



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

MAY 2007



*Members of the UK/North American tour party (most in uniform) outside Toronto Cathedral in August.*

The Society has continued to go from strength to strength during the last 12 months.

Shortly after the last Newsletter was published, over 80 Members gathered in Bristol for the "Master's Challenge", an innovative contest devised by the Master, Stef Warboys. Six teams from around the country tackled a range of tasks, including "60 on thirds" Devon style, learning and ringing a new treble dodging Major method (within 25 minutes) and answering a quiz set by Librarian Chris Ridley. After a bruising battle, which saw the Society's website disabled for the day to ensure fair play, the "Paternoster Squares" team emerged triumphant. All those who took part enjoyed themselves and declared the day a resounding success. Our thanks to Stef for having the vision and energy to make it happen, and to the Bristol ringers for making us so welcome.

After a blip in 2005, the Society resumed its customary position (second) in the National 12-Bell Contest at Worcester Cathedral in June. However, this time we were pipped not by the Brummies, but by the St Paul's Cathedral band, who clearly enjoyed the challenge of these difficult bells. The Society's band featured heavily in "Trophy People", a BBC4 programme designed to showcase

unusual pastimes and the British competitive spirit, which was broadcast in January this year.

The 2006 Country Meeting was based in Birmingham, the Master's home city. The weekend began with the now traditional series of peal attempts, although the attempt on the new 10 at St Paul's had to be cancelled due to a George Melly concert. General ringing on Saturday was followed by a Business Meeting in the Council Chamber (possibly the grandest meeting venue ever?) and dinner in the sumptuous Council House Banqueting Suite in the evening. After dinner, Paul Mounsey presented Andrew Stubbs with a gift (funded by Members) to mark his 25 years of service as the Society's Treasurer.

August saw an international party of Members gather in Toronto for a weekend of ringing and socialising. Organised by Simon Linford, this was billed as an opportunity for the North American contingent to enjoy an intensive few days of 12-bell ringing. It certainly succeeded in that aim, with the Cathedral bells being available on demand and 2 out of 3 peal attempts being scored. There is clearly a developing and positive trend for UK and overseas Members to join in Society activities and more are planned for 2007 and beyond. Simon is already working on the schedule for UK08, the next tour

of overseas Members to the UK, which will take place around the August Bank Holiday next year.

We thought that the 2005 Peal Weekend would be hard to beat, but this year's surpassed it. No less than 63 attempts were arranged, of which 49 were scored. Once again the Senior Steward (Chris Kippin) masterminded and co-ordinated the entire event; our thanks to him for all his efforts. The success of Peal Weekend contributed to another record year of peal ringing for the Society, with 290 being rung during Stef's year of office and her personal total (104) smashing all previous records.



*Andrew Graham, captain of the winning team in the Master's Challenge, shows off his winner's medal.*

The Society's year was rounded off in traditional style with the 369th Anniversary Dinner, which this year was again held at the Guoman Tower Hotel. The weekend followed the usual format of peal attempts, a convivial Friday evening gathering in the Paternoster and another walking tour of the City, led by Jim Phillips. The Dinner itself was a splendid occasion with 301 people present, again the largest gathering since the 350th anniversary in 1987. Most of the teething problems of previous years seem to have been sorted out; the pre-dinner bar layout in particular worked much more smoothly. Speakers included Derek Sibson (President of the Central Council) and Fr Philip Warner, the Priest in Charge at St Magnus the Martyr. The handbell touch (a contrivance on 16 including "big tittums") was also enjoyed by those present.

At the November meeting, Chris Kippin took over from Stef as Master and Peter Valuks (the Ringing Master at Southwark Cathedral) joined the Top Table as Junior Steward. Our thanks again to Stef for a fantastic year; her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Society have been an example to us all. Chris will complete 50 years' membership during his year of office, an unusual distinction; his plans for the year are outlined on page 3.

The November meeting also saw the retirement of Andrew Stubbs as Treasurer. Andrew's contribution over the last quarter of a century has been immense and is recognised in Tony Kench's tribute on page 4. His successor, Phil Rogers, is well known from his time as Secretary; we are delighted to welcome him back to the Top Table and to the Officer "team".

Another retirement after 25 years was that of Mark Regan as Tower Secretary and Steeplekeeper at St Mary-

le-Bow. Mark has transformed the condition and availability of Bow bells during his time in office and we are most grateful for his contribution. In a break with recent tradition, the PCC decided that it would choose a successor itself, rather than look to the Society to do so. An open advertisement and interview process led to Simon Meyer being appointed and the Society voting to suspend Rule 3.3 (election of Tower Officials) in relation to St Mary-le-Bow for the time being. The Society's links with Bow go back over 300 years and we intend to do all we can to maintain them, but clearly our relationship with the Church has changed. We joined with the Church in an incense-fuelled Eucharist Mass and buffet supper on 1st February to mark the 50th anniversary of the casting of the current bells and to thank Mark for his work.

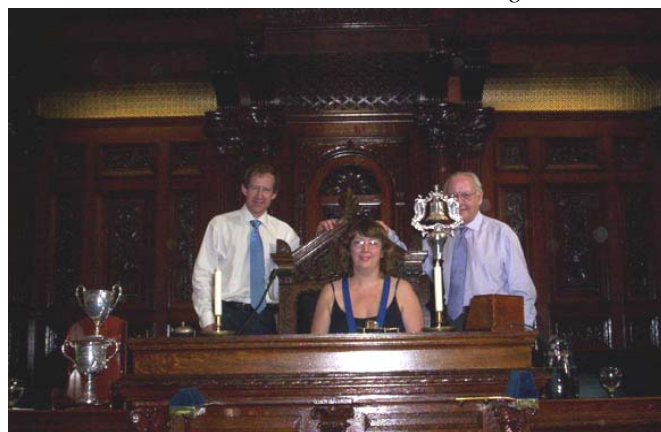
The appeal to raise funds for a new ring of 12 at St Magnus the Martyr was launched last June and is progressing well. The Society has agreed to make a grant of £25,000 from its Bell Restoration Fund towards the project and many Past Masters have contributed to a fund to purchase the 7th bell. A peal weekend is being arranged in May to generate funds and publicity for the appeal, in which both Members and others will be taking part. The intention is that, by the time you read this, an order will have been placed for the bells to be cast and installed early in 2008. Further details can be found on the appeal web site ([www.magnusbells.com](http://www.magnusbells.com)).

Behind the scenes, work continues on rationalising the Library in line with the recommendations of the sub-group set up to consider its future development. This work has acquired greater urgency following the recent request by the St Paul's authorities for us to vacate the room below the ringing chamber, which has housed the Library for many years. We are currently looking for a new home for the Library and would welcome Members' suggestions.

Other highlights of the year have included a well-attended and enjoyable (if hot) Out of Town practice in Cambridge; another highly successful Ringers' Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate, including the blessing of the new sharp 2nd; the installation of the new Society-branded ring of 12 at Trinity Church, New York City (see page 11); and the second Past Masters' lunch, which is fast becoming a Palm Sunday tradition.

All in all, another busy and successful year. We hope to see many of you at Society events in 2007.

*John Hughes-D'Aeth*



*The Master on her "throne" at the Country Meeting in Birmingham, flanked by the Secretary and Treasurer.*



## MASTER'S MESSAGE 2007 by Chris Kippin



A happy family: Eleanor (Linford), Heather and Chris Kippin.

It is a great honour to have been elected your Master for 2006-7. Many famous ringers have been Master and it is indeed a privilege to follow in their footsteps.

To be Master at such a (comparatively) advanced age has its share of both advantages and disadvantages. On the plus side, many years' membership has brought me into contact with a large number of members from all over the country and overseas, and retirement brings with it more time to devote to Society activities. The challenges include keeping up with the younger members, especially in London, both physically and mentally: time will tell whether I have succeeded in that.

Although we have an international membership, the majority of the Society's activities are inevitably centred on London. The weekly practices continue to attract large numbers, and whilst this is clearly a strength it does present organisational challenges. The objectives of high quality ringing, fairness of opportunity and stretching the repertoire often conflict, and I think it's fair to say that so far this year the second has sometimes had to take precedence over the last. This is especially so on meeting nights when, despite there being an additional practice, the ringing room is frequently overflowing. But it's a good problem to have, and I am looking at ways in which it might be turned to advantage.

