THE RINGING WORLD

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GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1913.

Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK.

WAR MEMORIALS.

The Kent County Association have appointed a committee to consider the question of providing a suitable memorial to those members who have given their lives for King and Country in this great war, and the scheme put forward at the recent meeting of the Lewisham District is one which is likely to commend itself to the Association. Briefly, it is to add two trebles to the ring at Canterbury Cathedral to make the bells there into a peal of twelve, and to place a memorial tablet in the Cathedral, giving the names of the fallen ringers and recording the number from the county who have served in H.M.'s forces. There may be other proposals afoot which will call for consideration, but the provision of twelve bells for the venerable cathedral is surely one which will find general favour whatever else may be done. Up to the present no church in the Kent Association's area possesses a ring of this number, the only peal of twelve in the county being the light ring in the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park.

This question of war memorials raises an interesting subject, and doubtless a good deal will be heard about it in the future. Nearly every village and town will later on be thinking of some method of perpetuating the memory of its fallen heroes, to say nothing of those wealthy families who will wish to record the death of gallant sons. Few forms of commemoration, we think, would be more fitting than the augmentation of the bells in our parish churches. Apart from the sentimental side of the question and the constant reminder which the bells would be of duty nobly done—bells constitute a more lasting memorial than many things. Except for the churches themselves, there are few objects in regular use to-day which can boast the age of our innumerable ancient bells, and, as we are often reminded, there are also few things considered to be more typically English. For centuries bells have played their part in commemorating victory and peace, and nothing could more fittingly preserve the memory of the sacrifices made in securing that victory and peace which we all to-day anticipate than the setting up of bells.

When, as in the case of the Kent Association, ringers are looking round for a suitable memorial for fallen comrades, their thoughts will at once turn in the direction of bells, but with the ordinary public this is not the case. Ringers should, therefore, see that when memorial schemes are discussed, the possibility of the bells is brought to the notice of those in the proper quarter. If it is done tactfully, the idea of restoring or augmenting the bells of the parish church will most certainly receive consideration in many places, and in not a few will doubtless be carried through. But ringers must see to it that they do not lose the opportunity of saying the right word at the right time.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,

SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BEARINGS
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect and report on Bells and Tower

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

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ESSEX RINGER'S DEATH.

By the death of Pte Percy Letch, killed in action on November 9th last, by a bursting shell, the Essex Association has sustained a great loss, for he was a most promising ringer. Twenty-five years of age, he was of a genial disposition, and a safe and good striker. He commenced to ring at Boreham, early in 1907, and rang peals in the standard methods on eight bells, up to and including Superlative Surprise, and several in seven methods on six bells. His livelihood took him from his native village, just before the outbreak of war, to Loughton, where he joined the change ringing band. Much sympathy is felt for his young widow.

"DOING THEIR BIT" IN AMERICA.

ENGLISH RINGERS HELP AT ALLIED NATIONS' BAZAAR.

Mr. Richard Newton, well known in Manchester and Lancashire ringing circles, and now at the Merchants' National Bank, Boston, U.S.A., sends us the following account of how he and other English bell ringers helped to raise money for Allied charities. He writes:—

"Dear Mr. Editor,—Just a few lines to accompany my birthday expenses of 15s., which I hope you will add to your War Relief Fund as last year. This is about the amount my birthday celebration usually cost, after ringing on Manchester Town Hall bells, and I send it with wishes for the best of luck to the boys in the trenches.

"Just a few words of what the sons and daughters of St. George did during the great Allied Nations' Bazaar, held here in Boston from December 9th to 20th, 1916. We only had about three weeks' notice, but under the able leadership of Mrs. A. S. Buckle we were got together, and yours truly, along with two other ringers, E. E. Randall and J. F. Laker, were invited on the board of management of ten. After a few meetings, and some running about we landed at Mechanics Building, all correct, December 7th, 8th and 9th, and opened our stall boldly labelled 'English Booth, No. 128, Daughters and Sons of St. George.' It was stocked with about 1,500 dollars' worth of stuff, all given, from a lucky Indian hat-pin to an aeroplane, and from a man's hat to an home-made yacht, a model of Sir T. Lipton's Shamrock IV., and at the end of the ten days we turned in about five thousand dollars (£1,000), and we were given to understand that all we turned in would be credited to us, and that we should be granted one-half towards our Prince of Wales' Fund for Dependents of British Soldiers and Sailors. Every woman and man worked to their utmost, and everyone seemed glad of the opportunity of being able to do their 'bit.' Although far away from home I myself had a week's holiday due to me, so I got permission of the bank to have it during the bazaar. I had made a hearthrug out of tailors' clippings (getting ready for my home, which is not yet made), and I let it go by subscriptions of 10 cents (5d.) each, and I realised just 10 dollars (£2), and the same by a pillow I had given me, with 'Rule, Britannia,' hand-worked in silk thread. I also realised 10 dollars on a set of bound books I brought with me when I came out, and 'With the Flag to Pretoria, and After,' brought in 13 dollars and 50 cents (£3 15s.). I worked hard from about 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. I am not trying to blow my own horn, but just to let my friends at home see that I am doing my bit here. In everything of this description there is always a smiling side, and we created hundreds of smiles and much laughter.

