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**LESSONS OF 1933.**

As the year closes—and this is the last issue of 'The Ringing World' for 1933—one's thoughts inevitably turn in retrospective endeavour to sum up the gains and losses of the past twelve months and to compare the balance sheet with those of previous years. The past, it is true, cannot be recalled or altered in one iota, but a survey of it can be useful if it leads to a greater and a brighter future. The year that is so soon to be relegated to history has been for the art of ringing, as far as we can compare it, no better and no worse than many another before it. There have been isolated instances of advance, but these have been offset with distinct losses and indications in some quarters of a stagnation which seems inherent in the Exercise and yet ought to be eradicated.

It is by no means certain that numerically the Exercise is making progress. As we pointed out last week, reliable statistics for comparison are impossible to come by at present, but a careful study of the happenings throughout the year fail to show that gains have been more than enough, if that, to offset the losses. Bands have a real difficulty in keeping up to strength, and from many quarters there comes a cry that new blood is not to be found in sufficient quantities to fill the gaps, let alone to increase the belfry personnel. It may be the fault of the methods employed—because here and there there comes the cheering announcement that no trouble is experienced in keeping up the supply of ringers—it may be the right sources are not tapped.\* If from the lessons of the past year fresh channels can be opened up to bring in a growing volume of new life, the Exercise will have made one gain, at any rate, from a not over prosperous period.

We do not view the fact that there has been a falling off in peal ringing with any alarm. It is most unlikely that the peals for 1933 will come within at least 200 of the number rung in 1932; but that matters not at all as long as more new ringers and new conductors are to be found among those who take part and the standard of the ringing is raised both in striking and the level of the methods rung. Peal ringing is a pleasant pastime, but it entirely loses its value if these factors find no place in them. It would be for the good of ringing if those in a position to do so would seek out more ringers who have yet to ring their first peal and help them to that stage, which, with the majority of ringers at any rate, is the high water mark of interest and enthusiasm and which is more likely than anything else to carry them along on the tide of ambition.

(Continued on page 818.)

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And what of the stagnation! It is not too much to say that hundreds of bands to-day are where they were, in the ringing sense, at this time last year. There is a lack of enterprise which brings on a state of apathy, even almost of atrophy and keeps innumerable ringers in the same groove year after year. Often, we are afraid, this is due to a leader who is either incompetent or indifferent, and the rest of the band suffer accordingly. There are many men nominally at the head of the belfry who are palpably unfitted for the task and ringing will make no progress in those places until they are removed. But there is another form of stagnation and that is the misplaced satisfaction of men who are content to go on ringing peals in one and the same method year after year. There are many of these to be found—men without enterprise or ambition, and they are as much responsible for lack of progress as the apathetic leaders to which we have referred. There is room for many New Year resolutions among members of the Exercise. We hope that where they are needed they will be made and kept in 1934—although we are hardly optimistic enough to believe that they will be.

## TWELVE BELL PEALS.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1933, in Four Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANCES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

ERNEST J. BUTLER ... .. Treble	ALFRED PYE ... .. 7
MRS. R. F. DEAL ... .. 2	JOHN ARMSTRONG ... .. 8
MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... .. 3	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... .. 9
SYDNEY TAYLOR ... .. 4	JAMES BENNETT ... .. 10
GEORGE R. PYE ... .. 5	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD ... .. 11
CHARLES T. COLES ... .. 6	WILLIAM PYE ... .. Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANCES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

HARRY R. ROPER ... .. Treble	JOHN F. TILLET ... .. 7
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... .. 2	WILLIAM MADGWICK ... .. 8
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... .. 3	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... .. 9
HOBART E. SMITH ... .. 4	WILLIAM P. GARRETT ... .. 10
ROBERT H. BRUNDLE ... .. 5	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... .. 11
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... .. 6	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY.

Rung on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Harold E. Symonds, Master of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society for 1933, to Miss Violet Harding, with the best wishes of his brother ringers for their future happiness.

## TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 16, 1933, in Three Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5043 CHANCES;

Tenor 50 cwt.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... .. Treble	JOSEPH MARKS ... .. 6
SYDNEY TAYLOR ... .. 2	ERNEST BRETT ... .. 7
HARRY HOSKINS ... .. 3	HORACE BELCHER ... .. 8
WILLIAM H. HEWETT ... .. 4	REUBEN SANDERS ... .. 9
EDWARD P. DUFFIELD ... .. 5	RICHARD F. DEAL ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

This peal was rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Evelyn Sanders, daughter of the ringer of the 9th.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.  
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1933, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN, PRITTLEWELL.

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt.

*ERNEST W. PYE ... .. Treble	FREDERICK DIGBY ... .. 6
ALFRED PYE ... .. 2	ERNEST BRETT ... .. 7
GEORGE R. PYE ... .. 3	JAMES E. DAVIS ... .. 8
*ERNEST W. FURBANK ... .. 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... .. 9
EDWIN F. PIKE ... .. 5	WILLIAM PYE ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by J. E. DAVIS.

\* First peal of Cambridge Royal.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**  
LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 11, 1933, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 6056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 20 cwt.

EDWIN F. PIKE ... .. Treble	GEORGE R. PYE ... .. 5
ALBERT LAWRENCE ... .. 2	JOSEPH MARKS ... .. 6
JOHN T. KENTISH ... .. 3	JAMES E. DAVIS ... .. 7
ERNEST BRETT ... .. 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

TENTERDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Wednesday, December 13, 1933, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MILDRED,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 30 cwt.

MRS. H. BAKER ... .. Treble	CECIL B. BALLARD ... .. 5
ROBERT EDWARDS ... .. 2	CYRIL W. A. BROWN ... .. 6
HARRY BAKER ... .. 3	KENNETH PATTENDEN ... .. 7
CHARLES TRIBE ... .. 4	JOSEPH NEVE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by K. PATTENDEN.

First peal 'inside' by C. B. Ballard, who is to be congratulated on the way he rang throughout.

WILLENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 16, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

HERBERT KNIGHT ... .. Treble	ALBERT D. COLLINS ... .. 5
EDWARD HORTIN ... .. 2	FRANCIS BROTHERTON ... .. 6
GEORGE E. OLIVER ... .. 3	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... .. 7
THOMAS J. ELTON ... .. 4	BERT HORTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER WALLATER.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, December 18, 1933, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF WAVENEY SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLIAM G. WHITING ... .. Treble	GEORGE BENNETT ... .. 5
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... .. 2	LESLIE G. BRETT ... .. 6
GEORGE PRYKE ... .. 3	T. WILLIAM LAST ... .. 7
GEORGE WHITING ... .. 4	JAMES BENNETT, JUN. ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

First in the method by all and on the bells, making the 22nd Surprise method since April 28th, 1930, in this tower by the Sunday service ringers.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On December 17th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, for evening service: A. Hopkins 1, H. Sear 2, A. Crane 3, H. V. Sear (first quarter-peal as conductor and first attempt) 4, F. Stanton 5, F. Vickers 6, W. Sear 7, E. Smith 8. First quarter-peal by A. Hopkins at first attempt. He started ringing at Easter.

SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 18, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRED DONKERLEY ... .. Treble	JOHN RADCLIFFE ... .. 5
ERNEST GARSIDE ... .. 2	*RALPH WALKER ... .. 6
JOHN CLAYTON ... .. 3	CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON ... .. 7
HARRY PICKLES ... .. 4	W. W. WOLSTENCROFT ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. H. PLATT.

Conducted by FRED DONKERLEY.

\* First peal. First peal as conductor in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. John Harrison and Mr. Walter W. Wolstencroft, both of Ashton-under-Lyne.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 19, 1933, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

VICARS' SIX-PART.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

GEORGE BENNETT ... .. Treble	PETER CROOK, JUN. ... .. 5
EDWARD WEBSTER ... .. 2	*WILLIAM EDW. BAKENDALE ... .. 6
WALTER GORTON ... .. 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. ... .. 7
HAROLD GORTON ... .. 4	RICHARD WM. MOSLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK, SEN.

\* First peal. Rung to celebrate Mr. W. Gorton's 50 years as a ringer.

EVERCREECH, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. in E.

RONALD G. BECK ... .. Treble	HARRY J. SANGER ... .. 5
MISS NORA G. WILLIAMS ... .. 2	*WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... .. 6
JOHN E. METCALF ... .. 3	JOSEPH T. DYKE ... .. 7
FREDERICK TARGETT ... .. 4	WALTER CRABBE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH T. DYKE.

Rung to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the ringing of the first peal on the bells, which was the same method and composition, conducted by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson. No other peal of Stedman has been rung at Evercreech in the interval.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 21, 1933, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

ALLISON PORDON ... .. Treble	WILLIAM G. GRACE ... .. 5
JAMES BENNETT ... .. 2	*JOHN FOSKETT ... .. 6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3	EDMUND MOUNIER ... .. 7
WALTER D. JOLLEY ... .. 4	ALFRED J. HOUSE ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. E. BURTON.

Conducted by JAMES BENNETT.

\* First peal of Bob Major. A birthday compliment to the ringers of 5, 6 and 7. E. A. Barnett's 50th peal during 1933.

STOKE-IN-COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 13½ cwt.

FRANK E. PERVIN ... .. Treble	WILLIAM T. COX ... .. 5
EDWARD H. JOHNSON ... .. 2	JOHN W. TAYLOR ... .. 6
CHARLES FREEMAN ... .. 3	WILLIAM A. STOTE ... .. 7
DOUGLAS ELLENDER ... .. 4	FREDERICK WAITS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. STOTE.

