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WILL THE COUNCIL MEET THIS YEAR ?

A question which will have soon to be settled is whether the Central Council is to meet this year. It is not a matter that ought to be airily dismissed, either one way or the other; the Standing Committee should give it careful consideration, for on both sides there are arguments which ought not to be ignored. As far as is possible, the aim should be to carry on the activities of ringing with as little interference as possible, and the drawing together of representatives of the associations and guilds from all over the country, as happens when the Council meets, is in itself a valuable means of keeping the Exercise welded into an organised unit. It is not always the work that the Council does on the one day in the year that is its chief value. The personal touch which is effected by the meetings gives the Exercise a life and co-ordination of outlook that cannot otherwise exist, and it may well be argued that in these times of stress it is all the more important to maintain this spirit of mutual helpfulness.

On the other hand, one cannot shut one's eyes to the present circumstances. The prospects of making a successful meeting must be duly weighed, and it is not uninteresting to recall what was done in the last war. In 1915, the first Whitsun after the war began, the meeting fell to be held in London, and it took place with an attendance of 72 members out of a total of 116, compared with an attendance of 61 out of 109 at Winchester in the previous year. At the London meeting, Plymouth was chosen for 1916, but the meetings in that and the following year were abandoned. In 1918, when it was again the turn of London, the Council renewed its gatherings, and there were 63 out of 114 members present—as many as went to Gloucester in the following year, and three more than went to Northampton in 1920. This in itself may, of course, be little guide to what might happen at Cardiff in 1940. Like Plymouth, Cardiff is only on the 'fringe' of possible centres for meetings, and this fact might conceivably militate against a satisfactory attendance. More important factors, however, are the time and expense involved to individuals, as well as the cost to affiliated associations. In face of the demands upon the time and energies of many of the members, it is safe to say that the number who would be able to travel to the far west would be considerably limited, yet numbers should not be the sole consideration. A small meeting need not necessarily be unproductive.

There are three courses from which to choose. One is to go ahead and hold the meeting at Cardiff as planned;

(Continued on page 62.)

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another is for the Standing Committee to change the venue to some other centre within easier reach of the majority of the members, and the third to abandon the meeting this year. The question of finding another place for the meeting may not commend itself to some, for it can easily be argued that the saving of expense to one group of associations or representatives adds to the expense of the others; it can only be justified if it is likely to produce a better attendance, and it is only the London meetings that can claim to have consistently higher attendances than other areas in the country. But in these days London has always to be considered a risky place. Another point not to be lost sight of is the uncertainty of how the war may develop between now and Whitsun. However carefully planned, the meeting might, by force of events, have to be abandoned at the last minute, and the question consequently arises whether it is worth while going on with the arrangements. The issue is one for the Standing Committee to settle, and it should be settled only after serious consideration, but it is time that a decision should be taken.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN....	Treble	DAVID VINCENT	5
STEPHEN LL. PARRY	2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... ..	6
DENNIS HOLLOS	3	IVAN KAY	7
ALAN J. BROWN	4	HAROLD HAMER	Tenor

Conducted by IVAN KAY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Annie Brown, of Bowdon, Cheshire, sister of the fourth ringer. Mr. Harold Hamer has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal.

CHORLEY, LANGS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 8088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

HARRY HARDACRE	Treble	CYRIL CROSTHWAITE... ..	5
FRED RIGBY	2	FRANCES MCCARTHY	6
JOHN JACKSON	3	LAWRENCE WALMSLEY	7
E. ROGER MARTIN	4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE	Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.
The peal was arranged as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. Father Cartmell, M.A., O.S.B., who, after the ringing, entertained the band to light refreshment.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CRCIL C. MAYNE	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness—Mrs. Jennings.

LONDON.—At Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day after morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 49 minutes: H. R. Newton 1, C. H. Horton 2, W. H. Pasmore 3, F. Shorter 4, S. E. Andrews 5, R. F. Deal 6, H. Langdon (conductor) 7, A. B. Peck 8.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 3, 1940, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with 10 callings.

J. A. BULLOCK 1-2 | J. BULLOCK 3-4
T. H. BULLOCK 5-6

Conducted by J. A. BULLOCK.

Umpire—T. L. Sparrow.

First peal as conductor and first attempt.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

BRANCH MEETING AT TORQUAY.

The annual meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild of Ringers was held at St. Mary Magdalene, Upton, Torquay, on Saturday, January 27th, and was moderately attended, ringers being present from Kenn, Dawlish, Buckfastleigh, Newton Abbot, Torquay, Paignton and Collaton.

The back six bells were raised in peal after three o'clock, and some good touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Minor were rung. A short service was held in church, conducted by the Rector of Upton (the Rev. G. E. Arrowsmith), and this was followed by tea in the Gloria Cafe, Castle Circus.

The Rev. W. R. D. Mills presided at the business meeting. The secretary's report for 1939 showed that two very successful meetings had been held at Totnes and Dartmouth. One peal of Bob Major had been rung in the District by the Clerical Guild of Change Ringers, and some of the members took part in a ringing week-end in North Devon last Easter, organised by Mr. E. J. Taylor. A number of practices had also been held at Paignton.

The treasurer's report for 1939 showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £1 12s. and finished with a balance in hand of £2 3s. 9d. Apologies for absence were received from the president and general secretary of the Guild.

It was resolved to continue the branch, and all the officers were re-elected en bloc, namely: Chairman, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills; secretary, treasurer and Ringing Master, Mr. A. L. Bennett; auditor, Mr. C. R. Walker; and three members to serve on the General Committee, Messrs. C. R. Walker, H. C. Collyer and R. Whiting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. James', West Teignmouth, on Saturday, June 8th, subject to the necessary permission being obtained. Messrs. W. C. Wakley, of Paignton, and A. Newman, of Torquay, were elected members of the branch, and Mr. E. J. Taylor, who was formerly a member of the branch, was transferred to the list of non-resident life members.

RINGERS AS CHOIRMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in Mr. George Edwards' letter in 'The Ringing World' of January 26th. I should like to point out to him that there are more choirmen ringers than perhaps he thinks.

