

SOHO CLARION



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ST ANNE'S CLOCK CHIMES AGAIN

To the relief of many, and the annoyance of a few the bell in St Anne's clock-tower is once more ringing out the hours from 7am to 11pm.

This summer, due to a broken wheel, the clock had to be stopped while repairs were carried out and this led to a real battle, played out in the Letters page of the West End Extra, between those who wanted the bell muted and those desperate to have their clock back.

The bell has sounded in Soho ever since 1691 but was stopped in 1941 by the bomb that destroyed the church. It was restored in 1979 by Mike McCoy, Soho clock-maker with funds raised locally and became - as it remains - a symbol of the community spirit in Soho. In the 60s and 70s this community was threatened with extinction by the planners, who wanted to knock down the few houses left standing after the war

and turn Soho into a concrete desert.

Once more, the clock needs your support, because the repairs cost £1400 and the parish doesn't have the funds standing by.

Please send your contribution, no matter how small, to The Treasurer, St Anne's Clock Appeal 55 Dean Street, London W1D 6AF. Cheques should be made payable to St Anne's Church

PHILLIPA SUAREZ

Soho Festival 2003

The 30th annual Soho Festival was officially opened by the Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster, Louise Hyams, pictured here with Soho Society honorary President, Bryan Burrough, and Mr Hyams.

The scaled-down Festival was held this year in the Community Centre and St Anne's Church Gardens, thanks to the generosity of the parish. Once again the Society raised just enough to continue its work - including your Clarion - for another year.

See page 10 for more photos of the fun.

PHILLIPA SUAREZ



Photo by Albert Fredericks