First peal of Triples as conductor.

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## FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

## THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

## A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM LINTER, JUN. ... 1	Treble	TOWER R. TAYLOR ... 5
Cecil L. GUY ... 2		FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 6
JAMES TOPP ... 3		FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... 7
GEORGE WILLIAMS ... 4		ALFRED T. GREENWOOD ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

First peal of Cambridge on the bells.

## BATLEY, YORKSHIRE.

## THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

## A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

FRED HODGSON ... 1	Treble	THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY ... 5
SAMUEL WARD ... 2		CHARLES E. LAWSON ... 6
EDWARD JENKINS ... 3		ALBERT J. HUGHES ... 7
GEORGE W. STEEL ... 4		LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

Arranged and rung in honour of the wedding of Miss Annie Senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Senior, to Mr. A. W. Calverley, which took place earlier in the day. Fiftieth peal together by ringers of 4th and 5th.

## SYSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

## THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS PETER AND PAUL,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

MORRIS J. MORRIS' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

* J. ARTHUR TALBOTT ... 1	Treble	ERNEST F. PAYNE ... 5
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 2		HARRY LIFFE ... 6
HERBERT HDMPHREYS ... 3		ERNEST MORRIS ... 7
† CHARLES LOWE ... 4		WALTER WRIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

\* First peal and first attempt. † First 'inside.' Rung to celebrate the wedding of Miss Taylor to Mr. Geo. T. H. Walker, captain of the local ringers, which took place this day. All except ringers of 2 and 7 are local.

## STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

## THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, HEAVILY,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt. in D flat.

* LEONARD BURGESS ... 1	Treble	FRANK TWIGG ... 5
HIRAM MEAKIN ... 2		* HARRY ASHTON ... 6
† WALTER SHAW ... 3		PETER LAFLIN ... 7
* A. ERNEST JONES ... 4		ALLEN F. BAILEY ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

\* First peal. † First peal of Major. First peal of Major on the bells. First peal on the bells by a band composed entirely of Sunday service ringers at the above church.

## CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

## A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 21 cwt.

LOUIS A. WILSON ... 1	Treble	SIDNEY WILTSHIRE ... 5
* ERNEST TRUMAN ... 2		* HERBERT MARSH ... 6
* THOMAS DAVISON ... 3		* CHARLIE LOVELOCK ... 7
* WILLIAM SWIFT ... 4		FRED LAMBETH ... Tenor

Conducted by FRED LAMBETH.

\* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. First peal in the method as conductor. Believed to be the first peal in the method by county residents. L. A. Wilson is from Wootton Bassett, W. Swift Devizes, the rest of the band are local men.

## WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

## THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS &amp; SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

## A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 15 cwt.

* JAMES W. WILKINS ... 1	Treble	WILFRED EDWARDS ... 5
GEORGE MARTIN ... 2		JESSE HARRISON ... 6
REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG ... 3		WILLIAM HENLEY ... 7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ... 4		HARRY WINGROVE ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

\* First peal of Surprise.

## LONDON.

## THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

## A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES E. DAVIS ... 1	Treble	ERNEST W. FURBANK ... 5
ALFRED PYE ... 2		JOHN T. KENTISH ... 6
EDWIN F. PIRE ... 3		CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
GEORGE R. PYE ... 4		WILLIAM PYE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. PYE.

## TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

## THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(ST. JAMES' GUILD.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 20 cwt.

* C. HENRY FLOYD ... 1	Treble	HERBERT W. BORDEN ... 5
* HERBERT A. WALKER ... 2		JACK ROY ... 6
ALEC A. WALKER ... 3		JAMES HUNT ... 7
WALTER H. POOLE ... 4		WILLIAM C. GIGG ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES HUNT.

\* First peal.

## SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

WHEPSTEAD, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1933, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETRONELLA.

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings.

* ARTHUR HORRELL ... 1	Treble	WILLIAM E. HORRELL ... 3
ARTHUR W. ROLFE ... 2		AUGUSTUS W. TAYLOR ... 4
LESLIE M. PEARSON ... 3		

Conducted by A. W. ROLFE.

\* First peal. All are Sunday service ringers at this church.

## COGENHOE, NORTHANTS.

## THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 16, 1933, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, each called differently.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

FRED DUNKLEY ... 1	Treble	WILFRED JOYCE ... 5
ROLAND JONES ... 2		PHILIP JONES ... 4
CYRIL LONGLAND ... 3		GEORGE ROBINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

First peal by all. All the ringers (except the trebleman) belong to Brafeld belfry, and are Sunday service ringers.

## BIDDULPH, STAFFS.

## THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

## A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Norwich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Duke of York, Violet, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

HY. WHITEHURST ... 1	Treble	JAMES STANWAY ... 4
WM. CARTER ... 2		WM. HAZELDINE ... 5
JOHN BEECH ... 3		J. COTTRELL ... Tenor

Conducted by J. COTTRELL.

Rung for the 72nd birthday of Mr. W. Carter and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first peal in Biddulph tower.



BUCKLAND NEWTON, DORSET.  
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 16, 1933, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 6040 CHANGES;**

Being four extents each of Stedman Slow Course and New Doubles, six of Reading, four each of St. Simon's and Plain Bob and ten each of Stedman and Grandsire. Rung in that order and each extent called differently. Tenor 17 cwt. in E.

*HAROLD C. R. VINE ... .. Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... .. 4
E. T. PAUL FIELD ... .. 2	*D. W. CHARLES CHANT ... 5
H. DENNIS W. BISHOP ... 3	†WALTER J. GOSNEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. C. SHUTE.

\* First peal in seven methods. † First peal. Quickest peal on the bells.

BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 18, 1933, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. COTHBERT, STELLA,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Double Bob and Plain Bob Spliced, Cambridge Surprise, St. Clement's Bob and Double Oxford Spliced, Double Court, Oxford Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt. in B.

THOMAS W. DODD ... .. Treble	STEPHEN THOMPSON ... .. 4
KENNETH W. CHESMAN ... 2	HERBERT P. CLIFF ... .. 5
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 3	*ADAM DEAS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

\* 150th peal. First peal in nine methods by all. The ringer of the fifth has now 'completed the circle.' Rung to commemorate the 60th birthday of Mr. James Cliff, who has now completed 45 years' ringing service in this tower.

HADDENHAM, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1933, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven separate extents. Tenor 16 cwt.

ROBERT SMITH ... .. Treble	*STANLEY SHIFF ... .. 4
BERRY WAYMAN ... .. 2	MANSFIELD GINN ... .. 5
FRANCIS G. GLEAVES ... 3	FRANK WARRINGTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

\* First peal in the method. First of London on the bells. Rung as a season's compliment to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, editor of 'The Ringing World.'

DEEPING ST. JAMES, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 23, 1933, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Oxford Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Single Court. Tenor 19½ cwt.

MISS FRANCES HUMPHREY Treble	THOMAS A. COOPER ... .. 4
MRS. PHYLLIS HUMPHREY 2	HORACE M. DAY ... .. 5
THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE ... 3	COTHBERT T. H. BRADLEY Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

Arranged for Mrs. and Miss Humphrey, who were on holiday at Folkingham.

WREXHAM, NORTH WALES.—At the Parish Church, for afternoon men's service, on Sunday, December 17th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: A. Lea, sen., 1, F. Mitchell 2, P. Cross 3, F. Evans (conductor) 4, A. Lea, jun., 5, T. Cathrall 6, J. Coffin 7, A. Hodges 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Christmas Eve, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (from Thurstans): S. Smith 1, H. Sear 2, H. Morris 3, A. Crane 4, F. Stenton 5, F. Vickers 6, J. Marks (first as conductor) 7, W. Sear 8.

**BELLS OF BETHLEHEM.  
HEARD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**

There have been few moments in the history of modern broadcasting so thrilling as that on Sunday evening when, for the first time, millions throughout the world heard the bells of Bethlehem. It was one of the features of the Christmas programme, not only in this country but in the five continents, and it is safe to say that never before has the sound of bells been awaited with such eager interest and widespread anticipation.

The story of the first Christmas was told in relays from London, New York, Winchester Cathedral and the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, which is believed to stand over the site of the inn stable, and is said to be the oldest church in Christendom.

The bells came through very distinctly. They were not, of course, rung as we in this country ring bells, but were swung indiscriminately as is done on the Continent, and were heard clanging and clashing in a medley of sound which to those, at any rate, who appreciated the significance of their voices, was very impressive. The sounds of the bells came over the ether at intervals, sometimes in full volume and some times as a background to the rest of the broadcast, but never, we imagine, without stirring an emotional chord in those who reflected on their message.

Bells played a small part also in the principal broadcast on Christmas Day, when in the world-encircling Empire greetings they were heard from London, while a very interesting and unexpected feature was the handbell ringing of a carol, which came, we believe, from Bredon Church as part of the same programme.

**CRANLEIGH VETERAN'S DEATH.**

**SIXTY YEARS A RINGER AT ONE CHURCH.**

We regret to record the death of a veteran ringer at Cranleigh, Surrey. On Saturday, Mr. William Charman passed away, after a short illness at the age of 71 years.