Messrs. A. J. Bull and J. Martin were at one time tenor and baritone at Horley Church as well as ringers. The late Mr. Baker sang in St. John's Church, Redhill, as well as rang; Mr. David Wright's renowned bass voice was heard in St. Peter's, Croydon, as well as in that belfry; before his removal from Croydon, Mr. Wallis used to sing tenor in Buckland Church as well as ring; Mr. John Coe in Reigate Church; the Master of the Surrey Association used at one time to sing in Mersham Church choir, as did the writer when he lived there.

All these are instances within my own personal ken, and doubtless there are many others. I now have the pleasure of singing alto in the Parish Church of Crawley. As a choirman of 24 years' experience (on and off), I must own, however, that generally there is not too friendly a feeling existing between ringers and singers. For some reason I have never discovered most singers consider themselves a 'cut' above the ringers and often do not deign to speak to them, and perhaps this is the reason why Mr. Edwards cannot persuade one to join the other.

I have had the same experience. Here in Crawley the position seems to be reversed. In the past ten months which I have resided here I have noticed that when any of the ringers have occasion to pass the choirmen, they do so with their nose stuck up in the air.

This unfriendly action is not helping to replenish our already decimated towers. I know one perfectly good ringer who has been so sickened and disgusted by this unfriendly ill-will that has been shown to him that he has quit the Exercise altogether.

BERNARD H. WELLS.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.—At the Parish Church on Sunday, December 31st, for matins, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 46 minutes: E. J. Ayliffe 1, B. D. Elliott 2, A. Brown 3, J. P. McDermott, R.N. 4, H. Smithers 5, D. R. Hayes 6, F. Bowden (conductor) 7, J. H. B. Hesse 8. First quarter-peal of Bob Major by the ringer of the third.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT NOT YET 'SUNK.'

An excellent number of ringers from as far afield as Lincoln attended the annual meeting of the Gainsborough District at Gainsborough on Saturday week. The very great difficulties of travelling made it seem almost impossible that any but those within the immediate vicinity would be present. Such, however, is the enthusiasm of ringers that even the combined efforts of Hitler and Mother Nature cannot damp it.

The bells were rung during the afternoon and evening, but the afternoon's ringing proved rather disappointing, due, perhaps, to lack of practice lately. The arrival of more talent after tea remedied this, some excellent touches being rung and good work done among the beginners.

Service, conducted by the curate (the Rev. Lake) owing to the indisposition of the Vicar, was appreciated and enjoyed. No tea was officially arranged, but members had their appetites satisfied at the Tudor Cafe.

The business meeting was held in the belfry under the chairmanship of Mr. Robinson (warden and hon. member), and no time was wasted. Referring to a remark in the minutes of the last annual meeting—that the district was a sinking ship—the secretary said that he was pleased to see that the ship had not yet sunk, although at times it had been in very great danger.

The officers were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. C. H. Baker as assistant secretary, the secretary stating that his work prevented him in certain months from carrying out his duties.

Mrs. E. Batters was elected an honorary member. The places and dates of the meetings for the year were left to the secretary and his assistant to arrange as circumstances permitted.

'Should the Guild carry on during the present state of war' was discussed in all its aspects. The meeting was asked to bear in mind the greater difficulties of the Lincoln and Grimsby Districts, whose members are widely separated. It was also explained that a probable big increase in the price of paper might mean that the report for next year would not be published and similarly the free tea at the annual meeting of the Northern Branch would not be possible. If this were so, seeing that these items formed the main expenditure, it might be desirable to reduce the subscription.

It was obvious, however, that the members were very definitely in favour of carrying on, several speakers replying most emphatically.

It was proposed and seconded that the names of members serving in H.M. Forces be retained in the books for 'the duration' without subscriptions being necessary, as a mark of appreciation for all that they are doing. This will be subject to the approval of the whole Guild.

A report of the Belfry Repair Fund was given and a collection taken, the sum of 10s. being realised. It was decided, as at Upton in November, to devote it to the Red Cross Fund, but this time to earmark it for the Finnish branch.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens, sexton and all concerned in the arrangements concluded a most enjoyable meeting.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

NEW CHAIRMAN WELCOMES CREWE BRANCH.

The annual meeting of Crewe Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, January 20th. In spite of the dreadful weather conditions there was a good attendance, 36 members being present from the following towers: Acton, Nantwich, Westaston, Wrenbury, Marbury, Lawton, Wrexham, Northwich and Crewe.

Ringings on the ten bells commenced about 3 o'clock, and later a service was held in Christ Church, conducted by the new Vicar, the Rev. H. P. Young, who preached a most inspiring sermon.

Tea, in the Parish Hall, was kindly given by the Church Council. At the business meeting the following officers were elected for 1940: Chairman, the Rev. H. P. Young (Vicar, Christ Church); vice-chairmen, the honorary members: hon. secretary, Mr. Richard D. Largford; hon. treasurer, Mr. William T. Holding; Hon. Ringing Master, Mr. J. Brough (Nantwich); representative on Guild Committee, Mr. G. H. Crawley.

The accounts were adopted, and the new chairman welcomed the ringers. He said it was the first occasion on which he had had the pleasure of speaking to a gathering of ringers, as he had only just returned to this country after 20 years of missionary work abroad. He looked forward to associating himself with them, and hoped to attend some of the meetings during the year.

A provisional list of meetings was arranged for 1940, and it was left to the secretary to make the necessary arrangements as circumstances permitted.

Much interest was taken by the older ringers in a letter which the secretary had received from Mr. W. Evetts, hon. secretary of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He sent all good wishes for the Crewe Branch annual meeting and said it was 49 years ago since he commenced to ring in the Crewe tower. He intended, if it was at all possible, to attend the Crewe annual meeting in January, 1941, to commemorate his jubilee.

After the meeting ringing took place up to 9 p.m. and consisted of touches of Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters, Stedman and Double Norwich.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. False Compositions.

