THE RINGING WORLD

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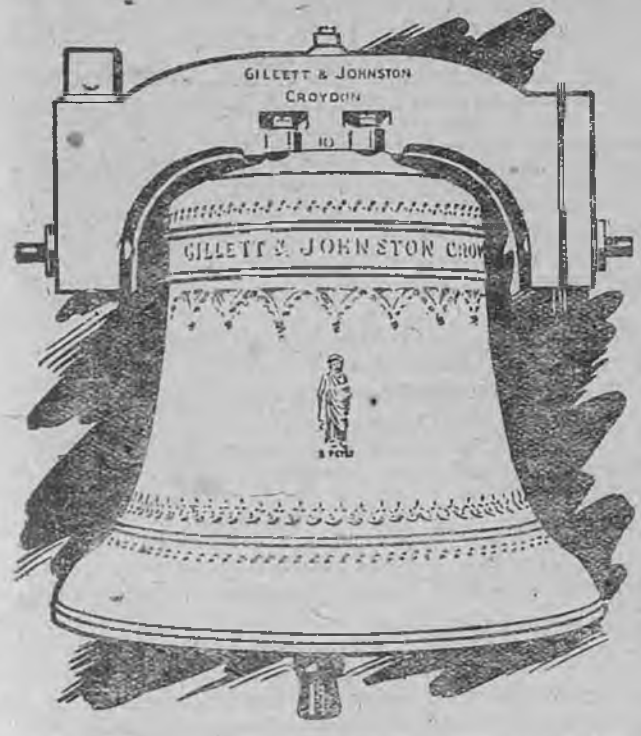
GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, SURREY.



The 30 cwt. Tenor of the Ring of 10 at St. Peter's, Croydon.

CHURCH BELLS,

CARILLONS,

CLOCKS.

THE UNCERTAINTY OF PEALS.

The unfortunate fate of the officers' peal of Grandsire Caters at Croydon is particularly disappointing, although it only adds one more proof to what may almost be termed 'the glorious uncertainty' of ringing. The officers' experience is by no means unique, but it is more than usually galling when the special circumstances are taken into consideration. Many a good peal in the past has had to be 'written off' because the composition has turned out to be false, and while probably no one is more annoyed at this most recent incident than the composer of the peal himself, there are very few, even of the most famous composers, who have not at some time or other had the chagrin of discovering, when too late, that they have dropped into a pitfall with their figures.

The spice of uncertainty about every peal attempt adds to the interest of the ringing, and it has often been remarked that peals would not be half so much sought after if one were certain of scoring every time an attempt was made. There is a lot of truth in this, so far as the actual ringing is concerned, but when one has passed the winning post, as it were, and 'this is all' has been called, it requires a very equable temperament to realise without a feeling of disappointment that one's efforts have been in vain. But the chances which have to be taken in peal ringing add considerably to the interest of a performance. There are so many factors which may make for failure—a trip, a change course, a mis-call, a broken rope, and many other things—including the interruption of a curate, as well as the human element in the band itself, that the chances are really very largely against success. The standard of ringing has, of course, reached a high level in the last ten or fifteen years, but it is probable that even now there are more peals lost than rung. And it is well for the art that it is so. If success were always certain there would be no ambition, and ringing would lose a large part, if not all, of its charm and attraction.

For the officers' band, meeting under special circumstances for a purpose not readily attained, and one which, probably in a short time, will be finally beyond reach, the unhappy ending is all the more disappointing from the fact that the loss was not due to the risks of the actual ringing. The great hope will be that they may have the opportunity of meeting again, and that shortly, to carry to deserved success that of which they have now been denied. Unfortunately they are already split up by the departure of at least one of the band on distant military duties, but, the British Army having conquered the Hun in war, this little band of representatives ought to be able to make this conquest in one of the fields of peace.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

CHELMSFORD.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 17, 1919, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
At St. Mary's Cathedral,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 35 cwt.

George R. Pye	Treble	Harry Flanders	7
*Arthur Edwards	2	*Henry F. Cooper	8
William Shepherd	3	Alfred Pye	9
Isaac G. Shade	4	William Pye	10
*William Lincoln	5	James George	11
*Thomas Lincoln	6	*Arthur Head	Tenor

Composed by Cornelius Charge.
Conducted by William Pye.

This was the first peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells and also Mr. J. George's 100th peal on 12 bells. * First peal of Stedman Cinques.

TEN BELL PEALS.

CREWE, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 14, 1919, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

William T. Holding	Treble	Albert Crawley	6
Richard Langford, sen.	2	George Harding	7
*Harry Overton	3	†John Dentith	8
†Richard D. Langford	4	Richard T. Holding	9
George H. Crawley	5	*William Edge	Tenor

Composed by John Rogers.
Conducted by Richard T. Holding.

Rung as a memorial peal for the railwaymen who have fallen in the Great War. All the band are employed by the L. & N.W. Rly. Co., and they take this opportunity of thanking Mr. C. J. Bowen Cooke (Master of the Chester Guild) for making arrangements for them to ring the peal on this date.

* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Caters on an inside bell. First peal of Caters as conductor.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Southern Branch.)

On Saturday, May 17, 1919, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
At the Bell Tower,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

Tenor 31¼ cwt.

Frank Jinks	Treble	Frederick J. Johnson	6
Cpl. Joseph D. Johnson	2	Frederick Jordan	7
Francis S. Wilson	3	Henry J. Phipps	8
Herbert Jordan	4	James Hemming	9
Gordon W. Checketts	5	Harry Middleton	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by Cpl. J. D. Johnson.

F. S. Wilson hails from Tewkesbury and G. W. Checketts from Worcester.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DISS, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 6, 1919, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

W. Ireland	Treble	A. W. Leeder	5
W. C. Wiskens	2	T. Ford	6
G. Bailey	3	C. More	7
G. Archer	4	J. Souter	Tenor

Composed by D. Prentice, of Ipswich.
Conducted by J. Souter.

