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SOCIAL EVENTS.

It has been decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham this year as usual. The news will be welcomed by those who feel that, as far as possible, the wheels of the Exercise shall be kept turning, and following, as it will, upon the dinner at Bristol to-morrow, and other similar events elsewhere, it is encouraging to think that ringers are able to relax for a few hours from the strain which inevitably must be constantly borne in these anxious days. Festivities must, obviously, be more restrained, but there is no reason why old friends should not seize an opportunity to meet once more, and to honour a memory so great as that which preserves the name of Henry Johnson. Indeed, at a time like this, the celebration has, we think, a special significance. In events such as this, and the Bristol United Ringing Guilds' gathering to-morrow, it is not the festivities themselves that matter; it is the feeling of friendship which prompts these functions, and the atmosphere of comradeship and goodwill that pervades the gatherings that really makes them valuable. They are occasions which reflect the spirit of the Exercise and, as such, serve a most useful purpose. In these disturbed days, however, they also mark a determination to carry on in the face of adversity; they show a confidence which is an encouragement to the waverers and should be a tonic to the pessimists. If there should be any lack of numbers it will not be through want of enthusiasm, but rather due to the conditions of the times, which have imposed a black-out and curtailed transport. It may happen that the course of the war may make it impossible to hold these gatherings for a period in the future, but for our part we welcome the intention of those responsible for the dinners this year. We, in this country, have not yet felt the brunt of the conflict, and it will be time enough to suspend activities when that course is forced upon us. In the meantime everything that reason and prudence suggest should be done to maintain the life of the Exercise and keep the way open for a full resumption of activities as quickly as circumstances permit.

The Johnson dinner holds a place of special importance. It is a national event, as well as being always one of the most enjoyable of all the social functions of this kind organised by ringers for ringers. The dinner originated from a celebration arranged by the late Sir Arthur Heywood to honour Johnson in his lifetime. This was on the occasion of Johnson's eightieth birthday, and the old man did not live to see another anniversary. Earlier than this his personal friends had more than once celebrated his

(Continued on page 26.)

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birthday with peal and feast, but it was Sir Arthur Heywood whose influence raised the event to one of national interest, and ever since the year 1889 the occasion has drawn together in Birmingham a representative gathering of ringers. Few there are now who can remember Henry Johnson in the flesh, but his memory remains, and while in these days, perhaps, the sceptical may say it is only an excuse for holding the dinner, yet the fact remains that the spirit of Henry Johnson is not lost in Birmingham. He left his impress on St. Martin's Society, and the influence of high endeavour which he exerted has animated the men that have followed him. The same spirit is more necessary now than ever, and for this reason the holding of the commemoration dinner in this first year of the war should be a reminder to all who need such prompting, that the future of ringing depends upon the service they give to-day.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.

WAR INTERRUPTS SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, was held on Sunday, January 7th, there being now no practice on Tuesday evenings.

Before commencing the business the company stood in silence for a few moments, on the recommendation of the chairman, to the memory of the late Mr. Ernest F. Poppy, a highly esteemed member of the society.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Master, Charles J. Sedgley; Deputy Master, William Tillett. All the other officers were re-elected en bloc.

The Secretary, in his report, stated that during the eight months to the end of August seven peals were rung on St. Mary-le-Tower bells, viz. three of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, two of York Surprise Maximus, one of Superlative Surprise Maximus and one of Stedman Cinques. They totalled 36,687 changes. In addition there were rung courses of Surprise Maximus, Cambridge (20), Superlative (12), York (15), Bedford (4) and New Cambridge (3), and touches of Duffield and Forward Maximus, making 28,800 changes of Maximus. There were also 4,213 changes of Stedman and Grandsire Cinques, 24 courses of York Surprise Royal, 15 of Cambridge, five of Bedford and 2,520 changes in other Royal methods (a total of 18,360 changes of Royal), 4,304 changes of Surprise and other Major methods, and 2,758 changes of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. The aggregate number of changes rung during this period was thus 95,122, not including failures in peals and touches.

Commenting on York Surprise Maximus, the Hon. Secretary said the fact that the first course was rung on January 10th and the first peal on February 11th showed what an easy method it was to ring. It had the advantage of being more musical than other Surprise methods, excepting those with extending leads at hobs. On July 30th the first course of Bedford Surprise Maximus was rung, and on August 5th the second peal of York Surprise Maximus was accomplished. In addition to the peals at St. Mary-le-Tower, a peal of London Surprise Major was rung at Ufford, Suffolk, conducted by F. W. Rogers, 5,088 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Hollesley, Suffolk, conducted by C. J. Sedgley (the first in the method on the bells), and a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Great Yarmouth on August Bank Holiday conducted by C. J. Sedgley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF THE DERBY DISTRICT.

The annual general meeting of the Derby District was held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday last. The bells were available for ringing from 2 to 4 p.m. only, owing to police restrictions, and this fact probably affected the attendance, which was below the average. The methods rung were Cambridge Minor, Stedman Triples, Kent Royal, Double Norwich, Cambridge Major, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Caters.

At the business meeting which followed, Mr. Jack Bailey was re-elected chairman, Mr. William Lancaster re-elected secretary and Mr. James Pagett and Mr. Wilfred Buxton elected to serve on the committee.

It was decided to hold the next monthly meeting at Duffield on February 10th. Votes of thanks to the officials for their services during the past year were moved by Mr. S. Walklate, seconded by Mr. Ben Barker and carried unanimously. The officials replied, saying they would continue to give of their best. The secretary moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to Mr. Charlie Hart, a veteran of St. Andrew's band, for having all in readiness. Short touches on handbells brought the meeting to a close.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.

*DENNIS HOLLOS Treble	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER... .. 2	IVAN KAY 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 3	HARRY BYROM 7
FRANK REYNOLDS 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY... .. Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by HARRY BYROM.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Major as conductor. Arranged and rung as a farewell peal to the conductor, who was leaving to join His Majesty's Navy.

HERSHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(CHERTSEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, January 13, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 8 cwt.

ERNEST MOREY Treble	† GEORGE CURTIS 5
* EDWARD ARMSTRONG... .. 2	† EDWARD COLCOMBE 6
JOHN B. HESSEY 3	WILLIAM SIMMONDS 7
* HERBERT COLCOMBE... .. 4	HERBERT BATTY... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM SIMMONDS.

* First peal of Triples on a working bell. † First peal. ‡ First peal of Triples. First peal of Grandsire as conductor. This is the first peal in the district by resident Chertsey District members.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT 19, HOWARD ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL... .. 3-4	ALBERT WIFFEN 7-8

Composed by W. AYRE. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MRS. J. BRAY 1-2	JACK BRAY 5-6
ROBERT RICHARDSON 3-4	MRS. R. RICHARDSON 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by R. RICHARDSON.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents called differently. Tenor size 14 in D.

JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4
IVAN B. GARDINER 5-6	

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 14, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* JOHN ANTHONY BEAUMONT 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 5-6
JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 3-4	IVAN B. GARDINER 7-8

Composed and Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Major 'in hand' by all the band. First peal in the method as conductor. This composition is now rung for the first time. Rung for the wedding of Mr. H. B. Adsheed, of Dulwich, to Miss M. H. Gordon, which took place on the 8th inst.

THE N.U.T.S. OUT AGAIN.

VISIT TO OXFORDSHIRE AND BERKSHIRE TOWERS.

After a long enforced idleness, the opportunity occurred on Boxing Day for a limited return to activity by some of the members of the National Union of Tower Snatchers who had taken part in the long summer tours by cycle. The mode of transport this time was, however, different. Mobile units were employed, as the cycling range from London had by now been 'wiped off the map.'

It had been planned to start at Aston Rowant, Oxon, but news that these bells were unringable led the party of five, in a four-seater car from Uxbridge, to proceed to the neighbouring village of Chinnor. The Rector readily granted permission to ring, but the ringing was limited to the back five, as the sixth member of the party, Bill Stote, of Coventry, had not heard of the change of programme. However, it must have made the villagers sit up and take notice, for it was learnt that the bells had not been rung up for a year.

Lewknor was the next port of call, and while the ambassador, the Rev. K. C. Davis, of Bristol, visited a large house that looked like the Vicarage, the rest had a look round the church. The visits were, however, unsuccessful as far as ringing was concerned, for it transpired that the Vicar actually lived in the next village, while, of the five bells in the tower, two were found to be without ropes. All that had been gained by the visit was a glass of 'something warm' for the ambassador!

Other towers on the programme had been successfully booked, and the first of these, Ifley, was reached at the scheduled time of noon. The visit to this out-of-the-way village would have been well worth while without the ringing, for the church is a real gem, being almost wholly of unspoilt Norman work with a fine central tower. After a thorough inspection of the building, the tourists climbed the tower and rang Cambridge and Plain Bob on the medium-weight peal of six, while Bill concluded with a hymn tune on the chiming apparatus.

It was decided to go on to the next calling place before stopping for lunch, and after a long detour of Oxford under the misguidance of those who should have known better, the village of Marston was eventually reached. Here a suitable place 'within the meaning of the act' was found without difficulty, and 'light refreshments' were soon disposed of. By 1.30 p.m. the party were at the little Parish Church, and soon the pleasant light peal of five were sending out their Christmas peal, as the Vicar described it when he came in to see the visitors. Apparently the bells had not been rung since one of the other branches of the N.U.T.S. had made an excursion to the church on cycles some months previously. In fact, the Vicar thought it was the same hand paying a second visit, but he evidently didn't know the rules!

Wolverton was the next stopping place, and here there was again a welcome by the Vicar. Cambridge and Kent were rung on this light six (tenor 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.) before heading for the city, to visit St. Cross', Holywell, to ring Oxford and Plain Bob on the pleasant peal of six. Ringing at this ancient church takes place under rather unusual conditions, the ropes coming down immediately inside the main west door, while the circle is open to the church on three sides.

The fine heavy six at Cumnor, Berks, was the last peal booked for the day and the party were augmented on arrival by the Rev. M. Melville, who had come on after a peal at Sutton Courtenay. The downstairs ringing chamber was found to be pitch dark and the hanging oil lamp was brought into use. The weird shadows thrown by this, and the fact that only the lower parts of the ringers opposite were visible, due to the huge home-made hood on the light, must have put the ringers off their stroke, for it took three attempts to knock off a course of Cambridge. It was well past four o'clock when ringing finished and the visitors began to consider their next move.

The close proximity of the ten-bell tower of Appleton decided the issue, but they were unlucky, for though they claimed to have sufficient influence among the company to do most things, there proved a limit to the abilities of the party. Not only was it by now past black-out time, but the bells of this famous tower had hardly been rung since war started, so the hour seemed hardly opportune to break the silence of the peaceful village.

Thus there was nothing for it but to close down at an hour when normally things would just be getting warmed up, and hope for better times in the New Year, when cycles are likely to come into their own again as the method of transport. Unfortunately, though, much is likely to depend on Mr. Hitler.

R. D.

CONGRATULATIONS ON ASTON BROADCAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Congratulations to the Sunday service band at Aston Parish Church, who broadcast excellent twelve-bell ringing previous to the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday morning, December 24th. It was a very pleasant surprise, as there had been no announcement in 'The Radio Times' or public Press, and I find the Aston band were informed they could ring for this service almost at the last moment. The touch, a bob course of Grandsire Cinques, was rung by F. Price 1, A. Short 2, G. Swann 3, R. Shepherd 4, G. Mitchinson 5, R. Ingram 6, W. Pettigrew 7, W. Best 8, F. Rishworth 9, A. Rainey 10, W. Davies 11, A. Pettigrew 12.

ALBERT WALKER.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

JOHNSON DINNER TO BE HELD.