He began ringing when he was only 11 years of age, and thus had given 60 years' service to his Parish Church. Although he had rung only a few peals, Mr. Charman was very conscientious in the discharge of his Sunday duties in the belfry, where he will be much missed by his colleagues.

The funeral took place at Cranleigh yesterday (Thursday).

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.  
ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE AT GLOUCESTER MEETINGS.**

The annual meeting of the Gloucester Branch was held at Barnwood on Saturday, December 16th, when 30 members from the various towers in the diocese attended. Ringing in standard methods was done during the afternoon and evening, and the usual Guild service was conducted by the Rector (Canon Bryce), who delivered an eloquent address which was much appreciated by the ringers. Tea, kindly provided by the Rector, was served in the schoolroom and much enjoyed by all.

The business meeting followed, presided over by the Rector.

Special mention was made of the untiring efforts of Mr. Evans in the work of restoration and addition to Churchdown bells. The hon. secretary's report of the year's work was read and the balance sheet presented and adopted.

Mr. S. Romans (chairman), Mr. W. H. Harris (secretary), and Mr. T. Baldwin (representative on committee), were, on the proposition of Mr. J. Williams, seconded by Mr. J. Austin, re-elected.

The Chairman proposed that letters of condolence be sent to Mr. W. H. Harris (secretary) on the death of his mother on the 15th inst., and to Mr. T. Baldwin, who is in hospital with serious injuries, the result of a motor accident. The hope was expressed for his speedy recovery.

Mr. Sidney Romans, on behalf of the branch secretary, who was absent, thanked all members for supporting the meetings throughout the past year, and expressed pleasure that the attendance had been very encouraging. He still hoped for increased attendance during the coming year.

The dinner committee, Messrs. Austin, Baldwin, Harris and Romans, were re-elected.

Mr. Romans proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Canon Bryce for presiding, for allowing the use of the bells, for his excellent address, and for his kind hospitality in providing such an excellent tea. This was seconded by Mr. Austin and carried with applause.—The Rector responded, and thus brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

The secretary (Mr. W. H. Harris) wishes to thank all ringing friends for the expressions of sympathy shown by them in his recent bereavement, and to Mr. Austin and Mr. Romans, who undertook the management of the meeting in his absence.

**A 'WARNING.'**

Damage is sometimes done in belfries by failure to disengage the clock hammers before ringing. This can easily happen when strangers enter the belfry. A suitable warning card for use in the ringing room is provided by Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of Midland Clock Works, Derby, who will be pleased to send one to any ringer who cares to apply for a copy.

**BELL ROPES**

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SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT  
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.

Cheap Quotations. Established 150 years. 'Phone 203.

**DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM**

## RUMINATIONS.

### AFTER-CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS OF 'W.W.'

Grandsire Doubles Cheap for Cash—The Race for Peals—As Famous as a Derby Winner—The Parson's Grouch—Gaps in the Ranks.

'Fill 'em up, Landlord. Mine's a mild and bitter. Thanks.'

This after-Christmassy feeling makes me moody, and on a night like this, a good roaring fire in the 'snug' is a home from home.

As I was saying, here I have been lying low and saying nuffin'—like Brer Rabbit—for a year, so I just pokes my nose above ground and sniffs, to see if it is safe to snoop around. Yes, it seems 'all quiet on the Western Front,' but what a dickens of a shindy we kicked up last year. And all on account of the five and six bell question. How the feathers flew in the correspondence cockpit. The 'opposition' brought all their guns to bear, but all their artillery was of no avail. Then Gabriel tooted his horn, and offered hundreds of thousands of Grandsire Doubles cheap for cash, but there were no takers. Well, I ask you. Would anybody out of Bedlam want them?

Lastly, up bobbed my old friend Armiger with a sarcastic shot. Now, I am built on those lines myself, and when two dry sticks are rubbed together, there is usually fireworks. Selah. He and I have frequently had a disturbance during the last forty years, but Armiger is 'all wool and a yard wide.' His strong suit is going to make him famous some day when we have gone to dust. As an historian he is the goods. He is original and finds out for himself before he publishes his facts. In the past there have been those who have assumed the title of author without the slightest right to it, have merely collected blocks of printed matter from other sources, put their own name on the cover and enjoyed a spurious reputation. If you call on Armiger and he is not in, go to the British Museum. If you see a short person covered with dusty parchment and papyrus, that's J.A.E.

When you read the 'Letters to the Editor,' don't forget to add a bit of salt to the menu. It amuses me to see some writers advising the Editor how to run his business. In every newspaper office everybody from the boy upwards thinks he could run the paper better than the man in the chair. This is understood and allowances made. Thus one should go slow before asking for the suppression of another's letters. I will let you into a secret. In the old days when 'Bell News' was the only organ, I sometimes got a note as follows: 'Walthamstow.—Dear Friend,—The circulation is not so good. Can you kick up a row in the next issue? Any subject you like best, only make it hot and strong.—Yours, H.R.' I duly obliged. The circulation went up again, and I was looked on as a stormy petrel, but bless you, it didn't hurt me.

What did I think of the letter of 'Enlightened'? Well, I thought a lot of it, though I don't know who the writer is. There was a deal of truth in what he wrote, and I am going to be candid enough to admit it. In asking, 'Is peal ringing futile?' he touched a sore spot. Certainly, all the labour spent is vanished in thin air the moment we finish the peal. I am as guilty as the next man, but I contend that unless there is some special reason for ringing a peal it is only selfishness for a conductor and a band to annoy the public for hours on end, just to add another notch to your tally. If we were not ringers, would we stand it? You know quite well we would not. Another thing, we must admit that bells were not put into steeples for the amusement of peal ringers. When dedicated, something is said about them being set apart from all secular and unhallowed uses. Is peal ringing an unhallowed act?

This brings us up against another query: Do we ring peals for the glory of God? No. Let us get rid of the cant and pretence of laying the onus on religion, when we must all plead guilty to the fact that we ring for our own pleasure and our own glory. The footnotes to peals show for what purpose the peals are rung. I have rung in lengths of 17,000 and 18,000 changes, but we never thought about the glory of anybody but ourselves.

The same applies to bands on a week's peal-ringing tour. Let us be honest with ourselves and admit the truth that there is a sporting element in peal hunting. In most of us it becomes a fetish at some period of our life. Everything else has to take a back seat, and this is an instance where peal ringing is futile. I know numbers of ringing friends who would make good in business or finance. They have the brains and the ability, but peal ringing is their obsession. If only they would turn W. M. H. into £ s. d.! I am not against peals being rung. There are times when something out of the common is called for, and then there is nothing 'unholy' about it any more than there is in an organ recital. But the race for peals, in my opinion, is not a good thing. If the Exercise is to survive, it will not be helped by incessant ringing in populous places, but by the unselfish work of the Sunday service men.

Mr. Jimmy George has become as famous as a Derby winner. To reach 80 'not out' is no mean feat, and his health is considered so O.K. that life insurance companies (I hear) are falling over themselves for his business for a long-date policy.

He has given away his secret for longevity, viz., a little drop of inspiration (12s. 6d. per bottle, 25 u.p.) in an early morning cup of tea. Yes, but how early? Can it be taken several times daily, and do you shake the bottle? Jimmy has missed a great chance of immortality. Look at the business side of it. He could sell his recipe to the highest bidder, and distillers would jump to it. Just think what an advertisement it would make. "The Elixir of Life," by George. See his photo on every bottle, without which none is genuine. One can almost see the picture of him on the posters, and his bust as a mascot on the vans. There's money in it. You cannot help feeling sorry for Jimmy. His great feat of ringing the tenor at Painswick to a peal that proved futile indeed was a calamity. Of all the band he was the most unfortunate. Is he not entitled to rank his performance as a peal? He rang his bell correctly throughout. He rang no false changes—nor any true ones either—and he could not have been dispensed with. A sorry ending to a gallant undertaking.

With all the limelight on our friend Jimmy, one is apt to overlook the outstanding virility of Robert H. Brundle, who rang in the 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob in 1892. I received a postcard the next day, dated June 6th, 1892, saying, 'We have just rung the long peal in 10 hours and 32 minutes. Jimmy Motts called it.' The sender was the late Arthur R. Aldham, who rang the 4th, and who rang beside me twelve years later in 11,008 and 17,104 Double Norwich. Robert H. Brundle is a grand old man of 82, and still rings peals. Good luck to him!

I noticed a report of a ringers' meeting the other day, where the parson in the chair used the stale rignarole about the defections of ringers. We have our faults and we know it, but I think it unwise to keep rubbing it in that we are 'improving.' The reflection is obvious. I know a parson whose pet grievance is that his ringers take a glass of ale at times. Now, his own proboscis shines like a good deed in a naughty world; in other words, like a cyclist's rear lamp. He has looked on the wine when it was red, is an excellent judge of vintage and loves its nifty bouquet. I admire his judgment, but am inclined at times to reply:—

'O Reverend Sir, it is a fact, and true beyond all question,

That every nose that's like a rose is not through indigestion.'

I would like to let off a little squib like that, but on reflection I know I shall not, because someone would squeal about personalities.

Time has taken toll of some of our best men in the world of ringing. Henry W. Wilde, Edwin Barnett, sen., Fred G. Newman, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn are a few, but who create a gap. The first-named was a modest, unassuming, clever man, who had no axe to grind. After the Central Council meeting at Chelmsford was ended we were discussing the day's arguments on the Cambridge Minor controversy on a London platform. Someone had said that outside the Rev. E. B. James' clever combination the rest had the 6-5's at backstroke. Wilde broke in and said, 'Nonsense. I have eight 720's, all the right way, in my pocket now.'