Rung on Accession Day and as a farewell peal to G. Bailey of Rickinghall, a wounded and now discharged soldier, who was leaving his native village for Aylesham District. The peal was also a birthday compliment to W. Ireland.

LIVERSEDGE, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 10, 1919, in Four Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

SIDNEY GOODALL	...*Treble*	HERBERT HAIGH	5
JOSEPH BROADLEY	2	WILLIAM B. FRITH	6
WILLIAM CLARK	3	FRANCIS BARKER	7
THOMAS B. KENDALL	4	JOSEPH E. SYKES	...*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.
Conducted by JOSEPH E. SYKES.

This composition is now rung for the first time and contains the sixty course ends.

MIDSOMER NORTON.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, May 13, 1919, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 25 cwt.

*S. CARTER	...*Treble*	THOMAS F. KING	5
ISAAC B. HOLMYARD	2	WALTER FARLEY	6
*WILLIAM KEEVILL	3	JOSEPH T. DYKE	7
JOHN G. HAMBLETON ...	4	THOMAS GRIFFEN	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOSEPH T. DYKE.
* First peal. Quickest peal on the bells.

DOVER, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(ST. MARY'S SOCIETY.)
On Wednesday, May 14, 1919, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

FREDERICK W. ELLIOTT ...	*Treble*	HORACE WHITEHEAD	5
CHARLES R. MILLWAY ...	2	HERBERT J. SAUNDERS ...	6
RICHARD H. STEVENS	3	GNR. W. WELLING, R.G.A.	7
CHARLES TURNER	4	*CPL. G. A. GODFREY, R.E.	*Tenor*

Conducted by GNR. W. WELLING.

Rung with the bells deeply muffled with the exception of the tenor which was open at back stroke, in token of respect to Nurse Cavell, whose body arrived in Dover during the ringing, and rested in the town till the following morning.

The ringers of 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are ex-soldiers, the treble man having been eight months a prisoner in Germany.

* First peal.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION AND SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.
On Saturday, May 17, 1919, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

FRANK WAGSTAFF	...*Treble*	THOMAS BETTISON	5
WILLIAM LAMBERT	2	JESSE J. MOSS	6
CHARLES MASON	3	THOMAS RILEY	7
EDWARD ROBBINS	4	JOHN FLINT	...*Tenor*

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.
Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

Rung to welcome back to civilian life C. Mason and J. Moss.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 17, 1919, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 18½ cwt.

ROBERT J. DAWE	...*Treble*	FRANK BENNETT	5
HERBERT RANN	2	HENRY STALHAM	6
GEORGE W. STOKES	3	BENJAMIN HOBBS	7
EDWARD GRAY	4	THOMAS H. DEADMAN	...*Tenor*

Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WOLLASTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)
On Friday, May 9, 1919, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of College Single, Oxford Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Canterbury, Grandsire and Plain Bob

Tenor 12¼ cwt.

*CHARLES W. COOPER	...*Treble*	WILLIAM SHORT	4
CHARLES E. PERKINS ...	2	WILLIAM RANFORD	5
ROBERT MATTHEWS	3	JOHN BASS	...*Tenor*

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal of Minor. This peal was arranged on the 50th birthday of Mr. W. Ranford and was his 50th peal. His peals have been rung in 29 different towers.

HANDBELL PEALS.

FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, May 10, 1919, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,
AT RATCLIFF HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. G. E. SYMONDS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

WILLOUGHBY E. MADLDEN	1—2	GEORGE E. SYMONDS. ...	5—6
NORMAN R. BAILEY	3—4	*FREDERICK J. H. SARA ...	7—8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN.
Conducted by GEORGE E. SYMONDS.
Witness: MRS. G. E. SYMONDS.
No. 117 C. C. Collection. * First peal on handbells.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Thursday, May 15, 1919, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 17 size in A

THOMAS RUSSAM	1—2	GEORGE F. SWANN	5—6
WILLIAM KENT	3—4	MORRIS J. MORRIS	7—8

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.
Referee: ALBERT E. NORMAN.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Friday, May 16, 1919, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. FEERICK, 63, SUMMER LANE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

*THOMAS C. KELLY	1—2	†MORRIS J. MORRIS	5—6
WILLIAM KENT	3—4	THOMAS MILLER	7—8
‡ALBERT E. NORMAN ...	...9—10		

Composed by JOHN CARTER.
Conducted by THOMAS MILLER.
Witness: J. FEERICK

This composition has 6th 24 times wrong and right.

* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells. ‡ First peal on handbells 150th peal by M. J. Morris.

EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.
On Saturday, May 17, 1919, in One Hour and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. D. MATKIN, 146, POPLAR AVENUE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

being 42 six-scores with 10 different callings.

CHARLES BRAGG	1—2	EDGAR C. SHEPHERD	3—4
		DANIEL MATKIN	5—6

Conducted by EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.
Witness: H. BRAGG.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. D. Matkin.

A start was made for a peal of Bob Minor, which was lost after 1,000 changes. Time then being short, the above was rung. The visitors wish to thank Mrs. Matkin for her kind hospitality in providing tea after the peal.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SATISFACTORY FINANCES.

The annual meeting of the Sussex Association at Brighton on Saturday week attracted about 60 members from all parts of the county, including Brighton, Eastbourne, Chichester, Horsham, Lewes, Battle, Seaford, Henfield, Uckfield, Mayfield, Rotherfield, Little Horsted, Fulborough, Lindfield, Heene, Burgess Hill, Crawley, Shoreham, Billingshurst, Bolney, Aldrington, etc. Lieut. Cyril Johnston (Croydon) and Mr. W. C. Hunt (Nottingham) were also present. The fine peal of ten bells at St. Peter's Church attracted the members during the early part of the afternoon, and the business meeting was then held in St. Peter's Parish Room, the Master (Mr. F. B. Tompkins) being in the chair. Nineteen new members were elected, and the whole of the officers re-elected.

