



ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

MAY 2010

It's hard to believe that another 12 months has passed since the last Newsletter was published. With a house move (to Oxfordshire) in between a wide range of Society activities, this has been a particularly busy year.

One of the highlights of 2009 was undoubtedly the National 12-Bell Contest at St Paul's Cathedral in June. A happy throng of nearly 500 people mingled in Paternoster Square to listen to a feast of high-class ringing on those majestic bells. The Society's band exceeded expectations in finishing a very close third, giving the home team (who just pipped the Birmingham band) a strong run for their money. Congratulations to the St Paul's Guild on a famous victory and for putting on such a superb event.



St Cuthbert, Edinburgh - host to the Country Meeting.

The Country Meeting lived up to the high standards of recent years, with around 90 Members and friends converging on Edinburgh for the Society's first-ever Country Meeting in Scotland. The weekend featured the now-customary series of peal attempts at venues including Newcastle, Inveraray, Aberdeen and Inverness; in the process we discovered just how far apart some of these places are. The peal at Inveraray was nearly sabotaged by Easyjet and that at SS Andrew & George (Edinburgh) by a broken rope, the latter rectified by our resourceful Junior Steward. General ringing in Edinburgh on the Saturday was followed by a Business Meeting in the Lindisfarne Room at St Cuthbert's and dinner at Murrayfield Stadium, with a number of Members enjoying a pre-dinner stadium tour. We are most grateful to the Scottish Members for making us so welcome and to Mike Clay and Jonathan Frye for organising such a splendid weekend.



The Master presents Mike Clay with a token of thanks.

After the success of the "Master's Challenge" in 2006, around 70 Members descended on Birmingham in August for the "ASCY Challenge". Despite a last minute hitch when a flood put St Paul's out of action, the day was a great success, with teams led by the Master, Stewards and Secretary tackling off-beat challenges including "double Minor" (4 to 9 and 11 to 16 simultaneously) at the Bull Ring and "speed learning" a new Major method at St Chad's. The final tally saw the team led by Senior Steward Martin Cansdale emerge victorious. Our thanks to Stef Warboys for making all the local arrangements.



Stephen (Percy) Penney with father Gerald and William Dawson at the Anniversary Dinner.

Peal Weekend was a quieter affair than in recent years, with only 22 peals scored. Nevertheless the Society recorded a total of 261 peals in 2008/9, only one down on the previous year. Full details can be found on pages 6 and 7. Highlights included a peal at St Mary-le-Bow to mark the 100th birthday of Fred Smeaton (see page 3) and

the first peal on the augmented ring of 6 at Brereton (the Society's ancestral home). 2009 also featured highly successful peal weekends in North Somerset and Devon, organised by Tim Payne and Matthew Hilling respectively.



New Junior Steward David Maynard with Paul Mounsey and Stuart Hutchieson at the Anniversary Dinner.

The Anniversary Dinner as usual provided a fitting climax to the Society's year, with 299 Members and guests in attendance. Once again the Guoman Tower Hotel did not let us down, with high-quality food and service and the beer flowing freely into the small hours. The main event was preceded by the usual mix of peal attempts, Friday night socialising (this year at the Red Herring) and Jim Phillips' walking tour on the Saturday morning. There was an alarm when our planned guest speaker (The Rt Revd Colin Slee, Dean of Southwark Cathedral) had to drop out following major heart surgery, but we were delighted that the Bishop of Southwark (The Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler) was able to take his place. We were also entertained by

Preb Chris Marshall, who had played a major part in the Master's early ringing career.

At the November meeting, Martin Cansdale took over from Peter Valuks as Master. We thank Peter for his effort and enthusiasm throughout a highly successful year in office. Martin's vision and plans for his year are outlined on page 3. One of Peter's Southwark Cathedral proteges, David Maynard, was elected as Junior Steward.

We have had to cope with new access arrangements at St Paul's Cathedral, after an intruder in the tower led to the authorities imposing restrictions. Meanwhile, at a St Sepulchre practice, we found the ringing room door bolted on the inside by builders working in the church. The Senior Steward was forced to scale the external scaffolding (in flagrant breach of health and safety rules) and enter the ringing room via the window. Work to enhance the facilities at the west end of the church has now finished, allowing the library room to be brought into full use. 2009 has also seen work to improve the go of the bells at Cripplegate, including new pulleys on 3, 4 and 10, plus a new carpet, rope mats and window blinds.

Other highlights of the last 12 months have included the wedding of two well-known Members, Anthea Edwards and Philip Saddleton; an enjoyable weekend on Lundy Island in January, led by the new Master; a highly successful long weekend in Georgia and Charleston, featured in Rebecca Woodgate's article on page 9; and the now-traditional Past Masters' Lunch on Palm Sunday, organised and (this year only) chaired by Tony Kench.

So the Society remains in excellent heart. We look forward to seeing many of you at Society events in 2010.

John Hughes-D'Aeth

PROGRESS AT ST MAGNUS THE MARTYR

This has been another auspicious year in the life of the new bells at St Magnus the Martyr. Installed only in April 2009, they have quickly become part of the fabric of the City of London ringing scene. The occupiers of the offices next door can testify to how frequently they are rung!

The consecration service last March (featured in last year's Newsletter) was followed by an equally splendid dedication High Mass in October, led by the Archdeacon of London, Canon David Meara, during which the bells were formally entrusted to the Society's care. The service also featured the dedication of the magnificent 1762 peal board (restored and re-gilded thanks to the generosity of Society Member Peter Rumley) which now hangs in the ringing room, the restored and cleaned tower and a new set of handbells presented by the Whitechapel Bellfoundry in thanks for Tim Joiner's help in hanging the bells.

The first peal on the bells was rung in November and numerous more have been rung since, including two in a day by Past Masters of the Society in January. In addition, the bells have been rung regularly for Sunday services and many practices and quarter peals have taken place there. At its December meeting, the Society elected Dickon Love (the driving force behind the project) as Tower Secretary and Jim Foster as Steeplekeeper, recognizing that St Magnus is now very much a Society tower.

St Magnus has also hosted two major striking contests in the last few months. The first was the inaugural London

12 bell contest, which was the brainchild of Jason Hughes and brought together bands from all the centres of 12 bell ringing in London. The Society's two bands (led by Peter Valuks and Phil Goodyer) finished first and third, adding the Whitechapel Trophy to its collection of silverware. Then, in March, the Society hosted one of the eliminators for the National 12 Bell Contest. Our still inexperienced team was able to put home advantage to good use, comfortably winning our heat. We are looking forward to challenging the Brummies in the Final at Crediton in June.



Peter Rumley admires the re-gilded 1762 peal board.

MASTER'S MESSAGE 2010 by Martin Cansdale



Peter hands over the reins to Martin at the November meeting.

For me, one of the joys of being a College Youth is meeting so many other Members. Many, of course, attend the Tuesday night practice and business meetings, but we are much more than just a London based society. Peals, overseas tours, Country Meetings, out of town practices and more expand the sphere of the Society's activities well beyond the City, and give members from all corners of the country and around the world the opportunity to ring together and socialise. Whether you ring in London regularly, occasionally or never, we have a shared aim of excellence in ringing, and a common pride in the Society's traditions and values.

A third of my year has already passed, and with it some enjoyable regular events in the Society's calendar.

Another splendid London Ringers' Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate was followed by a convivial social evening. The Informal Dinner was again held at the Bleeding Heart Tavern and was highly successful. Results for Society bands in striking contests have been encouraging. We qualified comfortably for the National 12 Bell Contest final by claiming first place at our home eliminator at St Magnus the Martyr. The joint striking contest with the SRCY was an away fixture, taking place at St Martin-in-the-Fields. There we achieved a pleasing and rather unexpected draw over the three legs, with the judges for the 12 bell touch being unable to split the teams.

