



2024 Newsletter



Officers for Year:

Master	Emily Vallow
Deputy Master	Iwan Cotgreave
Social Secretary	Rob Convey Iain Scott
General Secretary	Ainsley Gilbert
Catering Officer	Rhiannon Meredith Paul Parker Sarah Parker Sue Wolfgang
Mascot Keeper	Oliver Buckley
Romance Officer	Grace Dooley
Webmaster	Stephen Penney
Central Council Rep	Fiona Hartley

Events held:

Master's QP Day	13 th January	Cheshire
Dinner Tour	9 th to 11 th February	Nottingham
Easter Tour	11 th to 14 th April	Melton Mowbray
Summer Tour	24 th to 28 th July	Leckhamstead
Camping Tour	29 th July to 2 nd August	Retford
Autumn Tour	31 st August to 3 rd November	Brecon

New Members:

Ordinary	Esme Anstice (Bangor) Harvey Plows (Bangor)
Associate	Keth Matheson Duncan Matheson

Society Ringing Events

Only a single tour report was prepared during the year so further background on the events held during the year is limited.

Master's Quarter Peal Day

Nine attempts were made with eight being successful. Lunch took place at the Hare & Hounds in Crowton with the traditional currey at the Relish Tandori in Northwich at the end of the day.

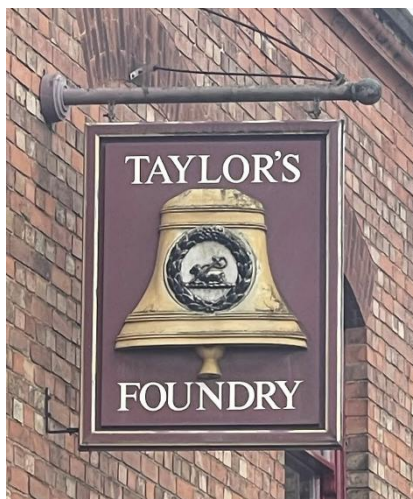
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Frodsham (St Lawrence)</i>	<i>1344 Double Norwich Court Bob Major</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Grappenhall (St Wilfrid)</i>	<i>1259 Grandsire Caters</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Hartford (St John the Baptist)</i>	<i>1260 Grandsire Doubles</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Little Budworth (St Peter)</i>	<i>1260 Plain Bob Doubles</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Over (St Chad)</i>	<i>1280 Plain Bob Major</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Stockton Heath (St Thomas)</i>	<i>1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Stretton (St Matthew)</i>	<i>1250 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major</i>
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Witton (St Helen)</i>	<i>1280 Spliced Surprise Major (8 methods)</i>

Dinner Tour

A splendid weekend was organised by Professor Pat Wheeler at his home institution. Four towers were visited at on the Saturday followed by the Society's AGM. The evening Annual Dinner venue was the Trent Building at the University of Nottingham with the post eating entertainment being a barn dance.

Easter Tour

Nine church towers were rung on the tour with a highlight being the Taylor Bell Foundry at Loughborough. Here the Society rang a variety of methods on the ring of twelve bells.



A Society Peal (see later) was rung at Barrow upon Soar in memory of Simon Rogers, a Past Master who had recently died on the Thursday prior to the tour. A Quarter Peal was also rung at Colsterworth during the tour.

Friday 12 th April	Colsterworth (St John the Baptist)	1320 Spliced Surprise Minor (3M)
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Summer Tour

Twelve towers were visited in the Leckhamstead area. As usual the mode of transport for many were bicycles although a few older members of the Society opted for motorised transport instead.



Planning the route to the next tower



Evening barbaque



Puff getting in some pre-tour practice

A Quarter Peal in Memory of Mike Green, Helen Giles and Chris Kippin was rung during the tour.

Friday 26 th July	Pattishall (Holy Cross)	1344 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
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Camping Tour

The tour was organised by Helen and Malcolm Turner based around Retford in Nottinghamshire. In addition to some leisure time a total of 19 towers were visited, although the River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal resulted in some interesting route planning being required.

Autumn Tour *by Heather Griffiths*

My journey to the Autumn Tour turned into a bit of a fiasco. I arrived at the station in plenty of time for my train, so took the opportunity to check my onward connections. Unfortunately, my train was cancelled. Then my back-up train was cancelled. I ended up on a different route, via Hereford, which turned out to rather conveniently be the same route as Rose Horton. We arrived in Abergavenny with plenty of time so took the opportunity to indulge in a hot chocolate in a local hotel, rather than waiting at the bus station for our onward connection. At the appropriate time, we boarded our bus (by this time Iain Scott had joined us too), only to find that it was on divert and did not in fact go where we needed it to go. We persevered, disembarking at the nearest possible point, and then set forth on foot – perhaps not advisable down a Welsh country lane in the dark, although I needn't have worried about my luggage choice, as the tarmac was in excellent quality, with no potholes for my case on wheels to find. We trekked for some time to find that the agreed meeting pub was in fact closed. An alternative venue was successfully identified so there we headed.

