 Apr 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Maximus (4m)	(JNHD)
25 Apr 99	Dagenham, Essex	Bristol Surprise Major	(JA)
--	<i>These two for the wedding of Tony Bloomfield and Julie Brown</i>		
9 May 99	St Albans, 9 Falstaff Gardens	Spliced Maximus (5m)	(PNM)
31 May 99	Winchester Cathedral	Stedman Sextuples	(PNM)
3 Jun 99	S Mary-le-Bow,Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	(MWJR)
5 Jun 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Maximus (5m)	(PNM)
--	<i>These three in memory of Kenneth J Hesketh</i>		
5 Jun 99	Inveraray, Strathclyde	London No.3 S Royal	(DPH)
5 Jun 99	Chiddingfold, Surrey	Bristol Surprise Major	(SMA)
6 Jun 99	Dunblane Cathedral	Stedman Triples	(DPH)
12 Jun 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Bristol Surprise Maximus	(PNM)
15 Jun 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Lincolnshire S Royal	(RL)
16 Jun 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
19 Jun 99	Westminster Abbey	London No.3 S Royal	(DPH)
19 Jun 99	S Paul's Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
--	<i>These two for the wedding of HRH Prince Andrew and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones</i>		
23 Jun 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(PABS)
3 Jul 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Snow Tiger Delight Max	(SJLL)
6 Jul 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Grandsire Caters	(RRS)
7 Jul 99	Westminster Abbey (Nave)	Stedman Caters	(DCB)
--	<i>First peal on the bells (a gift to the Abbey from the Whitechapel Bellfoundry)</i>		
10 Jul 99	Great Yarmouth, Norfolk	Spliced Surprise Max (4m)	(PNM)
11 Jul 99	S Mary-le-Bow,Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	(MWJR)
11 Jul 99	Norwich, S Peter Mancroft	Stedman Cinques	(DEH)
--	<i>In memory of Clifford J Bird</i>		
16 Jul 99	San Francisco, Canterbury Hotel	Plain Bob Major	(RBS)
17 Jul 99	Worcester, All Saints	Stedman Cinques	(JRR)
24 Jul 99	Southwark Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	(PR)
25 Jul 99	Royston, 49 King Street	Spliced Maximus (3m)	(DJP)
--	<i>For the wedding of David J Pipe and Cecilia Lansberry</i>		
28 Jul 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(DCB)
31 Jul 99	West Ham, Essex	Stedman Caters	(AMB)
1 Aug 99	Reading, S Laurence	Bristol Surprise Maximus	(FRS)
--	<i>In memory of Kenneth J Hesketh</i>		
2 Aug 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Superlative No.2 S Royal	(GKD)
7 Aug 99	Southwell Cathedral	Spliced Maximus (5m)	(JNHD)
14 Aug 99	S Lawrence,Jewry	Spliced S Major (8m)	(SAC)
16 Aug 99	Usk, Gwent	Yorkshire Surprise Major	(PSB)
17 Aug 99	Bishopstoke, Hants	Spliced S Major (8m)	(RL)
18 Aug 99	Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	(DJS)
21 Aug 99	Caversham, 38 Priory Avenue	Spliced Maximus (6m)	(PNM)
4 Sep 99	Long Ashton, Avon	Uxbridge Surprise Major	(MJH)
11 Sep 99	Sutton Courtenay, Oxon	Stedman Triples	(JRR)
17 Sep 99	Dunkeld Cathedral	Surprise Minor (7m)	(CB)