The following are extracts from the report of the committee of the Yorkshire Association presented to the members at the annual meeting:—

Forty-four new ringing members and one honorary member have been elected during the year, 36 members have lapsed, and 11 have passed away, leaving the present membership of the association, including out-county members, at 1,285, compared with 1,287 of the previous year. Once more your committee asks for the help of all our members in keeping them informed with regard to those who live outside the county, as it is obviously very difficult to know whether we have the right addresses, or even whether such members are still living. They would also urge upon all the desirability of increasing the number of our honorary members, who now may become life members on payment of 10s. 6d.

Among those who have passed away, we would especially mention the loss which we have sustained through the death of Mr. C. D. Potter, of Barnsley, in his 80th year. He was a most enthusiastic ringer, and was largely responsible for the founding of the Barnsley and District Association, and was its president up to the time of his death. At the same time, he was a most loyal supporter of the County Association and a very regular attender at its meetings.

Among out-county members, the name of Arthur Knights, of Chesterfield, must stand out prominently. He was a great composer, and composed peals in nearly all the known methods of his day, and had rung 318 peals for the association, 111 of which he conducted. More than 400 of his compositions have been rung under the auspices of the association.

The reports from the districts show that the work of the association is being successfully carried on throughout its large area, and we again wish to express our very grateful thanks to the district secretaries and committees for all that they are doing. There is one point which your committee wishes especially to bring to the careful notice of members, namely, the need for the early payment of subscriptions. A great deal of unnecessary work, in addition to the expense of postage, is placed upon the officers of the association by the failure to do this, and members are asked to lighten these labours by attending to this request. Your committee also urges that, as far as possible, every effort be made to hold the district meetings during the war period, as the value of such meetings in keeping alive the interest in change ringing cannot be over-estimated.

THE PEALS.

In appending the peal secretary's report, the committee would once more thank Mr. Barton most sincerely for all the exacting work entailed in compiling this. There are few people qualified for such work, and the debt of the association remains very great to those who can and will do it. The total number of peals was 97, rung at 52 churches and two handbell centres, and 13 members have rung their first peal. Bramham and Grinton appear in the peal list for the first time, in both cases the peal rung being the first on the bells. Four towers return to the list after long periods of absence, as follows: Whitby, after 29 years; Addingham and Snaith, after 27 years; and Hunslet, after 17 years; the peal at Addingham was the first after the rebanding of the bells. Bolsterstone, which has been at the head of the annual peal list for the past nine years, has drawn a blank for the first time since 1917-18 and so gives way to Eckington; this is the first time in the history of the association that an out-county tower has occupied that exalted position. The peals which we have to record, 97 in number, represent a short year's work of eleven months, the outbreak of war putting a sudden stop to our peal ringing activities. Had we been able to carry on in a normal way there is no doubt that we should have passed the century, and quite possibly have had a record year. A general survey of the peal list shows that Kent Treble Bob Major has been, as usual, the favourite method on tower bells, although Bob Major claims most on tower and hand collectively. We have no peal of Surprise Royal, but 15 Surprise Major peals have been rung in six different methods; four peals of Spliced Treble Bob Minor are recorded, ranging from 14 to 25 methods. For the first time since 1915-16 there is no peal of Stedman Triples in our annual report. We are pleased to record in this report the first peal of Airedale Surprise Major ever rung, also the first peal of Painswick Surprise by the association. A record length of Superlative for the association was rung at Batley on January 7th; this, a 6,144 containing the 30 course-ends, is the first peal of Surprise Major by the association containing more than 6,000 changes. The peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Pontefract is worthy of mention, as it is the first in the method on ten bells by all the band. The handbell section is rather brighter than last year, and although all the peals have been rung in the same method, it is pleasing to see the increase in numbers. Now that tower-bell ringing will necessarily be restricted on account of the war, we look forward not only to an increase in the number of handbell peals, but also to a variation in the methods that are rung.

It is with regret that we have to report that certain of our peal compositions which have hitherto been considered true have recently been found to be false. In order to minimise the danger of these compositions being used again we have decided to give a tabulated list of them, together with all other known false compositions which

(Continued in next column.)

THE LATE MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

A CHERISHED RECORD. To the Editor.

Sir,—In the very interesting account of the ringing career of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney in your issue of January 26th, no mention is made of the fact that among his many other accomplishments he had called both Holt's Original and Thurstans' One-Part from each pair of handbells and from every bell in the tower, as well as having taken part in each of these compositions under silent and non-conducted conditions, both on handbells and tower bells.

No other person has called Holt's Original or Thurstans' One-Part from all positions, to say nothing of having rung them four times non-conducted.

I draw attention to this, as I know it was a much cherished record of his, and many ringers that I have spoken to since his death were quite unaware of the fact. He used to say also that he had rung Holt's Original from each pair of handbells with another person calling.

G. N. PRICE.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ALTON.

The seventh annual meeting of the Alton and Petersfield District was held at Alton on Saturday, January 27th, and, in spite of few travelling facilities and the black-out, 22 ringers enjoyed a most successful gathering.

Those present included the Rev. E. C. A. Kent, L.Th., Vicar and Rural Dean of Petersfield (district chairman), the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin (district auditor), Mr. F. W. Rogers (general secretary), and ringing members from Alton, Alresford, Blackmoor, Bramshott, Petersfield, Privett and Portsea.

The bells were rung in the afternoon to the standard methods and several beginners made good use of the opportunity.

The Guild's service was held at 4 o'clock, at which the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin (Vicar of Alton) officiated. Tea was served in the Vicarage Room, followed by the business meeting, which was presided over by the district chairman.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. H. Newnham and Mr. A. Hardiman. The hon. secretary presented his report for 1939, which showed a satisfactory year of progress and a total membership of 90. The accounts showed a balance in hand of £13 3s. 11d. The report and balance sheet were adopted. Miss P. Smee, Miss B. Newman, Miss D. Wright, Miss M. Oner (Petersfield) and Messrs. T. Tumber, R. Lacey, P. Lacey and L. Rattenbury (Blackmoor) were elected ringing members, and Mr. C. S. West, of Midhurst, was transferred from ringing to compounding membership.