The last two years have seen an increase in Society activities, and the visibility of the Master, around the country. I think this has been a very welcome trend and I

### SOCIETY PEAL BOARDS by Chris Ridley

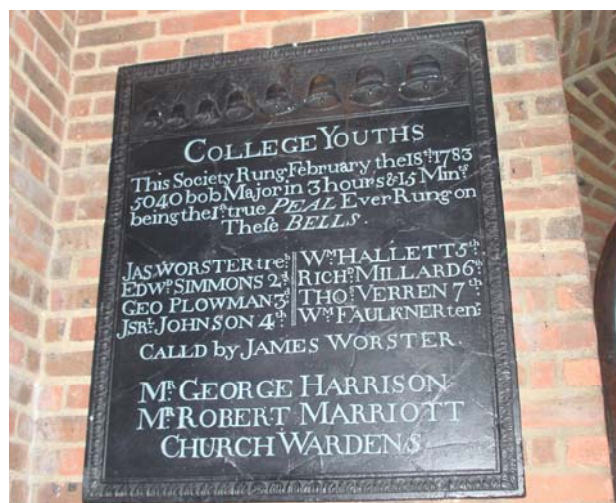
A project has been launched to build up a photographic collection of Society peal boards. The example shown is a carved slate board found in Chelsea Old Church, which survived when the church was bombed in the 1940s. The late Jim Prior often recalled being on police duty that night and being blown off his feet by the blast.

Of particular interest are boards which are old or record performances of special significance. However, we would welcome photographs or digital scans of other boards, together with background notes, with a view to constructing a permanent record of items that exist. All items should be sent to the Librarian (see the Society's Web Site for address), who will be happy to answer any further enquiries.

am using my increased leisure time to follow the lead set by Simon and Stef. As well as the traditional Country Meeting, which will this year be held in Exeter in July, there will be a major peal weekend in West Yorkshire over the August Bank Holiday weekend. All members are encouraged to support these events. On an individual level I have been made welcome to ring peals with members in many parts of the UK including, so far, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, South Wales, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, London, Middlesex and Cambridgeshire. Many more visits are in the pipeline.

Contact with overseas members was greatly enhanced by the very successful UK05 tour. The Society visit to Toronto last summer was one result, and further overseas trips are planned for this year. In April ten members are visiting Washington, Vancouver and Victoria to ring with members there, and in September I will be travelling to Perth, where I hope there will be the opportunity to ring with members not only from WA but also from other parts of the country. These four centres provided the majority of the tourists on UK05, so it will be good to visit many of them again on their home territories. Finally plans are also under way for a visit to New York in October.

Writing this towards the end of March, it seems amazing that a third of the year has already passed. At the beginning of the year I said that my Master's message might come back to haunt me later on. I don't think that has happened – yet – but it is sobering to reflect on how time flies and how much more remains to be done. We have recently qualified in the eliminator rounds of the National 12 Bell Contest. Being eased into second place by Bristol reminds us of how high the standard of ringing in the contest has become and how much more preparation we need for the final on their home territory in June. Before then we have the fund-raising St Magnus peal weekend in May. The country-wide Peal Weekend is on the traditional third weekend in September (14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>), when I shall be joining members in Scotland and the north-east. I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting and ringing with many more of you on these occasions, and at the Society practices in London on Tuesday evenings.



## STUBBS STEPS DOWN AFTER 25 YEARS AS TREASURER

by Tony Kench



When Andrew Stubbs stepped down as Treasurer in November 2006, he had completed a truly impressive 25 years' service. More than half the Past Masters alive today served with him as Treasurer. Secretaries are reckoned to have reasonable longevity, but Andrew was Treasurer with five of us. Of all past Treasurers only Albert Hughes (1919-56) served longer, and of all members alive today, only Stan Mason has clocked up more years than Andrew as a Society officer.

I first met Andrew in the early 1960s. He arrived in London three years ahead of me and we followed the same College Youths' path. We took part in the Tuesday practices, we joined the St Paul's Cathedral Guild. We were asked into Society peals, doing our best to navigate the intense Moreton-Williams rivalry of the day. We became officers within a year of each other, Andrew preceding me as Junior Steward in 1966-67 and Master in 1968-69. We particularly enjoyed being stewards together under Phil Corby's avuncular Mastership in 1967-68.

Andrew went on to become Treasurer in 1981, succeeding Stan Mason. It was a pleasure to rejoin him as an fellow officer later in the 1980s when I went through the chair again for the 350th, and then again as Secretary in the 1990s. I feel honoured to have served longer with Andrew as a fellow-officer than anyone else.

Much of what the Treasurer and Secretary do is behind the scenes. As Secretary I spoke to Andrew at least once a week to consult over the issues of the day, and I know that my successors did too. Andrew was always objective, full of common sense, and we rarely disagreed. As many will know from other fields, it is of huge value to be able to share questions and compare judgments in such a friendly and constructive way.

For the many members whose contact with the Society was mainly at the Anniversary Dinner, they saw Andrew as Toastmaster. This was a role he fell into on becoming Treasurer without any particular decision being made, but then proceeded to make his own for a quarter of a century, wheezing into an annual succession of microphones after long Dinner Day pub sessions, but always getting it right on the night. Andrew has also been visible to many as the

Society's longest-standing Central Council Representative, a role in which he continues, and for his time as Director and Chairman of the Ringing World.

Other members encountered Andrew if they fell behind with their peal fees. One of his more onerous tasks as Treasurer was to use his eye for detail in keeping a checklist of all peals rung, ensuring all the peal fees were collected, and getting the details assembled for the peal book writer.

Others again mainly saw Andrew on a Sunday at St Paul's, which from the 1970s had been his main Society ringing activity. Long after he had moved to Birmingham with his job in the insurance industry, he still drove to London every other week in his smoke-filled company car for service ringing at St Paul's, and he was one of the mainstays of the lunchtime pub wit and wisdom. From Rising Sun to King Lud to Cockpit, Andrew's rigorous drinking ritual could be observed. Each fresh pint stood untouched before him for precisely ten minutes. Then a quarter of it would be drunk in one go, and another ten minutes would go by. And so on (we timed him one week). One lunchtime someone was offering one more drink before afternoon ringing. The other member of the round said he'd better have just a half, because he had to drive home afterwards. 'Hmm', said Andrew, 'I've got further to drive than he has, I'll have a pint!'

Andrew continued regular service ringing at St Paul's until 2000, when he stepped down from active Guild membership and was elected an Honorary Member. He represented St Paul's eighteen times in the National 12-Bell Contest, winning twice in 1984 and 1996.

At Society meetings Andrew enjoyed cultivating a rather Luddite air, once famously asking, when someone was suggesting that Society records could be archived on CD-ROM, 'what's a CD-ROM?' And he will certainly be the last ASCY Treasurer to decline to be on email. But the accounts were always clearly presented, the books always balanced, and we were always in the black.

Andrew can be very proud of his time as Treasurer. He has served the Society and its members very well indeed, and has enabled the Society financially to do all the things it has wanted to do. He takes greatest pride himself in the healthy state of our charitable Bell Restoration Fund, which had been started by his predecessor Stan Mason but which under Andrew's management has gone from strength to strength. Perhaps the biggest contribution to that strength, which Andrew proposed, was to route London members' annual steepleage payments straight into the BRF on a covenanted (now Gift Aid) basis.

To mark Andrew's impending 25 years of service, a Mont Blanc pen set was presented to him at last year's Country Meeting Dinner in Birmingham. This year's Informal Dinner will give us a further opportunity to celebrate Andrew's extraordinary period of service to the Society. He is an unfamiliar sight on the back benches these days, but it is good to see him looking relaxed and well and ringing lots of peals. Long may he continue as an active Society member.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

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### COUNTRY MEETING 2007

This year's Country Meeting is to be held on Saturday 7 July in Exeter. Surprisingly, the Society has never held a Country Meeting there before and we are looking forward to rectifying this omission.