Tuesday nights are of course at the heart of the Society's activities. Although attendances have at times been low, I am heartened by the quality of ringing that has generally been achieved. One of my aims for the rest of the year is to include more touches from our spliced menu of ORABS and Ariel, while we maintain and improve standards of striking.

There is of course much still to come. Saturday May 15th will see a joint ASCY/SRCY peal day. Summer brings the 12 Bell final at Crediton, the Country Meeting in Ipswich and the Evesham Cup striking competition taking place at Aston. The Society's Peal Weekend will be held on 18-19 September, when Members may wish to select compositions by Stephen Ivin, College Youth and prolific composer, to mark his recent death. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events, and in London on a Tuesday evening.

100 NOT OUT – FRED SMEATON



A very notable landmark was reached on 15th May last year when Fred Smeaton of Adelaide celebrated his 100th birthday – possibly the first Member ever to do so.

Fred learnt to ring at Withyham (Sussex) in 1923, later ringing in Brighton and Bexhill before moving to Adelaide with his family in 1950. He joined the Society prior to a peal at St Olave, Hart Street on 5th March 1935 - amazingly, his only Society peal. He has therefore recently achieved the rare distinction of completing 75 years' membership.

Until a few years ago he rang regularly at Adelaide's two cathedrals (St Peter's and SFX) and he continued to ring for Sunday service at St. Cuthbert, Prospect until 2008, when a combination of angina and shoulder problems forced him into retirement. He also still drives his car, goes to the gym and enjoys a glass (or two) of red wine, which he describes as the secret of his longevity.

THE SOCIETY'S BELL FUND by Phil Rogers, Treasurer

The Ancient Society of College Youths Bell Restoration Fund was set up over 30 years ago under the wise supervision of the Society's then Treasurer, Stan Mason. Its object was, and remains, "to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to Churches in which the Ancient Society of College Youths

has a major interest, for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them".

An early major project for the Fund was to support the restoration and augmentation of the bells of St Sepulchre, which was completed in 1985. More recently, the Fund

supported the project to install a new ring of 12 bells at St Magnus the Martyr. Thanks to the generosity of many Members and others the Society was able to make a grant of £30,000, plus a further £12,800 donated by Past Masters of the Society towards one of the bells. Other projects have included the purchase of a sharp second for St Giles Cripplegate, which has proved a boon in assisting service ringing there, and a grant of £2,000 towards the restoration of the bells of St Katharine Cree.

Since the 1990's the Fund has borne responsibility for "routine non-faculty maintenance" at St Giles, Cripplegate and St Michael, Cornhill in return for receipt of donations made by ringers at those churches. At Cripplegate, this has enabled a great deal of work to be done by both professionals and volunteers to improve the sound quality in the belfry and the go of the bells, although the latter is unlikely to be entirely problem-free as long as the installation is at the top of a high and not particularly sturdy tower. At Cornhill, expenditure has concentrated on essential care and maintenance in the hope that a more fundamental restoration will be possible in the near future.

In the early days, the Fund's income came mainly from "one off" donations and transfers of surplus income from the Society's General Fund. A major change took place in the early 1980s when Members were given the option of covenanting an annual donation to the Fund in lieu of paying steepleage when attending Society events. In 2008 this scheme was extended to become the Friends of the Bell Fund Scheme, under which Members are encouraged to donate at least £40 per year to support the Fund's activities. In 2009 Annual Steepleage and Friends of the Bell Fund subscriptions yielded an income of over £3,000. By making subscriptions under the Gift Aid Scheme every £1 donated produces an additional 28p in tax reclaimable.

Members attending Society business meetings will have noticed a small wooden money box circulating. This is the Pence Box, originally a collection for Members fallen on hard times, but more recently used for donations

to the Bell Fund. Despite the name, many contributions these days are in the form of £1 coins (and even one £10 note in 2009), although there is usually a goodly supply of pennies, not to mention small Brazilian coins, a South African 20 rand piece (by coincidence shortly after Andrew Wilby's tour returned from South Africa) and, most months, a US quarter (very useful to the Treasurer when he travels to the USA). In 2009 the Pence Box produced nearly £370 of income.

A major initiative over the last 10 years has been the Oranges and Lemons project. This was devised and run by David Hilling and Alan Regin to raise money for the Bell Funds of the Society and the Cumberlands by selling prints of a picture by H.E. Tidmarch of the churches mentioned in the famous nursery rhyme. To date the Scheme has raised over £12,000 for the Society's Fund. The Members of both Societies are very grateful to David and Alan for the project. Without it our ability to support the St Magnus Appeal and much else would have been greatly diminished.

At the time of writing, the Bell Fund has unallocated reserves of approximately £20,000. These are considered adequate to meet day to day costs at the churches where we are responsible for maintaining the bell installations, with a contingency reserve, but would not enable us to provide a large sum for future major projects. It is the policy of the Trustees to spend money in the Fund rather than build up large unutilised balances.

Members wishing to support the Fund may do so in a number of ways. One-off donations are welcome. Joining the Friends of the Bell Fund Scheme allows more regular donations to be made. Where possible, we ask Members to donate under the Gift Aid Scheme. Alternatively, Members may wish to remember the Society in their will. One Member who died last year very generously left £250 to the Fund and Stan Mason himself left the Society £5,000. Anyone interested in donating to the Fund is asked to contact the Treasurer.

AUSTRALIA 2011 by *Phil Goodyer, Senior Steward*

The Society will be hosting a Country Meeting and tour to Australia in 2011. The Society held a highly successful Country Meeting in Perth in 2003, and next year's hopes to build on that success.

The Country Meeting itself will take place in Sydney, where I learnt to ring. The Tour Dinner will be held in the magnificent Town Hall at Adelaide, where I lived for over 20 years and was Captain at both Cathedrals at various times. The Dinner is a joint event with the SRCY, who will be touring Australia at the same time (their current Senior Steward, Peter Harrison, is also Australian).

The full tour will take in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and will conclude in Perth, home of the best 16 in the world. Peal attempts are confirmed at all the Australian 12s, plus St Peter's Adelaide (8, 41cwt), the Swan Tower in Perth and many other Australian towers. Second peal attempts have also been organised at what are expected to be some of the more popular towers.

In addition to the Meeting and Dinner, other tour highlights will include ringing and social events with local

Members, a barbecue in "The Bush", opportunities for tourist excursions (e.g. Sydney Harbour cruise, winery tour and Wildlife Park visit) plus "The Adelaide Challenge" - modelled on the successful challenges in Bristol and Birmingham and involving ringers from the Society, SRCY, ANZAB, NAG and others at all 5 Adelaide towers.

A current tour programme and registration form can be found on the Society's Web Site. Registrations (with deposits) should be submitted as soon as possible and in any event by 30 June 2010. Group travel and accommodation are being organised for those who require it; this is likely to be considerably cheaper than individual arrangements. As a guide, economy class airfares from UK to Australia (including all internal flights) are likely to be around £1,200, with 4 star hotels approx £60 pppn. Billets are available for younger Members with local Members if this will enable them to afford the trip.

I expect the weather will be warm, and I'm certain the welcome from the Australian ringers warmer. Please contact me or the Secretary if you need further details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

COUNTRY MEETING 2010

This year's Country Meeting is to be held on Saturday 10 July in Ipswich, which the Society last visited in 1993. Our thanks to the Ipswich ringers for inviting us, and to George Pipe for making all the local arrangements.

As is now customary, a programme of peals is being arranged around Suffolk over the weekend, with attempts planned on the Thursday, Friday and Sunday. If you would like to take part, please contact the Junior Steward, David Maynard (junior.steward@ascy.org.uk).

PEAL WEEKEND

Last year's Peal Weekend was a slightly quieter affair than in recent years, but we still managed to score a total of 22 peals. Our thanks to Martin Cansdale for co-ordinating the weekend, and to all those Members who arranged and took part in attempts.