The district officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: District chairman, the Rev. E. A. Berrisford; district vice-chairman, the Rev. F. J. Best; hon. secretary, Mr. C. E. Bassett; hon. auditor, the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin; representatives on Central Committee, Mr. W. Read and Mr. A. Hardiman.

Thanks were accorded to the Rev. E. C. A. Kent, the retiring chairman, for his term of office, and regrets expressed that he could not continue owing to pressure of other work.

The next annual meeting was fixed for January 25th, 1941. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for April 27th, 1940, and to be held at Liss. Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar of Alton, the organist and caterers.

DEATH OF A LICHFIELD RINGER.

We regret to record the death of James Henry Gallimore, of Lichfield, who was for many years attached to the Cathedral band and was also a member of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

The funeral took place at Lichfield on January 13th, the service, which was choral, being held at St. Mary's Church, conducted by the Rev. H. Cresswell, Vicar, and the remains laid to rest in St. Michael's Churchyard. A touch of Grandire Triples was rung half-muffled on the bells of St. Mary's by his old comrades during the interment.

The deceased had been in failing health for several years, which necessitated his giving up ringing as well as following his employment, that of a blacksmith. He had rung about 24 peals.

A BIG TASK.

(Continued from previous column.)

have appeared in past reports. This list it is intended to publish in all future reports.

We wish to stress the point that it does not necessarily follow that any composition not on this list must be true. The proving of all our peals is rather a big job, and will not be completed for some time yet; there may, unfortunately, be additions to this list, but in the meantime, if any of our conductors are in doubt about a composition which they wish to use, we advise them to communicate with the peal secretary.

The committee are recommending to the annual general meeting that the names of members serving with His Majesty's Forces should be retained on the books without payment of subscriptions, but that in such cases a charge of 1s. should be made for copies of the annual report if they are required.

With reference to the balance sheet, it is satisfactory to report that there has been a gain on the year's working of £11 15s. 6d., and that the total worth of the association now stands at £335 14s. 9d. Our grateful thanks are due to the honorary treasurer for all the care and labour which he so willingly expends upon this work.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH FUNDS FOR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.**

The annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irthingborough. Despite the weather and black-out conditions, ringers were present from Wellingborough, Finedon, Irchester, Wollaston, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Ecton, Mears Ashby, Stanwick, Earls Barton, Raunds, Burton Latimer, Barton Seagrave, Geddington and Harrold, together with the local men. The Rector was unable to be present owing to illness.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, of Finedon, who also gave the address. The organist was Mr. E. J. Holloway (Wollaston). Other clergy present were the Rev. L. Crowther Green (Irchester) and the Rev. J. H. Marlow (Bozeat).

An excellent tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall by the Co-operative Society, and 43 were present.

The business proceedings commenced with a reference to the death of Mr. F. Jones, late of Earls Barton, and a moment was spent in silence.

The chair was occupied by the branch president, the Rev. J. H. Marlow, who was supported by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, Mr. R. G. Black, general secretary (Geddington) and Mr. A. Bigley, branch secretary.

The annual report and balance sheet were presented by the branch secretary, who was thanked for what was considered a very satisfactory account of the year's work. Despite extra expenses, a credit balance of 18s. 2d. was shown. All the officers were re-elected, and the auditor, Mr. E. W. Johnson (Earls Barton), was thanked for his many years' voluntary work.

It was decided, as far as possible, to hold quarterly meetings as follows: Ecton (April), Easton Maudit (July) and Stanwick (October). New ringers elected were the Rev. E. G. Elcock, Messrs. R. Horn and G. Liddington, all of Finedon, and Mr. F. Edwards, Earls Barton. Mr. E. J. Holloway was elected to the office of branch organist with great satisfaction to the members.

Mr. H. Chambers proposed that some of the branch funds should be transferred to Savings Certificates, and after discussion it was decided to invest £30 in that way.

Mr. J. R. Main (Branch Ringing Master) proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had assisted. Permission had been obtained to ring until 7.30, and much use was therefore made of the fine peal of eight bells. The social side of the meeting was also enjoyed by a good company, for, by the kindness of Mr. Beeby, a private room and a set of ten handbells provided a musical evening.

THE BELLS OF ERDINGTON ABBEY.**AND A PEAL THAT WAS LOST.**

The Abbey Church, Erdington, was the venue of eight members of the St. Martin's Guild on Saturday week to attempt a peal of Grand-sire Triples. The Abbey is the abode of a Community of Redemptorist Fathers and is situated in several acres of beautiful grounds a short distance from Erdington 'village' (a populous Birmingham suburb). The church, built in 1850, is of red sandstone in the Decorated style and is a most beautiful piece of architecture, the interior being enriched with mural paintings, stained glass, etc.

The bells, a musical little peal, tenor 14 cwt., were cast in 1877 by William Blews, of Birmingham, and are the oldest and only surviving peal of eight cast at this foundry. They hang in a two-tiered oak frame in the north-west tower, whose slender spire is a local landmark, and although somewhat 'odd struck,' go very well. At one time this tower had a good band of ringers and was connected with such Birmingham stalwarts as Bernard Witchell, George Swann, the Stringer family, etc.; but now the glory seems to have departed and the bells have only been rung up once or twice in the last ten years, being chimed for Sunday service with Ellacombe's apparatus. They are inscribed with the Eight Beatitudes, together with invocations of various saints.

The bells seemed to know the Grandsire method well and the peal went merrily for about 1½ hours when a change course put a summary end to all hopes of success. However, this disappointment was soon got over and the bells were set going again, this time to Bob Major, a good touch being rung before lowering them in peal. The band, at the kind invitation of the Fr. Rector, then adjourned to the Abbey, where an excellent tea had been provided by the Brethren of the Community, to whom the band would like to express their very grateful thanks.

It is hoped that not many weeks will pass before the Fr. Rector's kind invitation to 'come again any time' is accepted. The last peal at the Abbey was rung on May 11th, 1929, and the band intend to get a peal there as soon as 'the Fates allow.'

AN INVITATION TO ALDERSHOT TOWER.