The annual report stated that in spite of the war the Association had continued its work and had paid its way. Six district meetings were held during the year, and were fairly well attended. The report concluded by urging members to do all in their power to further the work of the Association, and expressing pleasure at seeing many ringers, who had served with the Forces returning home, and to these a cordial and hearty welcome was extended.

The balance sheet showed that the receipts had exceeded the expenses by £2 8s. 1d. There is a balance on the General Fund of £63 16s. 1d.; on the Reserve Fund £50, and on the Benevolent Fund £38 15s. Of these balances £50 is invested in 5 per cent. War Loan, and £49 13s. 4d. in 5 per cent. War Stock.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.

An alteration was made to the rules, empowering the committee in each Division to arrange the district meetings, instead of leaving the matter to the general meeting of the respective districts.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. R. Butcher) was appointed to represent the Association at the next Central Council meeting, and Brighton was again chosen as the venue for the next annual meeting.

High tea was afterwards served to the members at the Gloucester Hotel, and a service was subsequently held at St. Nicholas' Church, the curate officiating, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar, and giving an address from the words: 'Love the brotherhood.' Ringing afterwards took place on St. Nicholas' bells, and the whole day's proceedings were very enjoyable.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BIG GATHERING AT BRAINTREE.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division, Essex Association, was held at Braintree, on Saturday week, there being an attendance of 80 members from Bocking, Braintree, Rayne, Stebbing, Kelvedon, Witham, Earls Colne, Maldon, Stisted, Dunmow, Boreham, Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Notley, and Felsted. This was the largest gathering of ringers in Essex since the conclusion of the war, and the record numbers for a district meeting testified to the revival of interest in ringing in the county. During the afternoon and evening numerous touches were rung upon Braintree church bells. Service was held at the Parish Church, the Vicar of Braintree, the Rev. D. B. Barclay, officiating, and the address was given by the Rev. E. J. Doherty, Vicar of Felsted.

At the invitation of the Vicar of Braintree and Mr. C. H. Howard, Master of the Essex Association, tea was served at the church schools, and the annual meeting followed, Mr. H. F. Cooper, Stisted, the District Master, presiding. Several new members were admitted, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Great Ley.

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, hon. sec. to the Essex Association, proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Felsted for his sermon; to the Vicar of Braintree and Mr. Howard for the bounteous tea; and to Dr. Meachen, organist at Braintree Church, and the choir for the musical portions of the services, and all those gentlemen responded.

Mr. C. H. Howard said the arrangements for the tea were very kindly made by Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Bromage, Mrs. Bradbury, and Mrs Fortescue. He expressed regret that Mrs. Howard, who was greatly interested in the gathering, was unable to be present on account of illness. He thanked the churchwardens of Braintree, and the chairman of the Braintree Urban Council for their attendance. Mr. Howard stated that the Essex Association was formed at Writtle on Whit-Monday, 1879. Braintree was a little ahead of the Essex Association, for change ringing was introduced at Braintree Church at Easter, 1879. Up to then there had been 'Churchyard Bob' and other primitive methods of ringing church bells, but no recognised order of change ringing. There were two Braintree ringers present that day (Messrs. W. H. Dyson and F. Rudkin), who were members of the band at Braintree Church on Easter Day, 1879, and it was largely due to the Braintree ringers that the Essex Association was formed. In four years the Braintree ringers established a record, for in 1883 they rang at Braintree the first 720 of London Surprise Minor that had ever been rung in the southern counties of England (applause). Mr. R. J. Johnson, J.P., chairman of the Braintree Urban Council, who also responded, said some very noted people had been produced at Braintree, and among them were certainly their old ringers (hear, hear).

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

DORCHESTER BRANCH PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL.

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Dorchester on Thursday week, was well attended by members from St. Peter's, Dorchester; Fordington, Wyke Regis, Upwey, Charminster, Cerne Abbas, West Lulworth and Bournemouth, and the best use was made of the bells at the fine old church of St. Peter, as well as those at Fordington. The Guild service was held in the church, conducted by the Rev. C. A. Phillips (hon. secretary of the East Dorset branch) and the Rev. A. C. B. Dobie (Cerne Abbas) was the preacher. Afterwards the ringers were entertained to tea at St. Peter's Institute, and the business meeting followed, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. N. Dawes (chairman of the Branch), supported by the Revs. W. G. Barclay (Charminster), A. C. B. Dobie and C. A. Phillips, Mr. C. H. Jennings, of Wyke Regis (hon. secretary and treasurer), and Miss Ward, Mr. F. G. Longman (parish warden of St. Peter's) was in the vice-chair.

The Chairman, in extending a welcome to all present, bore tribute to the admirable manner in which the depleted bands of ringers had carried on during the trying years of the war. Every effort had been made to bring on other ringers, and in some parishes ready help had been forthcoming from lady ringers (hear, hear). That was an innovation, and it was the first time they had had lady ringers at their festive board, and heartily did he welcome them (applause). He trusted that the ladies would not think that the time had arrived for them to give up, but that they would continue as ringers, for they were always welcome in the towers. That was the first gathering of the branch that had been held since the early days of the war, and he trusted that many pleasant gatherings were in store in the future.

The financial statement, showing the substantial balance in hand of £9 18s. 11½d., was regarded as highly satisfactory, and adopted.

The Hon. Secretary reported that no meetings were held during the year, although informal visits had been paid to Upwey, Abbotsbury and Dorchester, while at most of the towers there was ringing for the Armistice. Regret was expressed at the death of the Rev. Canon S. E. Davies, of Wyke Regis, a staunch supporter of the Guild. Dorchester had brought on some lady ringers to fill the gap made during the war, and Wyke had also trained several young lads. Attention was called to the fact that some of the bells in the branch towers wanted restoring and augmenting in numbers, and this was considered to be a fitting opportunity to commemorate fallen ringers.

Mr. Dawes was again elected chairman, Mr. G. T. White was re-elected Ringing Master, and Mr. W. J. Benger, Assistant Ringing Master.—Mr. C. H. Jennings was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and a warm tribute was paid to his enthusiastic services.—Mr. J. T. Godwin (Dorchester) was appointed to succeed Mr. S. G. Hodges as branch representative on the Guild Committee.