The 2010 event will take place over the weekend of 18/19 September, under the direction of Phil Goodyer (Senior Steward). He will contact those who organised attempts last year. If you are planning an attempt, or

OUT OF TOWN PRACTICE

As in recent years, we are intending to hold one of our Tuesday night practices outside our usual stamping ground of the City of London and Southwark.

373rd ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Society's 373rd Anniversary Dinner will take place on Saturday 6th November. It will again be held at the Guoman Tower Hotel, close to Tower Bridge. Tickets may be purchased using the enclosed order form.

We have decided to continue with last year's (seemingly popular) experiment of reducing the number of speeches by omitting the toast to the Guests and Visitors, to allow more time for socialising afterwards.

The seating plan will consist of round tables of 10. Members are invited to make up tables and to encourage "occasional" and prospective new members to join them.

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.

It is useful to have advance notice of membership proposals, so 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 attend their election meeting if possible, but

On the Saturday there will be general ringing at various towers around Ipswich, including St Mary-le-Tower where the Business Meeting will be held. The Saturday evening will feature an informal Dinner at the St Lawrence Centre, close to St Mary-le-Tower, which houses a recently-restored ring of 5 pre-Reformation bells.

Full details of the weekend (including accommodation options) can be found on the Society's Web Site. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

would like to be put in touch with your local organiser, please contact Phil (senior.steward@ascy.org.uk).

It has been suggested that Members may wish to use Peal Weekend as an opportunity to pay tribute to Stephen Ivin, who died in January, by ringing one (or more) of his compositions. However, this is in no way compulsory and Members are free to ring whatever they choose. Members looking for a suitable composition are invited to contact the Peal Recorder, Richard Allton (richard@allton.net).

With a nod to the Master's Essex roots, this year's Out of Town practice will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Tuesday 28th September. Please join us if you can.

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) or from the Web Site.

The Tower have looked after us very well for the last 6 years, but we are conscious that we cannot afford to take them for granted. One or two promising new venues have opened in the City of London over the last couple of years and we will continue to monitor them, but without losing sight of the old maxim "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

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.



The Master (Peter Valuks) congratulates new member Richard Pullin on his election at the August meeting.