Our accommodation for the duration of our stay was Llangynidr New Village Hall. It was absolutely enormous – complete with a large Committee Room, sizeable store and even a Utility Room! I am delighted to report that it was equipped with a superb three tier tea trolley which remained untouched (on my part at least) for the weekend.

On Friday morning, there were three towers before lunch. We began at the fine ring at Llanfeugan (8). The journey from the hall took longer than planned owing to a selection of dogs causing a traffic jam, but thankfully they soon realised that stopping in the middle of the road was not to be recommended! From there we visited Llangattock (8). There was a further travelling hiccup upon arrival at the third tower (Llanbedr Ystrad Yw, 6), when Rhiannon Meredith decided to try her luck and see if there was any parking down a small lane near to the church. There was not, but unfortunately Tim and Jan Hine had followed before this message could be relayed. The lane was so narrow that it was not possible to turn around, and so began the process of reversing back to the main road ... only to be directed to the church car park.

Lunch was at the Lamb and Flag, who coped admirably with a large group and brought all the food out very quickly. Towards the end of lunch, Pat Wheeler checked his phone to

discover he had missed updates from Poppy Wheeler and was in fact already a grandfather to a baby boy.

In the afternoon, we visited Llantilio Pertholey (6). Here, a particularly exciting touch of Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor spliced was rung, receiving mixed comments from the group! We ended the day's general ringing on the glorious Abergavenny (10) bells.



Society ringing at Abergavenny

Some rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Royal at Brecon Cathedral (10) later that evening to welcome new baby Rupert Buckley and mark the wedding of Katherine Stonham to Alan.

<i>Friday 1st November</i>	<i>Brecon (Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist)</i>	<i>1260 Plain Bob Royal</i>
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Saturday followed the same format, with three towers before lunch, all in Brecon. We started at St. Mary's (8), then visited the Cathedral (10), before heading to Llanfaes (6). In the absence of an adequately sized venue, the group split and made their own arrangements for lunch. Several of us headed for The Drovers Arms, opting for the excellent selection of pies which, whilst delicious, were absolutely enormous considering the promise of a three course meal later that evening! The final two towers of the day were Bronllys (6) and Talgarth (6). Bronllys was fairly unusual in that the tower was totally separate to the main church, so the ringers congregated outside until it was time to ring. Thankfully the weather was dry and fairly mild!

We returned to the hall for the meeting, followed by dinner capably produced by Rhiannon Meredith and her assistants. A tag-team arrangement was soon established to facilitate cheese grating! A three course meal comprising soup, sausage casserole and strudel was served and enjoyed by all. The evening was spent catching up with friends and reminiscing of previous tours.

Some ringers returned to Brecon in the morning, before going their separate ways. Thankfully my return journeyed proved rather less problematic owing to the kind offer of a lift back to Birmingham with James Mundy and Kirsty Gifford, with minor detour via Worcester to drop off Rose Horton. From there I could pick-up a direct train home.

A big thank you to all who made the weekend possible.

Other Society Achievements

Bob Smith 12 Bell Competition

The Society did not enter the competition in 2024.

Other Ringing Performances

The following peal was rung for the Society during the year:

*Holy Trinity, Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire
Thursday 11th April 2024
5088 Bristol Surprise Major
In 2 hours and 59 minutes (9-2-14 in G)
Composed by Donald F Morrison (no 6935)*

<i>Treble</i>	<i>Christopher Ridley</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<i>Malcolm S Turner</i>
<i>3rd</i>	<i>Christopher M Mundy</i>
<i>4th</i>	<i>D Rose W Horton</i>
<i>5th</i>	<i>Martyn J Hills</i>
<i>6th</i>	<i>James C Mundy</i>
<i>7th</i>	<i>Richard A Wolfgang</i>
<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Timothy M Payne (C)</i>

*Rung in memory of Simon Progers, erstwhile member of
this Society.*

Other Society activities

Safeguarding Policy

A revised policy to reflect the change in Church of England training module names and Central Council of Church Bell Ringer (CCCBR) recommendations was agreed.

Member Obituaries

The Society learned with regret of the death of the follow members during the year.

Simon P Rogers (20th September 1953 to 8th April 2024)



Simon was born in Carmarthen and learned to ring at Pembroke in 1964 being taught by his father. He rang his first peal at St Florence in Pembrokeshire in 1967.

After attending Pembroke Grammar School, he commenced teacher training at St Paul's College Cheltenham in September 1971, continuing to ring peals in Wales and in Gloucestershire during this time. Simon became an Associate member of the Welsh Colleges' Society in 1974 and enjoyed their ringing tours and opportunities for some peal ringing. He was Master of the Society in 1976/77.

He had always been a keen supporter of his local football team, Pembroke Borough AFC, and whilst in Cheltenham passed his football refereeing exams. Simon continued refereeing football matches until 2016. He took up a teaching job in Warwick in September 1975 and joined the band at St Nicholas, Warwick. In Warwick he met his future wife, Jane Randall, and they had two sons, Tom and Oliver, who both learned to ring.

Simon was an enthusiastic Quarter Peal and Peal ringer, ringing his 500th Peal in 1994 and his 1,000th in 2016. He is one of the leading peal ringers at both Warwick towers and the leading conductor at both. He rang 1,428 peals, the last one just six weeks before his death. He conducted 877 of his peals. He rang ten peals with the WCs.