The annual meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, on Saturday, January 6th. The tower of St. Martin's having been effectively blacked out, ringing was permitted from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., during which time several good touches were brought round, including three courses of Stedman Cinques.

In the absence of the Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, the vice-president, Mr. Albert Walker, occupied the chair at the business meeting. Apologies for absence were announced from the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, Messrs. E. T. Allaway and J. Preston.

The Chairman announced the death of Mr. W. H. Hall, of Sutton Coldfield, which occurred during Christmas week. He had been a ringer for many years and his passing was a loss to the Guild and particularly to the Parish Church at Sutton Coldfield. All present stood for a moment as a last mark of respect.

The following new members were elected: Mr. Walter G. Chaplin, of Hall Green, as a full ringing member, and Mr. John Ashton, of Streetly, and Mr. J. Eric Pickering, of Four Oaks, as country members.

Mr. W. Davies gave a hearty welcome to the Guild to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston. In spite of rationing and other restrictions, he promised, on behalf of the Aston Parish Church ringers, to do all possible to make the visit enjoyable. The proposition was seconded by Mr. F. Price and agreed to with acclamation.

It was decided to postpone consideration of holding bi-quarterly meetings until the next quarterly meeting. The hon. treasurer, in presenting the annual balance sheet, pointed out that although subscriptions received were rather less than in the previous year, expenses had also been reduced somewhat. Owing to the present difficult times, the peal book had not been written up for the previous year and so there was no item for peal booking in the accounts. This matter would have attention at an early date. He had pleasure in presenting the accounts, which showed an increased balance in hand of £8.—The auditors gave their report and the accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. G. F. Swann, seconded by Mr. D. T. Matkin.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected. The hon. secretary, in proposing the re-election of Alderman J. S. Pritchett as Master, said that although the Alderman was not now able to come amongst them as he used to do, he felt sure it was the desire of every member that he should continue as Master of the Guild, and although absent from them, yet he was still as keenly interested as ever in its welfare.—This was seconded by Mr. W. C. Dowding and was carried unanimously.—The secretary was instructed to write the Alderman expressing their good wishes and congratulations on having reached his 85th birthday.

THE RINGING MASTERSHIP.

The next item was the election of Ringing Master. The secretary pointed out that Mr. F. E. Haynes had been evacuated with his school at the outbreak of the war. At the last quarterly meeting Mr. Haynes wrote a letter tendering his resignation, which the members decided not to accept, but to defer consideration until the annual meeting. Mr. Haynes, who was present, said that as he was likely to be away for an indefinite period, he thought he ought to hand in his resignation. At the moment he had no idea when he would be back in Birmingham, certainly not before the end of September. His personal wish was to remain in office, and should the members decide to re-elect him, in spite of his disability, he would, of course, attend whenever possible.

Mr. G. F. Swann said that in view of the fact that ringing would have to be considerably curtailed, and that Mr. Haynes had promised to attend when possible, he had pleasure in proposing his re-election.—This was seconded by Mr. Fred Price and carried unanimously.

The trustees, Councillor A. Paddon Smith and Mr. E. T. Allaway; the auditors, Messrs. Jonathan Preston and Fred Price; and the librarian, Mr. G. F. Swann, were unanimously re-elected.

The Chairman (Mr. Albert Walker), in proposing the re-election of Mr. T. H. Reeves as secretary and treasurer, said that Mr. Reeves always carried out his duties efficiently and with dignity and honour to the Guild.—Mr. S. O'C. Holloway seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Reeves expressed thanks to the members for their continued confidence and support.

Some discussion took place as to whether the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner should be held as usual or just an informal lunch at midday. The secretary reported that he had provisionally reserved the Connaught Room at the Imperial Hotel as usual, but had notified the manager that possibly the usual function would not take place.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed and Mr. W. C. Dowding seconded that the dinner take place as usual on Saturday, March 2nd, commencing at 5 p.m., and, on being put to the meeting, was carried. After further discussion it was decided to have the usual entertainment after dinner and invite guests as previously, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and to invite the vice-president, Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith, to occupy the chair.

Under the item 'Any other business,' Mr. Walker called attention to the various attempts that had been made in various parts of the country to stop the ringing of bells even for Sunday services. In Birmingham the Chief Constable had stopped ringing at the Cathedral on one Sunday and at Aston the recent broadcast had nearly been prevented. It was only by taking the articles which had appeared in

(Continued in next column.)

WINCHESTER DISTRICT RINGING.

MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

The annual meeting of the Winchester District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at St. Maurice's Hall, Winchester, on January 6th, and was presided over by the Rev. N. C. Woods, M.A., Mus.Bac., Vicar of St. John's, Notting Hill, London (chairman of the district). He was supported by the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. W. G. Goodchild), while among those present were the Master of the Guild (Mr. George Williams), the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), Mr. Wilfred Andrews (captain of the Cathedral ringers), Canon and Miss Andrewes, etc. Several apologies for absence were received.

Before commencement of business the Chairman paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Elkins, formerly Dean's verger, who, over a long period, had done so much for the Guild, and whose many sterling qualities had endeared him to all with whom he came in touch. At the request of the chairman, members stood for a few moments in silence.

Arising out of the minutes of the last annual district meeting, a report of the proceedings of the sub-committee, formed for the purpose of appointing an honorary secretary and treasurer, was read. The secretary also reported that, in accordance with a resolution upon the subject, an estimate of the cost of laying cocoa-fibre matting in the Cathedral belfry was duly obtained; that the work had been carried out, and that there was now a small balance of 14s. remaining on this particular account. In connection with that balance it was proposed by Mr. Newnham and seconded by Mr. Williams that it should be left in the hands of the secretary and Mr. Andrews to spend in the Cathedral belfry as they thought fit.