A discussion took place as to the provision of a memorial for the following members of the branch who had made the supreme sacrifice:—Messrs. Anderson (Wyke Regis), H. Brake (Upwey), W. Drake and F. Samways (Hilton), E. Foot (Buckland Newton), W. J. New (Leigh), F. Northover (Charminster), W. A. Painter (Dorchester), and H. Wilson (Milton Abbas). All belonged to the Dorset Regiment with the exception of Anderson (Wilts Regiment) and New (Durham Light Infantry).—Mr. H. Thomas (Fordington St. George) proposed that a memorial tablet should be erected in Dorchester St. Peter's tower, and that subscriptions be invited from all the towers in the Dorchester branch. Although some towers had not lost a member, he was certain that they would gladly contribute their mite to such a memorial (hear, hear).—The Rev. W. G. Barclay, seconding, said it would be most appropriate to have the memorial in the great and central church of St. Peter's.—The proposition was agreed to unanimously, and Mr. Longman expressed pleasure at the selection of the site.

The meeting confirmed the election as life members of the following three ringers who have been stationed in the county while on military service: Messrs. Booth (Emberton, Bucks); L. V. Crabbe (Hinminster), E. Morris (Leicester). The following new members were elected: The Misses Morgan, Frisby, Bugler, and Tyrrell (Dorchester St. Peter's); the Misses Barclay and Virgin (Charminster); Messrs. T. Groves and Lock (Charminster); and Messrs. John Harvell and William Whittle (West Lulworth).

The Chairman expressed regret at the unavoidable absence of Canon H. C. Coote (Rector of St. Peter's), who took great interest in the ringers and the bells, and proposed a vote of thanks to him for his kindness in lending the Institute, coupled with the hope that he would speedily be restored to health. He also tendered hearty thanks to the ladies for providing the bountiful tea.—The votes were accorded with acclamation, and responded to by Mr. Longman.—Thanks were also accorded to the Rev. C. A. Phillips for arranging the service, and to the Rev. A. C. B. Dobie for his excellent sermon.

It was left to the hon. secretary to arrange the next quarterly meeting, and it is hoped to again hold these gatherings regularly.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FESTIVAL TO BE REVIVED.

On Saturday week, the General Committee of the Guild met at G.W.R. Temperance Institute, Reading, and considering the restricted train service and the high railway fares, was well attended.

The chief item of business was to arrange for the annual festival, which has been in abeyance since the fateful year 1914. It was decided to hold the festival at Oxford on Saturday, July 19th next. Service at the Cathedral will be followed by the business meeting in Chapter House, and lunch in the dining hall, if permission can be obtained.

Owing to the enhanced price of all commodities, it was decided that it will be impossible to make any refund on dinner tickets, as in past years, but, to show appreciation and gratitude, it was resolved to invite all members who have served in Navy or Army during the war as guests of the Guild.

Various other items and useful suggestions were discussed.

The Master (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn), who presided, afterwards invited those present to partake of tea, which was gratefully accepted and enjoyed.

Ringing was indulged in at St. Lawrence's and St. Mary's Churches.

Now that the Master is a civilian again, a prosperous future for the Guild may be confidently hoped and looked for

A THRIVING BRANCH.

On Easter Monday, the members of the East Berks and South Bucks branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held their annual gathering at Windsor. It was the first occasion on which as an organisation they had visited the Royal Borough, and the proceedings were of a successful nature, a party of over 100 members and friends expressing universal satisfaction. The Diocesan Guild, as a whole, musters 167 towers, and has 2,010 members throughout the diocese, while the East Berks and South Bucks branch numbers 31 towers and 454 members

During the afternoon numerous touches were rung on the Parish Church bells by members of the party, and later a visit was paid to the Curfew bells, which were also rung, much to the gratification of those taking part.

The Mayor of Windsor (Councillor W. Carter) took a prominent part in welcoming the ringers, and was present with some 85 members and friends at a service at the Parish Church at 5 o'clock, this being taken by the Dean of Windsor (Dr. Albert Baillie), assisted by the Rev. J. R. Nash.

During the service, which was choral, the hymns, 'Christ the Lord is risen again,' 'Thy Kingdom come, O God,' and 'Now thank we all our God,' were sung, the lesson being read by Mr. Nash. Mr. Malcolm Boyle, junr., presided at the organ.

The Dean of Windsor gave an appropriate address, in the course of which he said there were two points of view from which they could look at bell ringing, the personal part which it played in their lives and the public point of view—what it stood for in the national life.

A collection was taken in aid of King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor, and realised 30s.

After the service a tea and the annual meeting were held at the Church Institute, where excellent preparations had been made to receive the party, which numbered over 100.

The Mayor presided, and those present also included Canon G. F. Coleridge (Crowthorne), Capt. J. H. Freeborn (Sutton), Revs. S. W. S. Riddlesdell (Bray), Clifford Toogood (Warfield), and J. F. Amies (Charlton St. Peter), Mr. C. H. Woodberry (Wolverley), Mr. E. Weatherby (Market Drayton), Mr. C. Farr (Curfew Tower), Messrs. J. J. Parker (Farnham Royal), J. Blackmore (Beaconsfield), R. Randall (Penn), J. Brant (Winkfield), G. Twitchen (High Wycombe), J. Evans (Hughenden), J. Gutteridge (Old Windsor), G. Martin (Boyne Hill), G. Alder (Burnham), J. L. Kirk (Cookham), E. T. Hooper (Slough), T. S. Smith, A. Patch and A. Higgs (Windsor), T. Fuller (Wargrave), J. H. Barnes (Great Missenden), R. T. Hibbert, Pulling, Webb and Cox (Reading), Hewitt, Ronzetta, W. Garrard and H. Brown (London), W. Lawrence and Miss Jones (Ealing), J. A. Trollope (Acton), Misses Williams and Feltham (Hillingdon), Miss Gudgen and Mr. Harding (Fulmer), Misses Bateman (Stoke Poges), Misses Smith (Boyne Hill), the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough), and other towers represented included Braywood, Bray, etc.