THE 261 PEALS RUNG IN 2008/2009 compiled by Richard Allton, Peal Recorder

Date	Tower	Method	Cond	Date	Tower	Method	Cond
14/11/08	Cawthorne, All Saints	5040 TD Minor (19m)	BAS	04/05/09	Stroud, S Lawrence	5007 Stedman Caters	CFM
15/11/08	High Wycombe, All Saints	5120 Spliced S Major (8m)	RHN	05/05/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5002 Bristol S Royal	EPDC
15/11/08	Kidderminster, S Mary & All Saints	5069 Stedman Cinques	JP	09/05/09	London, S Sepulchre	5040 Ariel S Maximus	JNH-D
16/11/08	Thurstaston, S Bartholomew	5040 York S Minor	DTGJ	09/05/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	5024 London S Major	SAC
16/11/08	(H) Longthorpe, Vicarage	5024 Spliced S Major (4m)	WSC	11/05/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	5124 Spliced Triples/Major (22m)	JNH-D
17/11/08	Westminster Abbey	5450 Stedman Caters	DCB	13/05/09	(H) Cornhill Vestry	5007 Stedman Caters	DJS
17/11/08	Mottisfont, S Andrew	5040 Doubles (13m)	RL	16/05/09	West Ham, All Saints	5040 Cambridge S Royal	AJG
19/11/08	(H) Cornhill Vestry	5053 Stedman Caters	PNM	17/05/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5100 Stedman Cinques	DEH
22/11/08	Barnet, S John the Baptist	5280 Bristol S Major	AJG	23/05/09	Broughton In Furness, S Mary Magd.	5088 Cambridge S Maximus	RCK
23/11/08	Cripplegate, S Giles	5472 Spliced S Major (45m)	JNH-D	23/05/09	Llanbadarn Fawr, S Padarn	5064 Stedman Caters	DPH
24/11/08	Bishopstoke Campanile	5024 Cornwall S Major	RL	23/05/09	Newark Upon Trent, S Mary Magd	5040 Spliced Caters/Royal (2m)	SAC
25/11/08	Brockenhurst, S Nicholas	5120 Bristol S Major	RL	24/05/09	Nottingham, S Mary V	5088 Bristol S Maximus	AJG
29/11/08	Southwark, Cathedral	5088 Spiced S Maximus (4m)	AJG	24/05/09	Whitehaven, S James	5136 Bristol S Maximus	JNH-D
29/11/08	Walkden, S Paul	5088 Bristol S Major	JEA	24/05/09	Clun, S George	5000 Triton D Royal	MJH
29/11/08	Willesden, S Mary	5472 Spiced S Major (9m)	JNH-D	25/05/09	Leominster, SS Peter and Paul	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	TWG
30/11/08	Huntsam, All Saints	5088 Ealing S Major	FMSS	25/05/09	St Bees, Priory	5120 Bristol S Major	MJC
02/12/08	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5042 Bristol S Royal	EPDC	30/05/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5040 Bristol S Maximus	DGM
02/12/08	Pentre, S Peter	5088 Bristol S Major	BHT	31/05/09	Northampton, All Saints	5040 Bristol S Royal	MPAW
06/12/08	Sidmouth, S Nicholas	5040 Cambridge S Royal	RL	31/05/09	Southwark, S George the Martyr	5024 Spiced S Major (4m)	PR
06/12/08	London, S Sepulchre	5088 Spiced Maximus (8m)	JNH-D	01/06/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5019 Stedman Cinques	SAC
07/12/08	Minehead, SS Michael & Andrew	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL	13/06/09	Tewkesbury Abbey	5040 Spiced S Maximus (4m)	JC
08/12/08	Southampton, S Barnabas	5040 Minor (8m)	RL	20/06/09	Southampton, S Barnabas	5040 S Minor (12m)	RL
13/12/08	Shrewsbury, S Chad	5019 Stedman Cinques	BHT	20/06/09	Southampton, S Mary	5000 London No.3 S Royal	RIA
13/12/08	Leicester, Cathedral	5006 Spiced Cinques/Maximus (2m)	SAC	20/06/09	Southampton, S Michael AA	5000 Bristol S Royal	MJC
13/12/08	Tewkesbury Abbey	5184 Bristol S Maximus	RHB	21/06/09	North Stoneham, S Nicholas	5040 Cambridge S Royal	RL
14/12/08	Melbourne, SS Michael & Mary	5040 Cambridge S Maximus	RL	27/06/09	Liverpool, S James, West Derby	5040 Doubles (7m)	SMA
16/12/08	Catherington, All Saints	5088 London S Major	RL	06/07/09	Darlington, S Cuthbert	5028 VC Spliced Triples/Major (9m)	AJG
17/12/08	Southampton, S Barnabas	5040 Minor (7m)	CJG	06/07/09	York, S Wilfrid	5080 Cambridge S Royal	AJG
20/12/08	Diss, S Mary the Virgin	5120 Norfolk S Major	AJG	07/07/09	Harrogate, S Wilfrid	5024 Bristol S Major	PDH
20/12/08	Codicote, S Giles	5152 Xmas S Major	JNH-D	08/07/09	Newcastle Upon Tyne, Cathedral	5042 Cambridge S Maximus	MJC
21/12/08	Cripplegate, S Giles	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	SAC	08/07/09	York, S Laurence	5184 Uxbridge S Major	AJG
23/12/08	East Tytherley, S Peter	5024 Glasgow S Major	RL	09/07/09	Edinburgh, Parish of S Cuthbert	5043 Stedman Caters	DEH
28/12/08	Bishopstoke Campanile	5024 Cambridge S Major	RL	09/07/09	Berwick On Tweed, Town Hall	5120 Bristol S Major	PR
29/12/08	Southampton, S Barnabas	5040 S Minor (7m)	EPDC	09/07/09	Edinburgh, SS Andrew & George	5056 Spiced S Major (8m)	RIA
30/12/08	Southampton, Ascension	5040 Yorkshire S Maximus	RL	09/07/09	Inveraray, All Saints	5080 London No.3 S Royal	JNH-D
30/12/08	Wallasey, S Nicholas	5056 Cambridge S Major	GCS	10/07/09	Inverness, Cathedral of S Andrew	5040 Cambridge S Royal	DER
30/12/08	Garston, S Michael	5056 Yorkshire S Major	GMB	10/07/09	Aberdeen Cathedral	5184 Superlative S Major	SJLL
31/12/08	Liverpool, S John the Bapt. Tuebrook	5152 Superlambanana S Major	ENH-D	10/07/09	Dunkeld Cathedral	5040 S Minor (7m)	PV
31/12/08	York, S Wilfrid	5088 Bristol S Major	AGR	12/07/09	Glasgow Cathedral	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	JNH-D
01/01/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	10080 Spiced S Major (45m)	JNH-D	12/07/09	Dundee, S Paul	5088 London S Major	RCK
02/01/09	(H) London, S Sepulchres Church	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	TJH	12/07/09	Stirling, the Holy Rood	5040 S Minor (7m)	MJC
04/01/09	Northampton, All Saints	5016 Stedman Caters	JP	12/07/09	Edinburgh, Parish of S Cuthbert	5080 Yorkshire S Royal	PJE
08/01/09	Cripplegate, S Giles	5056 Spiced S Major (8m)	AJG	13/07/09	Roker, St Andrew	5040 Spiced S Royal (3m)	JSW
09/01/09	Southampton, Ascension	5088 Yorkshire S Maximus	RL	13/07/09	Dundee, S Mary	5120 Superlative S Major	WJD
10/01/09	New York, Trinity, Wall St	5040 Kent TB Maximus	TJB	14/07/09	Northallerton, All Saints	5040 Cambridge S Royal	RL
10/01/09	Southampton, S Michael AA	5000 London No.3 S Royal	MJC	15/07/09	Whitby, S Mary	5002 Bristol S Royal	JSW
10/01/09	Solihull, S Alphege	5040 Spiced S Maximus (3m)	BHT	15/07/09	Scarborough, S Mary	5021 Grandshire Caters	RIA
10/01/09	Southampton, S Mary	5040 Spiced S Royal (4m)	RL	16/07/09	Masham, S Mary the Virgin	5088 Stedman Caters	MRE
10/01/09	Trowbridge, S James	5136 Bristol S Maximus	JC	20/07/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5004 Stedman Cinques	SAC
11/01/09	Carisbrooke, S Mary V	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL	22/07/09	(H) Cornhill Vestry	5001 Stedman Cinques	DCB
12/01/09	East Meon, All Saints	5080 Spiced S Royal (8m)	MJC	23/07/09	South Croxdon, S Peter	5102 Stedman Caters	MJP
17/01/09	Pinhoe, S Michael and All Angels	5056 London S Major	MEHC	25/07/09	Norwich, S Peter Mancroft	5007 Stedman Cinques	PABS
17/01/09	New York, Trinity, Wall St	5800 Stedman Cinques	PNM	25/07/09	Wallasey, S Hilary of Poitiers	5040 D Minor (7m)	SMA
18/01/09	York, S Wilfrid	5000 London No.3 S Royal	PBH	25/07/09	Bromley, SS Peter and Paul	5040 Stedman Triples	DPM
20/01/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Cambridge S Royal	RL	26/07/09	Wymondham Abbey	5000 London No.3 S Royal	JC
24/01/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	AJG	27/07/09	Maidstone, All Saints	5024 Spiced S Major (4m)	JBK
24/01/09	Holborn, S Giles-in-the-Fields	5088 Tavistock S Major	AJG	28/07/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Spiced S Royal (4m)	RL
24/01/09	Swindon, S Mark	5088 Lessness S Major	JRR	31/07/09	Alburgh, All Saints	5088 Cambridge S Major	FS
24/01/09	Poplar, All Saints	5040 London No.3 S Royal	RHB	31/07/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	AJG
26/01/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5016 Stedman Cinques	SAC	01/08/09	Portsmouth Cathedral	5040 Lincolnshire S Royal	AJG
31/01/09	City of London, S Michael, Cornhill	5088 Cambridge S Maximus	RL	01/08/09	Hackney, S John the Baptist	5040 Spiced Royal (7m)	PNM
31/01/09	Credition, Holy Cross	5040 Bristol S Maximus	DGH	01/08/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5122 Bristol S Royal	RL
01/02/09	Headingley, S Michael AA	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	JPL	02/08/09	Breton, S Oswald	5040 TD Minor (7m)	JNH-D
07/02/09	Willingham, S Mary & All Saints	5040 Spiced S Minor (81m)	DJP	07/08/09	Gressenhall, the Assumption	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL
07/02/09	Westminster, S Clement Danes	5040 Spiced TD Royal (4m)	JNH-D	08/08/09	Soham, S Andrew	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	RL
14/02/09	Exeter Cathedral	5088 Spiced TD Maximus (5m)	JNH-D	08/08/09	Hanbury, S Mary V	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	JEB
14/02/09	Bristol, S Stephen the Martyr	5040 Merseyside S Maximus	BHT	08/08/09	Elveden, SS Patrick & Andrew	5056 Spiced S Major (8m)	RL
16/02/09	Coleshill, SS Peter & Paul	5007 Stedman Caters	JP	09/08/09	Kings Lynn, S Margaret	5080 Cambridge S Royal	RL
23/02/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5042 Cambridge S Maximus	SAC	15/08/09	Newport, Cathedral	5040 Swindon S Maximus	JC
28/02/09	Twickenham, S Mary V	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	AJG	15/08/09	Worcester Cathedral	5040 Stedman Triples	RBG
28/02/09	Stow On The Wold, S Edward	5040 Stedman Triples	JP	16/08/09	Kilburn, S Augustine	5044 VC Spiced Triples/Major (9m)	AJG
05/03/09	City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	5024 Spiced S Major (8m)	AJG	18/08/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Cambridge S Royal	RL
07/03/09	London, S Sepulchre	5082 Spiced Maximus (8m)	JNH-D	22/08/09	London, S Sepulchre	5040 Bristol S Maximus	CWGH
08/03/09	Birmingham, S Paul	5007 Stedman Caters	SMA	24/08/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5007 Stedman Cinques	MJC
08/03/09	Twickenham, All Hallows	5000 Bristol S Royal	AJG	25/08/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Longmead S Royal	RL
11/03/09	(H) London EC3, S Magnus Crypt	5021 Stedman Cinques	PNM	26/08/09	Shepton Beauchamp, S Michael	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	TFC
14/03/09	Cripplegate, S Giles	5040 Bristol S Maximus	AJG	29/08/09	Peel, Cathedral Church of S German	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	AJG
14/03/09	Kidderminster, S Mary & All Saints	5042 Bristol S Maximus	JC	29/08/09	Douglas, S George	5136 Bristol S Maximus	JNH-D
15/03/09	Willesden, S Mary	5152 Spiced S Major (23m)	AJG	30/08/09	Huntsam, All Saints	5088 Gainsborough S Major	FMSS
17/03/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Bristol S Royal	RL	01/09/09	Woodchurch, the Holy Cross	5024 Glasgow S Major	RL
21/03/09	London, S Sepulchre	5042 Bristol S Maximus	DEH	05/09/09	Loughborough, All Saints	5000 Spiced Royal (4m)	AJG
21/03/09	Cripplegate, S Giles	5040 Cambridge S Maximus	AJG	05/09/09	London, S Sepulchre	5040 Spiced Maximus (6m)	JNH-D
21/03/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5001 Stedman Cinques	PNM	05/09/09	Leeds, S Peter	5040 Kirkgate S Maximus	MJC
24/03/09	Guildford, University Court	5088 Lincolnshire S Major	TJH	06/09/09	Derby, Cathedral	5120 Spiced S Royal (4m)	PR
28/03/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5120 Spiced S Royal (8m)	RL	06/09/09	Oldham, S Mary the Virgin	5043 Yorkshire S Maximus	MJC
29/03/09	Huntsam, All Saints	5040 S Minor (7m)	FMSS	13/09/09	Gressenhall, the Assumption	5043 Stedman Caters	JP
31/03/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 London No.3 S Royal	RL	18/09/09	Great Barrington, S Mary V	5040 S Minor (7m)	PGH
04/04/09	London, S Sepulchre	5088 Spiced Maximus (9m)	JNH-D	18/09/09	Edinburgh, SS Andrew & George	5056 Rutland S Major	SBB
06/04/09	Shoreditch, S Leonard	5040 Cambridge S Maximus	AJG	18/09/09	Knottingley, S Botolph	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL
09/04/09	(H) Cornhill Vestry	5009 Stedman Cinques	JNH-D	19/09/09	New York, Trinity, Wall St	5040 Cambridge S Royal	MWS
13/04/09	Kings Lynn, S Margaret	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	RIA	19/09/09	Wellbourne, S Peter	5056 Yorkshire S Major	GWR
13/04/09	Peterborough Cathedral	5069 Stedman Cinques	JNH-D	19/09/09	Thorverton, S Thomas of Canterbury	5040 London No.3 S Royal	MECM
18/04/09	Croydon, S John the Baptist	5009 Stedman Cinques	RCK	19/09/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5000 London No.3 S Royal	SAC
18/04/09	Parktown, S George	5600 Cambridge S Major	RL	19/09/09	Caythorpe, S Vincent	5058 Yorkshire S Major	CCPW
19/04/09	London, S Sepulchre	5040 Spiced TD Maximus (3m)	PNM	19/09/09	Towcester, S Lawrence	10000 Stedman Cinques	DJP
22/04/09	Durban, S Mary	5040 Cambridge S Royal	JC	19/09/09	Rotherham, All Saints	5040 Cambridge S Maximus	MST
24/04/09	Yeovil, S John the Baptist	5040 Cambridge S Royal	PIP	19/09/09	Ripon, Cathedral	5088 Yorkshire S Maximus	MST
24/04/09	Cheddar, S Andrew	5024 Cambridge S Major	RIA	19/09/09	Greenwich, S Alfege	5140 VC Spiced Triples/Major (9m)	AJG
24/04/09	Marston Bigot, S Leonard	5056 London S Major	RCK	19/09/09	Northallerton, All Saints	5007 Stedman Caters	DGH
25/04/09	Banwell, S Andrew	5082 Cambridge S Royal	JSW	19/09/09	Thorverton, S Thomas of Canterbury	5056 Cambridge S Major	PJP
25/04/09	Chew Magna, S Andrew	5152 Lincolnshire S Major	DER	20/09/09	Gosforth, All Saints	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	DH
25/04/09	Grahamstown, Cathedral	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	AWRW	20/09/09	Bisley, All Saints	5056 Cambridge S Major	BH
25/04/09	Chewton Mendip, S Mary Magd	5120 Bristol S Major	MJC	20/09/09	Ross On Wye, S Mary the Virgin	5088 Bristol S Major	ACF
25/04/09	Weston Super Mare, S John Bapt	5120 Bristol S Major	BFLG	20/09/09	Sheffield, S John Evan, Ranmoor	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL
25/04/09	Hillandale, Monastery	5040 Cambridge S Minor	RL	20/09/09	Kingston, S James	5043 Stedman Caters	JP
26/04/09	Chilcompton, S John the Baptist	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	SJB	20/09/09	Harthill, All Hallows	5120 Woodall S Major	AGR
26/04/09	South Petherton, SS Peter & Paul	5007 Stedman Cinques	MJU	20/09/09	Hampstead, Chris Church	5024 Spiced S Major (4m)	AJG
27/04/09	Wedmore, S Mary	5040 Stedman Triples	MJU	20/09/09	Birmingham, Parish of S Martin	5088 Bristol S Maximus	SJLL
27/04/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5088 Bristol S Maximus	AJG	26/09/09	Heavitree, S Michael	5040 Stedman Triples	JP
28/04/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5040 Moray Firth S Royal	EPDC	27/09/09	London, S Sepulchre	5088 Spiced TD Maximus (4m)	PNM
01/05/09	Cape Town, Cathedral	5040 Iseworth S Royal	JC	28/09/09	Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	5018 Spiced Cinques/Maximus (2m)	SAC
02/05/09	New York, Trinity, Wall St	5040 Spiced S Maximus (3m)	PNM	04/10/09	Kingston Upon Thames, All Saints	5040 Bristol S Royal	SAC
03/05/09	Ashton under Lyne, S Michael AA	5004 Stedman Cinques	MRE	07/10/09	(H) Cornhill Vestry	5150 Stedman Cinques	DCB