GOBBLING SILVER CORN.

One of our ladies originated and perfected an idea of a goose's head. She manipulated it very ingeniously, and the public were invited to 'feed the goose for five cents and get a prize.' Everyone got something, either a child's small toy or a packet of candy, and so it went on for the first two or three days. But the business in this line was only middling, so I got on the opposite side to the lady to help her. We did not do much better, however, but when on the Friday there was a large crowd in, a sudden thought struck me, so I shouted out, 'Feed the goose for tuppence-halfpenny.' The result was magic! I could fairly see the people's ears twist, and women whispered to one another, 'Hark! tuppence-'apenny.' There I stood, with my Coronation medal, and my badge of office on, my face as red as a turkey cock, and sweating as I did when I rang the tenor at 'the Cottage' to a peal of Stedman Triples (ask Harry C.!). But, never mind, I faced it out. I thought the chaps in the trenches are working harder, so I kept it up, and we got over 30 dollars (£6) that day. Saturday being 'British Day,' I got to it again. I called out, 'Now, you Lancashire lasses, feed the Yorkshire goose with 2½d.' Our English corner was crowded all day, and at night we had taken over 52 dollars, about £10 14s. Truly a goose that gobbled the silver corn if it did not lay the golden egg. It was great fun. When I spotted five or six young giggling women coming along, I said, 'Now, you Lancashire lasses, come and feed the Yorkshire goose.' Some would say, 'Hey, how can you tell we are from Lancashire?' Well, sometimes I was right, and sometimes they were from the Midland Counties, but I came across three boys from Bank Lane, Clayton, Manchester, and they were delighted to have a chat with me, and so was I with them. I had to go to work (Harry Chapman used to ask me how I spelt it) on the Monday, but I got off at 3.30, and was at it at the bazaar till 11 p.m., and at the finish we took just over 280 dollars all in five-cent pieces. Five cents are equal to five halfpennies, so you can tell it was no easy job, but we stood the strain to the end."

A CORRECTION.

The handbell peal at Shoreditch, recorded last week, was rung by the Royal Cumberland Youths, and not the College Youths, as stated.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL BRANCH CONSIDER "PEACE" RINGING.

A quarterly meeting of the Bristol Branch was held at Henbury on Saturday. The bells (a peal of eight) were available from 3 p.m., and soon after that time were set going to touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob until 5.30. Afterwards 15 members sat down to tea. In the absence of the chairman of the branch (Mr. H. T. Howell), Mr. J. Gould (Henbury) was voted to the chair, and referred to yet another loss which the Association had sustained by the death of Mr. Boutflower, and moved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs. Boutflower, the members signifying approval by all standing in silence.

One new member for Henbury was elected, and it was decided to hold the next monthly meeting at St. Luke's, Bristol, on March 17th.

A proposition was brought forward to adopt the suggested system for "peace" ringing outlined in "The Ringing World" of February 9th, and after some considerable discussion the proposition was withdrawn, to be again brought forward at the next monthly meeting, to enable members to consider the matter. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to attend that meeting, so that the matter can be more thoroughly discussed.

For future meetings it was decided to adopt an attendance register.

The members were very pleased to hear that Mr. Howell's son was home on ten days' leave from the front, which accounted for his not being present, and no apology was therefore needed for his absence.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to Mr. R. Devenish for getting them ready.—A vote of thanks was also passed to the chairman for presiding, and was accompanied by "For he's a jolly good fellow." A pleasant social half-hour brought to a close another successful meeting.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE BRANCH.

A meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch was held at Stone on Saturday week, when upwards of 20 members attended from the towers of Berkeley, Dursley, St. George's, Bristol, Stroud, Tytherington, Thornbury, Stone, and Slimbridge. The bells were available from 3 p.m., and some good touches were brought round before the service, which was conducted by the Rev. Thomas Veal (Vicar).—The Rev. Walter Greswell gave a short but most appropriate address to the members, and the Master (Mr. J. H. Fussell, of Dursley) presided at the organ. Tea, by the kind invitation of the Vicar, was partaken of in the Schoolroom, after which the business was transacted. The Vicar presided, supported by the Rev. W. Greswell and Mr. C. E. Greswell (churchwarden).