At the opening of the meeting, the Mayor alluded to a letter received from Canon Drummond, expressing his regret at being unable to attend, and stating that he felt it would be necessary to elect a younger man to occupy the position of President of the Branch.

SECRETARY'S SATISFACTORY REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary presented the annual report, which showed that their Guild membership continued to increase, and, by the end of this year, he estimated that their branch alone would be 500 strong (applause). In the total of 454 for the year 1918 it would be seen that they had 75 non-resident members, who were all competent change ringers, from various parts of England and who had gladly joined their prosperous branch; 13 of them last year alone. The hon. members now mustered 48, and several had joined since Christmas, so that they were over 50, a record the performing members much appreciated. The ladies still increased in number and usefulness in the belfry, a complete team of eight joining from Windsor. Several fresh names had to be added to their Roll of Honour, and the sad list of killed in action at present stood at 25 for their branch. One of their energetic members of High Wycombe (Mr. W. Horne) passed away soon after Armistice Day, and Miss Dancer, of Fulmer, one of the first of the Fulmer ladies, died during this year. The removal of Sir John Herschel to Surrey deprived them of a good friend. The number of towers in union was now 30, and they would be glad to hear that a fresh one had joined this year—Penn—with a strong team of young ringers under Mr. Randall. He emphasised the valuable services rendered to the Branch and to the Church generally by the local steeplekeepers who had done regular and full duties week after week to maintain the tower and bells in proper order. In conclusion he remarked that the Branch Committee would go away from Windsor that day with greater pride and interest in the old English art of bell ringing and their duties as Churchmen, after the hospitable manner in which the Dean, and the Mayor of that ancient Borough had come to encourage them and their humble calling as bell ringers (applause).

The balance sheet showed that the branch commenced the year with £12 18s. 4d. to their credit: the total receipts were £40 15s. 7d., and after expenses had been met there was a balance in their favour of £19 13s. 2d. During the past three years the Branch had paid £38 3s. 4d. to the Diocesan treasurer.

The report and balance sheet, which were considered eminently satisfactory, were unanimously adopted.

Canon A. H. Drummond having, after some 40 years of presidency again expressed a desire to be relieved of the position, it was decided to ask Canon P. H. Eliot (Rector of Slough) to accept the position, he having formerly occupied the position of vice-president. It was further agreed to appoint the Rev. E. M. Blackie (Vicar of Windsor) to the office of vice-president.

The branch committee was then re-elected.

Mr. George Gutteridge was recommended as a qualified instructor in the place of Mr. R. Flaxman (Slough), deceased.

Mr. Fussell was unanimously re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer and was cordially complimented on his useful work for the branch.

Canon Coleridge, in the absence of Canon Drummond, addressed the meeting and congratulated the branch on the admirable manner in which it had carried on during the past 4½ years of war, for it had, he remarked, been a very uphill task for ringers generally. He exhorted all to go on to the higher methods of bell ringing, and so reach perfection. Personally he had been a ringer for something like 43 years, and began as an undergraduate at Oxford in 1876. Since its formation the Guild had flourished extraordinarily, and after all the gloom and sadness of the war he hoped they now had a happy augury for a bright and prosperous future for the Guild in general and for the East Berks and South Bucks Branch in particular (applause). He wished them good luck and good bells in that and the coming years (applause).

A PRESENTATION.

The Mayor, on behalf of the members of the branch, presented Mr. R. Buckland, of Beaconsfield, with a handsome silver-plated biscuit box, suitably inscribed and engraved with a bell, on the occasion of his marriage: and Mr. Buckland heartily thanked all who had contributed to the gift.

Allusion was made to the fact that one of a fine peal of twelve bells at High Wycombe was cracked, and it was decided to make a strong recommendation to the Diocesan Guild to give a substantial grant towards its repair.

Twenty-five certificates of membership were distributed, and a guinea was voted to the 'Goldsmith Testimonial Fund.'

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed as follow: To the hon. subscribers for their generous support during the four years of war; to the Dean of Windsor for his address, and for his permission for the members to use the Curfew bells: to the Rev. E. M. Blackie and churchwardens for the use of the bells of St. John's, and to the Rev. J. R. Nash for assisting at the service in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of the Vicar; also to the choir and organist; to the Mayor of Windsor for his presence; to the workers who had organised the tea, which included Mr. and Mrs. T. Smith, Mr. Cropley, the Windsor ladies, and the Misses Roe (3), of Eton, who ably attended to the needs of the party; and to the hon. secretary and treasurer for his valuable services.

The Mayor expressed his pleasure at the visit of the ringers, to whom he said he offered a warm welcome, and congratulated them on their excellent ringing of the Parish Church bells.

MR. JOHN W. TAYLOR.

For some weeks past Mr. John W. Taylor, head of the well-known Loughborough firm, has been seriously ill, but his many friends throughout the country will be glad to learn that his condition has now improved, and that immediate danger is past.

MEARS & STAINBANK,

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Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,

LONDON, E.

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

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Northern District was held on Saturday last at St. Ann's, Highgate. Although a number of Northern members were conspicuous by their absence, touches were brought round in the following methods: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Forward Major.

At the business meeting, two new members were made, and the following officers were elected: Master, Mr. A. D. Barker; hon. district secretary, Mr. F. G. Symonds; hon. treasurer, Mr. T. Walker; steward, Mr. W. G. Matthews. A short touch on the handbells brought a pleasant evening to a close.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Bedford District was held at Willington on Saturday, the Rev. — Kingston being in the chair, supported by the Rev. A. Copeman, Vicar of Everton, and Mr. E. P. Duffield, hon. secretary of the Association. There were 36 members present from Bedford, Sharnbrook, Turvey, Biddenham, Elstow, Sandy, Roxton, Northill, Potton and Biggleswade, and the local company.—Eight new members and one hon. member were elected.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Milton Ernest on Saturday, May 31st.—Mr. Duffield expressed the hope that all ringers would take in the ringing paper, so that it would get into all towers.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for presiding over the meeting, and to the ladies for providing tea, the motion being acknowledged by the Vicar.—The ringing during the day ranged from Doubles to Treble Bob Minor.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT CORRINGHAM.