The secretary's annual report was read and adopted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In the course of his report, the Hon. Secretary said an immediate result of the outbreak of war in September last was an almost complete cessation of ringing activities throughout the country; meetings everywhere were cancelled, practices ceased, and even Sunday service ringing was forbidden in certain areas. It looked, in those early days of the war, as if ringers were going to have a difficult time, but the atmosphere of tension and expectation gradually gave way to one of quieter confidence, with the result that recently there has been a revival of activity, and endeavours are being made to revert as nearly as possible, where circumstances permitted, to normal procedure. The most important contribution towards this revival was the exception of the use of church and chapel bells from any restriction by virtue of the Control of Noise Order, 1939. It had been made clear that bells might continue to be used in the customary manner, namely, for Sunday service ringing, festivals, practices, meetings and peals of normal length, subject always, of course, to compliance with 'black-out' restrictions and to the exigency of the particular time or district. In Winchester they had been fortunate to ring, not only as usual on Sundays, on the royal anniversaries and on Christmas Eve and morning, but also to ring the old year out and the new in. The chief aim now must be the maintenance of Sunday service ringing, and in so doing ringers should feel that they were playing their part in the call of the Church to service and prayer.

After giving details of the quarterly meetings, the report went on to refer to the passing, in July last, of their old friend and life member, Mr. J. W. Elkins. His keenness upon all matters relating to the Guild and to ringers was still fresh in the minds of all of them, and they remembered with grateful thanks all that he did to promote interest in ringing. They would miss his sound advice and good company.

In conclusion, the secretary expressed warmest thanks to all the honorary and ringing members for their interest and support and to all incumbents who had so willingly and kindly granted the Guild the use of their bells.

The balance sheet was read and its adoption proposed by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Melville. The secretary drew attention to the balance now in hand, namely, £25 7s. 6d., and suggested the investment of part of this sum in National Savings Certificates. It was thereupon proposed by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Andrews

(Continued on next page.)

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

'The Ringing World' and Mr. Fletcher's correspondence with the Home Office to the Chief Constable that convinced him he had no authority to stop the bells, provided the ringing chamber was effectively blacked out. He considered the best thanks of the Exercise were due to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and to Mr. Fletcher, hon. secretary of the Central Council, for their efforts in this connection. Mr. Fred Price confirmed Mr. Walker's remarks with regard to the broadcast; in fact, it was not until 8.30 on the Sunday morning of the broadcast that it was finally decided to allow it. Mr. Walker, referring to the broadcast, congratulated the Aston ringers on the progress they had made in such a short time and the excellent ringing they put over: it was a delight to listen to.

Mr. F. W. Rishworth called attention to members serving with the Forces, and proposed that they should be relieved from paying subscriptions whilst serving. This was seconded by Mr. F. Price and carried unanimously.

WINCHESTER DISTRICT RINGING.

(Continued from previous page.)

that a proportion of such balance be dealt with in that way, the amount to be left to the discretion of the secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Melville raised the question of remission of subscriptions due from ringing members who were serving their country in H.M. Forces, and after some discussion it was formally proposed by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Bullen, and carried unanimously, 'That for the duration of war subscriptions due to the Guild by ringing members of the Winchester District who are serving in H.M. Forces shall be remitted.'

The Secretary asked that tower captains should notify him as soon as possible of the names, and particulars of units, etc., of any members of their bands to whom the foregoing resolution would apply.

The following honorary members were elected: Lt.-Col. E. A. Dickinson and Miss Dickinson, Winchester; Mr. J. H. Gray, Wonston, and the Rev. M. Wilkinson, Rector of Stockbridge.

It was decided to make endeavours to hold quarterly meetings as usual this year, and the following towers and dates were agreed to: Hursley, April 6th; King's Somborne, June 8th; and Wonston and Barton Stacey, September 7th.

When the election of officers for 1940 was reached, the Chairman said he felt that he must reluctantly tender his resignation, because, much as he had enjoyed being chairman, and was still enjoying it, he was afraid that the district would find him of little use now that he was living in London. He could not promise to get down to all the meetings, and he thought it would be in the interests of the district to elect another chairman.

Mr. Andrews spoke enthusiastically of the work done by the chairman on behalf of the district, and of the great interest which he had always taken in their affairs. As a successor had not yet been found, he proposed that the chairman be asked to carry on for the time being.—This was seconded by Mr. Tremere and carried unanimously.

In reply, the Chairman said that he was quite willing to continue to serve for the time being, but would be quite ready to retire gracefully as soon as a successor had been found.

Other district officers were re-elected as follows: Hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. G. Goodchild; hon. auditor, Mr. G. Smith; representatives, Mr. W. Andrews and Mr. H. Newnham.

The usual vote of thanks concluded the business meeting, and members adjourned for tea.

Prior to the meeting the Guild service had been held in the Cathedral (by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter), at which the Rev. N. C. Woods (chairman) gave the address. His subject was 'The Epiphany,' with which he dealt in a most interesting way by question and answer.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the Southampton District was held at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, when there was an attendance of 24 from seven towers, which, in view of the black-out and other difficulties, was satisfactory. Ringing in various methods, from Grand-sire Doubles to London Major and Stedman Caters, took place during the afternoon on the fine ring of ten bells.

Mr. G. Williams presided at the business meeting. The secretary reported an average year's work, the financial position being good and membership maintained.

All the district officers were re-elected, and meetings were provisionally arranged as follows: Upham, March 16th; Dibden, May 18th; Lockerley, July 20th; Netley Abbey, September 21st; annual at Southampton, January 11th, 1941. It was left to the secretary to make the best arrangement possible for teas at the meetings.

A resolution was passed that it be a recommendation to the annual general meeting: 'That for the duration of war subscriptions due from members serving with H.M. Forces be remitted.'

DEATH OF MR. A. WALKER, OF PONTEFRACT.**FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE AT THE PARISH CHURCH.**

The Pontefract Parish Church belfry has suffered a big loss by the death of Mr. A. Walker, who was buried in Pontefract Cemetery on Boxing Day. Prior to a service in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Greathorpe), the bells were fully muffled, and at the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by four of his old colleagues. A number of ringers were present, and ringers acted as bearers.