Any ringer joining the Army and being posted in or near Aldershot will be welcomed at the Parish Church tower, where ringing takes place on Sundays from 9.30 to 10 a.m., 11 to 11.15 a.m. and 5.50 to 6.30 p.m.; practices on Fridays 7.40 to 9 p.m. Details of the best way to get to the church will be sent on application (accompanied by stamped addressed envelope) to Mr. Will H. Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

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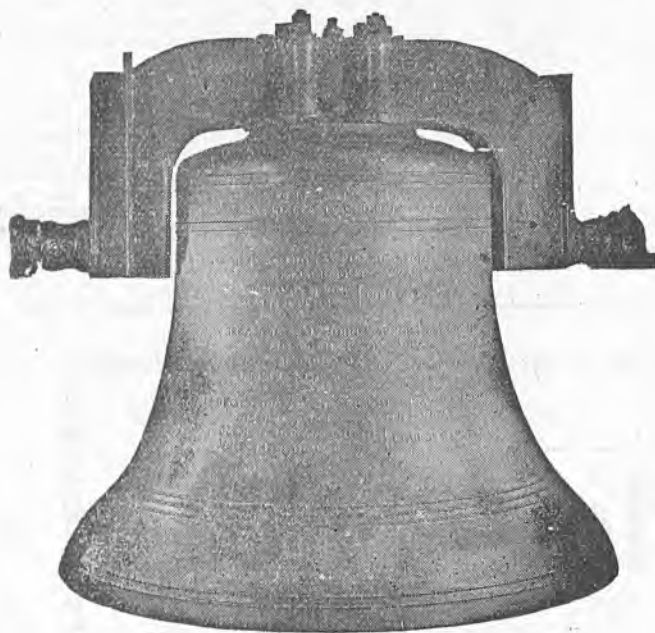
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On February 6th, 1835, the Norwich Scholars rang 5,376 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Giles' in that city. The bobs were called by Samuel Thurston and the peal was claimed as the first ever achieved in the method, but 13 years earlier the Huddersfield band had rung 5,152 changes in a performance which also included 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Triples.

On the same date in 1904 the brothers Pye with Mr. William Keeble rang the first peal of London Surprise 'in hand.'

The bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were opened on February 7th, 1783, when three separate peals were rung, the first by the Society of College Youths, the second by the Society of Cumberland Youths, and the third by the ancient Society of College Youths. The first and last were Oxford Treble Bob Major, the other was Grandsire Triples.

The names of the founders cast on the bells are Patrick and Osborn. Robert Patrick was a cheesemonger, of Whitechapel, who married Thomas Lester's granddaughter and secured the orders for casting several rings of bells, but it is probable that the actual work was done by other men. Hackney bells bear his name, but most likely they were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry.

The College Youths rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Paul's on February 7th, 1925, Mr. A. W. Peck ringing the tenor.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques 'in hand' was rung on February 10th, 1854, by a band made up from the leading men of the two Metropolitan societies. H. W. Haley conducted from 1-2 and the band included John Cox, Matthew Wood and William Cooter.

Squire Proctor's village band at Benington rang the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on February 11th, 1873. It was the full extent of Middleton's composition, but was advertised as an original composition by T. Miller.

On February 12th, 1821, the Oldham men rang 14,016 Kent Treble Bob Major, at the time the longest length composed or rung in the method.

Capt. J. H. Freeborn's many friends will learn with regret that he has just suffered a serious misfortune, his house, The Dell, at Little Chalfont, Amersham, having been destroyed by fire. The loss, fortunately, is covered by insurance, and no one was hurt, but all his ringing books and records are lost. For a time Capt. Freeborn will be moving about, but letters addressed to The Dell will be forwarded to him.

We are informed by Mr. F. Kendall, the secretary of the local band at Bacup, that a meeting of the Rossendale Branch of the Lancashire Association, which had been arranged for to-morrow, February 10th, has been postponed until February 24th.

RINGS OF FIVE IN MINOR SCALE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reason why there are many rings of five tuned to the minor scale is that the musical effect is so very fine. When Mr. Amos talks about there being 'no finishing note,' he shows that his ear is musically defective. On higher numbers the minor scale is not so good for bells, probably because the ascending and descending minor scales are not the same, but the minor Stafford eight at Exeter, and the similar octaves at York, Norwich and elsewhere, are exceedingly effective, especially when rung half-muffled, as was pointed out recently by a correspondent in your columns.

Although sufficient definite evidence is lacking, I am of the opinion that when rings of five were first put in parish churches in the fifteenth century they were usually tuned to the minor scale, which, I believe, was the scale in which many of the early folk melodies were composed.

Norwich has two rings of five, which are practically pre-Reformation, although in each case one bell was recast in the seventeenth century. Both these rings are minor. The first five at St. Michael's, Cheshire, were evidently a minor ring, for a tenor was afterwards added, and much the same sort of thing happened at St. Mary-le-Bow. On the other hand, the mediæval ring at St. Lawrence's, Ipswich, are, if I remember aright, a major ring. I do not recollect how that at St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, is tuned. Rings of three in the minor scale were also common.

If anyone doubts the musical quality of a minor ring of five, let him go and listen to the clock chimes at Norwich Cathedral. They are as follows, the notes being C sharp, B, A, G sharp and F sharp: First quarter, 12345; half-hour, 54123, 25345; three-quarters, 54315, 31243, 54235; hour, 14325, 43241, 51234, 23451, 5.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE DEDICATION OF WITHINGTON BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We should like to apologise to any ringers who may have been put to any inconvenience or who travelled to Withington last Sunday in consequence of the notice inserted by us in 'The Ringing World.' Arrangements had been made as published, but, owing to illness, the Bishop of Hereford had to cancel his visit and the ceremony was accordingly postponed. Unfortunately we did not hear of this until your last week's issue had already been printed.