A very successful meeting of the Gainsborough District was held at Corringham on Saturday week, and was well attended, ringers being present from Gainsborough, Scotter, Brigg and Bigby, in addition to the local company. During the early part of the afternoon a very heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by a deluge of rain, came over the locality, and prevented others from being present. The bells, a nice ring of six, were available during the afternoon and evening, and well utilised in ringing the standard methods, and also rounds for a number of learners.

Through the generosity of the Rev. R. Thornton (Vicar of Corringham) and Mrs. Thornton, the members partook of an excellent tea in the Schoolroom, after which the Vicar, on behalf of himself, Mrs. Thornton and the Corringham ringers, gave a most hearty welcome to the Guild, and also gave some very good advice to those present.

The Rev. H. T. Parry, on behalf of the Bigby ringers, expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the kind hospitality shown by the Rev. and Mrs. Thornton. He stated they had, that afternoon, foregone attending one of their own district meetings, as the notice of the one at Corringham was the first to reach them. They also enjoyed the company of the members in the Gainsborough district, and the opportunity of visiting such a beautiful church.

The business meeting followed, and was presided over by the Rev. R. Thornton. Seven new members were elected: Mr. H. Lydgett (honorary), Messrs. W. Martin, E. Middleton, A. R. Green, Wm. Pitchfork, W. Prestcott and F. Ingram, performing members, all of Corringham.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in June, at Stow and Willingham, the former to be the headquarters.

The usual votes of thanks concluded the business, after which a return was made to the church, and further ringing indulged in, which brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

WAR MEMORIALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—What I consider to be a very fine suggestion is contained in the report of the quarterly meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Association, as reported in the current number of 'The Ringing World.' It is to the effect that, while ringing the peace celebrations, 'an effort should be made wherever possible to ring at least one peal and have it recorded in each tower.'

Every ringer will agree that the occasion presents a very unique opportunity. In many places, peals are never rung, because of the annoyance caused to certain people whose premises are under the shadow of the belfry, but here is an opportunity that no one can possibly take exception to, so I would emphasise the suggestion that wherever the requisite number of men can be got together, they should mark the occasion by ringing something that will worthily commemorate for all time the greatest day in the nation's history. — Yours, etc.,

A. ALLAN BENNETT.

Newton House, Gloucester.

THE OFFICERS' BAND AT CROYDON.

Back Row (from left to right): 2nd-Lieut. E. P. Duffield, R.A.F.; Lieut. C. F. Johnston, 3rd Grenadier Guards; Lieut. A. E. Reeves, R.D.C.; 2nd-Lieut. W. C. Duffield, Norfolk Regt; Capt. J. H. R. Freborn, 4th York and Lancs Regt.; 2nd-Lieut. York Bramble, R.A.F.

Front Row Major J. H. B. Hesse, R.A.S.C., M.T.; Major Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, M.C., S.C.F.; Lieut. E. M. Atkins, R.E.; Capt Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake, C.F.

Although the efforts of the ten officers to ring a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Peter's, Croydon, on May 3rd, have turned out to be fruitless on account of the composition, the above picture, taken outside the Church, is an interesting record of a unique gathering. The greatest obstacle to another attempt by the same band in the near future is that military duties have now taken Lieut. W. C. Duffield to Ireland. Eight of the above took part in the first officers' peal, rung at Putney on March 15th last, the two officers brought in to complete the ten bell band being Major the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn and Lieut. A. E. Reeves.

THANKS TO SOLDIER RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the All Saints' Ringing Guild, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, the following resolution was passed: 'That the hon. secretary be instructed to write to the "Ringing World," expressing grateful thanks to all the soldier ringers who have been stationed in the district at various times during the war, for their kindly assistance in giving us a helping hand, and in promoting the art of change ringing and that good fellowship that exists among ringers.' No less than 60 have visited the tower during the war, and now they have all left the district, we wish them every success and prosperity.—Yours faithfully,

C. H. JENNINGS,
Hon. Secretary, All Saints' Ringing Guild, Wyke Regis.

HASLEMERE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see under the heading of the Winchester Guild, Guildford District, it is reported that an entirely new peal of eight will shortly be hung at Haslemere. I regret to say that this remark is rather premature. It is quite true a scheme has been on foot for some time for recasting the whole peal and increasing the tenor from 9 cwt. to approximately 12 cwt. It has been suggested that this be done as a Church War Memorial, and it is now put to the vote of the congregation to know their decision. Failing this, I hope a 'Bell Fund' will be started, and in the course of time the necessary funds collected. An estimate has been obtained from Messrs. John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, and no doubt the work will be placed in this well-known firm's hands when the necessary funds are collected.

The Lodge, Haslemere. J. H. B. HESSE.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON,

We are now resuming our
Pre-War Manufacture of

Tower Clocks and Carillon Machines

For Cathedrals, Churches,
Town Halls and Public
Buildings, in addition to
the Founding and Hanging
of

CHURCH BELLS.

MAY, 1919.

CROYDON, SURREY.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN BRANCH.

Thanks chiefly to the kindness of the 'clerk of the weather,' the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association held what proved to be a very successful meeting at the pretty little village of Overbury, on Saturday week. Owing to the fact that Overbury does not boast a railway station, the humble bicycle was strongly in evidence, but no one minded cycling on such a day, and the first party to arrive presented quite an imposing spectacle, being some sixteen strong. The Vicar (the Rev. W. Lea) welcomed the visitors at the tower, and said belfry prayers, after which the fine and easy-going peal of six bells was raised and kept going in rounds for the beginners, and various methods, throughout the afternoon. Perhaps, the most interesting feature of the ringing was a few rounds rung by a band composed entirely of ladies, two of whom were so youthful that they could scarcely reach the sallies.