As has become the custom, a programme of peals is being arranged in the area on the Thursday and Friday beforehand. Please contact the Junior Steward, Peter Valuks ([junior.steward@ascy.org.uk](mailto:junior.steward@ascy.org.uk)) if you are interested.

On Saturday there will be general ringing at various

### PEAL WEEKEND

Last year's Peal Weekend broke all records, with 49 peals scored. Our thanks to the many Members who arranged and took part in attempts, and to the Senior Steward (Chris Kippin) for masterminding the event.

Chris will once again be co-ordinating the 2007 event, over the weekend of 14-16 September. Invitations to

### OUT OF TOWN PRACTICE

In recent years we have started holding one of our Tuesday night practices outside our usual area of the City of London and Southwark.

### 370th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Anniversary Dinner will once again be held at the Guoman Tower Hotel (close to Tower Bridge) on Saturday 3rd November.

Last year's Dinner was the largest since the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1987, with 301 people present, but there is still room for more. After three years we seem to have sorted out most of the teething problems with the venue; we now need to make sure that complacency does not set in! We are delighted that Rev James Cooper, the Rector of Trinity Church, Wall Street (New York City) has agreed to

### MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

We welcome proposals for new members, either in person at a Business Meeting or by letter or e-mail to the Secretary. Proposals should be accompanied by the full postal address (including post code) of the candidate.

The Rules state that candidates should be over the age of 14, not members of the Cumberlands, have rung at least a quarter peal in a standard method and be "suitable persons who will uphold the traditions and standards of the Society". In practice potential members will usually have achieved much more than this, since membership of the Society is rightly seen as a privilege accorded only to ringers who have reached an excellent standard or who otherwise command respect in their local area.

### GIFT AID DONATIONS

For some years the Society has operated a system under which donations to the Bell Restoration Fund can be made under the Gift Aid scheme.

Until now, each donation (or type of donation) has required a separate Gift Aid declaration. However, we have now introduced a General Declaration covering all donations made to the Bell Fund from 6 April 2000 until

towers in the Exeter area, including the Cathedral. The Business Meeting will be held in the Chapter House, followed by a Devon call change competition at St Petrock's (with a mix of local and visiting bands) and an informal Dinner in the Great Hall of Exeter University.

Full details of the weekend (including accommodation) can be found on the Society's Web Site. Our thanks to Matt Hilling and the Exeter ringers for agreeing to host the event and for making all the arrangements.

arrange bands will shortly go out to all those who organised attempts last year. If you intend to arrange an attempt, or would like to be put in touch with your local organiser, please contact Chris on 01256 381308 or at [thekippins@btinternet.com](mailto:thekippins@btinternet.com).

We are intending to hold another Out of Town Practice this year, on Tuesday 24 July at All Saints, Kingston upon Thames. Please come and join us if you can.

be our principal guest speaker.

As last year, the seating plan will consist of round tables of 10. Members are invited to make up their own tables and to encourage "occasional" and prospective new members to join them.

Accommodation at the Tower and other hotels in the area is available at competitive rates through Reservations 2000. For details please contact them on 020 8547 0601, quoting the Society, or obtain an online booking form by e-mail ([res2000@res2000.co.uk](mailto:res2000@res2000.co.uk)) or from the Web Site.

It is always useful to have advance notice of membership proposals, so that further enquiries can be made if necessary. Ideally at least one of the sponsors should be a long-standing and active member of the Society. Failing this, support for the candidate from other members in the local area will be helpful. Candidates and their sponsors are encouraged to be present at their election meeting if possible, but we recognise that distance will rule this out in some cases.

Every new member is entitled to receive a copy of the Society's History on his/her election. The membership fee is a (once only) amount of £30, payable on election.

further notice. This will simplify the administration of the scheme for both the Society and individual Members.

All Members who give, or have given, money to the Bell Fund are urged to complete a General Declaration. Forms are available from the Treasurer or can be downloaded from the Society's Web Site.