Date	Tower	Method	Cond
17 Sep 99	Edinburgh, S Cuthbert	London No.3 S Royal	(MJC)
18 Sep 99	Bromham, Beds	Grandsire Triples	(AMK)
18 Sep 99	Edinburgh Cathedral	Cambridge Surprise Royal	(MST)
18 Sep 99	Glasgow Cathedral	Bristol Surprise Royal	(RL)
18 Sep 99	Gosforth, All Saints	Rutland Surprise Royal	(DH)
18 Sep 99	Streatham, Surrey	Spliced S Major (10m)	(PR)
18 Sep 99	Warnham, W Sussex	Stedman Caters	(DEH)
18 Sep 99	Woolavington, Som	Yorkshire Surprise Major	(RAMN)
18 Sep 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Stedman Cinques	(JNHD)
18 Sep 99	Hinton On The Green, Worcs	Painswick Surprise Major	(GCH)
18 Sep 99	Thorverton, Devon	Rutland Surprise Major	(MECM)
18 Sep 99	Withycombe Raleigh, Devon	Grandsire Caters	(MECM)
18 Sep 99	Swindon, S Mark	Stedman Triples	(JRR)
18 Sep 99	Clitheroe, Lancs	Spliced S Major (8m)	Non-Cond
18 Sep 99	Northallerton, N Yorks	Stedman Caters	(PJS)
--	<i>18<sup>th</sup> September was the Society's Peal Day</i>		
19 Sep 99	Stirling, Central	Cambridge Surprise Minor	(TA)
19 Sep 99	Edinburgh, Fettes College Chapel	Stedman Doubles	(RL)
25 Sep 99	Exeter Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	(DPH)
26 Sep 99	St Buryan, Cornwall	Surprise Minor (8m)	(GKD)
6 Oct 99	Old Dr Butler's Head	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
9 Oct 99	West Ham, Essex	Bristol Surprise Royal	(PNM)
10 Oct 99	Lundy Island	Stedman Doubles	<i>Silent</i>
23 Oct 99	Amersham, Bucks	Bristol Surprise Maximus	(JAA)
27 Oct 99	Old Dr Butler's Head	Stedman Cinques	(PNM)
30 Oct 99	Bishop's Stortford, Herts	Stedman Caters	(AMB)
30 Oct 99	S Sepulchre without Newgate	Spliced Maximus (36m)	(JNHD)
4 Nov 99	Burnley, Lancs	Spliced S Major (23m)	(JEA)
6 Nov 99	Southgate, Middx	London No.3 S Royal	(RL)
6 Nov 99	S Giles,Cripplegate	Cambridge S Maximus	(FRS)
6 Nov 99	Putney, Surrey	London Surprise Major	(PJS)
6 Nov 99	Islip, Oxon	Cambridge Surprise Major	(MAH)
6 Nov 99	Waterloo, SS Andrew & Thomas		
Yorkshire Surprise Major		(TMP)	
--	<i>6<sup>th</sup> November was the Society's Dinner Day</i>		

## Peals rung at 64 Towers, led by

London, St Sepulchre without Newgate	10
Bishopstoke, Hants, St Mary	6
London, St Mary le Bow	3
Croydon, Surrey, St Peter	3
West Ham, Essex, All Saints	3

Ten handbell peals were rung in Cornhill Vestry

## 315 Members took part, led by

Rung	Total		Tower		Hand		
	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond	
29	15	13	6	15	9		Paul N Mounsey
19	7	7	12	12			Michael P Moreton
17	7	12	6	5	1		John Hughes-D'Aeth
15		15					Andrew J Graham
14	7	14	7				Roy LeMarechal
14	2	10	2	4			Simon M Alford
14		14					Michael J Uphill
14		14					John I White
13	2	1		12	2		Philip A B Saddleton
13		13					Anthony J Bloomfield
12	1	12	1				Christopher H Rogers
12		12					David J Dearnley
12		12					Antony R Kench
12		12					Stephen A Waters
11	2	11	2				John Armstrong
11		11					Paul L Carless

In Memoriam

**KENNETH J HESKETH**

*Elected 1963, died 1999*

*A personal tribute by George W Pipe*

It's a well worn cliché - we have all used it "so and so's place will be hard to fill". Well, Ken Hesketh's place won't be filled; as boy and man, husband, father, colleague and ringer he was special and we shall remember him for a long time.

Ken was immensely proud of his membership of the Society. He liked nothing more than meeting up with fellow College Youths; a peal, some good beer, laughs and conversation. Preferably Stedman Cinques, even better a new twelve or at least a good twelve, Ken's arrangements like his appearance and striking were first class.

He was taught well by Tommy his father and of course it was not long before such a competent and reliable ringer came under the eye of "Himself" - Wilfred Williams. Ken soon became integrated into the doings of the Society but never forgot his roots or his friends in the Midlands, Cambridge and greater East Anglia.

Society Dinner days were special too - hopefully a morning peal, suitable refreshment at luncheon, reminiscing in the afternoon and enjoying the conviviality of the Dinner itself. He served the Society well. Looking back, those of us with him for his last Dinner (1998) remember with pride ringing with him in the morning peal of Yorkshire at St. Sepulchre.

I am grateful to Philip Saddleton for listing his College Youth peals, 215 in number. They make interesting reading with many notable towers among them including Liverpool, St. Paul's, York, Exeter, Redcliffe, Worcester and many more. In summary, 116 on twelve, 56 on ten, 42 on eight and 1 on six.