When Simon retired in 2015 he was not only free to do more peal ringing, but he was also able to spend more time helping people in various towers in the local Guild to progress with their ringing. He died after a short illness and a service of thanksgiving for his life, held on 2nd May, was attended by many ringers and other friends. It was an uplifting occasion, with a strong Welsh theme, and a fitting way for us all to bid Simon farewell.

(extracts taken from Ringing World 5th July 2024, page 625)

Jacqueline Cox

In April we learnt that Jacqueline Cox (ex Aber) and a member of the WCs since 31 January 1975 had sadly died just 8 weeks after first being diagnosed with cancer. She was a member of both the WCs and Aberystwyth University Societies at a time when the Aber Society was very strong and constituted the majority of active WC members on tours. She was Catering Officer 1975/76 and Mascot Keeper 1976/77. Her partner since College days, Paul Jackson, asked in true Aber style that the Society took a moment to toast Jackie and celebrate her life – this was duly recognised at the following Annual Dinner.

Helen Giles

Helen died on 5th July after a period of ill-health. She was a keen ringer at Llantwit Major, Penarth, Sully & Llanishen.

Robert Christopher Kippin (2nd December 1943 to 18th July 2024)



The sudden death of Chris Kippin deprived the ringing fraternity of one of its finest exponents. He was born in Beddington, Surrey to Charles and Jessie Kippin who were esteemed ringers themselves – his father being renowned a heavy-bell ringer and conductor, and involved or solely responsible for advances in method ringing including the extension and first peals of Bristol Surprise Royal, London No. 3 Surprise Royal, Superlative No. 2 Surprise Royal and Londinium Surprise Maximus. Chris combined the traits and talents of both his parents. Taught to ring by his father at the age of nine, his first peal (at St Maurice, Winchester) was rung at the age of eleven. Chris later recalled ‘debating the merits of ringing with his socks up or down, short trousers and long socks (with garters) being de rigueur fashion for the discerning 11-year-old schoolboy in 1955’. Thus began a peal-ringing career not far short of 70 years, totalling 2,654 peals and finishing just a few weeks before

his death. His method count included nearly 300 of Stedman Cinques and over 160 of Bristol Maximus, and many feats of learning. He was a capable conductor, calling 874 peals. He rang the tenor and called a peal of Plain Bob Royal by a teenage band in 1962. He rang 65 peals on tenors of 40cwt or more, starting at Sherborne to Bob Major at the age of 18 and more recently Worcester and St Mary le Bow tenors after the age of 70.

After school at King Edward's in Southampton, he moved straight into work aged sixteen. He worked for Sun Life Assurance in Bristol for a long period, ending up in HR where he did lots of 'milk round' graduate recruitment for actuarial roles (including recruiting a number of ringers). He had professional qualifications as a company secretary, and at various times he taught computing and business at further education colleges. He married Heather Walters in October 1968 and their daughter Eleanor (now Linford) and granddaughter Charlie continue the Kippin family ringing line. He rang twelve peals of 10,000 changes or more. His first, 12,144 Bristol Surprise Maximus in 1976, was the longest length in the method; the umpires celebrated it as 'a marked advance in 12-bell ringing'. He subsequently rang in the next two peals to break this record (14,784 in 1986 and 20,064 in 1987). His two other peals over 20,000 changes were 20,001 Stedman Cinques in 1983, which still stands as the record length in the method, and 20,000 Spliced Surprise Royal (7m) to his own two-part composition. Elected to the Ancient Society of College Youths just twelve days after his 14th birthday, it was of huge importance to him throughout his life. He was known as being familiar with everybody, and in 2006 he took on the role of Master, determined to enrich contact with members across the country and beyond.

And then there was that immaculate style. The head down approach started in his youth. If he raised his head to look in your direction it was because you were about to make mistake (or did so as a consequence!). As a composer he produced a small number of classic compositions, including his Spliced Surprise Royal series, and some very neat Stedman Caters and Cinques. He favoured simplicity and elegance, rather than complexity for its own sake. As he once said to me 'my compositions were composed before little bell music was invented'.

He was a fine musician who loved music in all its forms, but particularly church and choral music. He was a fine pianist and organist and spent a number of years singing with the Bristol Choral Society. He enjoyed Bach's B Minor Mass as much as a peal of London Surprise Royal, both having the appeal that it's the successful blending of individual talent into a team performance that produces wonderful results. In later life Chris took himself off to University to study music, and to nobody's surprise, proved to be amongst the most able of students.

Although he does not appear to have been officially elected a member from Welsh Colleges' Society, he rang two peals for the WCs after undertaking a second degree at Bangor

University after he retired from work (Isleworth S Royal at Cardiff in 2013 and 5 Spliced Surprise Royal at Abergavenny in 2016). He also rang in a Bangor University peal of Yorkshire S Major at Bangor (prior to the church closure) in 2014.

(extracts taken from the Ringing World pages 1090 -1092, 1103 and 1104; and ASCY archives)