Mr. Walker, who was 70 years of age, leaves a widow, four sons and two daughters in bereavement. Two of his sons are ringers at the Parish Church.

Mr. Walker commenced his ringing career on Boxing Day 50 years ago at All Saints' Church, and Sunday by Sunday during those long years, until a month ago, when he had a slight seizure, he most faithfully carried out his duties, being always punctual and setting a fine example to young ringers.

Mr. Walker was a member of the General Committee of the Yorkshire Association. He had rung 109 peals, conducting 12. The president (the Rev. Canon Marshall) and the general secretary (Mr. Leslie W. G. Morris) sent apologies that owing to engagements they were unable to be present at the funeral and paid worthy tribute to Mr. Walker's services to the association and his native town. J. H. L.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On January 13th, 1772, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 6,048 changes of Imperial the Third Major. The first Imperial was the composition of Fabian Stedman and appears in his 'Campanalogia.' It is the same as Norfolk Surprise, but with seconds and sevenths when the treble is leading and lying. The amount of dodging and stagnation is excessive, so attempts were made to improve it. Imperial the Second has disappeared. Imperial the Third is the same as first Imperial, except that no places are made at cross sections.

The method, which is not now considered a 'regular' one, is rather difficult, and though it was printed in the 'Clavis' and in Shipway's book, only one peal has ever been rung away from Norwich.

On the same date in 1903 the first peal of Forward Maximus was rung at Birmingham. Forward, which was an imitation of Duffield, was introduced by John Carter. It was supposed to have all the good musical qualities of Treble Bob with none of its defects. Actually it is very monotonous both to ring and to listen to.

On January 14th, 1899, the Brighton band rang at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, the first peal of London Surprise in the City of London. The Burton-on-Trent men had already rung at Fulham the first peal in the Metropolitan area.

James Barham died on January 14th, 1818, at the age of 93.

A peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 6,720 changes, was rung at St. Michael's, Norwich, on January 15th, 1771, and on January 18th, 1844, the Norwich Scholars rang their long peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,126 changes.

Both the College Youths and the London County Association had arranged a meeting at St. Lawrence Jewry for next Saturday. We are now informed that both are postponed.

LONDON CHURCHES.

Owing to pressure on our space, the next of Mr. J. A. Trollope's articles on London churches is held over.

TOWER SAFETY IN AIR RAIDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Chamberlain again reminds us to keep ready and steady, and that the storm may burst at any time.

May I take the opportunity of pointing out to ringers that ordinary spiral stone stairs have a remarkable natural strength, and that the lower portion affords excellent air raid shelter. I observed evidence of this on visiting France immediately after the last war.

As one of the district surveyors for London, I also noticed, in surveying many bombed buildings, how safe a place was the cupboard under the kitchen stairs (or its equivalent). This part of a domestic building remained intact, though the rest was in ruins.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retired).

THE FIRST PEAL OF KENT MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The method rung by the Cumberlands at Southwark in 1795 was definitely not Cumberland Exercise, the one referred to by Mr. Walker. It was a method which could be rung on eight, ten and twelve bells, one to which the compositions of Oxford Treble Bob would apply, and one which Shipway is pretty certain to have included in his book. If it was not Kent, what could it have been?

J. A. TROLLOPE.

OLD TIMBERS AND BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I noticed the letter about the Bagley frame of 1681 still sound after 250 years. Here at Martley, Worcestershire, we have a peal of six by Richard Keene, tenor 14 cwt., all dated 1673, and the date is also cut on the frame, which is still sound after 266 years of use. It is just as it was when made, except that it was strengthened by some vertical bolts and angle plates in the pits of the two tenors, when the bells were quarter turned and given new wheels by Greenleaf in 1895.

J. F. HASTINGS.

Martley Rectory.

THE FIRST 720 OF STEDMAN MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the letter from Mr. E. H. Lewis and the reference to the 720 of Stedman Minor rung on the back six at St. Michael's, Garston, Liverpool, in 1905. The exact date was December 18th. Mr. Lewis called the bobs and I took a rope in it, but I cannot recall who were the rest of the band. It was published in the 'Bell News,' and was claimed to be 'the first 720 in the method in Lancashire.' Except for its interesting connection, it has nothing to commend it, as each of the smaller bells is kept behind for quite a number of sixes in succession. I hope ere this Mr. Lewis is out and about again and that he will forgive me for butting in.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

THE LONDON SOCIETIES.

THE 'BARRIER' DEFENDED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am daring to make an attack on your leading article of January 12th. There are a few points I am going to contest.

For a long time now there have appeared articles by yourself all on the same subject, namely, the above. The rule existing between College Youths and Cumberlands is always mentioned and attacked, as 'it does nothing to develop friendly rivalry, or even remotely encourage the art, etc.' This is not true. Let us suppose this rule were quashed. I am inclined to think that the usual attendance at College Youths' meetings of about 30 would be considerably increased. This would definitely not foster the art. Twelve-bell ringing is not easy and the only way to build future bands is to give young men weekly touches under very strict masters, and, believe me, they are strict, and kind, and masters, in the Ancient Society. A sudden influx of new members to the London meetings would not improve the ringing. The Ancient Society, I believe, prefers to train its junior members the way they should go, which would immediately come to an end when ringers with their own ideas of ringing and striking twelve bells suddenly put in an appearance.

The next thing attacked is tradition, put by you as 'a hollow myth and what was good enough for grandad, etc.' Well, if the standard of striking at College Youths' meetings is a result of tradition and came down from grandad, as I believe it did, I'm going in for all the 'tradition' I can find.