# THE 290 PEALS RUNG IN 2005/2006

Information compiled by Philip Saddleton, Peal Recorder

Date	Tower	Method	Cond	Date	Tower	Method	Cond
12/11/05	Solihull, S Alphege	Lincolnshire S Maximus	JC	19/03/06	Ballymena, Antrim	Bristol S Maximus	JSW
12/11/05	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Spliced Maximus (6m)	JNH-D	20/03/06	Hillsborough, Down	Grandsire Caters	RIA
17/11/05	(H) Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	JNH-D	22/03/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Stedman Cinques	PNM
19/11/05	Ballymena, Antrim	Bristol S Maximus	JNH-D	26/03/06	Birmingham, S Martin	Spliced S Sixteen (2m)	SJLL
26/11/05	Towcester, Northants	Bristol S Maximus	RIA	27/03/06	Harpenden, Herts	London S Major	JAA
26/11/05	Worcester Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	DCB	01/04/06	Reading, S Laurence	Spliced Maximus (6m)	DEH
30/11/05	(H) Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Caters	PNM	01/04/06	Barnet, Herts, S John	Stedman Triples	SAC
03/12/05	Winchester Cathedral	Stedman Sextuples	DCB	02/04/06	West Grinstead, W Sussex	Cambridge S Minor	SMA
03/12/05	Birmingham, S Philip	Spliced Maximus (6m)	PNM	07/04/06	Saltby, Leics, S Peter	Lincolnshire S Royal	RHR
03/12/05	Raleigh, NC, Christ Ch	Yorkshire S Major	TJB	08/04/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Stedman Cinques	DEH
06/12/05	Talgarth, Powys	Minor (3m)	MTJ	08/04/06	Solihull, S Alphege	Superlative S Maximus	BHT
09/12/05	(H) Cambridge, Victoria St	TD Minor (120m)	DJP	08/04/06	Exeter Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	FRS
10/12/05	Worcester, All Saints	Stedman Cinques	BHT	08/04/06	S Paul's Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	JAA
17/12/05	Evesham, Worcs	Stedman Cinques	PCR	17/04/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Stedman Cinques	PNM
20/12/05	Great Hampton, Worcs	Cambridge S Major	GCH	17/04/06	Chester Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	PDH
21/12/05	S Giles, Cripplegate	Ariel S Maximus	SJLL	18/04/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Bristol S Royal	RL
24/12/05	Westminster, Queen's Tower	London (No.3) S Royal	AJG	21/04/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	SAC
27/12/05	Manchester Town Hall	Cambridge S Maximus	JB	22/04/06	Westminster, S Martin-	Orion S Maximus	JNH-D
27/12/05	Great Barr, W Mids	Minor (7m)	MRE	22/04/06	St Albans Cathedral	Bristol S Maximus	MPAW
31/12/05	Woodford, Northants	Superlative S Major	RIA	23/04/06	Reading, S Laurence	Bristol S Maximus	JSW
05/01/06	South Croydon, S Peter	Stedman Cinques	MJU	27/04/06	Edgbaston, W Mids	Bristol S Major	MRE
14/01/06	Wolverhampton, S Peter	Stedman Cinques	BHT	29/04/06	Newland, Glos, All Saints	Minor (7m)	IPU
14/01/06	Shrewsbury, S Chad	Stedman Cinques	DEH	30/04/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	DJB
14/01/06	Leeds, W Yorks	Cambridge S Maximus	AJG	01/05/06	Wakefield Cathedral	Bristol S Maximus	JC
20/01/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Stedman Cinques	PNM	06/05/06	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Spliced Maximus (10m)	JNH-D
21/01/06	Blackburn Cathedral	Bristol S Royal	JSW	06/05/06	Leeds, W Yorks, S Peter	Stedman Cinques	BHT
21/01/06	Burnley, Lancs	Cambridge S Royal	JSW	06/05/06	Whilton, Northants	Kettering S Major	JSW
21/01/06	Spitalfields, Christ Church	Spliced S Major (8m)	NJB	13/05/06	Llandaff Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	JC
25/01/06	Hanwell, Middx, S Mary	Bristol S Major	PGCE	13/05/06	Newton Le Willows, Lancs	Bristol S Royal	SSM
28/01/06	Newark upon Trent	London (No.3) S Royal	RIA	14/05/06	Reading, S Laurence	Spliced Maximus (5m)	JSW
28/01/06	Lundy Island, Devon	Minor (2m)	GCS	17/05/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	SAC
29/01/06	Hexham Abbey	Yorkshire S Royal	DH	17/05/06	(H) Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	PNM
29/01/06	Wappenham, Northants	Spliced S Minor (41m)	JSW	23/05/06	Birmingham, S Paul	Cambridge S Royal	JC
29/01/06	Lundy Island, Devon	Stedman Caters	NJB	24/05/06	Stoke St Milborough, Salop	Cambridge S Major	BHT
01/02/06	Shoreditch, S Leonard	Plain Bob Major	RCK	25/05/06	Bromyard, Herefords	Spliced S Major (4m)	BHT
01/02/06	(H) Willingham, Cambs	TD Minor (8m)	DJP	25/05/06	Clifford, Herefords	Yorkshire S Major	ACF
01/02/06	(H) S Bride, Fleet Street	Plain Bob Major	DCB	26/05/06	Presteigne, Radnor	Spliced S Major (8m)	FRS
04/02/06	Solihull, S Alphege	Spliced Maximus (4m)	JNH-D	27/05/06	Ambleside, Cumbria	London S Major	DPH
08/02/06	South Croydon, S Peter	Yorkshire S Maximus	DER	27/05/06	Lincoln Cathedral	Spliced S Maximus (4m)	AJG
11/02/06	St Albans, S Michael	Yorkshire S Major	ENH-D	27/05/06	Hanbury, Worcs	Frankley S Major	CJP
11/02/06	Beddington, Surrey	Stedman Caters	MVC	28/05/06	Rotherham, S Yorks	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	DJB
11/02/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Spliced Maximus (4m)	PR	28/05/06	Broughton in Furness	Yorkshire S Maximus	MJH
11/02/06	Worcester, Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	ROH	29/05/06	Sheffield Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	JNH-D
12/02/06	Birmingham, S Martin	Stedman Septuples	MPAW	29/05/06	Preston, Lancs, S John	Bristol S Maximus	DPH
12/02/06	Lemsford, Herts	S Minor (7m)	ARC	29/05/06	Bristol, S Mary Redcliffe	Spliced Maximus (3m)	PNM
13/02/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Spliced S Royal (4m)	RL	01/06/06	(H) Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	JNH-D
15/02/06	(H) Cornhill Vestry	Stedman Cinques	PNM	03/06/06	Ipswich, S Mary-le-Tower	Spliced Maximus (6m)	PNM
16/02/06	Llanelly, Monmouth	Llanelly S Minor	MAGW	03/06/06	Liverpool, Pier Head	Stedman Caters	PDH
17/02/06	Brecon Cathedral	Cambridge S Royal	JSW	09/06/06	Birmingham, S Paul	Stedman Caters	JP
17/02/06	Llanfeugan, Powys	Bristol S Major	MRE	10/06/06	Cheltenham, S Mary	Stedman Cinques	BHT
17/02/06	Sheffield, Ranmoor	London No.3 S Royal	AJG	10/06/06	Coventry Cathedral	Spliced Maximus (3m)	JSW
18/02/06	Newport, Gwent, S Woolos	Cambridge S Maximus	JNH-D	15/06/06	(H) Cambridge, Victoria St	TD Minor (120m)	DJP
18/02/06	Whitchurch, S Glam	Yorkshire S Major	RCK	17/06/06	Westminster Abbey	Stedman Caters	JRP
18/02/06	Caerphilly, Mid Glam	Cambridge S Major	MJW	17/06/06	Gloucester Cathedral	Ariel S Maximus	CJP
18/02/06	Abergavenny, Mon	Stedman Caters	CHR	20/06/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Spliced S Royal (5m)	RL
18/02/06	Ebbw Vale, Gwent	Spliced S Major (4m)	PR	24/06/06	St Albans Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	SWP
19/02/06	Pentre, Mid Glam	Bristol S Major	SJLL	26/06/06	(H) Dorrige, Glendon Way	Plain Bob Minor	MRE
19/02/06	Cardiff, S John the Baptist	Bristol S Royal	JC	28/06/06	Grantham, S Wulfram	Lincolnshire S Major	ARH
22/02/06	(H) Queen's Quay, EC4	Plain Bob Major	PNM	29/06/06	(H) Frensham, Surrey	Minor (4m)	ORH
25/02/06	St Helens, Lancs	Yorkshire S Royal	PDH	01/07/06	Rothwell, Northants	Desborough S Royal	MAC
25/02/06	Wolverhampton, S Peter	Bristol S Maximus	RCK	02/07/06	Reading, S Laurence	Spliced S Maximus (4m)	JSW
25/02/06	Birmingham, S Philip	Spliced Maximus (12m)	JSW	05/07/06	(H) Willingham, Cambs	Yorkshire S Royal	DJP
03/03/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	SAC	08/07/06	Birmingham, S Philip	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	JSW
04/03/06	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Spliced Maximus (4m)	PNM	09/07/06	Walkden, Lancs, S Paul	Stedman Triples	JSW
04/03/06	Kingsbury, Middx	Bristol S Major	AJG	11/07/06	Hackney, S John Baptist	Yorkshire S Royal	JHF
10/03/06	Augusta, GA, USA	Yorkshire S Major	TJB	13/07/06	Bilston, W Mids	Superlative S Major	MJC
11/03/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	DJP	13/07/06	Coseley, Staffs	Bristol S Major	CJP
12/03/06	Oldham, Lancs, S Mary	Cambridge S Maximus	JB	13/07/06	Mavesyn Ridware, Staffs	Cambridge S Major	JRF
12/03/06	Marietta, GA, USA	Spliced S Major (3m)	TJB	14/07/06	Hoar Cross, Staffs	S Minor (7m)	RCK
16/03/06	South Croydon, S Peter	Stedman Cinques	MJU	14/07/06	Shenstone, Staffs	London S Major	MJW
17/03/06	Dublin, Christ Church	Bristol S Sixteen	RWP	15/07/06	Ticknall, Derbys	Cambridge S Royal	JAA
17/03/06	Wexford, Co Wexford	Cambridge S Royal	RIA	16/07/06	Bishop's Stortford, Herts	Cambridge S Royal	AMB
18/03/06	Drumbo, Down	Spliced S Major (4m)	PR	16/07/06	Birmingham, S Martin	Stedman Cinques	PNM
18/03/06	Londonderry Cathedral	London No.3 S Royal	RIA	19/07/06	Southampton, Ascension	Method3 S Major	RL
				22/07/06	Wellesbourne, Warks	Warwickshire S Major	GWR
				27/07/06	Burghill, Herefords	Spliced S Major (23m)	BHT
				29/07/06	Amersham, S Mary	Stedman Cinques	JNH-D
				29/07/06	Henfield, W Sussex	London S Major	SJLL