Date	Tower	Method	Cond
09/10/09	Stoke Damerel, S Andrew	5024 Spliced S Major (4m)	JNH-D
09/10/09	Plymouth, S Maurice	5152 Spliced S Major (5m)	JNH-D
10/10/09	Llandaff, Cathedral	5088 Bristol S Maximus	RIA
10/10/09	Exeter, S Mark	5088 Lessness S Major	MJH
10/10/09	Sidbury, SS Peter & Giles	5280 Spliced S Major (7m)	JNH-D
11/10/09	Torquay, All Saints	5184 Cambridge S Major	DPH
11/10/09	Kingsbridge, S Edmund King & Martyr	5280 Spliced S Major (8m)	JNH-D
12/10/09	North Tawton, S Peter	5472 Spliced S Major (9m)	JNH-D
12/10/09	Chittlehampton, S Hieritha	5152 Spliced S Major (6m)	JNH-D
17/10/09	Newport, S Thomas the Apostle	5042 Cambridge S Maximus	DGH
17/10/09	Carisbrooke, S Mary V	5040 Cambridge S Royal	AJG
17/10/09	Richmond, S Mary Magdalene	5024 Spliced S Major (4m)	SC
18/10/09	Southampton, Ascension	5138 Bristol S Maximus	MPAW
19/10/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5000 Bristol S Royal	RL
24/10/09	Inverary, All Saints	5040 Bristol S Royal	SC
24/10/09	Lichfield Cathedral	5000 Spliced S Royal (4m)	JSW
24/10/09	Tewkesbury Abbey	5006 Stedman Cinques	MRE
31/10/09	Bakewell, All Saints	5152 Superlative S Major	RBS
31/10/09	Milverton, S Michael and All Angels	5184 Spliced S Major (4m)	TMP
01/11/09	Ryde, All Saints	5024 Bristol S Major	RL
03/11/09	Liverpool, 42 Arch View Cres	5056 Plain B Major	SMA
03/11/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5056 Spliced S Major (8m)	RL
06/11/09	Cripplegate, S Giles	5042 Cambridge S Royal	MJC
06/11/09	Spitalfields, Christ Church	5056 Spliced S Major (8m)	FS
06/11/09	Walworth, S Peter	5024 Spliced S Major (4m)	AJG
07/11/09	Camberwell, S Giles	5080 Cambridge S Royal	FS
07/11/09	Bermondsey, S James	5120 Superlative S Major	DGM
07/11/09	Stepney, S George-in-the-East	5056 Yorkshire S Major	RPJC
07/11/09	Highgate, S Anne	5040 Grandsire Triples	IJC
07/11/09	Cripplegate, S Giles	5040 Spliced Maximus (6m)	JNH-D
07/11/09	Hackney, S John the Baptist	5021 Stedman Caters	PJS
07/11/09	Wandsworth, Holy Trinity	5088 Yorkshire S Major	RJP
07/11/09	West Ham, All Saints	5040 Stedman Caters	DEH
07/11/09	Croydon, S John the Baptist	5088 Bristol S Maximus	AJG
10/11/09	Bishopstoke, S Mary	5093 Grandsire Caters	RL