*Ken outside St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich on the occasion of George Pipe's 100<sup>th</sup> Peal in 1992. Courtesy Christine Hesketh, this being her favourite photo of Ken.*

His first, appropriately enough, was Stedman Caters at Pier Head, always a favourite tower, conducted by his father. His last two, both in the City, were the Yorkshire Maximus at Holborn and London at Bishopgate the following Monday, called by Rick Shallcross and Paul Mounsey respectively.

I miss Ken terribly but like us all am grateful for having met and known him and thankful for his life and example. We remember Chris and his family. RIP dear friend.

***Peal Report (Cont'd)***

***Year to November:***

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
Sixteen					1	1		
Septuples					1			
Fourteen							1	
Sextuples	1							
Maximus	16	16	20	27	30	16	18	23
Cinques & Max						1	1	
Cinques	12	10	10	9	18	9	3	8
Royal	12	10	12	16	15	9	10	8
Caters	11	5	10	7	7	3	5	3
Major	21	13	19	31	19	23	19	18
Triples	6	4	2	9	5	9	9	9
Minor	3	3		4	7	2	1	2
Doubles	2		1	1	3	2	3	1
<b>Total Tower</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
Maximus	6	1	1			5	9	1
Cinques	11	15	14	8	2	4	5	3
Royal		1						
Caters	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	3
Major	1		1	2				1
Triples								1
Minor					1			
Doubles				1				
<b>Total Hand</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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### COUNTRY MEETINGS: CY's GO WEST

This year the Society is planning 2 Country Meetings.

On 12th May, a party of is setting out on what will be literally a Country Meeting as we will be visiting an entire country. We will be going to Quebec, Toronto, Calgary, Victoria and Mission City for a programme of peals and general ringing. The Society will be holding its first ever Business Meeting in Canada, at the Renaissance Hotel, Harbourside, Vancouver on Saturday 20th May followed by a dinner. At the time of going to press tickets for the dinner are still available, enquiries to the Secretary.

Vancouver is a city where we have a thriving and growing group of Members and we also hope to join up with CY's in the other centres.

Our second Country Meeting of the year will be in Birmingham on the weekend of 16th September. General ringing in and around the city is planned including, we hope, a ring on the 16 at the Bullring (seeing 16 ropes after lunch is not all that unusual for some of our Members!). Peals may also be a possibility.

A Business Meeting is planned for the Birmingham City Centre Thistle Hotel and tickets are now on sale from The Secretary. We hope to see as many Members as possible.

### PEAL DAY

Society Peal Day this year is on Saturday 10th June, although we are hoping to extend the event across the whole weekend.

Last year's event was a lot more successful than its predecessor but we can still do much better. We are hoping that as many Members as possible will participate in a peal or peals over the course of the weekend.

### OUT OF TOWN PRACTICES

In recent years we have seen several practices outside London organised by local members. The most recent was a Northern Members' Practice at Bradford Cathedral in February, which is to be repeated on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Leeds. On June 27th, as an experiment, we will be holding the Tuesday night practice outside Central London when we go to St Mary's Amersham.

### 363<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Once again we are holding the Anniversary Dinner at Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place. Those who attended last year enjoyed good food, convivial company and some good speeches. This year we are hoping to do even better.

As well as the traditional Society speakers we are continuing the Birmingham theme with David Pipe proposing the toast to the Society. We have other good speakers in mind to respond to the toasts to the Church



*At the annual dinner of the Vancouver Society of Change Ringers, College Youth Membership Certificates were presented to two new Members, Barbara Vogl and Eve Munns. Barbara is seen here receiving her Certificate from Ted Lee, who sadly died later in the year, while Jeff White looks on.*

*(Photo Valerie Belcher)*

In some places several peals are being organised, with all the participants meeting in a pub in the evening. Why not give that a try?

The Master has written to peal organisers around the country asking them to arrange a peal but if you have not heard anything please do not wait to be asked.

Members within striking distance of Leeds or Amersham are encouraged to come along. Non-members are also welcome.

Alternatively, why not organise a local practice in your area. The Society would be happy to help with publicising the event, including paying for an advert in the Ringing World.

and the Guests but it would not be fair to name them as they have not been asked yet!