You are quite right about the new generation of ringers in London, but I'm not so sure of this 'new structure' you often talk about or the 'immense field of expansion.' I am not sure of the figures, but I think it is about 23 peals in the city and 80 peals in three square miles of the city. This, I take it, is your field of expansion. Just imagine all those being rung on a Sunday. The few housemen and caretakers would wonder why they had been so blessed! What a waste of man power on nothing, because after all we do ring for a purpose, that is to call people to church. In other words, we are performing a service to God, and so it should certainly be of the best, especially in regularity and striking. Would it not be a greater service to the Church to encourage the building of towers to contain bells to the many new churches being built, instead of continually appealing to ringers to ring in a city that is almost empty of people.

It has occurred to me that, perhaps, some cause of discontent about the society's rules is caused by elder members encouraging young boys to join this society or that before they have the knowledge or discretion to think for themselves as to which is more advantageous to their skill.

Please remember that I am only an ordinary member of the Ancient Society, and in no way am expressing official views; on the other hand, although your views are expressed as your own, they are at the same time through the eyes of a Cumberland.

A. HAROLD WORBOYS.

Barking, Essex.

We are very glad to publish Mr. Worboys' letter, representing a view opposed to our leading article. We are always pleased to print other people's opinions on ringing matters, if reasonably expressed, even though we disagree with them. All we want to say at this point, however, is that the article in our last issue was written with no bias for one or other of the two old London societies. It would not have been different had the Editor been a member of the College Youths instead of the Cumberlands.

RULE THAT DID CREDIT TO NO ONE.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest your leading article and recent references to London ringing and to the rule regarding membership of the College Youths and Cumberlands.

I must agree that the rule seems to serve no useful purpose now, but I do not think rescinding it will result in the startling improvement in London ringing which we are led to expect.

My own experience has been that, so far as Sunday ringing is concerned, some members of both societies ring together in perfect harmony quite often, and it will require more than an alteration of rule to increase the number that do this.

Older ringers, who have been members of a society for a number of years, will stick to the society of their choice, and, speaking as one of the younger school, I can say my experience is that the younger ringers are not at all concerned about old rules and get along together very well.

The only sphere in which the removal of the ban might have some effect is in peal ringing, although this is doubtful, as most of London's peal ringers ring peals together for other societies.

No, I don't think rescinding a couple of rules is going to make much difference to London ringing, although I hope this view of mine will not lead anyone to believe I am defending a rule which apparently did credit to no one when it was made.

There are many things connected with ringing in the Metropolis which require careful consideration, and although this controversial rule is one of them, it is by no means the primary one, to my idea.

The Utopian ringing city which Brown dreamed of is certainly something to be hoped for, and I would suggest that Brown has another dream and tells us how to achieve it. Best wishes for 1940.

J. E. BAILEY.

THE LATE MR. ALFRED PYE.

MEMBER OF A FAMOUS RINGING FAMILY.
Distinguished Army Service.

The late Mr. Alfred Pye, whose death was recently recorded, was born on January 13th, 1861, at Chadwell Heath, Essex, and was the eldest of the four famous ringing brothers, the others being William, Ernest and George Robert, the last named being now the sole survivor of the quartette.

Mr. Alfred Pye first learned to handle a bell at St. James' Church, Little Heath (now demolished), and rang his first peal, Grandsire



THE LATE MR. ALFRED PYE.

Triples, at All Saints', Writtle, Essex, on May 29th, 1882. Several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob followed until November 11th, 1885, when he enlisted in the R.F.A. and in 1887 embarked for India. He did not return to England until 1896. In 1899 his battery embarked for South Africa, where Staff Sergeant Pye, after being present at the relief of Ladysmith and many other engagements, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry. In this connection he had the privilege of shaking hands with General Buller and Lord Kitchener.

Having completed 25 years 62 days (including 10 years abroad), he terminated his service in 1911 with the rank of first class warrant officer, being discharged with an exemplary character. His awards were: Queen's Medal (South Africa) with six clasps; King's Medal (South Africa) with two clasps; Distinguished Conduct Medal (South African

War); Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Mentioned in Despatches, 1901.

He volunteered for further service in 1914 and he ended his service with a final total of 29 years in the Army.

During the period between 1911 and 1914 Mr. Pye devoted himself to ringing, returning to his old band at Romford. His peals totalled 205, made up as follows:—

	Tower bells	Handbells	Total	Conducted
Grandsire Triples	19		19	5
Grandsire Caters	1		1	
Stedman Triples	29	1	30	2
Stedman Caters	18		18	
Stedman Cinques	7		7	
Bob Major	2		2	1
Treble Bob Major	17	1	18	
Treble Bob Royal	4		4	
Treble Bob Maximus	1		1	
Double Norwich Major	15	1	16	
Superlative Surprise	22	1	23	
Bristol Surprise	12		12	
London Surprise	28		28	
Cambridge Major	16		16	
Cambridge Royal	3		3	
Cambridge Maximus	2		2	
New Cambridge Major	3		3	
Spliced London, Bristol, Superlative and Cambridge	1		1	

Total 205

His last peal was one of Double Norwich, rung at Romford on December 1st, 1936. Among his peals were the first peals 'in hand' by four brothers of Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise. He was a regular attendant for service ringing at Romford, and, in fact, was ringing for morning service on the Sunday previous to his death on the Tuesday.

He was for over 50 years a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths and Essex Associations. He was also a member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, the Kent County Association, the Middlesex County Association and the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. His ringing career had extended over a period of nearly 60 years.

Since leaving the Army Mr. Pye had for the past 28 years resided at Seven Kings. His cheery smile and invaluable willingness to help will be sorely missed, and by none more than his brother ringers at St. Edward's, Romford.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

A Peal Deleted from the Records.

The annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stoke-on-Trent. Tea was served in the Church Institute, where 47 sat down. Ringers came from Brown Edge, Burslem, Cheadle, Draycott, Tenton, Leek, Kingsley, Stone, Uttoxeter, Hanley, Wolstanton, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle.

The Ven. Archdeacon P. Hartill (Rector of Stoke) extended a hearty welcome to the members and said he hoped they would be able to meet under better conditions next year.