439 Members took part, led by

rung	cond	Tower		Hand		
		r	c	r	c	
69	1	69	1			Graham M Bradshaw
68	39	68	39			Roy LeMarechal
54	29	54	29			Andrew J Graham
49	2	48	2	1		David G Maynard
44	5	41	5	3		Martin J Cansdale
44		44				Mark A Humphreys
42	4	42	4			Edward P D Colliss
39	26	37	25	2	1	John N Hughes-D'Aeth
39		39				R Mark Esbester
35		35				John P Colliss
33	1	33	1			Peter Valuks
30	1	30	1			Clare J Griffiths
29	3	29	3			Philip Rogers
28	1	27	1	1		Jennifer E Butler
28		28				D Annabel Preston
27	11	27	11			Stephen A Coaker
26		26				Stuart J Heath
26		26				Graham J Wright
24	1	24	1			Andrew W R Wilby
23	6	23	6			Richard I Allton
23		23				Gwen Rogers
22	1	21	1	1		Philip J Earis
21	8	17	6	4	2	Paul N Mounsey
21	1	21	1			Ian J Carey

Year to November:

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Sixteen			1	2	2	1	6	2	1	
Septuples			1	2		3				
Septuples & 16					1					
Fourteen						1	1			
Sextuples			1	2						
Maximus	46	44	51	62	49	50	67	57	37	28
Cinques & Max	2	1	4	7	1	1	1	2	1	
Cinques	16	20	23	32	25	20	25	22	14	15
Royal	65	57	50	43	33	30	28	29	23	25
Caters & Royal	1	2		1	1		1		1	
Caters	16	14	18	14	13	9	9	12	14	20
Major	79	79	91	79	84	37	43	52	50	27
Triples & Major	4									
Triples	6	10	8	9	14	5	4	7	8	9
Minor	14	13	15	18	15	6	8	5	6	5
Doubles	2				1	1			1	1
Total Tower	251	240	263	271	239	164	193	188	156	130
Sixteen									1	
Fourteen								1	1	
Maximus					1		2		1	5
Cinques	4	4	10	4	7	9	12	7	9	9
Royal		3	3	1	1		3	4		
Caters	2	2	2	2	3		3	3	2	1
Major	4	6	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	
Triples		1	2			1	1		1	
Minor		6	13	9	21	15		1		
Doubles						2				
Total Hand	10	22	35	19	36	30	24	18	19	15
Total	261	262	295	290	275	194	217	206	175	145

Peals rung at 184 Towers, led by:

Bishopstoke, S Mary	14
Cheapside, S Mary-le-Bow	11
London, S Sepulchre	9
Cripplegate, S Giles	7
City of London, S Lawrence, Jewry	6
New York, Trinity, Wall St	4
Southampton, S Barnabas	4

and 6 Handbell venues, led by:

Cornhill Vestry	5
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The most popular methods were:

Stedman Cinques	20
Stedman Caters	16
Cambridge S Royal	16
Bristol S Royal	16
Bristol S Maximus	16
Bristol S Major	12
Cambridge S Maximus	9
Spliced S Major (23m)	9
London No.3 S Royal	9
Yorkshire S Royal	9
Spliced S Major (4m)	8
Cambridge S Major	8
Spliced S Major (8m)	8
S Minor (7m)	5
Yorkshire S Major	5
London S Major	5
Spliced S Royal (4m)	5
Stedman Triples	5

NOTABLE PEALS IN 2009



The first peal on the augmented ring of 6 at Brereton.



The first ASCY peal on 12 bells at St Magnus the Martyr.

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected and welcomed as new Members in the year to November 2009:

David C J Marshall of Chilcompton
Luke D Marshall of Chilcompton
Alexandra A Prabhakar of Sydney, NSW
Thomas M Perrins of Sydney, NSW
Ann P Le Marechal of Bishopstoke
David Webb of Loddon, Norfolk
Luke T W Smith of Cambridge
Mervyn A Arscott of Winford, Somerset
Andrew J Dodd of Hursley
Robert Wirth of Brisbane
A David Hewitt of Newcastle upon Tyne
Michael Hewitt of North Shields
Kevin S Maughan of Whitley Bay
Andrew Palk of Minehead
Eric R Trumpler of Ludwigshafen, Germany

David Roberts of Darlington
Simon Roberts of Newcastle upon Tyne
Elizabeth A Evans of Newcastle upon Tyne
Philip R Wild of Gedling, Notts
Matthew D Frye of Dunblane
Emily Russell of Boston, Mass
Philip R Grover of Sutton on Trent, Notts
Richard B Pullin of Hereford
Jennifer A Murch of Barrow-upon-Humber
Lesley A Knipe of Shepton Beauchamp
Jean Snook of Hexham
David A Leese of Easingwold
Anne R Bray of Frinton-on-Sea
Alex Hunt of Burnham-on-Sea

OBITUARY

We paid tribute to the following Members at Society Business Meetings in the year to November 2009:

William E Thompsett of Newport, elected 1950
David Livingston of Aldermaston, elected 1972
Philip Bosworth of Stourpaine, elected 1969
Kenneth J Rider of Stafford, elected 1962
Alexander J Martin of Oxtou, elected 1966
John Ashcroft of Leigh (Lancs), elected 1953
Dr Anthony Bennett of Tytherington, elected 1963
Bernard W Fairhead of Colchester, elected 1961
David J Bennett of Brackley, elected 1970
W Reginald Curtis of Paul (Cornwall), elected 1973

Timothy W Griffiths of St Neots, elected 1992
Philip Dunderdale of Derby, elected 1959
W M David Collis of Lincoln, elected 1981
Ian Knox of Johannesburg, elected 1991
Peter J Woodgery of Cranford, elected 1952
Aidan J Boyack of Walthamstow, elected 1937
Leonard G Gates of Rushden, elected 1967
Colin S Taylor of Rochdale, elected 1959
Canon Frederick Ross of Berwick, elected 1979
Basil W White of Andover, elected 1951

MILESTONES

We congratulate the following Members who celebrated 50 years' membership in 2009:

Alan E M Bagworth
Donald E Cobb
Lewis F Cobb
David Cubitt
David T Darby
George S Deas
Barwell B Dibben
Frederick W Ellis
Leslie Evans

Malcolm Foster
Michael J Hallett
George E Hancock
Martin J Harbord
Barrie Hendry
D John Hunt
Peter T Hurcombe
James Linnell
Michael J Palmer

Malcolm P Phipps
Anthony V Queen
Dennis A Smedley
William A Smith
James R Taylor
Peter D Taylor
Charles E Truman
D Kenvyn Walters
Brian J Woodruffe

And the following Members who celebrated 60 years' membership:

Philip A F Chalk
Arthur D Cook
Jack S Dear

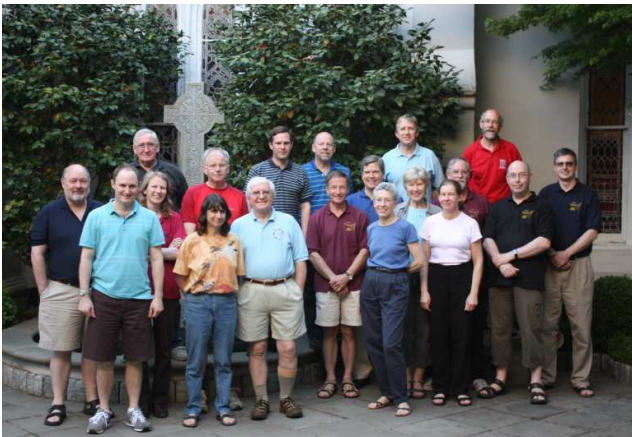
James Rich
Stanley Thain
Brian D Threlfall

Alexander S Watt
Roy V Webb

We were very pleased that Jack Dear, Brian Threlfall, Tim Watt, Roy Webb, David Cubitt, David Darby, George Deas, Fred Ellis and Mike Palmer were able to attend the Anniversary Dinner in November. As is now the custom, the 50 year "new boys" were presented with a certificate (designed and handwritten by George Pipe) to mark their achievement of this landmark. Other Members present with over 50 years' membership included Jim Bullock (68), Denis Layton (62), John Gipson (62), Philip Hudson (59), David Kingston (58), Basil Jones (56), Tudor Edwards (54), John Armstrong (53), Michael Moreton (53), Alan Frost (52), Chris Kippin (52) and Giles Galley (51). We hope to see many of you again at this year's Dinner.