The Dinner is one of the Society's great set piece occasions, an opportunity to bring along prospective members and introduce them to the Society. All members and their guests over 14 years of age are very welcome to join us.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected and welcomed as new members in the year to November 1999:

Matthew R T Higby, Chilcompton, Som  
Anne E Parkin, Hexham  
Margaret A Carter, Morton-on-the-Hill, Norwich  
W John V Conduct, Bude, Cornwall  
Jane M Hitchens, Germoe, Cornwall  
Mark G H Hood, Truro  
Barbara L T Vogl, Vancouver  
Jennie Paul, Northampton  
Eve Munns, Vancouver  
Susan L Apter, Horsell Vale, Surrey  
Barbara A Foster, Basingstoke  
Anthony M Godber, Karratha, W Australia  
Christopher Birkby, Stratford-on-Avon

James J Hardy, Beckenham, Kent  
Mark A S Jones, Chiselhurst, Kent  
Martin Gillie, Edinburgh  
Jason R Hargreaves, Edinburgh  
Thomas J C E Burslem, Edinburgh  
Paul R Scofield, Thatcham, Berks  
Fiona M Ellett, Beverley  
Hannah L Wilby, Towcester  
Peter Sloman, Rochford, Essex  
Mark A Humphreys, Port Sunlight  
Victoria M J Halliwell, Port Sunlight  
Enid Lawson, St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London  
Ruth H Smith, Melbourne, Derbys

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## OBITUARY

The following are the members to whom tribute was paid at Society Business Meetings in the year to November:

Herbert E Taylor of Darley Dale, elected 1958  
Roger W D Wetenhall of Cockermonth, elected 1928  
Fred Dukes of Drogheda, elected 1947  
Tony Lewis of Nottingham, formerly Gravesend, elected 1981  
David McKay of Chilcompton, elected 1945  
H E George Jeanes of Somerton, elected 1957  
Christopher S Brooks of Trumpington, elected 1973  
Frederick W Hutt of Byfield, elected 1969

Alan Capstick of Ambleside, elected 1948  
Clifford Bird of Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, elected 1971  
Kenneth J Hesketh of Pinchbeck, elected 1963  
William J (Jim) Goodfellow of Ely, S Glam, elected 1986  
Peter F Windley of Chorleywood, elected 1958  
Kenneth G Ford of Chewton Mendip, elected 1937  
Henry G Keeley of Lyme Regis, elected 1952  
Edwin E Lee of Vancouver, elected 1990

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## MILESTONES

We congratulate the following 10 members who celebrated 50 years' membership in 1999:-

Norman Chaddock  
Philip A F Chalk, Past Master  
Jack S Dear  
George E Evenden  
John F Goodall

James Rich  
Ernest J Rowe  
Brian D Threlfall  
Alexander S Watt  
Roy V Webb

Sadly, Norman Chaddock died at the end of 1999.

And 2 who achieved 60 years' membership:-

Alfred W Myers  
Arthur S Stracey

And 2 who achieved the great distinction of 70 years' membership:-

John H Crampion  
Walter H Trueman



*Jack Crampion receives an engraved Oranges and Lemons print from the Master to celebrate 70 years' membership*

## THE BRERETON CONNECTION

Ringling in 1637 was obviously rather different from today. Stedman's Campanalogia with its variety of methods on five and six bells was still forty years away. Change ringing on whole-wheel bells was still quite new and exciting, even with just three bells, although there were by then in London plenty of rings of four and five bells too, even a couple of sixes at Cornhill and St Sepulchre. Change ringing as a physical and intellectual pursuit seems to have appealed to a certain type of bright young person, and a number of ringing societies sprang up in London; they gave themselves fanciful-sounding names like the London Scholars and the College Youths, the latter being the only one to survive to the present day. It was then a society of well-to-do gentlemen ringers practising change ringing for sport, and the Society's four founding members (as listed in the Society's first Name Book) included William Lord Brereton, who became its first Master in 1637 at the age of 26.

Our Lord Brereton was the 2nd Lord. He was born at Brereton Hall in Cheshire in 1611, his father, Sir William Brereton, having built Brereton Hall in 1585 and been awarded a peerage in 1624. In 1633 the 2nd Lord Brereton married Elizabeth Goring, daughter of the apparently rather racy George Goring who later became Earl of Norwich and built Goring House, which was later rebuilt as Buckingham Palace. The marriage took place at Brereton, in St Oswald's Church next to the Hall, and to mark the event, Lord Brereton commissioned three bells to be hung in St Oswald's tower; he also commissioned a fireplace in the Hall dated 1633 which survives today, containing life-size stone-relief bust carvings of Lord William and Lady Elizabeth.