Service followed, at which the Association's special form of service was used, the lesson being read by the Rev. F. C. Champion (the ringing curate of Bredon, who has recently entered the district). — The Vicar, in his address, touched on the pleasure it gave him to see so many ladies taking up this branch of church work. He also remarked on the very fitting memorial scheme of the Association to erect a stained glass window in Worcester Cathedral, to their members who had made the supreme sacrifice in the service of King and country.

Through the generosity of Lady Martin, of Overbury Court, a bounteous tea was partaken of in the Village Hall, to which nearly 60 sat down. The introduction by the Vicar to the meeting of Lady Martin and Lady Larpent was greeted with applause, Lady Larpent briefly replying.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting which followed. Two new honorary members (including Lady Martin) and several performing members were elected, the latter including Miss Olive Cotton and Miss Rosalie Johnson (both of Hinton), young ladies of only thirteen summers.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Pershore, subject to the approval of the Vicar, and to attempt the quarterly peal at Overbury, with Mr. W. Payne as conductor.

For the benefit of those absent from the annual meeting, the Secretary (Mr. J. Hemming) explained the Association's memorial scheme, and appealed to all to do their utmost to quickly raise the necessary money. The usual votes of thanks were carried with applause, the Vicar, Lady Larpent and the Rev. F. C. Champion replying, the two last mentioned remarking on the splendid welcome they had received, although coming to the meeting as complete strangers.

No meeting would be quite complete without the handbells, and at the special request, and to the no small pleasure of Lady Martin, the familiar 'Bluebells' and various other selections were rendered, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters successfully brought round.

A move was then again made to the tower, and further ringing indulged in, while a few of the more venturesome spirits visited and made use of Kemerton bells. Thus ended a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon, and what constituted a record meeting for this part of the county since the formation of the branches.

The following towers were represented: Areley Kings, Bredon, Bredons Norton, Eckington, Pershore, Fladbury, Teddington, Stanton, Bretforton, Bengeworth, Evesham, Hampton, Hinton-on-the-Green and the local band.

THE FRAMLAND SOCIETY.

FIRST MEETING SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR.

A meeting of the Framland Society was held at Croxton Kerrial on Saturday week, and from all points of view was an undoubted success. Well struck touches of Grandsire and Bob Doubles and Bob Minor, interspersed with rounds for the recruits, were rung throughout the afternoon, and there was evensong in the church, which was well attended.

An excellent meat tea was served in the Schoolroom, over 60 members sitting down. Afterwards a short meeting was held, presided over by the Vicar of Croxton (the Rev. — Brown), who extended a hearty welcome to the society, as that was the first meeting they had held since the outbreak of war. By a strange coincidence also, the very first meeting of the society was held at Croxton on May 21st, 1876. He had much pleasure in informing the members that the hon. secretary (the Rev. C. Holmes) had arrived home from active service that morning, but was sorry he could not be with them that day. He had, however, sent a message wishing them every success.

On the proposition of Mr. R. H. Bartram, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the caterers, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells; also to Mr. R. Mount, of Waltham, who had arranged for the meeting in the absence of the secretary.

It was arranged that the half-yearly meeting should be held at Waltham in October, and for the annual meeting the arrangements were left with the secretary.

Ringers were present from Croxton, Bottesford, Melton Mowbray, Waltham, Eaton, Hose, Harby, Long Clawson, and Wymondham. The bells were kept going in various methods until late in the evening

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be obtained by placing an order with a Newsagent, or it will be sent direct from the Editorial Office post free for 2/6 per quarter, 10/- per year.

PARISH CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE.—Empire Day, May 24th. Dedication of new Belfry Clock and Memorial Tablet at 4 p.m. Ringing at intervals from 3 till 9 p.m. Organ Recital, vocal solos, etc., Parish Church, 7 p.m. All ringers welcome. Proceeds to fund for recasting 6th bell.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccles Parish Church on Saturday, May 24th. Bells available from 3.30; meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this society will be held at East Retford on Empire Day, May 24th. By kind permission of the Vicar of East Retford and the Rectors of West Retford and Ordsall respectively, the peal of 10 bells and two peals of six will be at the disposal of ringers from 1.30 to 8.30. Tea at Howard's restaurant at 5. Members of kindred Associations will be welcomed.—H. Haigh and A. Beck, Hon. Secretaries.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 24th (Empire Day). Bells (10) available at 3 p.m. The Cathedral bells will also be available. Tea in Slater's Institute, High Street, at 6 p.m., followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Nash, Hon. District Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Netherton on Saturday, May 31st. Bells available 3 o'clock; Service in church at 4.30. Tea will be provided at 6d. each for those who notify me not later than Tuesday, May 27th; business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Late the St. James' Society, Established 1824.—Meeting for practice will be held at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Monday, May 26th, commencing at 7.30 p.m.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at Southwark Cathedral on May 27th, at St. Magnus, Lower Thames Street, on May 29th.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Rd., Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Ripley on Saturday, May 31st. Bells (8) ready 2.30.—F. Lord, Local Sec., 36, Howard Street, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Whitworth on Saturday, May 31st. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting at 6. A good attendance is requested.—T. K. Driver, 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A monthly meeting of this society will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 31st, 1919. Bells available from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Business meeting at 7 p.m.—William Gage, Hon. Sec., 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GUILDFORD.—A memorial service for officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 'Queen's' R.W.S. Regiment who have lost their lives in the war will be held on Saturday, May 31st, at 3.30. Ringers who have served with the regiment, or are otherwise entitled to receive tickets, will be welcome to take part in the ringing after the service.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Berrow, near Burnham-on-Sea, on Saturday, May 31st. Service at 5 o'clock. Tea and meeting after service. Bells (6) afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, Burnham-on-Sea.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The May meeting will, as usual, be held at Bennington on May 31st, when the bells will be open during the afternoon and evening. A free tea will be provided by the kindness of Canon Mills. All members and ringing friends will be made welcome. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Parochial Hall. Business after.—Will all who can kindly notify me of their intention to be present, so that provision can be made?—W. H. Lawrence, District Sec., Little Munden, Herts.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The annual District meeting will be held at Lyminge on Saturday, May 31st. Bells at Elham also available. Service in Church at 4.45 p.m.; tea and business meeting after at Mrs. Ketchell's tea rooms (close to the station). Tea will be provided free for members; the names of those desiring tea should be sent to me by May 27th at 7, Westcliff Gardens, Folkestone.—Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Hon. District Sec., Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Horwich Parish Church on Saturday, May 31st. Bells available at 4 p.m.; meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Branch Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—Next meeting at Mottram, Saturday, May 31st.—Rev. A. T. Beeston, Hon. Sec., New Mills.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Whatton on Saturday, May 31st. Ringing from 3—8 p.m. All ringers are welcome.—T. H. Kirkby, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Shenley on Saturday, June 7th. Bells (6) both at Shenley and Loughton will be available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 3.15, tea and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided by the Vicar (Rev. J. R. Vincent) to those who send me notice of their intention of being present not later than May 30th.—W. Sear, Hon. Sec., 69, Windsor St., Bletchley.