Date	Tower	Method	Cond	Date	Tower	Method	Cond
30/07/06	Towcester, Northants	Bristol S Maximus	DER	17/09/06	Codsall, Staffs	Spliced S Major (8m)	SCWH
01/08/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Spliced S Royal (6m)	APS	17/09/06	Birmingham, S Martin	Stedman Septuples	RWP
01/08/06	Cardington, Beds, S Mary	Bristol S Major	FRS	17/09/06	Trumpington, Cambs	Bristol S Major	ORH
02/08/06	Northampton, Holy Sep	Spliced S Major (8m)	FRS	17/09/06	Gloucester, S Mary-de-Crypt	Stedman Triples	JRR
04/08/06	Higham Ferrers, Northants	Higham Ferrers S Major	JAA	17/09/06	Potterhanworth, Lincs	S Minor (9m)	CCPW
05/08/06	St Albans Cathedral	Spliced Maximus (2m)	JNH-D	17/09/06	Dover, Kent, S Mary	Yorkshire S Major	PRJB
06/08/06	S Lawrence, Jewry	Stedman Triples	JSW	17/09/06	Carisbrooke, IoW, S Mary	Portsmouth S Royal	RL
09/08/06	(H) Knockbrix Castle	TD Minor (120m)	DJP	17/09/06	Hawkshead, Cumbria	Spliced S Major (4m)	JPL
11/08/06	Dodderhill, Worcs	Bristol S Major	NB	17/09/06	(H) Willingham, Cambs	Spliced TD Minor (17m)	DJP
11/08/06	Toronto Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	RCK	20/09/06	Kirtlington, Oxon	Bristol S Major	TGP
11/08/06	(H) Toronto Cathedral	Spliced TB Major (2m)	JNH-D	23/09/06	Brecon Cathedral	London(No.3) S Royal	PDH
12/08/06	Worcester Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	MWJR	23/09/06	Worcester Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	BHT
13/08/06	Sheffield, S Marie's Cath	Pen-y-ghent D Major	AGR	26/09/06	Shepton Beauchamp, Som	Yorkshire S Maximus	PCR
13/08/06	Toronto Cathedral	Stedman Cinques	CHR	28/09/06	Trumpington, Cambs	Small Hall S Major	JEB
15/08/06	Kent School, CT, USA	London (No.3) S Royal	SJLL	02/10/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Bristol S Royal	CJD
19/08/06	Kettering, Northants	Zanussi S Maximus	JSW	02/10/06	Rotherham, S Yorks	Avon D Maximus	AGR
19/08/06	S Lawrence, Jewry	Walmgate Bar S Major	MJC	04/10/06	Guildford, S Nicolas	Cambridge S Royal	CJP
20/08/06	Easton Neston, Northants	Grandsire Triples	RIA	04/10/06	Abergavenny, Mon	Grandsire Caters	BVM
23/08/06	Kingston, Dorset	Bristol S Royal	RCK	04/10/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	SAC
23/08/06	Charminster, Dorset	Spliced S Royal (4m)	JSW	07/10/06	Tamworth, Staffs	Spliced Caters/Royal (5m)	DCB
24/08/06	Shepton Beauchamp, Som	Bristol S Maximus	JNH-D	09/10/06	Rotherham, S Yorks	Spliced S Major (8m)	MJC
24/08/06	Lyme Regis, Dorset	Cambridge S Royal	JC	14/10/06	Trowbridge, Wilts	Cambridge S Maximus	JC
25/08/06	Newbold on Avon, Warks	Yorkshire S Royal	RIA	14/10/06	Amersham, Bucks	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	SAC
25/08/06	Weedon Bec, Northants	Old Hookey D Major	AGR	15/10/06	Hexham Abbey	Lincolnshire S Major	JSW
26/08/06	Towcester, Northants	Cambridge S Maximus	GNW	16/10/06	Thorverton, Devon	London (No.3) S Royal	MJH
26/08/06	Oldham, Lancs, S Mary	Cambridge S Maximus	PR	19/10/06	Long Buckley, Northants	Yorkshire S Major	RIA
27/08/06	Preston, Lancs, S John	Stedman Cinques	JSW	20/10/06	Barrow Gurney, Som	Orionides S Major	AGR
28/08/06	Manchester Town Hall	Bristol S Maximus	JNH-D	21/10/06	Kettering, Northants	Bristol S Maximus	DEH
02/09/06	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Spliced Maximus (10m)	JNH-D	21/10/06	Ringwood, Hants	Bristol S Major	TFC
03/09/06	(H) Willingham, Cambs	TD Minor (120m)	DJP	21/10/06	Crewe, Cheshire	Yorkshire S Royal	FRM
05/09/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Stedman Cinques	SMA	22/10/06	Worcester, Northants	Spliced S Maximus (4m)	JNH-D
06/09/06	(H) Twickenham, Middx	Stedman Caters	PNM	23/10/06	Birmingham, S Philip	Bristol S Maximus	SJW
07/09/06	Caythorpe, Lincs	Turrumurra S Major	CPT	25/10/06	St Stephen in Brannell	Stedman Triples	JP
09/09/06	Selby Abbey	Stedman Cinques	RCK	28/10/06	Amersham, Bucks	Spliced S Maximus (4m)	JSW
09/09/06	Stourbridge, Worcs	Stedman Caters	BHT	28/10/06	New York, Trinity	Stedman Cinques	PNM
09/09/06	Kensington, S Mary Abbots	London (No.3) S Royal	SAC	29/10/06	Augusta, GA, USA	Rutland S Major	RJF
10/09/06	Liverpool, Pier Head	Stedman Cinques	PDH	29/10/06	Birmingham, S Martin	Stedman Sextuples	JSW
11/09/06	York, S Wilfrid	Bristol S Royal	DGH	29/10/06	New York, Trinity	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	SAC
15/09/06	Frederick, MD, USA	Spliced S Major (2m)	TJB	29/10/06	(H) Cambridge, Victoria St	TD Minor (7m)	DJP
15/09/06	Claybrooke, Leics	Bristol S Major	RHC	30/10/06	S George-in-the-East	Spliced S Major (4m)	JNH-D
15/09/06	Headingley, W Yorks	Spliced S Major (6m)	RGG	31/10/06	Saintbury, Glos	Cornwall S Major	FRS
15/09/06	Portsmouth, S Mary,Portsea	Portsmouth S Major	RME	01/11/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Stedman Cinques	SAC
15/09/06	Cattistock, Dorset	Cambridge S Major	TFC	03/11/06	Limehouse, S Anne	Cambridge S Royal	FRS
15/09/06	Clifton, Notts, S Mary	Uxbridge S Major	ABM	03/11/06	S Giles, Cripplegate	Stedman Cinques	PNM
15/09/06	Cradley, Herefords	Spliced S Major (8m)	FRS	03/11/06	Bermondsey, S James	Stedman Triples	SWP
15/09/06	York, S Martin le Grand	Yorkshire S Major	PJS	04/11/06	Hackney, S John Bapt	Bristol S Royal	RL
15/09/06	Great Barrington, Glos	S Minor (7m)	DACM	04/11/06	Shoreditch, S Leonard	Yorkshire S Maximus	FRS
15/09/06	Heydour, Lincs	S Minor (7m)	CPT	04/11/06	Oxford, S Thomas	Stedman Caters	HW
15/09/06	Claremont, W Australia	Minor (2m)	IDH	04/11/06	S Michael, Cornhill	Bristol S Maximus	JMT
15/09/06	Walkden, Lancs, S Paul	Yorkshire S Major	GRB	04/11/06	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Stedman Cinques	RHB
15/09/06	Cruwys Morchard, Devon	Cambridge S Minor	PJP	04/11/06	Bow, S Mary atte Bow	London S Major	RCK
15/09/06	Maker, Cornwall	S Minor (7m)	FMSS	04/11/06	S Olave, Hart Street	Cambridge S Major	PDH
15/09/06	Uppingham, Rutland	Bristol S Major	MAC	04/11/06	S Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside	Cambridge S Maximus	DEH
16/09/06	Marsden, W Yorks	Cambridge S Royal	JSW	09/11/06	Pebworth, Worcs	Yorkshire S Major	GWR
16/09/06	Harpenden, Herts	St Albans S Major	JNH-D	10/11/06	South Walsham, Norfolk	S Minor (7m)	RPJC
16/09/06	Braintree, Essex	Cambridge S Royal	DER	11/11/06	Hillingdon, Middx	Stedman Caters	CHR
16/09/06	Caterham Valley, Surrey	Cambridge S Major	JWH	11/11/06	Shepton Beauchamp, Som	Cambridge S Maximus	JSW
16/09/06	Warwick, S Nicholas	Putney Alliance Major	CFM	11/11/06	South Petherton, Som	Stedman Cinques	MRE
16/09/06	Exeter, Devon, S Mark	Cambridge S Royal	MJH	11/11/06	S Sepulchre, Newgate	Spliced Maximus (6m)	JNH-D
16/09/06	Whitchurch, S Glam	Cambridge S Major	MST	12/11/06	Upton Grey, Hants	S Minor (3m)	RCK
16/09/06	Shrivenham, Oxon	Stedman Caters	JP				
16/09/06	High Wycombe, Bucks	Spliced Cinques/Max (2m)	JNH-D				
16/09/06	Saddleworth, S Chad	Spliced S Major (8m)	JB				
16/09/06	Hanbury, Worcs	Stedman Triples	BHT				
16/09/06	Northfield, W Mids	Stedman Triples	MRE				
16/09/06	Shincliffe, Durham	S Minor (4m)	SBB				
16/09/06	Willesden, Middx	Superlative S Major	MJC				
16/09/06	Bristol, S Stephen	Yorkshire S Royal	KWS				
16/09/06	Whitchurch, Hants	Winchester S Royal	RL				
16/09/06	Caversham, Berks	Spliced S Major (4m)	GACJ				
16/09/06	Burnley, Lancs	Lincolnshire S Major	PCR				
16/09/06	Bishopstoke, Hants	Grandsire Caters	RL				
16/09/06	Wallasey, Merseyside	Yorkshire S Major	PDH				
16/09/06	Warnham, W Sussex	Stedman Caters	DEH				
16/09/06	Withycombe Raleigh	Cambridge S Maximus	MECM				
16/09/06	Swindon, Christ Church	Swindon S Royal	SJLL				
16/09/06	Bradford Cathedral	Cambridge S Maximus	MST				
16/09/06	Wiveliscombe, Som	Yorkshire S Major	PV				