'Then why the dickens didn't you say so at the meeting,' we replied.

That was Wilde all over. He stood aloof.

Edwin Barnett was a gentleman. I rang one peal with him in 1912, and he leaves behind him a son and a brilliant grandson to carry on the traditions of the family. From what they have done already, it is evident that the mantle will fall on worthy shoulders.

Fred G. Newman was unknown to the present generation, but in the nineties he was a sturdy conductor. His favourite feats were Holt's Original and Tebbs' peal of Stedman Triples with 600 bobs and singles. Forty years ago he gave me his plan of calling the Original, which served me in good stead on more than a dozen occasions.

John D. Mathews most of us knew as the Master of the Cumberlands. I first met him with the Kettering men in his early days. At that time he was on the Press and a first-prize winner on the new linotype machine. He, too, leaves a son to carry on the work.

The death of Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, M.C., left a great blank in the Oxford Guild, and in the ranks of ringers generally. What he considered the greatest epic of his career was the memorial service at Ypres. When I asked him to be our padre he readily consented, and those who saw him that day when he stood beneath the huge arch of the Menin Gate and spoke of the ringers who fell, will never forget. It brought back memories. One could visualise the sturdy troops of 1914 swinging along the Menin Road to the tune of 'Tipperary,' for there are the ghosts of the khaki hosts and their courage we keep in mind, as year by year we all revere the lads who were left behind. Now the padre is numbered with those who are fallen by the way. Sic transit gloria mundi!

'Time, gentlemen, please.' What? Here, where's my pal? You say I never had a pal? I have been muttering to myself by the fire all alone? Well, I'm jiggered.

MEON, HANTS.—On Tuesday, December 19th, at Bay Tree Cottage, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. Philpott 1-2, F. S. Bayley 3-4, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 5-6, A. T. Greenwood 7-8.

# STEDMAN AND ERIN CATERS. A NEW SPLICED PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Seeing that my 5,133 of Spliced Stedman and Erin Caters has only been rung once, I have come to the conclusion that it is rather too long. I, therefore, send the figures of No. 2, a composition of 5,037, which I trust you will also kindly publish in 'The Ringing World.' There is no doubt that peals on this plan are both musical and interesting to ring. Thanking you in anticipation.

A. J. PITMAN.

5,037  
First Part.

Stedman	231456789				
Erin	342165978	1	6	13.14	19.20
	214563		5	15	
	534261		6	7	
	413562		5	7	
	421365		55	7	
	152463		5	7	
	235164		5	7	
	145263		6	7	
	Last seven parts				
Stedman	145263978				
	421563879	2	6	8.9	16
	152364		5	15	
Erin	235461		5	15	
	415263		6	7	
	531462		5	7	
	123564		5	7	
	342165		5	7	
	254361		5	7	
Stedman	314265		6	7	

\* Single for bob in fifth part.

Round first change of last course in eighth part. After first two courses of Stedman, has six courses of Erin and three courses of Stedman alternately, with 6th in 5ths.

NELSON, LANCES.—On Sunday, December 17th, for evening service, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Major: E. W. Parsons 1, J. Smith 2, J. Cartwright 3, H. Hillary 4, R. Davis 5, W. Rhodes 6, J. Thornber 7, J. Smith (conductor) 8. Rung by members of the local band for the 10th anniversary of the installation of the bells.

# VISIT TO LOUGHBOROUGH FOUNDRY. 'SILVER IN BELLS IS WASTE OF MONEY.'

At the kind invitation of Messrs. John Taylor and Co., I was invited to pay a visit to the Loughborough Foundry, where the bells of our church (Pirbright, Surrey) are undergoing repair, to witness the casting of five bells for various parts of the country. On arrival at Loughborough I was met by Mr. J. P. Fidler, complete with famous Ford car, and escorted to the Foundry, where various officials were introduced to me. We were joined by Mr. Jan Luyt, the carillonneur of Capetown, and a Government surveyor, who were spending a holiday in this country.

The tour around the various departments was most interesting, and, indeed, a sight that every ringer ought to see, as one does not realise the amount of trouble and skilled labour involved in repairing and rehanging bells. Nothing is allowed to pass unless perfect in every way. The bell founders are in many cases handicapped by antiquarian societies, who will not allow old frames to be removed and old bells to be recast. This means that special fittings, such as headstocks, have to be made to suit the individual bell, whereas a 'clean sweep' would mean a much stronger and more reliable job. Old inscriptions can always be reproduced on a recast bell, and these are really all that matter.

The tour of the works having been completed, we were taken to the Foundry belfry, where there is a light musical peal of 10, in first-rate going order. We were invited to try these bells, and this caused some surprise to Mr. Luyt and his friend, as change ringing is almost unknown in Africa. It took most of Mr. Fidler's persuasive powers to make Mr. Luyt believe that a little bell of 3 cwt. could, if improperly handled, pull its ringer up to the ceiling.

After lunch a trip was made to the Loughborough war memorial, a beautiful tower in the centre of the park, with a fine carillon. Almost at the top of the tower, which is reached by climbing a spiral staircase of 90 steps, is situated the carillon of 47 bells. It is impossible to do justice here to this carillon; those who have heard it broadcast know how beautiful it is, but we were delighted to hear a short recital by Mr. Luyt and Mr. Jordan, the carillonneur, of Loughborough.

At 2.30 we were due back at the Foundry for the recasting. It is usual to throw a silver coin into the metal, but the foreman, who has been there 50 years, considers it to be a waste of money. (N.B. The nearest 'Inn' is but a short distance from the Foundry.)

The departure of the express from Loughborough brought a very interesting and instructive day to a close.

H. J. C.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

To all our readers:

### A Happy and Prosperous New Year

Although the first peal of York Surprise Royal was rung as long ago as December 29th, 1928, at Leicester, by the Midland Counties Association, the first peal of Major in the method has only just been rung. It was scored at Nuneaton on December 16th last by the Warwickshire Guild. The Minor is printed in the Central Council's 'Collection of Minor Methods'; the figures of the Major will be found on another page of this issue of 'The Ringing World.'

A peal of Minor in seven methods was rung at Biddulph on Saturday week to mark the 72nd birthday of Mr. William Carter, of Stourbridge, a former leader of Biddulph tower, and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first peal rung on the bells. Mr. Carter took part in the peal.

The band at Helmingham, Suffolk, last week rang a peal of Waverley Surprise, the 22nd Surprise method rung in the tower by the Sunday service ringers since April, 1930. This is really an extraordinary achievement, even in these days, when more variety than ever is being introduced into ringing.

Congratulations to the band at Cogenhoe, Northants, who rang a peal of Grandsire Doubles on Saturday week. It was the first peal by all the band and, according to the report, all the 42 six-scores were called differently.

Another extremely good performance on the same day, and one worthy of wide emulation by five and six bell ringers, was a peal of Doubles in seven methods, rung at Buckland Newton, Dorset.

The annual general meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths will take place on Saturday, February 3rd, 1934, due notice of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

Those ringers who took part in the pilgrimage to the Menin Gate will appreciate the following message which we have received from the proprietress of the Hotel Myra, Ostend (Mme. M. Dejaeghere): 'I send you and all bellringers my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a very happy new year.'

The attention of members of St. Martin's Guild is called to the alteration of place of the annual meeting. The business is to be transacted at St. Martin's Hotel. But, of course, everyone will go to St. Martin's belfry first.

Next Tuesday is the 30th anniversary of the first 'John' peal ever rung. It was a peal of London Surprise Major at St. Stephen's, Westminster, on January 2nd, 1904. These eight Johns are all still in the land of the living, and if they are not all as active as they were in those rather far-off days their names are still fairly well known.

The Johns were Messrs. Rowbotham, Goldsmith, Cheesman, Evans, Truss, Sharman, Golding and Oxborrow.

On January 4th, 1784—just one hundred and fifty years ago to-day—a peal of 14,480 Bob Major was rung at Oldham, but even this length had been exceeded nearly fifty years before, namely, by a 15,120 rung at West Ham in 1737.

### SURPRISE MINOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In answer to Mr. H. M. Day's inquiry, I would remind him that on September 10th, 1927, St. George's Guild (Wilton), Taunton, rang ten different extents of Surprise Minor (7,200 changes), conducted by S. G. Coles. It was his first peal as conductor.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

### DEATH OF A LANCASHIRE STALWART.

MR. TITUS BARLOW.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Titus Barlow, of Deane, Bolton, which occurred on December 21st, after a short but severe illness, at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Barlow had been a regular service ringer at Deane Church for nearly 50 years, and for many years was towerkeeper and leader of the company. He was a most enthusiastic member of the Lancashire Association, which he joined in 1893, and had rung 361 peals under its auspices. In 1927 he took part in two record performances, viz., 11,232 Superlative Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Bolton, and 17,824 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Heptonstall. He was an excellent ringer and striker, equally at home in the simplest or most difficult methods.

The funeral took place at Dean Church on Saturday, December 23rd, the memorial service being conducted by the Vicar. Many of the deceased's fellow-workers and friends were present, and he was borne to his last resting place by six of his fellow-ringers. The last rites were performed by Canon H. J. Elsee, president of the Lancashire Association. Round the graveside were the sorrowing widow and family, to whom the heartfelt sympathy of all Lancashire ringers goes out.