SHEFFIELD AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Norton on Saturday, June 7th. Eight bells (tenor 16 cwt.) from 3 o'clock. Electric from Sheffield to Woodseats.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Fortieth annual meeting at Chelmsford on Whit Monday next. 3 p.m., service in the Cathedral with an address by Rev. D. B. Barclay, Vicar of Braintree; 3.45 p.m., annual meeting in Vestry Hall, New Street; 5 p.m., Tea at Hick's Restaurant, High Street, 1s. 3d. each to members, 2s. 6d. non-members. The following towers will be open for ringing during the day: The Cathedral (12 bells), Gallywood (8), Boreham (8), Gt. Waltham (8), Writtle (8), Widford (8), Springfield (6), Broomfield (6). To ensure accommodation at the tea notice must be sent to the Hon. Sec. not later than June 5th.—C. H. Howard, Master, H. T. W. Eyre, Hon. Sec., The Temples, Witham.

ARKSEY SOCIETY.—The dedication of two new bells (to complete octave), a brass memorial tablet, and Cambridge Chimes will take place in the Parish Church, Arksey, on Whit Monday, at 3 p.m., by the Bishop of Sheffield. A cordial invitation is given to all ringing friends. Bells available after service. Tea will be provided in the Hall grounds, 1s. each. Those wishing to attend, please notify me not later than 31st May. New Village cars run from Doncaster every fifteen minutes.—H. Woodhouse, Hon. Sec., Arksey, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Wigan Parish Church on Whit Monday. Bells ready at 2; service at 5. Poolstock bells from 2 to 4.—Rev. E. C. Collier and Walter Hughes, Hon. Secs.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday June 9th. Ringing at All Saints', St. Peter's, St. Giles', St. Sepulchre's and St. Edmund's from 10 to 12. Service at All Saints Church at 12.30, with address by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Hunt. Luncheon at the Peacock Hotel, Market Square, at 1.30. Business meeting to follow. Luncheon, 3s.; members half-price. Will all those requiring lunch please let me know not later than June 2nd? The bells of All Saints', St. Giles', St. Edmund's, St. Sepulchre's and Kingsthorpe will be available after the meeting until 7 o'clock.—Fred Wilford, General Sec., 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General Meeting at Maidstone on Whit Monday, June 9th. Committee meeting in the Old College, 11.15 a.m. MEMORIAL SERVICE at All Saints', 12 noon. Offertory for the Association War Memorial. Business meeting in the Old College, 2 p.m. Travelling expenses up to 2s. 6d. will be paid to members after the service. Towers open for ringing: All Saints' (10), St. Michael's (6), Aylesford (8), West Malling (8), East Farleigh (6), Barming (6).—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec., Canterbury.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Master (Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, M.C.), now demobilised, wishes all Branch Secretaries or others who desire his presence at meetings, etc., to communicate with him at 'Broadlands,' Grosvenor Road, Caversham.—R. T. Hibbert, Hon. Sec., Warren House Lodge, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Nicholas, Newchurch. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting at 6.30. A good attendance earnestly requested.—J. H. Haydock, Sec., 31, St. Paul Street, Ramsbottom.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Meetings for practice: St. Martin's first Monday in the month at 7.30 p.m.; second Saturday, St. Bride's, 5 p.m.; third Monday, Shoreditch, 7.30 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

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.

DEATH OF A WOLVERHAMPTON RINGER.

The death of Herbert Jones, of St. Peter's company, Wolverhampton, took place on April 24th, at the age of 43 years, and his remains were laid to rest in the Wolverhampton Cemetery on the 29th. Early in August, 1914, the deceased volunteered his services for the Army Service Corps, and went to Avonmouth, where he, with others, had to 'rough' it, as proper accommodation had not at that time been made for ordinary comfort. Indeed, it is more than probable that under such conditions the foundation of his illness was laid, the cause of death being consumption. In 1916 he was discharged as medically unfit for service, and from that time up to his death he was unable to follow his employment.

The deceased was a native of Shrewsbury, and among other places went to Sheffield, where he joined the St. Marie's company. In the latter part of 1912 he arrived in Wolverhampton, when he soon became attached to St. Peter's tower. Although he kept no record of the peals he helped to ring, it is known that he scored about 20, among which were Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Maximus.

The deceased leaves a widow and six children to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

An attempt for a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Caters was made at St. Peter's on May 3rd, but a change course brought it to an untimely finish.

Mr. Thomas Walker, hon. secretary of the London County Association, has again been re-elected churchwarden of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

£55 has been promised towards two treble bells to be added if possible to St. John the Baptist's Church, Royston, Herts, making the ring into a peal of eight.

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