A vote of condolence was passed with the widows of the late Rev. H. A. Cockey and the late Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower, those gentlemen having filled the offices of Master and hon. treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Association respectively.

North Nibley was proposed for the next place of meeting, on April 14th.—A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, and for his kind hospitality, and in responding, he said he should be pleased to welcome the Association to Stone again when the time came round for them to make another visit.—The Rev. W. Greswell was thanked for his address, and Mr. C. E. Groswell for the interest he had taken in the meeting.

A short turn on the handbells brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

STROUD BRANCH PRESIDENT RETIRES.

The annual meeting of the Stroud Branch was held at Painswick. The twelve bells were open for ringing from 2 p.m., and 22 members attended from the different towers of the branch, and from Swindon and Gloucester. Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal and Stedman Triples were rung during the afternoon, and afterwards the members attended service, at which the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Seddon) and the Rev. T. M. William officiated, and the Vicar, who was President of the branch from its formation, gave an excellent address to the ringers on the uses of our church bells in the religious life of the nation.

By the kind invitation of the Vicar all were entertained to tea at the Verlands, and were well catered for by Mrs. and the Misses Russell.

The annual business meeting followed. The Branch Secretary (Mr. William Hale) gave a report of the year's work. Eleven meetings had been held, with an average attendance of 18; two peals of 5,040 changes had been rung; and the Association had done much good work by the ringers constantly meeting together and keeping the ringing going. There were five honorary and 83 performing members, of whom 23 were serving their King and country, and one had sacrificed his life. The financial statement was read and passed as most satisfactory.

The retiring President was most cordially thanked for his great kindness to the Association for over 30 years.—The Vicar responded, and thanked them for their kind words, and regretted leaving them, but said he wished to remain an honorary member.—Mr. H. Workman, of Woodchester, was unanimously elected President, having been a honorary member and staunch supporter of the Diocesan Association for many years. All the retiring officers were thanked for their services, and also the Branch Committee, and were re-elected en bloc.

An interesting discussion followed on the best means to bring the branches in closer touch with the Executive of the whole Association.

Stonehouse was unanimously selected for the next quarterly meeting.

NORTH FOREST BRANCH.

On Saturday week, the annual meeting of the North Forest Branch was held at Newent. The bells (6) in E sharp, were available during the afternoon, and a short service was held in the Parish Church. The Rev. D. Gethyn Jones officiated, the Rector, the Rev. Canon Connor, being confined to his room with a bad cold. After service a substantial tea was partaken of in the Parish Room, Mr. Jones presiding over a company of 17, which included Messrs. Shepherd and Lang from Swindon, and Mr. J. W. Jones, Newport; Mr. J. W. Davies, Lydney. At the business meeting Mr. John Austin (the Master of the Association) presided. The Rev. Canon Connor was elected President for the year, and ex-Sgt. Joseph Williams was elected hon. secretary. One new member for Newent was elected.

The handbells were then brought into use, and several courses in the various standard methods were rung, and a few tunes well tapped off by Messrs. Austin and Williams. The meeting was the best ever held at Newent.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

AXBRIDGE DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Branch was held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday week, some 30 members being present, representing Burnham, Brent Knoll, East Brent, Mark, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare, and Wick St. Lawrence. The bells were kept going during the afternoon to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and service was held in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. B. Norton-Thompson), who gave a very appropriate address. Tea was provided at Glass's Restaurant by a lady, whose kindness was much appreciated by all present.—The President (the Rev. Prob. R. Hayes Robinson) opened the meeting by thanking the Rector for giving the branch such a hearty welcome, for arranging the service, and for the address. Also to the lady for her kindness in providing the tea.—The Rector having replied, Mr. E. W. Perret, of Weston-super-Mare, was elected an honorary member, and ten performing members (all of Cheddar) were elected.

Mark was selected for the next quarterly meeting. — The balance sheet was adopted, and the Secretary, in his report, stated that the branch was in a fairly satisfactory state, considering that so many of its members were serving their country. He hoped they would soon be back again in their places in the towers.

All the officers were re-elected, and the President asked all tower correspondents to send the names of their members serving their country to the secretary, so that they may be entered in the report.