A further notice will appear as soon as the fresh arrangements for the dedication are completed. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON, LTD. Croydon.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

PEALS AT ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The first peal in Bow steeple was one of Bob Triples, rung by the College Youths on January 12th, 1731. Eleven men were needed, three to the tenor and two to the seventh. A month earlier the same society, and largely the same band, had rung what was thought to be the first peal in the method on the heavy old octave at St. Saviour's, Southwark. Annable called that, and John Cundell rang the seventh. There was a good deal of rivalry between these two. Cundell probably thought himself as good a man as the other, and did not see why he should not have his share of the calling, but Annable thought differently, and so, when the attempt was arranged at Bow with Cundell as conductor, he stood out of the band.

Actually, these two were not the first peals rung of Bob Triples, for the Norwich Scholars, as far back as May, 1715, had rung Garthon's peal of Grandsire Bob Triples. The figures of that peal are lost, but we can, I think, make a pretty accurate guess as to what they were like and be reasonably sure that the composition was true.

The peal at Bow was on Hodson's original octave, and so was the next peal, one of Bob Major in 1734, also by the College Youths. It was the heaviest peal of Major that had been rung, and indeed it has never been beaten, but eleven men were required—three to the tenor and two to the seventh. Annable called from the sixth, Laughton rang the third, Cundell rang the seventh with help, and John Trenell was one of the tenor men.

It was not until nearly thirty years later, in 1761, after the tenor had been recast, that the next peal was scored in the steeple. This also was by the College Youths, the method was Oxford Treble Bob Major, and both the seventh and tenor were rung double-handed. A little over three years later the same society and very much the same band rang the first peal on the ten. The method was Grandsire Caters, William Underwood conducted, and three men were needed at the tenor and two at the ninth.

The Cumberlands rang their first peal in the tower on February 21st, 1775. It was 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters, and they claimed it as 'the greatest performance ever done on those bells.' Again three men were required for the tenor, but Charles Purser rang the ninth by himself. Besides Purser, the band contained John Povey and the younger Samuel Muggeridge. All three, in a year or two's time, had gone over to the College Youths and made it possible for that society to compete with the others in long-length and heavy-bell feats. George Gross called the bobs, and the elder Samuel Muggeridge was in the band.

The next peal, also Grandsire Caters, was by the London Youths in 1777. It was conducted by Christopher Wells, and the ringers included John Reeves, William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis,' and George Scarsbrook, who, by copying an old Oxford manuscript, helped to preserve some particulars of the early history of the College Youths. The College Youths rang the first peal of Royal in 1782. John Povey conducted, Samuel Muggeridge and William Lyford rang the tenor, and the band was made up of the very skilful ringers that the society then possessed.

The first man to ring the tenor single-handed to a peal was Philip Pilgrim, who, on February 19th, 1787, covered 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 52 minutes. Pilgrim was beginning to take Muggeridge's place as the College Youths' leading tenor man. He had a good band in front of him, including Winstanley Richardson, Joseph Holdsworth, George Scarsbrook, James Worster, and John Lyford, with John Povey as the conductor. Samuel Muggeridge did not ring.

To ring Bow tenor single-handed to a peal seems to have been the ambition of the greatest of the heavy bell men, but few were able to do it. The second man was James Marlton. 'On January 2nd, 1794, the Society of Junior Cumberlands rang a complete peal consisting of 5,432 changes of Grandsire Caters, being the greatest number of changes ever rung on those heavy bells and the noblest performance ever achieved at that place by 10 men only.'

Nine peals were rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century, one of Triples, two of Major, five of Caters and one of Royal. James Marlton was the first man to turn the tenor in to a peal. On January 3rd, 1803, he rang it to John Reeves' nine-course peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, which contains 5,200 changes. A year earlier, on March 22nd, 1802, he had rung Southwark tenor to the same composition on twelve bells, which runs to 7,104 changes, and a year later he repeated the performance at Christ Church, Spitalfields.

These peals were rung by the Cumberlands, and so was the first peal of Stedman Caters at Bow, which they accomplished on March 8th, 1808. Philip Pilgrim rang the tenor, the younger George Gross conducted, and Shipway was in the band.

Nearly thirty years passed by before the next five-thousand on Bow bells. A man named Augustus George Frost had appeared among the Cumberlands, and claimed to be the leading tenor man of his generation. He repeated Marlton's feat, and after the peal of Treble Bob was finished the band rang a course of Stedman Caters without setting the bells.

Frost afterwards went over to the College Youths, and, while he was with them, Samuel Gordier, a Yorkshire man, issued a challenge to anyone to ring a tenor for a stake of anything from £10 to £25. Frost accepted the challenge, offering to ring at St. Saviour's, or, if that did not suit, at some other place, suggesting Norwich. Before the match could be arranged, the College Youths advertised that, owing to the severe illness of their celebrated tenor ringer, the challenge must be suspended.

In 1853 Matthew Wood rang the tenor single-handed to Stedman Caters.

The first peal on the twelve was 5,004 Stedman Cinques by the College Youths on April 7th, 1890, and the first peal of Maximus was by the same society on January 19th, 1907. W. T. Cockerill rang the tenor, and afterwards he rang it single-handed to a 6,048. William Pye rang it to 7,392 Cambridge Maximus in 1925.

This was an outstanding heavy-bell feat, and so was Mr. H. R. Newton's performance when, in 1911, he rang the bell to a peal of London Surprise Major. Mr. Charles Kippin also turned the tenor in to a peal of Major, but afterwards found the composition was false. This ranks as one of the outstanding peal-ringing disappointments of all time.

BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.

A LAW OF METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

In the keenly contested and long drawn out controversy of thirty or forty years ago over the rules and standards which should be applied to a 'legitimate' method, two points especially were hotly debated. One was the necessity for symmetry which we referred to in these notes in our issue of December 8th. The other was the necessity for having what are called Bob Major Lead Ends.

The Exercise has settled both questions by bringing all the arguments which were then advanced to the test of experience, and though dozens of new methods were being practised up to the outbreak of war, no one to-day thinks of ringing any which have not Bob Major Lead Ends.

The hand and back rows at the lead ends of the plain course of every eight bell method are the same as the hand and back rows of the lead ends of the plain course of Bob Major, though they need not necessarily come in the same order. In a similar way the lead ends of the plain course of every six bell method are the same as the lead ends of the plain course of Bob Minor; the lead ends of every seven bell method are the same as those of Grandsire Triples; and of every nine bell method the same as those of Grandsire Caters.