Mr. J. E. Wheeldon proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of Stoke for the use of the bells and the very fine tea he had given them.—Mr. A. W. Hall supported the motion.

The business meeting followed, with the president (Archdeacon Hartill) in the chair, supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary).

The committee presented the report of the hon. secretary, which stated that during the year 13 meetings were held, two at ten-bell towers, six at eight, and five at six-bell towers. The average attendance was 36, a decrease of two per meeting on last year. Only three members had attended all the meetings, viz., Messrs. Arthur W. Hall, Edward Steele and William Perkins, while Messrs. Thomas Hurd and Charles H. Page and Mrs. B. V. Miles attended twelve of the meetings.

Nineteen peals were rung, which was a decrease of one on the previous year. The number of conductors was 14 and several members rang their first peal. Among the peals was one of Minor in seven methods at Bucknall to celebrate the 50 years as a bellringer of Mr. W. Wheeldon. A disappointing discussion would undoubtedly take place in connection with this peal, as it was this tower that threatened the association with secession in connection with the annual dinners, and although the peal was rung under the auspices of the association, the members had carefully considered the paying of their annual subscription, and decided to leave the matter in abeyance until after the war is over. Biddulph tower would not even correspond with the secretary over their membership.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. W. Carnwell, supported by Mr. A. D. Steel.

The statement of accounts was presented and accepted. The total balance was £37 7s. 8½d., a gain on the year's working of £2 8s. 8d. The finances of the association had increased in the past four years to the extent of £21 17s. 2½d.

The Eight-Bell Ringing Master, in his report, said it seemed a great pity that what promised to be a good year in the ringing activities of the association came to a sudden end by the outbreak of war. They did not stand alone in this halt, so by continuance of their duties to the Church they would be a much prouder body when peace came. Throughout the year the ringing at meetings had been of a good standard, the number of methods rung being never less than seven. The only thing he asked was a consideration for better striking. Plans for new fields in the association's peal bands were brought to an abrupt end, but it was gratifying to find more first pealers, new conductors and ringers breaking into more methods. So long as the authorities sanctioned meetings plenty of good work could be done, as more time could be devoted to the learners and younger members.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. W. Carnwell, supported by Mr. E. Steele.

The Rev. S. F. Linsley was elected clerical secretary, Mr. Andrew Thompson hon. secretary, Mr. Kenneth Thacker and Mr. Edward Steele assistant hon. secretaries, Mr. Arthur W. Hall chairman of committee, Mr. Alan D. Steel Ringing Master for eight-bell towers, Mr. John E. Wheeldon Ringing Master for six-bell towers, and Mr. John G. Cartledge as auditor.

The following list of meetings was proposed for 1940: January, Newcastle; February, Longton; March, Stone; April, Norton; May, Leek; June, Cheddleton; July, Cheadle R.C.; August, Draycott; September, Uttoxeter; October, Tunstall; November, Hanley; and December, Stoke-on-Trent.

The hon. secretary was empowered to purchase both a large and a smaller peal book, and it was decided that the renewing of the membership cards be shelved for the present.

On the proposition of Mr. W. Carnwell, seconded by Mr. W. P. Deane, the peal of Minor rung at Bucknall on Friday, July 14th, 1939, was deleted from the association's records on account of the ringers' secession from the association.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to the officers for their services during the past year.

After the minutes of the committee had been passed, Mr. C. H. Page proposed a vote of thanks to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for the meeting reports he had published during the year.

Mr. W. P. Deane proposed and Mr. Andrew Thompson seconded that members, on joining the Forces, shall retain their membership for the duration of the war without subscribing.

It was also proposed by Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. D. R. Whalley, that a ringer having done 50 years' service as a ringer or attained the age of 70, shall have the pleasure of becoming a life honorary member.

A vote of thanks to the hon. secretary was moved by Mr. R. S. Anderson, and Mr. J. E. Wheeldon supported him.