BRIDGWATER DEANERY MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Bridgwater Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association was held at Bridgwater. The bells of St. Mary's Church were kindly lent by the Vicar (the Rev. J. J. Langham), from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the following towers were represented: Bridgwater, Enmore, Hunt-pill, Moorlinch and Wembdon. A service was held at Holy Trinity Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. de Ste Croix), who is also chairman of the branch, and who gave a very inspiring address.

After the service, by the kind invitation of the Chairman, the ringers were entertained to a sumptuous tea at Taylor's Restaurant. The annual meeting followed, the Rev. E. de Ste Croix in the chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. E. Moulton) presented the annual report, which stated that although many of their towers had been very much depleted by the men of military age being called up, there had been a remarkable spirit of patriotism on the part of the ladies, who had so willingly come forward to learn the art of bell ringing in order that the bells might be rung for the services on Sundays.—Eleven new members had been proposed during the year, and one life member. The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £1 11s.—The report and balance sheet were unanimously accepted.

The Chairman congratulated the branch on the satisfactory report and balance sheet. He also spoke very feelingly of the sad news received, that Mr. Ernest Stockham, one of the ringers of St. Mary's tower, had been seriously wounded, and one of his legs had been amputated. He was sure that he was voicing the feeling of the members of the Association in expressing their heartfelt sympathy with him and his parents, and hoped that he would soon be restored to health again.

The Rev. E. de Ste Croix was unanimously re-elected chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr. A. E. Moulton was unanimously re-elected secretary, and Mr. A. E. Coles as a member to the Central Committee. The following new members were proposed, viz.: Misses Martindale, Harry, Pollard and Wadmore (Wembdon probationers), Messrs. H. Styles (Huntspill) and R. Dibble (Moorlinch), Misses B. Arberry, Burston and Phillips (from probationers to full members). Shapwick was proposed for the next place of meeting.

Mr. Pitman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and also for his inspiring address in church, and the Chairman briefly replied.—The Secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his kind hospitality, and also coupled with it a vote of thanks to the Rev. J. J. Langham for the use of the bells, and to the organist for presiding at the organ.—Miss Stockham, who was present, said she would like, on behalf of herself and parents, to thank the chairman for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their trouble.

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

PEALS: THEIR LENGTH AND STARTING POINT.

OPINIONS FROM A DUGOUT IN FRANCE.

From "A Dugout somewhere in France," C.-Q.-M.-S. W. A. Cave, of Bristol, writes as follows: "I have read Mr. Clayton's views on the subject of (a) the length of peals on eight and upwards; and (b) the legality of starting a touch or peal from any change, instead of, as usual, from rounds.

"I quite agree with him when he says, 'these are eminently practical questions.' They are, and questions that practical ringers will be able to discuss.

"For my part your leading article in the same issue suits my own views admirably; 5,000 changes has been the minimum length to constitute a 'peal' for so long that I am afraid no advocacy, however able, will bring about a reduction. The time may come, of course, when ringers will prefer to ring a musical, historical, or unique composition of anything from, say, 3,000 to 4,999 changes, but for this to happen the practice of giving points for peals will have to cease, and also, Mr. Editor, you will have to stop giving special prominence to peals of 5,000 and over.

"With regard to the second question, I cannot really understand anyone even seriously suggesting such a thing as starting from or finishing with any other change than rounds. Two reasons are adduced for recommending the innovation: (1) Many peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques are lost owing to the turning course; (2) were this allowable, Annable's 'incomparably beautiful cadence' would be the termination of every course.

"With regard to (1) the number of peals of this description rung in ordinary times (these are not ordinary times), and the ease with which they are obtained, makes me incline to the opinion that they should be made more difficult, rather than more simple. As to (2) I do not think the course-end any criterion of the musical qualities of any given peal. What is the good of (in Stedman Caters, for instance) having a tittum course-end followed by a bob at 1? The tittum position is gone at once. For this reason I consider Sir A. P. Heywood's short-course plan of bobs at 7, 9 and 10, is infinitely preferable to Henry Johnson's plan at bobs at 1, 3, 5 (or 6), 8 followed by 2, 4, 7, 9. In the former you get the music attached to the position, in the latter you do not.

"I shall look for further views on this subject, but expect they will be, with but few exceptions, in full agreement with what you have already written.