Deane thus loses one of its staunchest sons, one who, by his modest and unassuming disposition, won the respect and affection of all who knew him. His death will leave a gap which will not easily be filled.



## THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF 1933

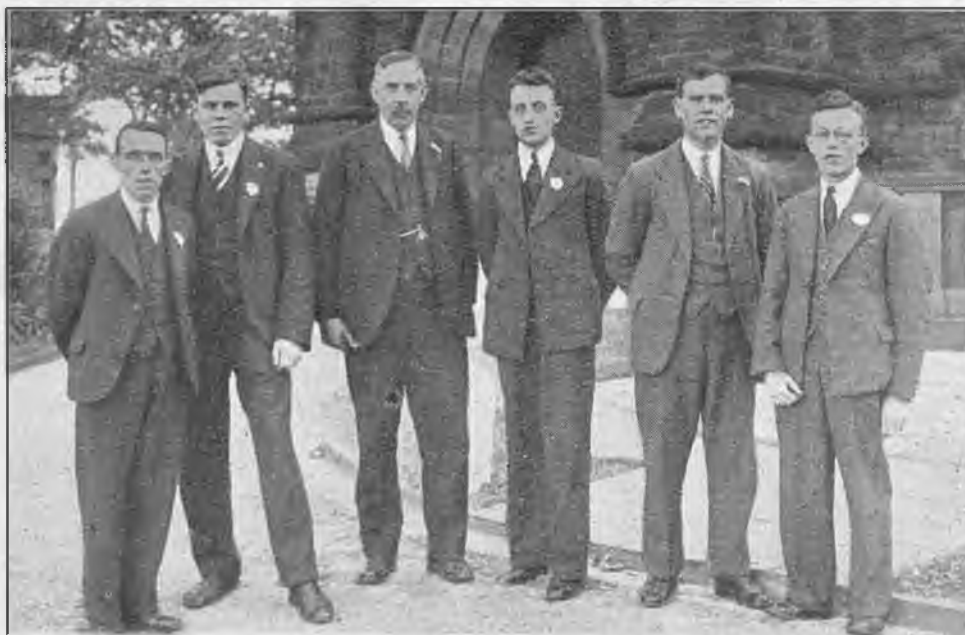
### AND SOME OTHER INTERESTING EVENTS RECALLED.

What has been the most outstanding ringing performance of the year? There have been several achievements of distinguished merit, but we think there has been nothing to surpass the peal of Treble Bob Minor in 38 methods rung at Knutsford in August. It was the crowning sequel to peals in 25 methods at Disley in January, in 30 methods at Sutton in March, and in 35 methods at Chelford in April, and was a triumph in the practical adaptation of six-bell method splicing. There were some slight differences in the bands, but the backbone of the company was essentially the same, and consisted of Messrs. J. Fearnley, jun., J. A. Milner, W. Stevenson, J. Worth and E. Bennett. There were various treblemen, and in the 30 methods W. Fearnley was 'inside,' but the great achievement was at Knutsford,

method peals at Felkirk and Penistone respectively, the 10 and 12 method peals at Deeping St. Nicholas, Lincs., and others of the 'spliced' variety rung in different parts of the country, which goes to show that this form of ringing is growing in popularity.

Apart from peal ringing, there have been some noteworthy events during 1933. The reopening of Bow bells, after long silence, with civic as well as ecclesiastical ceremony, was a memorable occasion in London ringing history, and another opening of more than passing interest was that of the recast Ripon Cathedral bells early in the year. The Oxford Society's bicentenary was celebrated in October, and this year has marked the jubilee of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Staffs.

Of individual achievements there have been many of outstanding interest, and not least has been, at one end of the scale, the progress of Master E. A. Barnett, of Crayford, who completed his first fifty peals while he was still 14, who has added peals in all kinds of difficult methods, including one of Spliced Surprise, and has now,



THE BAND WHO RANG THE 38-METHOD PEAL AT KNUTSFORD.

S. Hough, J. Fearnley, jun., J. A. Milner, W. Stevenson, J. Worth and E. Bennett.

where Mr. S. Hough rang the treble, and the others who took part were the five first named. The accompanying picture is from a photograph of the band.

There have, of course, been other notable performances during the year, such, for instance, as the 'old men's' peal at Hart Street with a band whose average age was 76½—a record which may have been eclipsed before these lines appear in print, for a party of ten of even greater age were, if all is well, to attempt a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes, London, on Wednesday evening.

The 18,144 of Bob Major at Bennington by the Herts County Association on Whit Monday established a new Major record, and there was also rung a 10,432 Kent Treble Bob Major at Warnham for the Sussex County Association. Apart from these there have been no conspicuous long lengths.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Birmingham, rung without any bobs being called, was an interesting and progressive event, and leads one to wonder why some of the bands who ring many peals, and often comprise a sufficient number of conductors to do without a bob caller, do not ring peals on these lines. It would add to the interest of those who were ringing and merit to the performance.

The 'silent' Stedman Cinques on handbells, at Birmingham, recorded last week, is too recent to need comment, but another fine achievement of this year is worth recalling, namely, two peals of Cambridge Surprise Major rung on handbells at Oxley by members of the Herts County Association. Although New Cambridge was rung on handbells years ago, these were the first peals 'in hand' in the original version.

Other interesting performances have been the 14 and 16 Minor

while little more than 15, entered the ranks of the composers. Ringing with him must be 'bred in the bone.' He has easily excelled the performances of any other youth of his age. Miss Phyllis Tillet, of Ipswich, who rang a twelve-bell peal at the age of fourteen, and has achieved other distinctions during the year, has surely gained a noteworthy position for herself. She is the fifth generation of her family to take up ringing, and rings regularly with her father and grandfather.

At the other end of the scale we have had Mr. James George's recent wonderful performances in ringing heavy tenors to peals in celebration of his eightieth birthday, and, incidentally, ringing his 1,200th peal; while Mr. J. E. Davis, as recently recorded, has entered the very small circle of men who have rung a thousand peals.

These, in brief, are a few of the notable events which go to the credit of the year 1933. On the other side we have the grievous losses which death has brought. Here are the names of some of the men of note in this and a previous generation who have been called home during the year: The Rev. Cyril W. O. Jenkyn, Master of the Oxford Guild and Librarian of the Central Council; Thomas Faulkner, for 40 years a ringer at Barking, a member of the Central Council and a past Master of the College Youths; J. A. Gofton, of Whitley Bay; S. Stott, of Oldham (aged 76); C. W. Player, a Romney Marsh stalwart; E. P. O'Meara, formerly four times Master of the College Youths; the Rev. A. T. Beeston, formerly hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild; R. Lynch, president of the Irish Association; John D. Matthews, Master of the Royal Cumberland Youths; and such worthies as Joseph Waghorn, of London, who reached the advanced age of 90 years, Fred G. Newman, also of London, who died aged 73, Uriah Braven, of Bristol, W. H. Marsh, of Plymouth, and William Page of Worcester.

## THE SOCIETY OF JUNIOR CUMBERLANDS

### THE LAST PHASES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

(Continued from page 812.)

Before the peal of Stedman Triples which John Noonan composed the society had already rung several good peals under the leadership of William Williams. The first he called, or at any rate the first which is recorded, was 5,040 Bob Major at Hackney. The tenor to this performance was rung by James Marlton, who was afterwards to prove himself worthy of being ranked among the leading heavy bell ringers of all time. This was in 1793, and was in the old tower, which still stands apart from the present church. In the same year the society scored at St. Mary's, Lewisham, a complete peal, consisting of 5,264 changes of Grandshire Eight-in, being the first peal in that method ever brought round at Backstroke. Williams composed and called it, Marlton rang the tenor, and apparently it was Noonan's first five thousand in London. In the next year their performances included 5,453 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow, which they claimed as 'the greatest number of changes ever rang on those heavy Bells and the noblest Performance ever achieved at that Place by ten men only.' Marlton rang the tenor, Noonan the ninth and Williams called it from the treble.

Two years later Noonan's name first appears as composer and conductor, though it is probable that the records of other performances are lost. He called 5,007 Grandsire Major from the second at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, the peal being rung 'in the short time of Two hours and fifty-seven minutes.'

On June 20th, 1796, the society rang 7,001 Grandsire Caters at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in 4 hours and 55 minutes, 'being the greatest number of changes ever rang at that Place.' Williams called from the second. A note to the record says that 'the third and fifth were out of Course five Courses about the middle of the Peal, after which they took their right Course again to the End of the Peal.' It looks as if the ringers were content to claim the peal notwithstanding the shift on the grounds that no actual change was rung twice, which, of course, would be the case if there were no Singles in the composition. More probably only the conductor and the ringers concerned knew it at the time, and an attempt was made to hush it up and claim as a true and complete peal what was actually a failure. And then, as such things will, it leaked out. The entry was not made in the book until probably twenty years later.