NOTICES.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—Annual district meeting, Eckington, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service prior to business meeting. Election of officers for ensuing year.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Broughton-in-Furness, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The first quarterly meeting of the year is to be held at Allesley, near Coventry, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 to 8 p.m. Business meeting to follow tea. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. There is to be a practice meeting at Chilvers Coton on Saturday, Jan. 13th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors welcomed.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service in St. Paul's Church 3.45 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. P. Carr, M.A. Tea in St. Paul's Parish Room 4.30, charge to be announced at the tea. Business meeting 5.15. Ringing at both churches from 2 p.m. till service time.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 20th. St. Margaret's bells (12) will be available from 2 p.m. till 5.45 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., followed by the meeting, will be at the George Hotel, Clock Tower. Please note that it will be moonlight from about 5 p.m. onwards.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—The annual meeting will be held at Portsmouth on Saturday, January 20th. Cathedral bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. and after the meeting. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., High Street, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Dis. Sec. pro tem., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Annual meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 3d. each) at 6.15 p.m., and meeting at the Parish Hall (1st floor), Lesbourne Road.—A. T. Shelton, Act. Hon. Sec., The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate. Tel. Redhill 371.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Crewe (10 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar and wardens) will be provided only for those who have sent notice to me, as catering is difficult. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. — Rich. D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Wordsley, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, meeting and ringing afterwards. — Bernard C. Ashford, Hon. Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at Birkenhead St. Mary's (6 bells). Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock. Meeting afterwards. — H. S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — The annual meeting of the district will be held on Saturday, January 20th, in St. Mary's belfry, Nottingham. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers at 5.30 p.m.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport Branch. — The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Norbury on Saturday, January 20th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Other arrangements as usual.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds, 12.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—A series of practice meetings will be held at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton, first and third Saturdays in the month. Bells available afternoon and evening. Next meeting January 20th.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Annual meeting to-morrow, January 20th, St. Mary's, Putney, 2-4. Tea and business in Church Hall. Fulham not available.—P. A. Corby, Dis. Master, temporary address, 10, Ruabon Road, Wrexham, Denbighshire.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, January 20th. Foundry bells available afternoon and evening. Own arrangements for tea (good cafes in town). Meeting in belfry at 5.45, to elect officers and make arrangements for 1940. All ringers and friends welcome.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Adderbury on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea *cannot* be provided. Meeting follows service. Ringing after dark. All welcome.—E. Pearson, Branch Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! It is necessary, if tea is required, to notify the hon. secretary by Jan. 24th. Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District.—The annual meeting will be held at Alton on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will those requiring tea please be certain to let me know numbers by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea, and all requiring same **MUST** notify Mr. C. W. Beaumont, Hunslet Parish Church, Leeds, not later than the first post on Thursday, Jan. 25th. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, it is hoped for a large and representative attendance. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. It is essential that I should receive names for tea by first post on Wednesday, 24th. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.45. Tea in the Village Hall at 5.30, followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea to be sent to Mrs. C. H. Kippin, 31, The Waldrons, Croydon, by Wednesday, January 24th. All ringers welcome.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Western Division will be held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Mr. Settabee's, 1s. per head. Business meeting to follow to discuss future arrangements. Half rail fare (maximum 1s. 6d.) to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head, can only be served to those who apply not later than Jan. 25th to Mr. G. A. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester. Those failing to notify must cater for themselves. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Basingstoke on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Michael's Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in Church Cottage. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by January 24th to Mr. C. W. Munday, 21, Southend Road, Basingstoke.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at Bridgwater on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome. Come early.—C. Evans, 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northwich Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Hartford on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing till 5.30. Service 5.30. Tea 6.15 to those who notify Mr. T. Wilmot, 43, Flower Street Castle, Northwich, by Thursday, January 25th. Meeting after tea. All ringers are welcome.—H. Parker, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at High Wycombe at 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Yeovil on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (10) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the meeting. Usual arrangements. Tea can only be supplied to those giving notice.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Tilsworth on Saturday, January 27th. The six bells (a delightful peal) will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All ringers are invited. Buses pass the church.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Islip (6 bells) on Saturday, January 27th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for all who send names by January 25th. Business meeting to follow. I am trying to arrange ringing at Thrapston (8 bells), 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Islip 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock, near Kettering.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough (6 bells) on January 27th. Service at 3.15 p.m. Please let me have names for tea by Tuesday, January 23rd.—H. H. Shives, Hon. Branch Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cirencester, on Saturday, January 27th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30, and service at 5.30. Please advise for tea by January 23rd.—W. H. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting of Northern District at St. Mary's, Hitchin, Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Annual meeting 5 p.m. in tower. Tea interval until 6.30 p.m. Further ringing till 9 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Black out the blues and enjoy some good ringing. Don't forget, members of this district. Election of officers for 1940.—R. T. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Towcester on Saturday, January 27th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting following. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, the 24th, to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon, Towcester.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hertford on Saturday, January 27th. All Saints' (10 bells) from 2.30 to 4.45 p.m. Bengoe (8) from 5 to 7 p.m. Service at All Saints' at 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting at the May Flower on the way to Bengoe. Will all committee members make a special effort to attend to elect a district secretary on my retirement owing to circumstances.—A. Laurence, Dis. Sec., Hatfield.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3-5 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided for those applying to Mr. R. A. Jenkins, Cosette, 76, Brent Lane, Dartford, not later than Tuesday, January 23rd, at a charge of 10d. per head. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ross District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ross on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea afterwards at Central Cafe.—W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire.

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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at Olney on Saturday, January 27th.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, January 27th, this tower being blacked out. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at Imperial Cafe. Tea will be provided for those who notify by Wednesday previous, Mr. H. M. Day, Market Deeping, Peterborough. Come and make this our final meeting a success.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Lincs.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ditcheat on Saturday, January 27th. Bells 2.30 to 8.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting following.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8, tenor 19½ cwt.) available during afternoon and evening. Short service. Arrangements for tea, but those who fail to send their names to me by Wednesday previous must accept the consequences.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The meeting arranged for January 20th at Childwall has been postponed until February 3rd.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The annual meeting arranged for January 20th has been postponed until February 3rd. The meeting will be either at St. Lawrence Jewry or St. Dunstan-in-the-East. Further details next week.—James G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The third annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 3rd, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary), 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs. Ringing at Hanley from 3 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. Those accepting the invitation to tea must advise the undersigned not later than January 30th. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood

Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. Owing to the prevailing conditions, it is essential that notice should be sent to the undersigned not later than February 1st, as the caterer will not guarantee for any who have not sent in names. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please let me know definitely by Wednesday, January 31st?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

WITHINGTON, NEAR HEREFORD.—The restored ring of six will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford at the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 4th. The two trebles recast and the peal re-hung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Advance notice. Annual general meeting to be held on February 10th at St. Clement Danes, Strand. Particulars later.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.

DEATH OF MR. T. SCHOFIELD, OF WORPLESDON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. T. Schofield, of Worplesdon, which took place on January 7th at the age of 72. Until ill-health prevented him, he had been a regular Sunday service ringer. The funeral was on January 11th, after which touches of Grandsire Doubles and the whole pull and stand were rung with the bells half-muffled.

A DATE TOUCH.

At St. John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl, the local ringers rang out the old and welcomed the New Year with a touch of 1,940 changes of Grandsire Doubles, which came round at 12.35 a.m.: William Surman (longest touch) 1, David Thomas 2, Alfred Hannington 3, Trevor M. Roderick (conductor) 4, Alfred E. Williams 5, Albert Bacon 6.

WICKEN.—On Sunday, January 14th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): F. Green 1, R. Howson 2, H. Ridgway 3, A. J. Green 4, H. Edwards 5, E. Lambert 6, T. Roberts (conductor) 7, G. Foddy 8.

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