"I am glad to say I am still in the best of health, despite the bitterly cold weather we have been having of late. We are not permitted to put the style of our unit at the end of our letter in the form of an address, but it must appear in the text, and as it has been recently changed (as well as our individual numbers). I give it here: 495007 W. A. Cave, C.-Q.-M.-S., 477 (S. Mid.), Field Co. R.A., B.E.F. My old number was 66, and the unit the 2/1st, so that both have gone up considerably. I should like to tell you where I am, but that also is taboo, but I can tell you where I would be if I could: that is home at Bristol attending to my business, and ringing for service at St. Stephen's on Sundays. May that time soon come is the sincere wish of,

Yours truly,

W. A. CAVE."

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Guildford District was held at Shere on Saturday last, and was attended by members from Dorking, Leatherhead, Guildford, Cranleigh, etc. Service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. F. C. Hill, M.A.), who described the condition of the bells and ringers when he came to the parish 24 years ago. Then there were six bells rung from the ground floor, in full view of the congregation, and although it might be picturesque it was hardly reverent to see elderly men in their shirt sleeves in the House of God, and who, when they had done ringing for service, used to shuffle down the aisle as service was about to begin. Now, thanks in a very great measure to that Guild, of which they were all so proud of being members, they had eight bells, rung from a ringing chamber, which he was told was one of the best kept in the Diocese. Although there were so few present that day, as compared with the 70 or 80 present in pre-war days, yet he was not sure that that small meeting did not give him greater pleasure than the larger ones, as it showed the determination of the Guild to "carry on" till the gallant fellows in the trenches returned victorious, and found that their loved bells were still being rung by skilful hands.

Tea took place at the White Horse, and was provided in Mr. R. J. Askew's well-known style.

Mr. A. C. Hazelden was elected Ringing Master, and Mr. J. White representative on the Central Committee, in the place of Mr. C. Edwards, who had left the Diocese to the great loss of the Guild.

Mr. A. H. Winch, Leatherhead, referred in feeling terms to the death of Mr. David Jordan, of Capel, one of the pioneers of change ringing in the early days of the present revival 40 or 50 years ago.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Barlow for her services at the organ, and in response the lady said she could not find the time to learn ringing, but wished to become an honorary member.

A vote of thanks to the Rector, proposed by Mr. Shepherd, of Swindon, brought the meeting to a close.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM BANISTER.

COLLEGE YOUTHS' OLDEST MEMBER.

The passing of Mr. William Banister, who, as we recorded last week, died at Fulham at the advanced age of 92 years, severs the last link with a great school of ringers who were in their prime between 60 and 70 years ago. It seems strange that up to within the last few weeks we should have had amongst us one who was ringing peals of Stedman Cinques well nigh three-quarters of a century ago, yet Mr. Banister in the '40's was a welcome addition to any peal band in the metropolis, and rang several peals on twelve bells at that distant date. It has always seemed to us a pity that he kept no record of his peals, for many of his performances were memorable, he being a pioneer in the ringing of the higher methods.

The company at St. Mary's, Woolwich, of which the deceased gentleman was the leading spirit, and which included his father and five brothers, were among the first to ring peals in Surprise methods in the South of England, the band, between 1843 and 1851, scoring peals of Double Norwich, Superlative and London, while the father and six sons, with a tenor man, rang peals both of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Several of the peals that he rang were composed and conducted by Mr. W. Banister, and on St. Mary's bells he called the very first peal of "real" Double Norwich, i.e., with bobs called when the treble is behind as well as in front. This was on November 16th, 1848. Superlative Surprise was rung a little later at Woolwich, and then followed the crowning triumph of a peal of London Surprise Major, the second ever rung in the method, the first having been achieved at Norwich just a little while before. Mr. Banister's peal—

THE LATE MR. W. BANISTER.

he composed and conducted it—was 5,600 odd, and was longer than the one at Norwich.

A FAMOUS BAND.

As a member of the College Youths Mr. Banister was very active among the illustrious London company of those days. One of his oldest ringing friends was the late Mr. Matthew Wood and it is interesting to recall the particulars of the first peal of Stedman Cinques which these two rang together. It was at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on Wednesday, December 19th, 1849, in 4 hrs. 9 mins., and comprised 5146 changes. Here are the names, and what a famous band they were! We have no doubt that that peal was a peal worth listening to: John Cox treble, William Cooter 2, James Mash 3, William Banister 4, George Ferris 5, Robert Jameson 6, Robert Haworth 7, Matthew Wood 8, John Bradley 9, Edward Lansdell 10, James Dwight 11, Edward Sawyer tenor. Another of Mr. Banister's peals specially worth recalling is the 7524 Stedman Cinques, rung on January 6th, 1851, at St. Giles', Cripplegate. This was at the time the longest length in the method and ten of the band above mentioned took part in the ringing, the company being completed by H. Littlechild and J. Austin, who replaced Jameson and Sawyer. It is a pity that we are unable to give particulars of other peals, but enough has been said to show that, in his day, Mr. Banister was among the greatest of our practical ringers.