Brereton was a highly educated man. His tutor, Sir John Pell, was one of the leading figures of his day: a founder member of the Royal Society, a visiting university professor in Holland and a British Ambassador to Switzerland. Pell became a close friend of Brereton's son, the 3rd Lord, who was also a founder member of the Royal Society. Some correspondence between them has survived, and is full of intellectual spark: anything from predicting solar eclipses, to inventing some new algebra, to designing a device for activating the house bells. These were the days of 'renaissance man', who could know all there was to know, and take an interest in all of it.

Lord Brereton's career was cut short by the Civil War. Having taken arms as a Royalist in 1642, he was captured by Roundheads in 1644, but bought his release and retired to Brereton where he died in 1664. The direct line eventually died out in 1722; the Hall then passed through other branches of the family, was sold in 1817, and by 1939 had become a Girls' School. Brereton Hall came to the Society's attention again in 1995. The school had closed, and under new ownership the Hall had been opened up for functions (it has since become a popular wedding venue). There was interest among London members in visiting the Hall to re-establish the



*The Librarian pays close attention to the image of Lord Brereton carved in the fireplace at Brereton Hall.*

connection, and so a very successful Dinner there was organised on 5 September 1996.

A peal was rung at St Oswald's (an anti-clockwise ground floor ring, made up to five in 1738) by a Society band in the afternoon, then on a fine evening, 36 members and friends took drinks on the lawn, a tour of the Hall, dinner in the Lower Dining Room and coffee in the Conservatory, followed by an overnight stay either in the Hall itself or in the old Bear's Head in the village. This 1996 visit led indirectly to the next link between the Society and the Hall: the dedication in August 1999 of a plaque in St Oswald's church to the memory of Lord Brereton, to whom previously no memorial existed.

The idea began with John Goodwin, tower captain at St Oswald's. It turned out that the current ringers and congregation had been largely unaware prior to 1996 of the connection between Brereton, the ASCY and the early history of change ringing, and it occurred to John that a memorial should be created, the imminent 700th anniversary of the church being a very suitable occasion. He contacted the ASCY in 1997 through its then Secretary to see if the Society would be interested in supporting the idea; it enthusiastically was, and so the project was born. Wording was drafted and a faculty applied for; the Society agreed to pay for the brass plaque and the church to take care of its erection (on the pillar by the tenor rope). The dedication took place at a special Matins service on Sunday 8 August 1999, conducted by the Rector, the Reverend Canon Peter J Hunt. A good congregation of 70 included the churchwardens, choir, local ringers and parishioners of St Oswald's, and most of the Officers and a good number of members representing the Ancient Society.



*Canon Peter Hunt (Rector), John Goodwin (Tower Captain) and John White (Master) at the service at Brereton in 1999.*

A celebratory peal had been rung the previous day at Southwell Minster, and many had gathered for supper at

the Bear's Head in Brereton on the Saturday evening, joined by the Rector and local ringers

After the service, many joined in for a tour of the splendid Tudor red-brick Hall next door; a highlight, especially for the Librarian, was another chance to look at the 1633 fireplace in 'Lord William's Bedroom'.

It was a very successful event, bringing ringers and local community together for a highly memorable occasion; everyone went home happy that a little piece of history had been properly celebrated, and keen to see links between Brereton and the Society retained for the future. The next link is planned to take place in 2001, when the Society has been asked to ring a peal at St Oswald's in connection with a reunion at the Hall of Brereton family descendants from all over the world. As of March 2000 it has just been reported that the present owners want to sell the Hall again, which could be an excellent 'heritage opportunity' for any Society member with a couple of million to spare!

*Tony Kench*

## A SUNDAY PEAL ATTEMPT 1843

What was it like in the days when the only means of travel was either by steam train (the railway had not yet come to Maidstone) horse drawn vehicle or by foot? In 1835 coaching was at its peak with 3300 stage-coaches and 700 mail coaches on the road each day but by 1842 far more passengers were using the railways than the stage-coaches as more lines were constructed. In the spring of 1846 there were 519 railway bills for construction of new railroads before Parliament awaiting approval. The following account verbatim from the handwritten notebook of J R Haworth gives some idea of the difficulties encountered. It was some 35 years before the ring of twelve were installed at St Paul's and the resultant College Youth commitment to Sunday Service ringing there.