Next year, at the same church, Noonan composed and called 6,003 'Grandsire Caters on Steadman's principle.' It was the longest at the time in the method, beating the Birmingham 5,292 rung in 1790. In its turn, it was beaten by the senior Society of Cumberlands with 6,129 changes in 1805. We are told that 'this performance will remain a lasting honour to the Society and an example worthy to be imitated by posterity.' Unfortunately, the composition was false. During the following years, among other peals of no particular interest, was a 5,040 Grandsire Triples at St. Giles', Camberwell, which was rung in 2 hours and 37 minutes and claimed to be 'in the shortest time of any Peal that ever was Rung.' It was rung in the old church and on the old bells, which were destroyed by fire in 1841. They were a light ring,

the tenor being only 7 cwt. In 1801 the Junior Cumberlands rang at the same church 6,112 Oxford Treble Bob Major in 3 hours and 12 minutes, which is at the rate of only 2 hours 37 minutes for a five thousand. It is notable that the number of hours and minutes was left out of the original record apparently because the writer doubted them and they were added afterwards in another handwriting.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields was the regular practice tower of the College Youths at that time, but twice the Junior Cumberlands managed to get the bells for a peal. Both were Grandsire Cinques, one in 1799, the other in 1802. Both were conducted by Noonan.

In 1802 three peals were rung; then there is a blank till the end of 1806, when 5,086 changes of 'Grandsire Cinques on Steadman's principle' were rung at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in 3 hours 55 minutes. This was the first in the method on the bells and was composed and conducted by Noonan, who in the next year composed and conducted the first peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.

There was in 1806 a good deal of rivalry between the two Cumberland societies, each was trying to ring the first peal of Stedman Cinques at Spitalfields, and it culminated in the December of that year. On the 13th the senior society attempted a six thousand and lost it after ringing 5,500; on the 15th the junior society rang the 5,086; and on the 20th the senior society rang 6,334.

Jasper Snowden, in his history of Stedman Cinques, gives a brief account of this ringing from the note book of a certain Henry John Blease. He gives the number of the junior society's peal as 5,886, and says it was probably an attempt for a longer length brought round for some reason or other. He then proceeds:—

'In the absence of further information I will only name a fact which presents a curious study to those who are critical concerning the time which any given performance takes. Both these peals—the 5,886 and the 6,334—were rung on the same bells and within a space of five days, yet although one peal was 448 changes longer than the other the time occupied in each case, viz., 4 hours and 55 minutes, was the same.'

The entry in the peal book says the junior society's peal was 5,086 rung in three hours and fifty-five minutes, not four hours and fifty-five minutes, and, if so, the rate of the two performances would be about the same, i.e., 21.47 changes per minute for the six thousand and 21.64 for the five thousand. Neither of the accounts can be said to be quite contemporary, for Blease joined the Cumberlands in 1821 and the peal book entry was made about the same time. On the whole the latter is more probably correct.

It is noticeable that the false 7,001 of Grandsire Caters in 1796 also took four hours and fifty-five minutes.

In 1807 Williams and John Haynes visited Oxford and with some of the local men rang 5,040 Grandsire Triples at Magdalen College. The Oxford men joined the Society of Junior Cumberlands and two peals they subsequently rang are entered in the book. These are 6,101 Grandsire Caters at Magdalen and 10,008 in the same method at New College. Both were called by Edward Nicholls. It will be remembered that in Annable's time the Oxford men, under John Vicars, had set themselves the task of ringing a ten thousand of Grandsire Caters, but had not succeeded.

In 1808 Noonan called two peals and then for five years his name is missing from the records. It was then that he had his trouble with the law. Personally,

no doubt, he was harmless and inoffensive enough, and certainly was intellectually superior to the mass of his fellows. But he was a person of no education and he habitually associated with a very low lot of people. He must have come across some very curious characters in the low class public-houses of the East End, where he and his cronies habitually went, and got to know more about some things than a well disposed law abiding citizen should. One day he was in one of these dens with a gang of smugglers when the house was raided by the revenue officers and the whole party taken into custody. It is said he merely happened to be in their company and was drinking with them. At any rate, it would have gone hard with him if William Eversfield, of Gravesend, had not stood his friend and borne witness to his character. He received a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment, which looks as if the magistrate did not altogether believe him guiltless. Eversfield was a sail maker by trade and apparently was well known to the revenue authorities.

Noonan's imprisonment is said to have much broken him up and he was not fit for very much afterwards. After his return to the Junior Cumberlands, his name appears in the records of three peals, 5,104 Bob Major and 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob, both at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and both in 1813, and 5,040 Grandsire Triples at All Saints', Barking, Tower Hill, on March 28th, 1814. Then his name finally disappears. He is said to have retired to Bromley and died in that same year.

After Noonan disappeared, the peal conducting was done partly by William Williams and partly by Joseph Ladley. Ladley had been ringing peals as far back as 1793, but he only now got his chance as a conductor. He had some pretensions, too, to being a conductor, especially of Grandsire Caters. One in that method is interesting. It was in the Tittums 'and the 5th and 6th are the only Bells behind the 9th Being to their Extent in both Courses, which proves the utility of Singles. This was the 1st Peal ever rang in that way of Calling.'

In 1820 Henry Symondson, who had rung in most of Noonan's early peals, formed with his son and ten others the Junior Society of College Youths. They were very much the same class of man as the Junior Cumberlands, and in almost every way inferior to the real College Youths. Ladley went over to them and became their leading conductor.

Writing about 1816, Shipway said that change ringing had lately very much declined, and so far as London was concerned that was undoubtedly true. The College Youths, who had made ringing history under Povey and Reeves and Blakemore, were getting old and had mostly given up peal ringing. It was only the men at Kensington, under Barber, and those further up the Thames Valley who were still active, and when they died off the general level of London ringers went down enormously.

One of the best of the younger ringers was Samuel Austin, who was first a member of the Junior Cumberlands and afterwards for many years the leading man among the College Youths. Austin's name first appears in the account of the first peal of Bob Major rung at All Hallows', Barking, and he took part in the last six peals rung by the society. These were all rung between December 1st, 1823, and April 20th, 1824, and it is probable that he did his best to galvanise the dying society

into a further lease of life, and certainly not without a great measure of success. He collected, as best he could, the records of the peals rung since the time of George Gross and wrote them in the peal book. He was a most excellent penman, and these records are among the very best that exist in black and white. The last entry he made in the book is the record of the Grandsire Cinques rung in 1799. This is dated January, 1825, and in the same month he was ringing a peal of Grandsire Triples with the Junior College Youths at St. Peter's, Walworth. His name appears in the records of almost every peal rung by that society, once or twice as composer and conductor. When at length necessity had compelled the old College Youths to come to terms with the Junior Society and a union of the two was effected on July 5th, 1830, Austin was elected Master, Edward Lansdell, another prominent member of the Junior Society, being secretary. The united societies rang seven peals, four of which were composed and conducted by Samuel Austin. Then the style and behaviour of the members of the junior society became so intolerable to the older College Youths that they resolved at any cost to get rid of them and the union was dissolved. The old Junior College Youths now became the Sussex Society, Austin still being Master. They rang thirteen peals and then were readmitted to the Society of College Youths.

Meanwhile, the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths had come to an inglorious end. They shifted their headquarters from public-house to public-house in the East End, getting into debt for beer and stopping as long as the landlord would let them, and, finally, as the members formed other companies, the society faded away. It is usually said that it reunited with the old Cumberlands, but that was not so. The peal book, after so stormy a youth spent among taverns and pawnshops, has found a dignified home in its old age in the British Museum.

#### DEATH OF AN OTTERY ST. MARY RINGER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. John Hine, one of the band of ringers at Ottery St. Mary, Devon. 'John,' as he was familiarly known to his fellow-ringers, was one of the old school, having started under the tuition of the late Rev. Maitland Kelly, for many years president of the Devonshire Guild, who always showed a great interest in the Ottery band.

The deceased was invariably present for Sunday ringing. He had also been sidesman at the Parish Church for a number of years.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, December 20th, the coffin being carried to the grave by four of his fellow-ringers, Messrs. C. J. Turner, R. Wood, E. Markes and J. Arbury. Immediately after the service 252 Stedman and 500 Grandsire Triples were rung with half-muffled clappers as a last token of respect.

#### TWO POINTS OF VIEW—Continued from page 829.

It had the impression of being our conductor. It is funny, but it is true, somehow, that the nail is hit on the head every time.

I am writing this letter to congratulate you on the success of your effort to keep us as a ringing fraternity in our places. You have a job, but keep it up. Each week I look forward, wondering 'What's in this week?' Sometimes I am disappointed, sometimes pleased, but always left with something with food for thought.

Now, so our Rectors and Vicars will tell us, is the time for new resolutions. Can I, may I, suggest each of us ringers makes a resolution to look at ringing from the point of what is the leading item of a very good and well-known society: Read the lot, cut the worst, think only of the right and just.

In closing, I would wish you all you could wish yourself, and extend it to all brother ringers, bearing in mind that bellringing is work for the Church, a work which slowly but surely is being recognised by churchpeople, and to which 'The Ringing World' has proved a great asset in the assistance which it gives to that end.

F. WARRINGTON.

We dare not plume ourselves too much because Mr. Amos is for ever hovering in the background, but we print this letter so that even he can see that everyone does not agree with his views concerning

THE EDITOR.

## THE SAM THOMAS MEMORIAL

### LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

As previously announced in these columns, two treble bells are to be added at Ranmoor Church, Sheffield (where the other eight are to be recast), as a memorial to Mr. Sam Thomas, a former Sheffield ringer, who died in 1924, and who did a great deal to promote ringing in the district, having, among other things, been leader of the band at Ranmoor.

