Society of Cambridge Youths

2675

The Society of Cambridge Youths was founded in 1724 to ring the newly installed bells at the University Church of Great St Mary's, Cambridge. The Society has continued to ring in the church ever since.

A complete run of the Society's account books survives from 1724 up to 2005 (more recent accounts are still with the Society). The early account books also included notes of important events and decisions. Copies of the Society's rules (articles) of 1724 and 1779 are contained in the 1778-1808 account book ref 2765/2/4; a draft set of the articles of 1772 is contained in the 1760-1778 account book ref 2675/2/3. In 1856 the Society began to keep a resolutions book, ref 2675/1/1, which recorded motions proposed and whether they were passed. In 1927 the Society finally started to keep a proper minute book, ref 2675/1/2.

2675/1 Minutes 1856-2005

Originally the Society appears not to have kept formal minutes. Instead notes of rules and important decisions were made in the account books, which survive from the Society's foundation in 1724 (see the items in series 2675/2). From 1856 a resolutions book was kept, which recorded motions proposed by Members with a note of whether each motion was passed or not (see item 2675/1/1). In October 1927 it was agreed that the usual informal meetings be replaced by formal, properly minuted ones. The resolutions book was ended and it was replaced by a minute book (2675/1/2).

2675/1/1 Resolutions book

1856-1933

Includes: notes of all proposed motions ('Propositions') together with a record of whether the motion was carried or not, 1856-1927; meeting attendances, 1933; accounts of members' subscriptions (?) 1866-1880.

2675/1/2 Minute book

1927-2005

Contains signed minutes of meetings from 24 October 1927 to 21 February 2005. Minutes of discussions regarding the deposit of the Society's archives at the County Record Office may be found on pages 96 (9 December 1974), 124 (19 February 1979), 128-129 (11 February 1980), 217 (27 February 1995), and 221 (26 February 1996). Conservation of the Society's records is mentioned on pages 203 (22 April 1991) and 224 (24 February 1997).

Pages 236-241 (September 1999) contain a written 'snapshot' of the activities, customs and practices of the Society at that time, in the hope that it might be of benefit to future researchers.

2675/2 Accounts and finances

1724-2005

2675/2/1 Account book

Account book 23 October 1724 - 17 November 1748
Compiled monthly by steward of the company for the month. Receipts are chiefly from 'forfeits' for non-attendance and charges for private ringings (usually one guinea) for the Vice-Chancellor, the Bishop of Ely and sundry nobility. Payments include expenses on club nights, repairs to bells, for candles and 'steepleage' (paid to 'the woman' or 'the widow'), Christmas boxes for steeple woman and share-outs of income from special

ringings. Also entered are resolutions of the company, mainly about penalties.

At front, members' subscription to undertaking to give true account when steward. At back, memoranda of ringers of whole peal of Grandsire Triples, 1725, and of whole peal of Triples, 1734.

The page for 1746 includes a large ink blot. Underneath is written "Bennet is punish't Sixpence for pocketing the Cucumber & one Shilling for Blotting the Book." (Original covers detached).

2675/2/2 Account book 15 December 1748 - 16 October 1760

One leaf loose.

2675/2/3 Account book 13 November 1760 - 2 April 1778

Contains at rear: memorandum, printed appeal and newspaper cuttings re a dispute between the members of the Society and John Banyard, steeple keeper and bell ringer of the parish of Great St Mary, 1776-1777; draft of the articles of association of the Society, dated 17 December 1772.

A note on the inside back cover states that the volume was repaired by Stanley M. Goodwin, 19 December 1938.

2675/2/4 Account book 1778-1808 30 April 1778 - 25 February 1808

At front, copy of society rules ('articles of agreement') of 1724, 1779, subscribed by members, 1783 - (c.1805). Index to rules and supplementary articles entered in the accounts. Memoranda of ringers of complete peals of Grandsire Cinques, Bob Major Royal and Grandsire Quatuors, 1770 - 1781, and of inaugural peal of six bells at (St. Vigor's), Fulbourn, 1776. Register of stewards 1776 - 1795. At back, record of expenditure on anniversary night.

Pasted inside front cover, newspaper cuttings recording complete peals of Bob Maximus, 1788, and of Fulbourn. Surprize from 'The Argus' December 1789. Pasted inside back cover, printed programme of peal of Bob Major by Thomas Steers.

2675/2/5 Account book 24 March 1808 - 25 November 1839

2675/2/6 Account book 23 December 1839 - 24 September 1866

2675/2/7 Account book 22 October 1866 - 6 January 1908

2675/2/8 Account book 6 January 1908 - 31 December 2005

Attached at rear of volume: cash book 1995-2000.

2675/2/9 Steward's account c.1850-1860

On a sheet of blotting paper.