"On Sunday, July 31st 1843, some members of the Society of College Youths started for Leeds in Kent, and went as far as the Maidstone Road Station by the Brighton Railway which is 46 miles from London. From that place it is eleven miles to Maidstone, and we had to walk 6 miles before we could get any conveyance. We got to Maidstone and there met with Mr Pooley - the host who was to provide us with necessaries at Leeds - with a van, which took us to our destination.

There we had a good dinner, which made amends for our fatigue, and soon after we ascended the Tower to try that Peal which brought us to Leeds, which was Kent Treble Ten In. We rung 4 thousand and got into trouble and were obliged to set our bells. We came down; after a certain time retired to bed; three of us Tolladay, Stockham and Haworth were to go to London to be at St Martins, on account of the Queen going to open the National Gallery at 12 o'clock on Monday.

We had to be up at 5, to get to Headcorn at 7, which we did with quick walking; at Headcorn we got

into the train, and was soon on our road to London which was 56 miles distant. We arrived there between ten and eleven and set off immediately for St Martins where we arrived in time for ringing. From Sunday morning at 10, Tolladay, Stockham and Haworth had travelled 102 miles by railway and walked 26 miles."

The following is the band that attempted the peal. Tolladay 1; Britten 2; Mash 3; Hughes 4; Haworth 5; Stockham 6; Bradley 7; Smith 8; Lansdell 9; Littlechild Tenor. Conducted by E Lansdell

*A. J. Phillips*



*We tried to find a picture of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century ASCY outing but this was the best we could do!*

*Jim Phillips holds the floor at the 1999 Country Meeting in Norwich whilst Andrew Stubbs and David Town look on.*

## ORANGES AND LEMONS – A TALE OF TWO CHARITABLE SALESMEN

“Good morning, and how are you?”

“Good morning Doctor, I wondered if you would take a look at this, and maybe display it in the waiting room.”

Such are the lengths to which an Oranges and Lemons salesman will go when raising monies for bell restoration funds. A framed reproduction of the Oranges and Lemons watercolour was the item to be displayed.

A birthday present, the book ‘The Streets of London - Evocative Watercolours by H.E. Tidmarsh’ compiled by Ralph Hyde, Keeper of the Prints and Maps at the Corporation of London’s Guildhall, alerted me to the Oranges and Lemons watercolour. It was shown in just 7? by 3? size in this splendid book of London scenes, predominantly churches, which were painted by Henry Tidmarsh between 1880 and 1930. Interestingly the book’s paintings evidence radical change of the era. The earlier watercolours are of a city with horse-drawn omnibuses, hansom cabs, landaus and drays that gradually give way to motorcars and motorbuses. Nevertheless, activity in this Tidmarsh collection is secondary to his representation of the magnificent architecture of Wren, Hawksmoor and earlier to Norman times.

Although the O&L watercolour appeared in just 7? by 3?, it was clearly something special with the six churches surrounded by an ornate border containing the nursery rhyme verse. (The original is 35 inches wide. We were to settle on a reproduction width of almost 17 inches.) The idea of marketing O&L reproductions together with an endorsement by The Lord Mayor and a link with RING in 2000 with sale proceeds to bell restoration, began to take shape. It was early 1998.

As the College Youths and Cumberlands both had an interest in several of the towers shown in O&L, it was appropriate to consider the project as a joint one. I therefore asked Alan Regin, then Cumberlands Master, to manage the project jointly with me, and he agreed. Alan worked at the City of London Guildhall which facilitated access to the stored Tidmarsh paintings and to the Lord Mayor.

We found that the O&L original was with its owner, Mr. Brian Ellings who lived in West Yorkshire. Fortunately, he was supportive of O&L being reproduced and prints sold for the benefit of the two Societies’ BRFs. Alan then approached the Lord Mayor who agreed to provide an endorsement. A printer was needed, and after researching rates at several companies, Cumberland Jeremy Warren who works for a printing company in Norfolk provided very acceptable rates. The RING in 2000 committee confirmed its association with the O&L project. We were off to a good start.

Financial and marketing considerations resulted in Andrew Stubbs, Society Treasurer, joining the management team. The intention to market predominantly by mail order was confirmed and handling procedures agreed. The sale price and not insignificant startup costs were debated and necessary decisions made.

The two Societies were formally consulted and concurred their association with the project. We were close to lift-off. It was February 1999.

The printing requirement was not only for O&L reproductions. The sheet containing the Lord Mayor’s endorsement, bells information and Tidmarsh information had to be prepared and printed. Fliers, the primary marketing mechanism, also needed preparation and printing. The project was fortunate to have the design skills of Jeremy Warren to move things forward.