This rule was strongly opposed by several men whose abilities and knowledge justly entitled them to be considered as authorities. The most prominent of them were Sir Arthur Heywood and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies.

As we have mentioned, Heywood had carefully studied method construction and did not form his opinions lightly; but what seems to have mainly influenced him in this matter was his method Duffield, which he hoped and expected would have taken the same place in even bell ringing as Stedman held in odd bell ringing. And Duffield has not got Bob Major Lead Ends.

Davies' opinions on ringing matters were formed chiefly by his investigations into the composition of Grandsire Triples and kindred methods. He had very little experience of even bell methods either as a composer or as a practical ringer. To him Union Triples was a more valuable method than London Surprise, which 'in the matter of structure is hopeless'; and when he was told that Union was not a method at all, but only Grandsire with quite unnecessary sixth-place bobs stuck into it, all his cherished opinions were outraged, and he threw himself into the fray, determined that the new and pernicious doctrines should not corrupt the Exercise if he could help it.

We have travelled a long way since those days, and it is perhaps a little difficult for us to do justice to the opinions of these men and the many others who thought as they did, and to the grounds on which they formed them. They were genuinely convinced that if the rules enforcing symmetry and Bob Major Lead Ends were adopted, the Exercise would be deprived of a great many methods of value, and for no reason except the gratification of the fancies of one or two faddists. 'Ordinary persons, like myself,' wrote Heywood, 'who venture to hold the view that the prime object of change-ringing, to which everything must defer, is to produce the best possible music, are patiently amused at these earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionable axiomatic rules.'

In his opinion the Bob Major Lead Ends were only one set among many. They might be the proper set for methods like Double Norwich or Superlative, but that did not prove that every good method must have them. Duffield was a case in point. 'Of course there are scores of lead-ends that will produce a major septic cycle,' and he failed to see why they should be barred from use.

Davies fought the matter out in the Central Council, where he made on the subject what is, and probably will remain, the record speech. It lasted nearly an hour and three quarters. He also used his pen, and went to the trouble and expense of publishing a pamphlet of twenty-four closely printed pages.

The arguments used on the other side were not very convincing. The one which perhaps was the most effective was that Bob Major Lead Ends are necessary for the production of good music, but that really is not a sound argument. It is probably true that, on the whole, methods with Bob Major Lead Ends are far more musical than those with other lead ends. Nevertheless, there are methods with irregular lead ends which will produce better music than the great majority of those with regular lead ends; and there are methods with regular lead ends which musically are quite hopeless.

The argument from music proves no more than that the Bob Major Lead Ends are probably the best set of lead ends. It does not prove that they are the only ones which may be used. Heywood was quite correct on this point.

Law James' argument was that Bob Major Lead Ends are the lead ends of 'plain' leads, but that the others are the lead ends of 'bobbed' or 'singled' lead ends. He called this argument a statement of fact; but that did not really carry the matter very far, since he never explained why we should consider the Bob Major Lead Ends to be 'plain' more than any others.

To-day these controversies have died down and the clever young man of the present generation who may happen to come across some of the letters and articles in the pages of 'The Bell News' probably wonders what all the bother was about. He accepts the Bob Major Lead End rule and the Symmetry rule as a matter of course, and is mildly surprised that they should ever have been questioned.

Nevertheless, these controversies did a lot of good and helped in a large degree the development of our art. The men who took a part in them, though they differed so very much, and though they were so often wrong, were honestly trying to find out the truth; and so long as that spirit remains in the Exercise we need not fear that change ringing will decay.

To-day we can look at the matter with a wider vision, and though it is just as difficult as it ever was to see why the Bob Major Lead Ends should be the only ones which are allowed, we can understand what they really are and what service they perform.

The Bob Major Lead End rule was not, as so many people imagined, a new invention by the Methods Committee. It has been recognised in the Exercise implicitly, if not explicitly, from the very beginning. Henry Hubbard, in the earlier editions of his *Campanologia*, compared Imperial the Third Major with Cambridge Surprise Major, and pointed out that the latter was the

(Continued on next page.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**A SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING.**

Notwithstanding the severest snowstorm Leicestershire had experienced within living memory, and the consequent difficulty in travelling, a most successful meeting was held at Earl Shilton on Saturday, January 27th. The fine ring of eight of the Parish Church was kept going during the afternoon and evening to various methods to suit all comers.

The committee met in the Schools at 3.30 p.m. and carried out routine matters, including the acceptance of estimate for printing 1939 annual report.

Mr. H. O. Over voiced the opinion of members in suggesting that the Editor of 'The Ringing World' be congratulated on the way he has carried on during the difficult weeks following the outbreak of war, and stressed the point that every possible means should be made to assist him in the circulation of this—the only ringing journal.

Tea was served at 4.30 and a company of 40 members and friends sat down. Among towers represented were Barwell, Burbage, Croft, Derby, Hinckley, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kirkby Mallory, Leicester (St. Margaret's and St. John's), Loughborough, Peckleton, Thurlaston and the local company.

Before the business began, the Vicar (the Rev. E. Pillifant) gave everyone a hearty welcome and congratulated those who had come long distances in such inclement weather. It spoke well for their enthusiasm and was a great inspiration. The bells brought cheer and comfort in these days of tribulation, and especially in the black-out when all seemed dead and dreary. The bells were not dead, but active and alive through the efforts of the ringers. They gave the message to all within their sound, that the church and its services were still carrying on. Hitlerism had done many things, but, thank God, it had not stopped our church bells, and he, personally, was proud of his local ringers for nobly doing their duty so regularly and well.

In the unavoidable absence of the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert), the vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) conducted the business meeting. He first read the president's apology and message of goodwill, and also one from the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. E. White), who was very ill and not able to travel. Mr. Harrison said he could add but little to the words of the Vicar, except to say how agreeably surprised he was to see such a good number present, especially under such terrible weather conditions and difficult transport. He paid tribute to Mr. George Newton and the local company, not forgetting the ladies, for so splendidly entertaining them, no easy matter under the present rationing scheme.—Mr. Newton suitably replied.