DOING THE (ATLANTA-AUGUSTA) CHARLESTON *by Rebecca Woodgate*

Pelicans, horses, an aircraft carrier, the odd container ship and cruise liner towering over all the local landscape except the space age suspension bridge, concrete forts, wooden porched houses, rumours of alligators, more churches than you can shake a stick at, and more bell towers than ice-cream parlours (or so it seemed) within a 5-mile radius of the low-rise historic downtown – this is Charleston, the “Holy City” of the US east coast. Founded in 1670, Charleston is about as historic as settled US history goes, and was voted in 1995 the “best mannered city” in the US – a nationwide tourist attraction, with distinct small town friendliness, and one of the highest concentrations of change-ringing towers in the US.



Members of the tour party in Charleston.

Hardly surprising thus, Charleston was the major destination of the April 2010 ASCY tour, arranged by Simon Linford mainly for the benefit of the Society’s North American contingent, to break for them the 3-year desert between UK08 and UK11. For those from the UK, it was a week of ringing, starting by pealing their way the 300 miles from US touchdown to Charleston, through Marietta (5 cwt eight, Bristol Major), Atlanta (13 cwt ten, Cambridge Royal), and Augusta (11 cwt eight, Spliced Surprise). For (most of) those from North America, it was an extra-long weekend, well worth multiple flights (the furthest coming 3000 miles from Vancouver, west coast of Canada), or even a 2000 mile round-trip road trip (from Toronto). To those of you based in the UK, think of that next time you are cursing the traffic around Birmingham!

It is, of course, the towers that take our primary attention, and a remarkable collection they are too. The oldest and heaviest are St Michael’s (17 cwt eight, from 1764), whose bells have crossed the Atlantic 7 times. Less than a mile away, the Cathedral of St Luke and St Paul houses (along with some surprisingly honest tombstones) a 14 cwt eight. Nearly 5 miles to the east, only yards from a beach facing the Atlantic in the peaceful neighbourhood of Sullivan’s Island, the Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church holds a dramatically different ring, a 4 cwt eight, with a star-ceilinged ringing room (just as well, as the light switch was, shall we say, somewhat elusive). And finally, back in downtown, a 16 cwt ten, the Grace Church Columbarium. An uncommon word, Columbarium – not a plant, but (to quote Wikipedia) “a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cremated remains”. This

Columbarium is a magnificent purpose-built, stand-alone ringing tower in a courtyard adjoining the Church. The ringing room is ground floor. The side walls (inside and out) are close fitting draws for holding the ashes. The front wall of the tower is glass, clear at ground level and bell level, with etchings in the middle panels. As a result, a spectator in the courtyard can watch the ringers in the ringing room and see the bells turning in the belfry above. Glorious to watch or to ring in – perhaps though not my first choice for peace in terms of eternal rest.

Four days, four towers – a veritable feast of ringing: more peals at Grace (London Royal) and the Cathedral (Cambridge Major); quarters at St Michael’s (Spliced Surprise) and Stella (Stedman Triples); service ringing; wedding ringing (which in our enthusiasm at Grace, went on longer than the 20 minute wedding ceremony); practice ringing with the local bands, ASCY practices and even an ASCY-only striking competition in which (hurrah!) the ASCY won, despite (or perhaps because of) the odds. For many of us North Americans, it was an astounding opportunity to ring with a band beyond any (current) dreams of our towers, and to tackle methods we can only dabble in with a simulator. Our heartfelt thanks go to those members who made the transatlantic trek to make this possible and patiently traded their sightseeing for ringing, ringing and even more ringing. Our thanks also to the Charleston bands, who kindly let us take so much of their tower time (and smoothed the local waters) to make things happen. And still more thanks go to Simon (and Eleanor) – to us the organization seemed seamless, we can only imagine the effort that went into making it so.

Some images to remember. At St. Michael’s, two “bell-hounds” poking their noses out noiselessly from under a table in the corner of the ringing room; sun and sea-breezes around the sleepy tower of Stella; glowing spring-blossom and stained glass from the Cathedral; the vibrant purple of the Reverend’s robes shining through the glass at Grace after service ringing; and the children from the same service, with hands and noses pushed against the glass to see what on earth was going on.

A NOTABLE LANDMARK



Tudor Edwards, who rang his 3000th peal in 2009.



The author, Chris Ridley.

Society records prior to the 1880s are limited, with the exception of the Name and Peal Books, possibly because of records lost when the Coffee Pot was bombed in 1940 and the lack of a specific ringer's periodical before then. Recent research suggests that even those records that exist are incomplete as new information becomes available.

A British Library project to digitise newspapers from the 1600s offers the opportunity to build on the work of the late Cyril Wratten and others, who have attempted to collate newspaper extracts by the painstaking route of reading every page rather than using an on-line search facility. Those familiar with newspapers from these early years will appreciate the difficulty of the task, given the densely packed text without clear headings and breaks found in their modern equivalent. This article provides a brief overview of some of the information that is emerging from the digitised records as they now become available.

In his history of the Society, the late Bill Cook charts the development of change ringing from around the 1650s and provides evidence of the first known peal rung at St Sepulchre, Newgate on 7 January 1690. The method was Plain Bob Triples, or Restoration Triples as it was widely known at the time, reflecting the Society founders' links to the Royalist cause in the English Civil War. The first peal to record details of the ringers who took part was rung by the Norwich Scholars in 1715. Parallel activity in London saw performances by the London Scholars and other societies throughout the early 1700s. Given this situation, it has been questioned why the College Youths peal book only starts in 1725, with the inference from the numbering that these were the first peals by the Society. Also, why there was a 35 year gap in recorded activity and the lack of peals in progressive methods, between the 1690 peal of Plain Bob Triples and the Grandsire Cinques rung at St Brides, Fleet Street in 1725 (which appears as the first peal in the Society's Peal Book). A review of the newspapers from this period helps to answer some of these questions.

The London Scholars were rivals to the College Youths at the time, although this appears to have been friendly as both societies practised at St Brides from 1710 and paid for the augmentation of the ten bells to a ring of twelve in 1719. The *Clavis Campanologia* of 1788 records that both societies kept the two trebles they had donated chained up to stop others ringing them! Some members of the College

Youths at this time are known to have been connected with the stage and others were 'men-about-town', suggesting that ringing might have become less prominent alongside the social activities of the Society. The London Scholars may therefore have attracted the better ringers, leading to the greater level of peal ringing published by them in these early years. By 1725 the College Youths appear to have started to attract talented young ringers from the lower social orders and this led to the rivalry with the London Scholars. It is probable that not all peals were submitted for publication in the newspapers, but reports of the early peals at St Brides appear in *St James' Evening Post* (22 January 1725) and *Parker's Penny Post* (2 March 1726).