2675/2/10 Account book of payments to ringers 1866-1937

Note at front saying "University & Corporation." Includes payments for ringing on

Armistice days and weddings.

2675/2/11 Fines book 1908-1922

Fines for Members' non-attendance at ringings.

2675/2/12 Cash book 1947-1964

Records payments given to Members for ringing 1947-1959. At rear of volume: lists of

Members on outings, 1952-1964.

c.1900-2012

2675/3

Other official records

20/5/3	Other officiatrecords	C.1900-2012
2675/3/1	Sunday service ringing record Records attendances by members. Compiled by	January 1976 - August 1986 the Secretary
2675/3/2	Sunday service ringing record Records attendances by members. Compiled by	September 1986 - December 1997 the Secretary
2675/3/3	Touch book Records the names of the ringers at each session	January 1996 - September 2006 n.
2675/3/4	Touch book Records the names of the ringers at each session	September 2006 - September 2010 n.
2675/3/5	Visitors book Includes on page 1 the signature of Charles, then birthday 14 November 1967.	November 1967 - September 1987 Prince of Wales, signed on his
2675/3/6	Visitors book	July 1987 - December 1996
2675/3/7	Collection of historical notes 1900s-c.2000 Originally contained inside a ring binder. The first section comprises biographical notes and obituaries of Members of the Society, arranged alphabetically by name. The second section is arranged by decade (1900s-1970s) and includes copies of documents (including a photocopy of 'A Narrative of Various Peals in Churchringing and Interesting Cricket Matches' by John Carr, 1847), newspaper articles, photographs, copies of the Society's rules and some original correspondence. The collection is undated but probably dates from c.2000. Due to its great similarity with document 2675/3/8 it was probably compiled by Mrs George Brown, secretary 1995-2001.	
2675/3/8	Collection of Secretary's papers Originally contained inside a ring binder. The coll and 1990s) and includes original correspondence photographs, copies of the Society's rules, AGM pephemera associated with outings, dinners etc. I and Ringers of Great St Mary's Church, Cambridg collection is undated but was probably compiled Secretary 1995-2001, as it contains the Secretary	e, newspaper cuttings, many papers, officers' reports, and ncludes the booklet 'The Tower, Bells ge' by CMG Ockelton, 1981. The c.1999-2000 by Mrs George Brown,
2675/3/9	New Bells project: correspondence file Correspondence file 1997 and 2005-2009 relatin 13 bells funded by a donation from Dr Martin Fau King titled "A New Ring of 13 Bells for Great St Ma the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers on the 2005; report by the Society of Cambridge Youths' by Elphin and Brenda Watkin on the historic analy church tower, July 2008; copy petition for faculty 2008; report by Frank H. King on rehanging the be	lkes. File includes: report by Frank H. ary's," 16 September 1997; report by church tower resonances, 26 June Bells Working Party, May 2008; report ysis of the intermediate bell floor in the and copy of the faculty, 22 December

2675/3/10	New Bells project: correspondence file Correspondence file relating to the project to install a new ring of project board terms of reference, n.d.; report by Bill Hibbert on th the new bells, 3 January 2009; specification for the new bells, 24 issues of 'The Ringing World' magazine; notes by Frank H. King on conservation of the 1788 peal board, February 2011.	ne proposed tuning of January 2009; two	
2675/3/11	New Bells project: final project report May 2010 Final project report for Dr Martin Faulkes, benefactor behind the New Bells project. Report compiled by Liz Orme, Ringing Master.		
2675/3/12	New Bells project: project manager's report June 2010 Report for the Parochial Church Council, English Heritage and the Diocesan Advisory Committee, written by Barry Johnson. The report's appendices include architectural plans of building works required, including glazing and beamwork.		
2675/3/13	New Bells project: photographs book Book of photographs printed to celebrate the installation of the n	May 2011 ew bells in 2009.	
2675/3/14	ew Bells project: final report March 2012 nal report on the project, compiled by Liz Orme, Ringing Master. Two items: printed ain report and a separate CD containing electronic files of the appendices.		
2675/3/15	Programme of a Bob (torn)	c.1900	
2675/3/16	CD containing recordings of ringing February 2006 Recordings of ringing by Society members taking part in the National Twelve Bell Striking Competition, 1984-1995. [Tracks have been transferred to Preservica.]		
2675/4	Records created by individual Members	1907-1965	
2675/4/1	T.R. Dennis notebook 1907-1965 Volume compiled by T.R. ('Reggie') Dennis. Contains notes on peals rung, together with newspaper cuttings, photographs and printed programmes. Some loose items at the rear.		
2675/4/2	E.G. Hibbins notebook Volume compiled by Ernest George Hibbins. Contains notes on a during his career 1910-1961, together with newspaper cuttings.	1910-c.1962 ll 214 peals rung	