A BELFRY REFORMER.

It was a severe loss to London ringing when Mr. Banister moved to Plymouth in 1865, but it proved the greatest of good fortune to ringing in Devonshire. When he reached the dockyard town, his services were eagerly sought by Col. Trelawny and Col. Troyte in furthering the art. At the invitation of the Rural Dean he reported upon the condition of the belfries in the district, and found them in a state which was a disgrace to the church authorities. There was an accumulation of the dirt and rubbish of years, while the ringers were so much adverse to the introduction of any change that they in most cases put all the obstacles possible in the way of the inspection. It was not unusual to find a cask in the belfry, and the worse the bells went, and the harder the work, the better the ringers seemed to like it, for it afforded them the greater excuse for drinking the more. But, thanks to the efforts begun in those days, all this has been swept away. Mr. Banister was closely concerned in the formation of the Devon Guild, one of the oldest of the county ringing organisations, and by his indomitable efforts, in face of difficulties and even open opposition, the cause of scientific ringing was spread in the rural parishes in Devonshire, and his work was carried as far as Penzance, in Cornwall.

When he first went to Devonport there were but six bells at the Dockyard Chapel, but Mr. Banister got them augmented to eight, trained a young band, and, within six months, they rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. Mr. Banister supplemented Col. Troyte's treatise on change ringing by carrying on to eight bells the work which had been written for the instruction of ringers on five and six bells.

In addition to his skill as a change ringer, Mr. Banister excelled in tune ringing on handbells. He and his brothers had a magnificent set of over 70 bells which they themselves manufactured, and with which they delighted many audiences and benefited the funds of many a worthy cause.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

In public life, as we pointed out last week, Mr. Banister played his part on the Council, the School Board, and the Board of Guardians, as well as being a Justice of the Peace. For 30 years he served the public on these different bodies, only giving up active labour when he had passed four-score years, and left Devonport for Pembroke. So highly was he esteemed that even then his colleagues on the Town Council kept his aldermanic seat open for him for five years. His was a long life given to public service, both in the employment of the Government, of whom he was a tried and trusted servant, and in the interests of his fellow citizens, by whom he was respected and beloved.

Among those ringers who knew him he was held in the highest esteem, but few there are to-day who can appraise the value of his services to the art. He was one of the grand old men of the Exercise, and on the two last occasions that the Central Council met in London the members were delighted to honour him. Despite his years, he came among them with evident pleasure, though few, indeed, had previously known him, and the Council accorded him a hearty reception when the late Sir Arthur Heywood introduced him.

But now, after a long and strenuous life, in which ability, integrity, devotion to duty, and an ever-readiness to help others have been among the outstanding traits, William Banister has passed away, and the last link with a seemingly distant age of ringing has been snapped, but with those who had the honour of his acquaintance, his friendship will ever remain a cherished memory.

Mr. Banister's wife predeceased him some 40 years, and he leaves a son and daughter to mourn their loss. It was in the devoted care of his daughter, Mrs. Anderson, that he spent the closing years of his life. His son, Mr. G. H. Banister, is a director of Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., of Barrow-in-Furness.

FUNERAL RINGING.

The funeral took place on Monday of last week at Woolwich Cemetery, and the following band of College Youths, of which society Mr. Banister was the oldest member, rang a course of Stedman Triples over the grave: T. H. Taffender 1—2, C. F. Winney 3—4, W. A. Alps 5—6, H. R. Passmore 7—8.

On Saturday last a funeral peal was rung by College Youths at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside. The "whole pull and stand" was rung to represent the deceased's age, and the majestic roll of the deep-toned and majestic ring was very impressive. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and other members of the family heard the ringing, and personally thanked the ringers for their services and thoughtfulness. Mr. Anderson kindly defrayed the expenses of the handbell ringers to the cemetery, and also the muffling fees at Bow, as well as adding a donation to that old and honoured institution of the College Youth, the "Gift Box Fund"—a kindness characteristic of the grand old man whose memory had just been honoured. The ringers taking part were: E. Horrex 1, H. R. Newton 2, H. R. Passmore 3, H. Langdon 4, A. Paddon Smith (Birmingham) 5, F. E. Dawe (Guildford) 6, A. B. Peck 7, C. F. Winney (conductor) 8, E. Brett 9, A. A. Hughes (Master) 10, S. E. Joyce 11, S. Pettett 12.

MANCHESTER RINGERS IN LONDON.