January the 19th, 1724 5, there was perform'd by the Society of College Youths, upon the Twelve Bells of St. Bride's in Fleet-street, a compleat Peal of 5060 Cinques, by the following Persons, viz. William Woodroove the 1st Bell. Benjamin Annable 2^d. Edmund Chadwell 3^d. John Ward 4th. John Pearson 5th. Robert Caslin 6th. Richard Castleman 7th. William Tompson 8th. William Jackson 9^h. Peter Merrygrafs 10th. Matthew East 11th; and Thomas Roman the Tenor, which was look'd upon to be a wonderful Performance. But,

On Saturday last, the 26th of February, 1725 6, there was rung at the same Church, by the above said Society of College Youths, another Peal of 5280 Bobmaximus, or all Twelve in plain Bob Method; which took up four Hours and four Min. Time in Ringing: Being the longest Peal that ever was rung, and the greatest Performance that ever has been done in the ART of Ringing: Perform'd by the following Persons, viz. William Woodroove Treble. Robert Caslin 2^d. Edmund Chadwell 3^d. John Ward 4^h. John Hardbam 5th. Francis Geary 6th. John Dearmor 7th. Samuel Feacock 8th. Will. Laughton 9th. Peter Merrygrafs 10th. Will. Tompson 11th, and Benjamin Annable the Tenor.

Ringing competitions between the College Youths and London Scholars started to take place shortly afterwards. *Mist's Weekly Journal* (23 March 1728) reported 'a Trial of Skill in Ringing' with 6,000 changes attempted at St Martin-in-the-Fields, where the Scholars were deemed to have rung the much better peal. The rivalry then appears to have extended to ringing longer length peals. A report in the *Daily Post* (4 February 1729) recorded a London Scholars' dinner after which they rang on the new bells at St Michael, Cornhill, which are described as 'very fine, musical, and not inferior to any in this City or Suburbs'!

The rivalry between the two societies then became less cordial, with the appearance of articles reporting peals alongside unsuccessful attempts by the other society. This culminated in a number of articles in which the College Youths attacked the London Scholars for using relays of ringers in their peals, which they saw as unprofessional. An article from the *Daily Journal* (30 March 1731) suggested the Scholars had 'never been Masters enough of the Art to perform a Peal in any other [way]'. Further reports followed, culminating in a *Daily Journal* (17 Feb 1732) article from the College Youths refuting 'several

scandalous paragraphs' published by the London Scholars. Similar exchanges continued intermittently over the next five years. Opening up Society membership to a wider social background saw the College Youths becoming more prominent and reports from the Scholars diminished before they disappeared in the latter half of the century.

Other interesting items from the newspapers of the period include early reports of Society dinners following successful peal attempts (e.g. Fleece Tavern in Cornhill, *Daily Journal* 11 March 1732). Peals to mark the opening or augmentation of rings of bells were often accompanied by a College Youths' peal attempt. The *London Evening Post* (3 December 1734) reports the award of a contract to Samuel Knight bell founder, and Robert Catlin bell hanger and later founder who joined the Society in 1722, to cast and hang a peal of 12 at St Saviour's Southwark, with the tenor to be one note deeper than the famous tenor at Bow steeple in Cheapside. The *London Daily Post* (30 October 1735) records an attempt to ring upwards of 8,000 changes of Cinques on the new ring. The report says that having 'rung without the least Fault upwards of Seven Thousand; when some Workmen on the Roof of the Church (who its presum'd were curious to see the Ringers) forc'd a Door off the Hinges, got into a lower Loft, and by the help of a ladder got up the Clock Case, and into the Belfry, which Noise so disturb'd the Performers, that they were oblig'd to shorten their intended Peal, to one of Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six'. After 6¼ hours the ringers were said to still be fresh and they would surely have been successful if not interrupted. I wonder if the intruders' intentions would be interpreted so generously now!

The *London Evening Post* (13 January 1743) contains an advert recording the decision to change the Society's

practice night from Wednesday to Thursday. The need to publish an advert as the 'Method of acquainting their Members who were absent' suggests a healthy level of membership at the time. This is supported by adverts for the Annual Dinner, the earliest discovered being at the Globe Tavern in Fleet Street (*Daily Advertiser* 24 October 1744) which appears to have been a favourite venue for the next 30 odd years. Interestingly, the Annual Dinner was generally held on the anniversary date (i.e. 5 November) regardless of the day of the week. An advert in *Parker's General Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer* (30 Nov 1782) acknowledges that some members may not have received their tickets and suggested 'such Gentlemen are particularly requested not to moute the neglect to any disrespect, but to the present indisposition of the Warner'.

THE Society of College Youths, at their Weekly Meeting, on Wednesday the 12th Instant, at the Twelve Bells in Bride-Lane, unanimously resolv'd to change their Night to Thursday; and accordingly take this Method of acquainting their Members, who were then absent, that they shall meet at the said House next Thursday.
John Trenell, Warner.

Advert for change of practice night 1743

This quick review has identified several peals that need to be added to the existing Society peal records. The most flexible approach is to construct a database for these as further details emerge through the digitisation process. This would also have the advantage of creating a searchable peal index for the early years of the Society's history, as well as maintaining the impressive illuminated records held in the original Peal Books.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE COUNTRY MEETING



Pretty in pink: Jenny Herriott, Ann White and Stef Warboys.



A tour of Murrayfield Stadium prior to the Dinner.



PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2010

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

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

(*Meeting Night)

B = St Mary-le-Bow N = St Sepulchre, Newgate

C = St Michael's Cornhill P = St Paul's Cathedral

G = St Giles, Cripplegate S = Southwark Cathedral

M = St Magnus the Martyr F = St Martin-in-the-Fields

O = Out of town, Chelmsford Cathedral

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 2009/10

Master	Martin J Cansdale
Secretary	John N Hughes-D'Aeth
Treasurer	Philip Rogers
Senior Steward	Philip R Goodyer
Junior Steward	David G Maynard
Librarian	Christopher Ridley
Trustees	David E House Christopher H Rogers
Peal Recorder	Richard I Allton
Webmaster	Dickon R 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: Rebecca Sugden, 5 Annette Court, 1a Annette Road, London N7 6PE.

E-mail: jewry@ascy.org.uk

St Magnus the Martyr: Dickon Love, 10 Wharton Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3LF. Tel 020 8466 1953

E-mail: dickon@ascy.org.uk

St Sepulchre: Henry Coggill, Flat 5, 69 Tollington Road, London N7 6DW. Tel 07887 581455

E-mail: stsepulchre@ascy.org.uk

ASCY ON THE WEB

The Society's Web Site is at www.ascy.org.uk. The Web Site contains regular updates on Society activities, pictures of Society events, contact details for Members, Society peals and much more information.

PEAL FEES

Peal fees (£1.50 per rope) and details should be forwarded to the Treasurer within 2 months. Advance notice of peal attempts is given at Society Meetings if advised in time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Please send to the Secretary, John Hughes-D'Aeth, at Boundary House, High Street, Little Milton, Oxford OX44 7PU (tel: 01844 279965; e-mail: secretary@ascy.org.uk). Items for the Web Site should be e-mailed to Dickon Love (webmaster@ascy.org.uk).

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 Webmaster. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the E-group and to provide their e-mail address for inclusion on the (hopefully spam-proof) web site list.

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 2009. Donations totalled £901.50 as against total production and postage costs of £1,405.01, so the Newsletter remains very much a "loss leader".

Over 550 Members have now elected to receive the Newsletter by e-mail as a PDF file, rather than a paper copy. This has led to a saving in costs, and the switch to a new firm of printers this year will produce a further reduction. However, postal charges continue to rise, so we still need more of you to sign up. Of course, we accept that it will not suit all Members and hard copies will continue to be available for those who want 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 all the contributors and those who have helped to put this Newsletter together. Thanks also to my family for stuffing envelopes and for all their support.

AND FINALLY ...



A full House? Trustee David with a group of admirers on his retirement as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton. They say it's the sincerest form of flattery!