*A Society peal band at Higham Ferrers in August.*

## SOME STATISTICS FROM THE 2005/6 PEALS

### 545 Members took part, led by

Total		Tower		Hand			2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	
rung	cond	r	c	r	c												
104	1	101	1	3		Stephanie J Warboys	Sixteen	2	2	1	6	2	1				
47	2	47	2			David J Baverstock	Septuples	2		3							
46	22	44	22	2		John S Warboys	Septuples/16			1							
37	20	33	17	4	3	John N Hughes-D'Aeth	Fourteen			1	1						
37	7	37	7			James Clatworthy	Sextuples	2						1			
36	6	35	5	1	1	Mark R Eccleston	Maximus	62	49	50	67	57	37	28	16	16	20
36		36				Alan D Flood	Cinques/Max	7	1	1	1	2	1				
32	15	25	10	7	5	Paul N Mounsey	Cinques	32	25	20	25	22	14	15	12	10	10
32	4	32	4			Philip Rogers	Royal	43	33	30	28	29	23	25	12	10	12
31	6	31	6			Simon J L Linford	Caters/Royal	1	1		1	1					
30		30				Susan L Apter	Caters	14	13	9	9	12	14	20	11	5	10
29		29				Eleanor J Linford	Major	79	84	37	43	52	50	27	21	13	19
							Triples	9	14	5	4	7	8	9	6	4	2
							Minor	18	15	6	8	5	6	5	3	3	
							Doubles		1	1		1	1	2			1
							Total Tower	271	239	164	193	188	156	130	84	61	74

### Peals rung at 194 Towers, led by

London, St Mary le Bow	8	Sixteen															
Bishopstoke, Hants, St Mary	7	Fourteen								1	1						
London, St Giles, Cripplegate	7	Maximus						1			1	5	6	1	1		
London, St Sepulchre without Newgate	6	Cinques	4	7	9	12	7	9	9	9	11	15	14				
Birmingham, St Martin	5	Royal	1	1		3	4							1			
		Caters	2	3		3	3	2	1	2	3	2					
		Major	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	1	1						
		Triples			1	1			1								
		Minor	9	21	15		1										
		Doubles			2												
		Total Hand	19	36	30	24	18	19	15	20	20	18					
		Total	290	275	194	217	206	175	145	104	81	92					

### 10 Handbell venues, led by

Cornhill Vestry	5																
Willingham, Cambs, 53 Covent Garden	4																
Cambridge, 12 Victoria St	3																

## KEEPING THE WHEELS OILED by Chris Ridley

A common theme in the Society's history has been its close association with specific hostelrys close to the churches where practices are held. A history of the headquarter pubs over the years would make interesting reading, as would a tour of those remaining - although the number on a day's itinerary might need to be curtailed if a drink was to be included at each! This article takes a more sober look at two peals rung in such venues.

For most of the 19th century the Society had its headquarters outside the City of London, but the move to the Rose & Crown at London House Yard, just off Paternoster Row, in 1892 marked its return. For a number of years the Goose & Gridiron in St Paul's Churchyard had been used as an alternative venue given its close proximity to the Cathedral. The Society kept a set of handbells there, but presumably could not secure a permanent room for their exclusive use - for holding meetings and storing the property. The peal records from that period highlight a number of performances at the venue. The methods rung were typically either Grandsire or Stedman, with Challis Winny and Walter Buckingham being two names frequently associated with successful attempts.

The Goose & Gridiron itself has other connections with the Society going back to the previous century. Other London archives record the pub as being the meeting place of one of the London-based Masonic Lodges. Membership included a number of College Youths as well as leading engravers, which may explain how Francesco Bartolozzi (1727-1815) came to design a Society annual feast ticket which eventually became the design for the membership certificate.

Another hostelry connection of interest is contained in the notebook of James Robert Haworth held in the Society archives. When Haworth died in 1910, aged 89, the Society recorded the passing of the last of the 'old stalwarts'. He had rung in many of the famous peals rung by the Society in the previous century, including the long peals of Stedman Cinques at Cripplegate and

Cornhill, and in the first peal at St Paul's Cathedral where he was a member of the band. He was also a member of the Westminster Abbey band, had rung at the coronation of Queen Victoria and on the occasion of her birthday for more than 60 years. A compositor by trade, he had supplemented his income through paid ringing in London. As organiser of such ringing he had significantly increased his earnings and gained the nickname 'King of the Scroof'.

His notebook includes many historical details of interest and was the subject of an extensive article by the former Librarian, Bill Cook (RW 1970, page 883). Haworth's first attempt for a peal was a 'lapped' peal of 6,070 Stedman Cinques at the Cock & Bottle in Bedfordbury, a street behind St Martin's Lane. Unfortunately this was lost after nearly four hours, with only a course to go. The same band successfully rang a shorter length peal in January 1839, which is recorded on a broadsheet inserted in his notebook. He did not join the Society until later in 1839, which explains why it was rung for 'A Friendly Society'. He does not record his first 'true' peal until October 1839 - the reason why these earlier attempts are thought to have been lapped. The band must have been very proficient at 'lapping' as the broadsheet records the successful peal of 5,014 Stedman Cinques as having taken only 3 hours 9 minutes to ring!

The Society has recently reviewed the objectives of the Library and agreed that in future its primary function should be as an information source on the activities and traditions of the Society, rather than a general collection of ringing-related memorabilia. There are many gaps in the information held, primarily because much material was lost when the Coffee Pot was bombed in 1940. A further aim is therefore to encourage relevant research to make the records more comprehensive. This article touches on some examples that are to be pursued over the next few years. The Librarian would be interested to hear from other members who are pursuing concurrent work.



## NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected and welcomed as new Members in the year to November 2006:

David T G Jones of Neston, Cheshire  
Peter W Robson of Thurstaston, Cheshire  
Edward E Woodward of Horsham  
Nicholas R Rossi of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
D Annabel Preston of Portsmouth  
Jonathan S Frye of Dunblane  
Stephen J Mills of Westborough, Lincolnshire  
Janet A Hill of Surbiton  
Christopher Lee of Bures, Suffolk  
Leigh D G Simpson of Cambridge  
Robert H Jordan of Hessle, East Yorkshire  
John C Sheppard of Malmesbury, Wilts

William J Dawson of Welton, Lincs  
Katherine H V Fulcher of Staplehurst  
Roman E Sadowski of Ross on Wye  
Brian A Sanders of Barnsley  
Matthew D Dawson of Willoughby on the Wolds  
James W Holdsworth of Halifax  
David E Leafe of Warwick  
David J Mattingley of Truro  
Daniel J Smith of Pebmarsh, Essex  
Susan Bryce of Edinburgh  
Stephen J Ward of Shoreham by Sea

## OBITUARY

The following are the Members to whom tribute was paid at Society Business Meetings in the year to November 2006:

David E Parsons of Egham, elected 1948  
Bryan Williams of Daventry, elected 1984  
John H Hunt of Fareham, elected 1947  
John N Longridge of Exeter, elected 1968  
Jonathan P Hughes of Stoke St Michael, elected 2001  
George E Evenden of Southampton, elected 1949  
William A (Billy) Patterson of Belfast, elected 1958  
John A (Arthur) Izard of Victoria, BC, elected 1947  
G William Critchley of Tregony, Cornwall, elected 1945  
Cecil R Longhurst of West Grinstead, elected 1942

Alan R Patterson of Watton-at-Stone, elected 1965  
Dennis Mottershead of Wilmslow, elected 1961  
M Jack Pryor of Cardiff, elected 1960  
Geoffrey Hebden of Banwell, elected 1975  
Jeffrey C Birt of Slough, elected 1945  
Rev Anthony E F Trotman of Chicklade, elected 1933  
J Michael Lakin of Ascot, elected 1984  
Gerald C Hemming of Evesham, elected 1957  
Brian G Warwick of South Wigston, elected 1951  
Wilfrid F Moreton of Wakefield, elected 1950

## MILESTONES

We congratulate the following Members who celebrated 50 years' membership in 2006:

John Armstrong  
R James Cook  
John N Diserens  
Noel J Diserens

Terry Earle  
Robin G Leale  
James H Lilley  
John M B Long

Donald L Mills  
Michael P Moreton  
Ronald K Russ

Congratulations also to Denis N Layton and Paul K Williamson who celebrated 60 years' membership, and to Air Commodore John S Mason who achieved the even greater distinction of 70 years' membership.

We were very pleased that Denis Layton, John Armstrong, Jim Cook, Don Mills and Michael Moreton were able to attend the 369<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner last November. Other Members present with over 50 years' membership included Jim Bullock (65), John Gipson (59), Philip Hudson (56), David Kingston (55), Brian Bladon (51), George Pipe (51) and Tudor Edwards (51).

## MR WONDERFUL - RIP

Although he had suffered from ill health for many years, the death of Alan Patterson in February last year came as a great shock to his many ringing friends.

Alan was Master of the Society in 1971/2. He was also for many years a member of the band at both Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral and was Deputy Conductor of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild from 1985 to 1993. He was a first-class heavy bell ringer and a capable conductor.

Wilfred Williams dubbed him "Mr Wonderful" and he revelled in the soubriquet. He loved to tell stories, often against himself. His funeral, conducted by Past Master Brooke Lunn, was attended by many Society members.



## RINGING AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY by Chris Rogers



*The Westminster Abbey Company in action.*

The north-west tower of Westminster Abbey contains a fine ring of ten bells cast at Whitechapel in 1971, tenor 30-1-15 in D. They replaced a ring of eight with a tenor of 28½ cwt in D flat. The two oldest bells, the 5<sup>th</sup> (1583) and 7<sup>th</sup> (1598), were retained and are chimed for daily services. In 1919 the bells had been fully restored and augmented from six to eight. It had been found impossible to ring the bells for more than a few minutes for the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918 due to the dire state of the frame and fittings.

The ringing pattern at the Abbey differs from that at virtually every other tower with an established band, in that the bells are rung only on occasional Sundays and there is no practice night. The bells are however rung for specific occasions and events as required by the Dean and Chapter. Typically there are about 40 ringing occasions each year. There are 28 regular ringing days, including the major church festivals, certain saints' days, royal anniversaries, significant dates in the history of the Abbey and certain civic occasions. Additionally there are special services, for example to mark significant anniversaries of events and organisations, and services of thanksgiving for the lives of eminent people. It is because the Abbey bells are by tradition only rung for special occasions that it is not possible for practices to be held there.

Another unusual feature of Abbey ringing is that the bells are rung after, rather than before, services, except when HM the Queen is present (she attends 2 or 3 times a year) when they are rung both before and after the service.

The 'special' that really stands out in the memory of recent years is the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, when the tenor was rung 101 times at one minute intervals before the service and a half-muffled peal of 5101 Stedman Caters was rung immediately afterwards. The service and much of the ringing was broadcast across the world. Later that day the body of Rodney Meadows, who had died a week earlier, was received into the Abbey and a short service held, followed by a quarter peal.

The Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers comprises ten Principals, 13 Supernumeraries and three Honorary Members (retired Principals). The Principals are required to attend in person on each ringing occasion or to arrange for a Supernumerary or Honorary Member to take their place. Because we always aim to meet 11 (in case

someone is delayed en route), the Supernumeraries take it in turn to be Acting Principals. By custom (but not by rule) all members are also members of the Society.

The Company was established in its present form in 1921 and has included many notable members of the Society. Thirty-two Past Masters are or have been Abbey ringers, including such luminaries from the past as Alfred Peck, Frank Smallwood, Albert A Hughes, Bill Cook and Jim Prior. The list of members includes several other well-known names, such as Herbert Langdon, William Cockerill and Challis Winney. Harold Pitstow was Secretary and Conductor from 1943 to 1979 and he was followed by Bill Critchley. In 1984 the post was split and John Crampton became Conductor and Rodney Meadows Secretary. The current Officers are David Hilling (Conductor), Michael Uphill (Deputy Conductor), Nigel Thomson (Steeplekeeper) and Chris Rogers (Secretary).

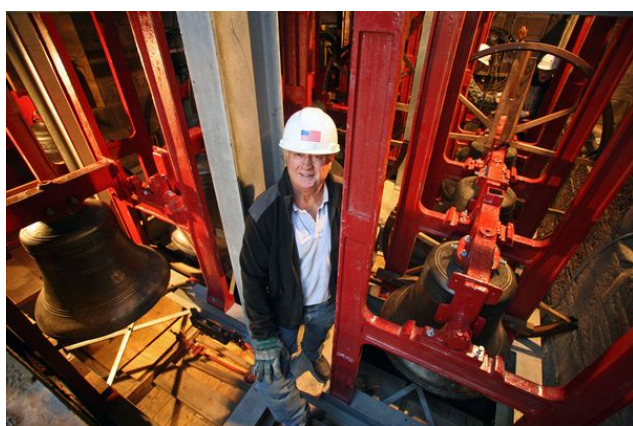
The Abbey ringers enjoy excellent relations with the clergy and staff of the Abbey. The Dean normally takes the chair at the annual dinner (held in the historic Jerusalem Chamber) and meets us prior to the start of the annual meeting. One of the Minor Canons, the Revd Graeme Napier, is Superintendent of the Belfry. He chairs the annual meeting and is our main point of contact for special services, etc. He was formerly a ringer and takes much interest in our activities. Through his initiative ringing for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in 2005 included whole pull and stand before the service (in mourning for those who had died) and firing the bells after the service (in celebration of the end of the war). The whole pull and stand was also rung at the conclusion of the service to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act on 27 March.

In 2000 the Abbey Company visited the USA and Canada and rang at Washington, Toronto and the three British Columbia towers (Vancouver, Victoria and Mission). The tour was held to re-establish certain links, including that with the Old Post Office Tower in Washington, where the ten Whitechapel bells were cast to a similar specification to the Abbey's ten and the Abbey's coat of arms appears on each headstock. At Westminster Abbey, Mission, where the link is in the name, greetings between the two establishments were exchanged. Victoria Cathedral had a Whitechapel eight cast in 1936 that reproduced the sizes and weights of the then Abbey eight. Although subsequently augmented to ten, a touch was rung on the back eight by the tourists which was a remarkable reminder of the tone of the Abbey's pre 1971 bells.

Finally a word on visiting ringers. Since 1987 a visiting band has been invited to ring at the Abbey on New Year's Day. Recent visitors have included bands from High Wycombe and Exeter, Liverpool, Oxford, Newcastle, Llandaff and Coventry Cathedrals. They normally have 30 minutes or so of general ringing, followed by a quarter peal. Apart from that, it is not possible to accommodate visiting bands, but we are always pleased to welcome individuals who are competent on ten to ring with us on our regular ringing days. Arrangements should be made in advance with myself or one of the other Abbey ringers.