The memorial has been raised by the Sheffield District Society, who desire to thank all those who have supported it. The fund is now closed, and the following is the list of subscribers:—

	£	s.	d.
Yorkshire Association	2	2	0
Ranmoor company	1	10	0
Wath-on-Dearne company	1	3	9
Sheffield Cathedral company	1	1	0
Bolsover company	1	0	0
St. Mary's Guild, Handsworth	17	6	
Killamarsh company	15	0	
Norton company	10	0	
Beighton company	10	0	
Rotherham company	10	0	
Selby company	10	0	
Rawmarsh company	7	0	
Barlborough company	5	0	
Eastwood company	5	0	
Mr. W. Goodwin, Ranmoor	5	5	0
The Churchwardens, Dore	1	1	0
Mr. M. Ward, Nottingham	1	0	0
Mr. W. A. Wooller, Wortley	1	0	0
Mr. C. D. Potter, Royston	10	0	
Mr. C. Haynes, Ranmoor	10	0	
Rev. J. Thompson, Bradfield	10	0	
Mr. F. A. Howes Smith, Eckington	10	0	
Mr. J. H. Brothwell, Trecton	10	0	
Canon F. G. Scovell, Rawmarsh	5	0	
Mr. J. Marshall, Edinburgh	5	0	
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lewis, Ecclesfield	5	0	
Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, London	5	0	
Mr. S. F. Palmer, Sheffield	5	0	
Mr. and Mrs. J. Cotterell, Bradford	5	0	
Mr. J. E. Cawser, Rotherham	2	6	
Mr. A. Knights, Chesterfield	2	6	
Mr. B. Knights, Preston	2	6	
Mrs. C. Haynes, Ranmoor	2	6	
Mr. A. E. Haynes, Glasgow	2	6	
Mr. L. E. Last, Sheffield	2	6	
Mr. S. Briggs, Rotherham	2	6	
Mr. C. Stenton, South Anston	2	6	
Mr. W. Wolstencroft, Ashton-under-Lyne	2	6	
Miss M. Benton, Dore	2	6	
Miss J. Dugdale, Dore	2	6	
Mr. G. M. Thorpe, Dore	2	6	
Mr. W. Bingham, Dore	2	6	
Mr. J. Sykes, Dore	2	6	
Mr. A. S. Robinson, Dore	2	6	
Mrs. F. Wilson, Sheffield	2	6	
Miss E. Chafer, Sheffield	2	6	
Mr. R. Richardson, Surfleet	2	6	
Mr. A. Mitchell, Rawmarsh	2	0	
Mr. W. Palmer, Staveley	1	6	
Miss Hahn, Sheffield	1	0	
Mr. A. E. Parsons, Staveley	1	0	
Sale of scent cards by Ranmoor company	2	11	0
The Sheffield and District Society's grant to guarantee £35	6	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### A YORKSHIRE PIONEER OF SURPRISE RINGING.

Mr. Thomas, who died of pneumonia on June 24th, 1924, was 54 years of age. He was a typical Yorkshireman, and came of ringing stock, for his first method ringing was done in his native village of Wath-on-Dearne with his father, grandfather and uncle. He first learned to ring a bell when he was nine years of age. In those days Sam was in the choir, and, during a dispute between the ringers and the church authorities, the choir boys used to jangle the bells for service. The treble was Sam's bell, and on one occasion he pulled at it until, to his consternation, it set, and there it had to remain until his courage returned sufficiently to permit him to touch the thing again.

Mr. Thomas went to Sheffield in 1888 (to join the staff at the Botanical Gardens), and in the following year he became a member of the Parish Church company, with whom he rang his first peal. He became associated with the Ranmoor company in 1896, and, under

his tuition, the band, beginning with Bob Major, eventually reached the Surprise stage.

On the formation of the Sheffield Junior Amalgamated Society in 1890, he was elected treasurer. In 1898 the society was extended to embrace a larger area and became the Sheffield District Society, with which was eventually amalgamated the Old East Derbyshire Society. Mr. Thomas had been president of the latter since 1901, and at the fusion in 1903 continued to hold the office in the enlarged organisation. Afterwards for several years he filled the post of hon. secretary.

Mr. Thomas always retained his attachment for Ranmoor, but he did a good deal of spade work in other places, and when the new peal of bells was put in at Dore in 1909 he was entrusted with the formation of a new band, to which he acted as instructor.



THE LATE MR. SAM THOMAS,  
whose memorial at Ranmoor is to consist of two new treble bells.

In the first years of the present century Mr. Thomas did a great deal to promote Surprise ringing in Yorkshire. He called the first peal of Yorkshire Surprise, rung on February 5th, 1903, and before going on to practise London the band took up another method, which, being regarded as a 'half-way' house between the two, they named Peterborough, the first peal of which he conducted in April, 1904. Among his other noteworthy achievements was the first peal of Original Major, which he composed and conducted. After the war business responsibilities kept him from taking as large a part in the art as he had formerly done, but his heart remained in ringing until his comparatively early death robbed the Exercise of one of its most brilliant members.

### YOUNGEST HEREFORDSHIRE CONDUCTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the footnote attached to a peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Eardisland, Herefordshire, published in your issue of the 15th inst., stating that the conductor, at the age of 21, is believed to be the youngest member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild to conduct a peal, I beg to inform him that at the age of 19 I conducted a peal of Doubles in the same method at Weston-under-Penyard on August 27th, 1932. The report of the peal was published in 'The Ringing World' on September 2nd, 1932.

GLYN SHAW.

Ross-on-Wye.



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****PRESIDENT'S TOWER VISITED.**

The last meeting of the year to be held by members of the S. and W. District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at St. Mary's Parish Church, Twickenham, on Saturday, December 16th. A hearty welcome was given by the genial president of the association, Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane, and it was a matter of regret that so few responded, the total attendance being 25.

The bells were rung to a variety of methods during the afternoon and evening, and good practice obtained. It was heartening to see some of the latest recruits to the local band 'manfully' ringing rounds, etc. Instructor Morris evidently believes in 'catching 'em young.' It is to be hoped that his very praiseworthy efforts in this connection will be repaid later when his band gets firmly established again.

Evensong at five o'clock was conducted by the president, assisted by the curate and organist. In his address the President dwelt on the various aspects of the wonderful brotherhood that existed in the ringing fraternity. Tea followed in the new Church Hall. Incidentally, the latter was previously inspected under the guidance of the president and greatly admired.

Sincere thanks were offered to the president for all he had done to make the meeting so enjoyable, to which he replied that he was always glad to do his share.

Messrs. Morris and Lovell and the ladies, all of whom had assisted in preparing and serving such an excellent tea, were also thanked for their labours.

During the business meeting the death of the Vicar of Ealing, Rev. C. J. Sharp, was referred to, and the members stood in silence as a tribute to his memory. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. W. Goodfellow) said he had written a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Sharp. Mr. Sharp came to Ealing 16 years ago. During this period, he was responsible for the formation of a new band at St. Mary's in 1920, under the leadership of Messrs. Hunnisett and Page, and for the complete restoration of the bells a few years ago. For his services to the association he was elected a life honorary member in 1925. Absolutely fearless in his opinions, he was extremely kind and generous at heart. He had accomplished many useful public works for the town, chief among them being his labours on behalf of education. On the day of the funeral, at which an address was given by the Bishop of Kensington, on behalf of the Bishop of London, a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by members of the association, as recorded elsewhere.

It was decided to hold the next district meeting at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon West, on Saturday, March 10th, 1934. In January, the annual supper would take place on the 13th, whilst the district annual general meeting would be held at Heston on February 10th.

Mention was made by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. C. S. Bird) of an appeal for funds to restore the bells at Bedford. The question of making a grant from the funds was deferred until the annual meeting at Heston.

The hon. secretary sold a copy of new Central Council leaflet, on how to handle a bell, etc. (price 2d.), to practically everyone present. It was generally agreed that if the advice proffered in the leaflet was acted upon much good would result. The leaflet is a work that will leave no excuse for bad handling and striking, so clear and precise are its contents. The photographs will be of great assistance, and the authors are to be congratulated upon their work.

The officers and committee wish all members and friends a prosperous new year, and suggest a new year resolution for every member: 'Support the association at least once a month.'

**PEAL BOARD DEDICATED AT TRING.**

At Tring Parish Church, on Sunday evening, December 10th, before the service ringing commenced, the Vicar (the Rev. C. T. T. Wood, M.C., M.A.) visited the belfry to dedicate a peal board recording a peal of Grandsire Triples rung earlier in the year. The board was made by Mr. H. Bull, one of the band, and is painted black with gold lettering similar to the other two already in the tower.

The Vicar referred to the splendid work Mr. Bull had put in the board, and said he thought it was quite a good thing to have those records so that future generations could see what had been done in their lovely old parish churches.

After the little ceremony was over, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung as a compliment to the Vicar on his recent appointment as Rural Dean of the Berkhamsted Deanery: C. Badrick 1, F. J. Reeve 2, H. Brackley 3, H. Bull 4, H. Bishop 5, F. C. Reeve 6, W. Ayre (conductor) 7, N. Brackley 8.

**TWO POINTS OF VIEW.****PUTTING THE EDITOR IN HIS PLACE.**

Of course it had to come. No editor ever did know his own business—in some people's opinion—and probably never will, in the opinion of those same people. And now we have been properly put in our place, told off and utterly confounded. On December 8th we wrote a leading article on 'Letters and Writers,' in which we dealt in a general way with the ethics of public letter-writing, and it has provided 'a golden opportunity' for a correspondent to 'tick us off.' It accuses us of bias in condemning personalities in some people's letters and allowing them in others. It tickles us to death that this accusation should come from such a source, for if anyone has been given rope in this respect it is the writer of this letter—Mr. Percy Amos. This is what Mr. Amos says to us and about us:—

**AN EDITOR'S POSITION?**

Sir,—Your article of December 8th provides one with a golden opportunity to ask one or two questions. Firstly, is it fitting that a newspaper editor, despite his ability, should be a person to take any part in the 'government' of ringing? I have heard this question asked in many quarters.