Two thousand reproductions and endorsements and twenty thousand fliers were printed. We met our schedule for flier insertion in the Ringing World and for the first O&L sales at the April 1999 Ringing World Roadshow at Tewkesbury. A decision to take mounted versions and framed versions, in addition to the loose prints and endorsements, to the Roadshow certainly bore fruit, or in this case, very satisfactory financial return. Such was the success at Tewkesbury that all startup costs were covered from our sales efforts that day. Alan, fortunately, had a (very rare) free Saturday a week later and tripped off around Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire etc. delivering many of the orders that had been assembled by our Bromley framers.

Buoyed with the initial success of the project, our thoughts turned to other marketing opportunities. The mail order operation was well under way as a result of the Ringing World fliers. Sales of the mounted and framed versions were arranged for the Central Council Lincoln meeting, the York twelve bell competition, at St. Mary-le-Bow during several lunch-times, in the St. Martin-in-the-Fields bookshop, in the Exeter Cathedral ringing chamber and at the business meetings of the two societies. Sales to non-ringers were also being made. It was simply a matter of ‘introducing’ people to the picture.

Based on the despatch addresses, it is likely that several members of specific bands placed orders. One C.Y. member was very active in the Kent and Surrey area promoting sales and collecting stock from my house. Mail orders were arriving from overseas, often with an increased amount on the cheque for the extra postage.

The Lord Mayor was presented with a specially framed O&L in the ringing room at St. Mary-le-Bow. We were most grateful for his support.

We researched mail order flier insertion in various publications – including The Sunday Times Magazine and Homes and Gardens. However, we selected as more appropriate, and less expensive, The Church Times (in which we were to have two flier runs), The Newham Recorder, and Heritage Today (the English Heritage quarterly publication), selecting S.E. England representing 40,000 of the Heritage Today 190,000 circulation. Also, we had fliers in the Ringing World again, just prior to Christmas. A total of 130,000 fliers were used. We also gained agreement from incumbents to have fliers available at several central London churches.



*David and Alan with the Town Crier at the Ringing World Roadshow at Tewkesbury*

Mail order was profitable via fliers in all of the publications except the Newham Recorder, an East London local newspaper. Our expectations for this area (sound of Bow bells Cockney connection etc.) were not realised. Overall, most of the 2,000 reproductions were sold by mail order which was an easily managed process for Alan and myself.

In April 2000 minimal stock remained. Gross income was £26,500 with profits slightly over 50% of that amount.

It has been an interesting couple of years for the two honorary art salesmen. I recall suggesting to the bank when the O&L account was opened that turnover could be anything from one thousand to twenty thousand pounds. The fact that we have exceeded the upper figure is very gratifying, particularly following the depletion of our Society's BRF due to work at Cripplegate and at Cornhill.

Experiences along the way have included Alan meeting H.E. Tidmarsh's great-niece who, as a child, had the Oranges and Lemons original hanging in her bedroom; an order from a Mr. Bellchambers; and the receipt of orders with letters of support mentioning a ringing relative or a past association with London ringing.

Any orders to be placed should be sent, and soon due to current low stock levels, to the address below with a cheque for £12.50 payable to OLP. Mounted and framed versions are available provided that collection can be arranged.

Finally, the doctor was most supportive. He bought a framed O&L, and the surgery waiting room still has the display copy.

#### Tidmarsh Biographical Notes

Charles Tidmarsh, the grandfather of Henry, was a carpenter and sturdy Methodist who hailed from Icomb in the Cotswolds. The family moved to Islington, North London in 1828 and prospered, the name of Tidmarsh being recorded as owners of businesses such as carvers, gilders, watchmakers, carpenters and undertakers.

Henry's father, Joseph, developed a business described as 'carpenters and blind makers' operating in Holloway. Henry was born in 1854. Joseph's business continues operation currently, manufacturing blinds and shutters still at essentially the same Holloway address.

Henry became a prolific artist and early in his career described himself modestly as a book illustrator for popular journals. He attended the National Art Training School in Kensington, today's Royal College of Art. Metal work, woodcarving and mural painting were his specialities. 'Oranges and Lemons' was completed in 1929 and comprises six watercolours mounted as one with an ornate border containing the nursery rhyme verse. Henry died on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1939. A tablet to his memory was unveiled in May 1939 at the Archway Methodist Central Hall with the inscription: "In affectionate memory of HENRY TIDMARSH who taught Christian truths to children through the medium of his pictures".