**A WEEKEND IN NEW YORK CITY** by Paul Carless  
(Photographs by Allan Tannenbaum)



*Dill Faulkes, donor of the 12 bells at Trinity Wall Street.*

When one thinks of the list of ringing chambers which command the greatest views, one immediately thinks of Inverary, Mission City B.C., St Paul's and of course Stockton on Tees, but there is now a new addition to the list. I refer of course to Trinity Wall Street, New York, home to the first ring of 12 bells in the United States.

Trinity Church has close connections with the City of London, being the sister church of St Mary-le-Bow. The new bells are the gift of the Dill Faulkes Educational Trust and bear the Society's crest. The Ringing World (7 July 2006) contains a detailed article outlining the project.

Dill sealed the end of the project by fixing a weekend when the first peal would be attempted and invited 11 of us to ring in the first peal on 28<sup>th</sup> October last year. Dill being Dill pushed the envelope a bit further by casting the names of the peal band on each bell. So, no pressure then.

From the band's point of view all we had to do was turn up at Trinity at 6pm on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> for the try out. Some of the band flew out a few days earlier to enjoy the city (and what a city!). Others, in keeping with the spirit of the venture, arrived that afternoon.

There's a great feeling of excitement when you meet up with friends in foreign places and the same questions were repeated as one by one we ascended into the ringing chamber. "How was your flight?", "When did you arrive" and "What pub are we drinking in?" We were fortunate that there was a ringing chamber given that, during the morning, the newly installed stairs leading up to the chamber had to be moved to the correct place. The work was complete two hours prior to the try out and credit must be given to Andrew and the team (Dill, Nigel Bailey, Hannah Wilby and TESCO) for achieving a phenomenal amount against the clock. Let's face it, no-one would believe it was an AWRW project if it wasn't last minute.

As the try out time arrived there were some 40 people in the ringing chamber; the twelve members of the peal band, other halves and partners, the installation crew, the press and of course the Trinity Church project team, clergy and officials, so there was a high degree of expectation. We raised the bells and were ready to pull off.

Dill had very clear parameters on what he wanted in terms of the bells' weight and sound. He wanted the classic Taylor's old style sound from the turn of the 20th century, a condition that went with the order. And that is

what he got. The pull off was clean and crisp and the resulting, opening rounds were spine-tingling. The next few rounds were drowned out by prolonged cheering and shrieking, mainly from the Trinity side. A quick glance at Dill's face; a small nod, a smile and a wink showed that he was extremely pleased with the bells.



*A close-up of the 10th bell, showing the Society's crest.*

Stage one was therefore over and the baton of pressure was handed over to Mr Mounsey to conduct the first peal the following day. Stedman Cinques? In New York? First peal on 12 in the US? What pressure? When asked on the Friday evening if he'd called the composition many times before, Paul answered "Well not really, I only finished composing it last night." What a guy!

After a couple of sherbets and a steak the size of a family Bible, it was time for an early night for most. Our hotel room had the added benefit of a continuous, deep roar and a clanking noise coming from the plethora of air-conditioning units outside the window. They say New York is the city that never sleeps; 'they' had clearly spent a night or two in the Hotel La Quinta.

Next morning we met at the church, where we were blessed by the Bishop before trooping upstairs. The peal was to be webcast so care was taken with the usual pre-peal changing and chat while the camera was rolling.

A very good, steady peal was rung and hats were duly doffed to Paul for shouting out the calls so consistently, the bells being on the loud side. The handstroke courses, in particular toward the end of the peal, were exemplary. I just don't understand people who don't like Stedman.

After the peal we headed over to the Vicarage and were entertained royally at a drinks reception hosted by The Rev. Canon Anne Mallonee, Vicar of Trinity and her husband. There can't be that many Vicarages on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor of a tower block in Lower Manhattan. Simon Linford observed that, although the Vicarage where he grew up in Staffordshire didn't have quite such commanding views, it did boast more toilets.

Sunday saw service ringing for Eucharist, followed by another peal attempt to allow friends and partners to ring a peal at Trinity. Steve Coaker produced and conducted a subtle and inspired composition of Bristol and Stedman and another good peal was rung. With success achieved, the formal requirements of the weekend were complete. Now was the time to relax over a few pints of Sam Adams and a steak and reflect on a truly unique weekend.



## PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2007

Practices are normally advertised in the last Ringing World of each month and on the Society's Web Site.

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

B = St Mary-le-Bow                      J = St Lawrence Jewry  
C = St Michael's Cornhill      N = St Sepulchre, Newgate  
D = St Leonard, Shoreditch      P = St Paul's Cathedral  
G = St Giles, Cripplegate      S = Southwark Cathedral  
O = Out of Town, Kingston upon Thames  
\* Denotes Meeting Night

The normal venue for Business Meetings and post-practice drinks (except when the practice is at Southwark) is The Counting House, 50 Cornhill, London EC3.

## SOCIETY OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS 2006/7

Master	Robert C Kippin
Secretary	John Hughes-D'Aeth
Treasurer	Philip Rogers
Senior Steward	Mark A Humphreys
Junior Steward	Peter Valuks
Librarian	Christopher Ridley
Trustees	David E House Christopher H Rogers
Peal Recorder	Philip Saddleton
Webmaster	Dickon Love

## TOWER SECRETARIES

**St Michael's Cornhill:** Tony Kench, 75 Little Britain Apt 51, London EC1A 7BT. Tel 020 7796 2656

E-mail: tony.kench@btinternet.com

**St Giles Cripplegate:** Gwen Rogers, 193 Lennard Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1QN. Tel 020 8778 6308

E-mail: gbm.rogers@ntlworld.com

**St Lawrence Jewry:** David Baverstock, Flat 3, St George in the East, Cannon Street Road, London E1 OBH. Tel 020 7702 1342

E-mail: david.baverstock@kcl.ac.uk

**St Sepulchre:** Katie Town, 43 Weavers Way, Camden, London NW1 0XF. Tel 020 7387 0810

E-mail: katiatown@btinternet.com

## SOCIETY E-MAIL NEWS SERVICE

The Society maintains an e-mail news service, which is free to Members. Subscription is via the web site or by sending an e-mail request to the Secretary or the Webmaster. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the E-group and to provide their e-mail address for inclusion on the (hopefully spam-proof) website list.

## ASCY ON THE WEB

The Society's website is at [www.ascy.org.uk](http://www.ascy.org.uk). The website contains regular updates on Society activities, pictures of Society events (occasionally controversial), contact details for Members, Society peals and much more information.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Please send to the Secretary, John Hughes-D'Aeth, at 9 Falstaff Gardens, St Albans, Herts AL1 2AL. Tel 01727 863470. E-mail: secretary@ascy.org.uk. Items for the Web Site should be e-mailed to the Webmaster, Dickon Love (webmaster@ascy.org.uk).

## PEAL FEES

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

## MAILING LIST

If you know of any members who are no longer in touch with the Society, please let us know. Thanks to all those members who have sent us details of "lost members".

## NEWSLETTER FINANCE

This Newsletter is financed entirely by donations from Members. We are most grateful to those Members who have contributed during 2006.

Last year, for the first time, Members were offered the option of receiving the Newsletter by e-mail as a PDF file, rather than a paper copy. This led to a reduction in production and postage costs from (approximately) £1,350 to £1,150. However, donations from Members were also down. Contributions in 2005 totalled roughly £850; in 2006 some 80 Members (out of a total of just over 1300 Newsletter recipients) donated around £750 in total.

Whilst the number opting to receive a PDF copy is steadily increasing, production and (particularly) postage costs continue to rise. We would therefore urge other Members to consider doing so. However, we recognise that it will not suit all Members and paper copies will continue to be available for anyone who wants them.

We would also welcome donations from Members, particularly those who have chosen not to contribute in the past. We regret that it is not possible to acknowledge donations individually, but they are much appreciated.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thank you to those who have helped to put this Newsletter together, including all the contributors, Dickon (technical support) and my family for stuffing envelopes. Your efforts are much appreciated.



*The Master with Derek Carr at the Master's Challenge.*