During the week-end, Feb. 3rd and 4th, Messrs. Harry Chapman and Amos Trippier, of Manchester, paid a visit to London. On Sunday morning courses of Stedman Cinques and one of Bob Maximus were rung at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and after a visit to St. Paul's in the afternoon a 504 of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Stephen's Westminster, by: H. R. Newton 1, H. R. Passmore 2, Ben Thorp 3, H. S. Ellis 4, J. E. Sykes 5, S. Andrews 6, H. Chapman (conductor) 7, A. Trippier 8.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A WAR MEMORIAL SUGGESTION.

A quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District was held at Beckenham, when touches were rung during the afternoon, and a short service was held, attended by the twenty members present, Mr. F. W. Richardson presiding at the organ, and the Rev. Canon Arnott (Rector) giving a short and interesting address on bells, their origin and uses. Tea followed in the Church House, after which the business meeting was held, Mr. W. J. Jeffries presiding. Messrs. D. Harvey and E. Martin, of Erith; T. J. Knight and R. Johnson, of Bromley and E. Alexander Young, A.R.I.B.A., of London, were elected members.

Mr. W. J. Jeffries (district representative) read his report of the Central Committee meeting, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him. Mr. Jeffries was then elected to represent the district on the War Memorial Sub-Committee, and was asked to bring forward the following, which had been carried by the meeting, viz.: "That two bells be placed in the tower of Canterbury Cathedral, making a peal of twelve, and a tablet in the Cathedral stating the reason the bells were placed in the tower, with a list of the ringers' names inscribed who fell in the war, also the number of members who served; the cost of same to be raised amongst the members of the Association.

Woolwich was chosen as the place of the next meeting, the last Saturday in April.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and room and his address, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Dennis for preparing the tea, and Mrs. W. Smith for assisting, brought the meeting to a close. The tower was again visited till 8 p.m.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Oxton. The Rev. Canon Sayer conducted the services in St. Thomas's Chapel, and gave a very helpful address. About 35 ringers and friends partook of an excellent tea, after which the business meeting was held. Mr. Milner, of Liscard, was elected President of the branch for 1917, and spoke of the need of ringers keeping together during this upheaval and filling up the gaps in their ranks. There are from 25 to 30 ringers of this branch serving their country in her time of need, and two have made the great sacrifice.

Mr. Brocklebank was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and Mr. Ludken and Mr. Wilcox were re-elected ringing masters for the ensuing year. Mr. Ludken was also elected as representative of the branch on the general committee of the Guild.

As the tower bells were not available for ringing after the meeting, an enjoyable concert, arranged by Mr. Peacock Smith, churchwarden of Oxton, was given, tunes being played on the handbells, and songs given by some of the ringers and friends.—A hearty vote of thanks was passed, on the proposition of the President, to the Vicar and churchwardens for their hospitality, and to all other friends who had helped to make the concert a success.

SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Salop Archidiaconal Guild was held at Shrewsbury, the bells of St. Chad's being open for the occasion, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Minor being rung, as well as rounds on the twelve for the probationers, who included two ladies from St. Michael's. Dr. Greenwood, the Vicar, also took part. Owing to the war and the bad railway facilities, there was only a poor attendance of members—Shifnal, Wolverhampton, Ightfield, St. Michael's and St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, and Longnor, being represented. Tea was served in St. Chad's Parish Room. The meeting which followed was presided over by the Rev. F. W. T. Greenwood, D.D., Vicar.

The secretary, the Rev. F. Tennison, read the annual report, which was accepted, and it was decided to postpone the business until the annual meeting in 1918, owing to so many members having joined the colours.

The illuminated address, which has recently been presented to the Rev. H. Beckwith, late secretary, by members of the Guild, in recognition of the active interest he took in the Guild when he resided among them, was on view.

One new honorary member, the Rev. L. Newby, Vicar of St. Julian's, was elected.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Coggeshall on Saturday week, when ringers were present from Earls Colne, Booking, Chelmsford and Felsted. The bells of the Parish Church were available during the afternoon, when touches of Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob were rung.

At the business meeting, Mr. W. E. Hawkes, of Rayne, was elected an hon. member. Two ringing members were also elected from Stisble Hedingham.—A letter was read from Mr. C. H. Howard, Master of the Association, stating that through pressure of business and shortage of staff, he was sorry that he was not able to be present.—Castle Hedingham was selected for next meeting, to be held in June.—A vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, which brought a small but very successful meeting to a close.