*David P. Hilling*

*Orders should be sent to: OLP, Branksome, Station Road, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0ER.  
Enquiries to [dphilling@lineone.net](mailto:dphilling@lineone.net).*

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#### Advertisement

### **THE TROLLOPE MANUSCRIPT**

The history of the College Youths, written by J Armiger Trollope and published in 1937, is only one chapter in his mainly unpublished history of ringing in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, now in the Central Council Library. The full text of about 7,000 pages is now available for the first time, on CD-ROM for £25 inc p&p.

To order your copy, send a cheque for £25 (made out to Friends of the Central Council Library) to Miss J Sanderson, 6 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield, Cambridge CB3 7LT.

NB. Please do not send orders for this item to the Society

## PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2000

Practices are normally advertised in the last Ringing World of each month

May	2:P	9:S*	16:B	23: J	30:C
Jun	6:G	13:P*	20:S	27:A	
Jul	4:P	11:B*	18:P	25:S	
Aug	1:P	8:N*	15:B	22:N	29:C
Sep	5:B	12:G*	19:N	26:B	
Oct	3:C	10:B*	17:G	24:B	31:N
Nov	7:G	14:B*	21:C	28:S	
Dec	5:P	12:N*	19:N	26:-	

B = St Mary-le-Bow  
C = St Michael's Cornhill  
G = St Giles, Cripplegate  
J = St Lawrence, Jewry  
\* Denotes Meeting Night

N = St Sepulchre, Newgate  
P = St Paul's Cathedral  
S = Southwark Cathedral  
A = Amersham (7.00 to 8.30)

Meetings and normal pub venue (except Southwark) The Old Dr Butler's Head, Masons Avenue EC2 (between Moorgate and Guildhall).

## SOCIETY OFFICERS 1999/2000

Master	Paul L Carless
Secretary	Phil Rogers
Treasurer	Andrew N Stubbs
Senior Steward	Paul N Mounsey
Junior Steward	Christopher J Pickford
Librarian	A James Phillips
Trustees	John S Mason Rodney B Meadows

## TOWER SECRETARIES

**St Mary-le-Bow:** Mark Regan, 39A Rosebery Road, London N10 2LE. Tel 0181 444 5521

**St Michael's Cornhill:** Paul Carless, 7 Killyom Terrace, Clapham, London SW8 2XR Tel 07944 393054

**St Giles Cripplegate** Colin Newman, 65 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Essex IG1 0JD Tel 0181 550 1931

**St Lawrence Jewry** David Baverstock, 4 Sidney House, Old Ford Road, London E2 9QB. Tel 0181 980 0065

**St Sepulchre** Nigel Thomson, 62 Beddington Grove, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8LD. Tel 0181 669 9370

## AND FINALLY.....



*Taking the Michael. Messrs Uphill and Moreton in debate Westminster Abbey Style.*

## PEAL FEES

The peal fee remains £1.50 per rope to be forwarded to the Secretary or Treasurer within 2 months, together with details including composition. Advance notice of peals is given at Society Meetings if advised in time.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Please send to the Secretary, Phil Rogers, 193 Lennard Road, Beckenham Kent, BR3 1QN. Tel 020 8778 6308. Email philrogers.ascy@virgin.net

## ASCY ON THE WEB

The Society's Web Site is at [www.ascy.org.uk](http://www.ascy.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER FINANCE

This Newsletter is made possible by the many generous contributions made by Members. With a growing membership, costs are continuing to rise and your further support would be very much appreciated.

## MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

We are always on the lookout for good new members. Proposals of candidates for membership are welcome at any Business Meeting or by letter to the Secretary. The Rules state that candidates should be over the age of 14, not members of the Cumberlands and "suitable persons who will uphold the traditions and standards of the Society". Candidates and their sponsors are encouraged to be present at their election meeting if possible, although we recognise that distance may rule this out. The membership fee is currently £20.

## MISSING YOUTHS

If you know of any Members who are no longer in touch with the Society please let us know.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thank you to all of those who helped to put this Newsletter together including the named people who supplied articles and photos plus Jeff White, Paul Carless and Chris Pickford. Also to Mr Viglen for making his computer run faster and my wife Gwen who helped me to work it.



*Transfer fees come to bellringing. We have not raised enough yet to put in an offer for Alan Regin but we're working on it!*