Such a person, like the rest of us, should be at liberty to express his views, but to my mind it is not fitting that he should be a person to hold offices, such as that of a general secretary and a member of the Central Council, the last-named in particular.

No man under the circumstances has a better opportunity of swaying the fraternity to his principles and ideas, and to play the part of both 'judge and jury.'

It reminds me very much of putting a man in the dock accused of some crime, and having his father or some close friend in the jury to prove whether he is guilty or not.

Why is it that he condemns personalities in some people's letters and allows them in others? If they are not argument for one, surely they are not for another? Sneering and sarcasm the same. The Editor's own 'joke' about the blue pencil and the waste-paper basket, is that argument?

I have noticed all this particularly when a member of the Central Council has been having something to say to a non-member, or to a member whose views are different to those of the Editor's. Just a bit of inconsistency, is it not?

The recent correspondence on Rutland is a clear instance of this, for in that a statement was made that was not only personal but grossly untrue, and rather in the nature of slander. Under these circumstances ought it not to have been the duty of the Editor of 'The Ringing World' to test the accuracy of such a statement before giving it publication? Possibly he did not realise his full sense of duty at the time. Any other newspaper editor would have wanted to see it verified first to safeguard himself.

This surely is questioning time?

P. AMOS.

Wellingborough.

Throughout Christmas we ought to have sat in sackcloth and ashes and declined to eat our turkey—if we had had one to eat. We ought to have refused to face our Christmas pudding, and mirth should have been turned to melancholy. Our liquid refreshment ought to have consisted of water instead of—well, never mind. But it wasn't. We have enjoyed our Christmas immensely. Peace and goodwill—even towards Mr. Amos—has brooded over all. For that reason we refrain from replying to Mr. Amos' criticisms—believe us, we really could have said quite a lot, but in any case it isn't necessary—and hope that the spirit of Christmas has had the same effect upon him as it had upon a certain immortal gentleman—Mr. Scrooge—and turned his sour, bedraggled temperament into a healthier channel and directed his narrow vision to a broader and a brighter outlook.

But there, unless we are careful, we, too, shall be getting into personalities and tell Mr. Amos what other people, besides ourselves, think about him. And that would never do.

Rather would we turn to something which, to us at any rate, is on a decidedly more cheerful note and shows that, after all, we may not be quite so bad as Mr. Amos paints us. Here, by way of contrast, is a letter from Over, Cambs, which reached us just before Christmas:—

Dear Sir,—Another Christmas is upon us, which reminds me of the passing of another year. 'Letters and Writers' urges me to say how kind it is to have someone who looks at the position at all angles, an independent and silent witness, as it were, to our wrath. Looking back through 'The Ringing World' of some twenty years ago

(Continued on page 827.)

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch. — A meeting will be held at St. Anne's-on-Sea Parish Church on Saturday, December 30th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports ready. — C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d. which enables members who have not made 20 attendances to vote on matters of finance is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on Jan. 4th (8 p.m.), \*St. Paul's Cathedral on the 9th, St. Magnus' on the 11th and 25th, Southwark Cathedral on the 18th, \*St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. \*Business meeting afterwards. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at St. James', Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Ringing commencing 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. St. John's bells available afternoon and evening. St. Mary's afternoon only. All ringing friends welcome. — W. C. West, Hon. Sec., Melksham.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** —A quarterly meeting will be held at Corston on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. — J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District. — The annual meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Business meeting at 3 o'clock in St. Maurice's Hall, followed by tea at 4. Service in the Cathedral at 5.15. Please let me know if you are coming. — George Noice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 6, Cathedral View, Highcliffe, Winchester.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** —Crewkerne Deanery Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Hinton St. George on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (6) available 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea will be provided at 6d. for those only who advise me by Jan. 2nd. — D. G. Taylor, Cornhill, Ilminster.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.** — Northern Branch. —A meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Thomas', Stourbridge, on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells will be available at 3 p.m. Service in church at 4.15. Address by the Vicar (Canon M. S. Newland). Tea and business meeting to follow. It is hoped to arrange a concert for the members after the business meeting. Will all those intending to be present please notify me not later than Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, and oblige? The secretary takes this opportunity of wishing all the members of the branch the season's greetings. — A. J. Skelding, Branch Sec., 7, Cecil Street, Stourbridge.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** — West Norfolk Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at Fakenham on Saturday, Jan. 6th. — W. J. Eldred, Hon. Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755). —The annual meeting will be held at the St. Martin's Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Ringing at St. Martin's from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 prompt. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District. —The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. Please come. A good company is requested. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Milnrow Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. — H. Hamer, Hon. Sec., 4, Nall Street, Milnrow.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Churchkirk on Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1934. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited. These bells will go to any method. — F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY AND MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Chesterfield District. —A joint meeting will be held at North Wingfield (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 6th. For tea please notify Mr. J. P. Tarlton, Bright Street, North Wingfield. — M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 221, Hanover Street, Sheffield, 3.

**NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.** —A meeting will be held at Norton-le-Moors on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Tea will be provided for all who notify Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, 12, Norton Street, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent, not later than Jan. 3rd. — C. S. Ryles, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Coppull on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells ready 3 p.m. For tea, at 9d. per head, please notify Mr. H. Lomax, Avondale, Park Road, Coppull, before Wednesday, Jan. 3rd. Visitors welcome. — Wm. O. Farrimond, Branch Sec., 293, Ormskirk Road, Spring Bank, Wigan.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** — Archdeaconry of Ely. —A mid-week meeting in Cambridge on Thursday, Jan. 11th. Bells of St. Mary the Great (12) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Please make own arrangements for tea. Ringing at St. Benedict's Church 6 to 8 p.m. All ringers welcome. — K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District. —The second annual supper, social and dance will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Hounslow, on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 3s. each, can be obtained from members of the committee until Jan. 6th. The bells of St. Paul's, Bath Road, Hounslow (8) and St. Leonard's, Heston (8) will be available from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. — F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec., 108, Pole Hill Road, Hillingdon Heath.

**BUSHEY.**—Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available from 3.30. Tea at 5.45, Institute. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Tel. City 4270.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — The annual dinner will be held at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 1934, at 6 p.m. Tickets 5s. 6d. The Lord Bishop of Guildford will preside. Ringing at St. Nicolas' Church (10 bells) 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec., Southover Cottage, Pyrford, Woking.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (12) available 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. The Ven. Archdeacon Howson will preach, and he invites all present to tea at the Institute after service. Please notify Mr. Walter Fisher, 90, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, for tea. Members of the Wigan Branch are especially invited to this meeting.—Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Staplehurst on Saturday, January 13th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service 5, followed by tea and business meeting. Good bus service from Maidstone. Subscriptions for 1934 can be paid at this meeting. Please notify me early.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hoghton on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand. Meeting after tea. Tea, at 1s. 3d. per head, only to those who notify Mr. Jas. Harrison, Park Gate, Hoghton, not later than Tuesday, Jan. 9th. The next combined practice will be at Whittle on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 7.30 p.m.—J. Charnock, Branch Sec., Carwood Lane, Whittle-le-Woods.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Crawley on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Tower open 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Those intending to be present should notify the undersigned not later than Wednesday previous to meeting. Half rail fare, maximum 1s. 6d.—R. Swift, Hon. Divisional Sec., Iping, Ifield Road, Crawley.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—The annual meeting of the North-East Branch will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Numbers for tea by Monday, Jan. 15th, please. Come in numbers.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

**BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.**—Annual Dinner, Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol, Saturday, Jan. 20th, 1934, 6 p.m. Chairman, Mr. Frank Skidmore; chief guest, Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Bristol. Tickets, 5s. 6d., from Messrs. J. Hawkins (London), A. Walker (Birmingham), S. Palmer (Sheffield), J. Austin (Gloucester), J. Dyke (Bath), T. King (Bath) and officers, stewards of B.U.R.G., or direct from Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 46, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

**TO RETIRED RINGERS.**—If a ringer retiring from business would like a good home in a country village (8s. a week, rates included) and can find his own amusement, write to the Rev. R. Howes, Cold Higham Rectory, Towcester, Northants.

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**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION** (late St. James' Society).—January notices: Jan. 8th, practice, 6.30 p.m.; quarterly meeting, 8.15 p.m. Jan. 22nd, practice, 7.30 p.m. The above at St. Clement Danes', Strand. Also at St. Mary's Lambeth, practice, Thursday, Jan. 18th, at 8 p.m. A Happy New Year to all ringers.—Chas. O. Moore, Hon. Sec., 7, Station Road, Camberwell, S.E.5.

#### 'HOGMANAY'

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Mr. Wood has called the tune 'Hogmanay,' which is the Scotch name for the last day of the year, for he wrote it originally in honour of the founding of the Scottish Association in 1932. Copies of the words and music can be obtained from Messrs. Novello and Co., Ltd., price 1½d. each. In addition to Mr. Wood's setting there is an alternative accompaniment for unison voices by Dr. Basil Harwood.

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