NOTICES.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Romsey on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. The Abbey bells will be available from 2.30 to 5.30. Tea in Temperance Hall, 5.45. Members intending to be present will please notify by February 13th, to Jas. W. Elkins, Hon. Sec., 20, Culver Road, Winchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. Ringing to commence at 2.30 till dusk, meeting following.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch, will be held at Great Marlow, Bucks, on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. Ringing at 2.30 p.m. Ringers' service at the Parish Church at 5 o'clock. Business meeting at St. Peter's Schools at 5.45.—W. H. Fussell, Hon. Sec., Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS.—South and West District. — The annual meeting will be held, by kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. H. Champion McGill), at Isleworth, on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. McGill, in the Hartlands Road Mission Hall at 5. Ringing afterwards until 9. The honorary secretary earnestly appeals for all outstanding 1916 subscriptions to be sent to him before the date of the meeting. — H. C. Chandler, Honorary Secretary, Church Road, Heston Hounslow.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Leigh on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. Bells ready at 3 o'clock.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Sec., 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Stone in Oxney (6 bells) on Saturday, February 17th. Bells available from 2 o'clock till sunset. Appledore the nearest station (3 miles).—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on February 22nd for handbell practice, and on the 27th for general business. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members, who seldom attend the meetings, to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before the 28th inst. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON.—A practice meeting at this 10-bell tower will be held on Saturday, 24th February, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. All welcome.—Chas. Dean, 2, Biddulph Road, S. Croydon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2 o'clock till dusk, meeting to follow.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at Ye Olde Royal Hotel, Temple Row, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 24th next, at six o'clock. The chair will be taken by Canon J. W. Willink, M.A., Rector of Birmingham. Tickets free to fully qualified members whose subscriptions are paid up to date, to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3.30 to 5 o'clock. —A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Yorktown on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at the York Restaurant, Frimley Road, at 5.30. All ringing friends welcome.—G. Miles, Hon. Sec., Owlsmoor, Camberley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Harlow, St. Mary's, on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available only from 4 to 6 p.m. Business meeting will be held at the Church Room at 6.15 p.m. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—William Watts, District Sec., Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (North Bucks Branch).—The quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m., tea and meeting to follow.—L. Sear, Branch Sec., 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

R.N.A.S. RINGERS.

At Hoo, Kent, there is at present a band of ringers, all belonging to the Royal Naval Air Service. On the occasion of the wedding of Commander Dane, R.N., they rang three touches of 360 Grandsire Doubles, those taking part being: E. G. Jamieson (Gorleston), A. Strutt (Kingston, Surrey), A. W. Gravett (Brighton), conductor, A. Bates (Farningham, Kent), F. Skinner (Barnes), F. Swallow (Little Hadham, Herts), and A. H. Blake (Merrow, Surrey).

It is intended, providing that the band can be kept together, and with permission of the Rev. Walters, Vicar, to attempt a peal of Grandsire Doubles or Bob Minor during the summer evenings.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HECKINGTON.—Lincoln Guild.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Dec. 24th, for afternoon service, 672 Grandsire Triples: M. Clark 1, F. Hilton 2, J. T. Holmes 3, C. Ward 4, A. Dixon 5, J. H. Clark (conductor) 6, W. Dickinson 7, W. Woods 8.—On Christmas Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins. (1260 changes, containing 24 6—7's): M. Clark 1, F. Ekins 2, J. T. Holmes 3, C. Ward 4, A. Dixon 5, W. Woods 6, W. Dickinson (conductor) 7, J. H. Clark 8.—On Boxing Day, 874 changes Bob Major: M. Clark 1, F. Hilton 2, J. T. Holmes 3, C. Ward 4, H. P. Nash 5, T. Humberstone 6, W. Woods 7, W. Dickinson (conductor) 8. Mr. Hilton hails from Old Leake.

OXTON, BIRKENHEAD.—Chester Diocesan Guild, Wirral Branch.—On Sunday, Dec. 24th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Battle 1, H. Brocklebank 2, J. Owens 3, W. Hughes 4, H. Martin (conductor) 5, J. Evans 6, S. Moston 7, C. Owens 8. For afternoon service, 504 Grandsire Triples, conducted by W. Hughes.—On Christmas Day, 546 Grandsire Triples: W. Battle 1, H. Brocklebank 2, J. Owens 3, W. Hughes 4, H. Ludkin (composer and conductor) 5, J. Evans 6, H. Martin 7, H. Samuels 8.

BRAMLEY, HANTS.—At St. James' Church, on Christmas Day, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 47 mins.: G. Newman 1, Miss Eva Belcher 2, F. Staniford 3, W. Simpson 4, H. Spencer (conductor) 5, W. Lawrence 6.

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