Mr. George S. Morris and Mr. W. White (Barwell) were chosen as auditors of the accounts.

The secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) reported that the new members proposed since that meeting, viz., 9 ringing, 1 rejoin, 2 honorary, were duly elected.

The secretary explained that the annual report would be printed and circulated as soon as the accounts were audited. It was pointed out that a list of members serving in H.M. Forces was being made, and to ensure this being as complete as possible, everyone knowing of such members was asked to advise the general hon. secretary at once.

Members were also asked to purchase their M.C.A. badge (silver 3s., bronze 1s. 6d.) as soon as possible, and so reduce the stock and help to clear the large initial cost.

This concluded the business, after which the company were entertained to some excellent handbell selections by the Earl Shilton Quartette, who have broadcast on the wireless several times. Courses of Stedman Triples and Caters and Grand sire Caters were also rung in hand, and further ringing on the tower bells enjoyed. A room was placed at the ringers' disposal at the Roe Buck Inn, and a pleasant convivial time was spent by those who were able to stay late.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—At St. Peter's Church on Sunday, January 14th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): R. Pounds 1, A. Forster 2, Mrs. V. B. Miles 3, W. Perkins 4, E. Steele 5, N. R. Holland 6, A. D. Steel (conductor) 7, F. Ackerly 8. Longest touch for tenor and treble ringers. Rung as a farewell compliment to the treble-man upon being called to the forces.

BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.

(Continued from previous page.)

superior, because it has the correct lead ends which the other has not.

We may take it as generally true that anything in the nature of a rule which is really vital to change ringing has always existed, even though it has not always been fully recognised. In these things what is true is not new; and what is new is not true.

We must next see what Bob Major Lead Ends really are, but that we must leave till later.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Heston on February 3rd and was attended by about 35 members. The bells were rung to a variety of methods from about 2.30 until 4.50.

After an excellent tea at the Westbrook Memorial Club, the business meeting was held. Apologies for absence were received from the president (the Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane) and the hon. secretary, who was ill with bronchial 'flu.

The secretary's report was read by the assistant secretary. In this it was stated that the past year started well and gave promise of an improvement over 1938 until the war came and brought ringing to a complete stop for a time.

Five meetings had been held, since the last annual meeting, at Feltham, Sunbury, Acton, Staines and Kingston, the last two being joint meetings with neighbouring associations.

Three members were lost by death during 1939, these being W. F. Ellingham, of Heston, C. A. Nicholls, of St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, and Mrs. W. E. Taylor, of Maidenhead.

Eleven peals were rung in the district during 1939 and included the first peal ever rung of Double Coslary Court Major at Twickenham. Other peals were rung at St. Mary's, Staines (two); St. Andrew's, Hillingdon; Bedford; Isleworth; Acton; St. Mary's, Ealing, and St. Stephen's Ealing. Two peals were rung on handbells at Kensington.

The accounts, which were adopted, showed subscriptions from members £7 17s. 6d. and an amount of £6 0s. 4d. transferred to the Central Fund.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Secretary, J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, W. G. Wilson; Master, G. M. Kilby; Deputy Master, F. G. Baldwin; auditors, E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Tulwell; committee, C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler and T. Collins. Three new members were elected, T. D. Collins, of Hounslow, Miss I. Hastie, of St. Mary's, Ealing, and G. Bunce, of Ruislip.

It was recommended by the secretary in his report that bi-monthly meetings be held in the future. It was thought that other meetings might be arranged in the summer months when more towers would be available, and the suggestion of a Bank Holiday meeting was supported by many members. It was decided to hold the next annual district meeting at Acton. The next district meeting would probably be at Brentford on March 9th with the possibility of Christ Church, Ealing, bells being available in the evening.

Most of the questionnaires sent to tower secretaries shortly after the outbreak of war had been returned and revealed that Sunday service ringing has been resumed in all towers from which replies have been received. Seven members have joined His Majesty's Forces.

It was decided to support the recommendation to the annual general meeting that members serving in His Majesty's Forces be not asked to pay their subscriptions. A suggestion that other members adopt those serving and pay their subscriptions was supported by several present.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Heston (the Rev. G. Craggs) for the use of the bells, to Mr. C. Bird and the ladies who provided the tea.

Further ringing took place after the meeting at Heston and Hounslow.

THE LATE MR. HARRY BARTON.**AN APPRECIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I read with regret the passing of Mr. Harry Barton in last week's 'Ringing World,' and the details of his ringing career were all too brief for one who for so many years did much for ringing.

Strangely enough, I never met him until 1931, but from a boy, for some reason or other, I was always interested in his doings. I am writing entirely from memory, but I am positive that he was one of a band to ring Holt's Original non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road, before he left London.

Removing to East Kent, he did much, in conjunction with Canon Helmore, for about 10 years in the Canterbury district. One peal in particular which he conducted at Quex Park in 1906 stands out in my memory. It was a short course peal of Stedman Caters by Henry Johnson. They had forgotten to light the candles, and it was found that the daylight was beating them, so the tenor-man set his bell and lit them while the rest carried on, the tenor coming in again when he had finished. There was some comment in the 'Bell News' at the time, and the Editor remarked, 'We ourselves have been placed in a similar position.'

About 1912 he went to Southwold for a year or so. I do not remember much about him while he was there, but when at Beccles some six years ago I noticed records of peals which he rang and conducted while resident in that district.

After he went to Ventnor he was still on the active list, but I have also noticed that since the death of his wife, while on a voyage to Australia for her health, he did little peal ringing.

He took part in the first Masonic peal of Treble Bob Maximus at Shoreditch in 1931, and the first Masonic peal of Bob Major at Crayford in 1936. This was also a Cumberland peal and, I imagine, his last. There is no doubt about it, Harry Barton was a gentleman.

F. BARNETT.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ALLESLEY.**

In spite of the intensely cold weather on Saturday, January 20th, about 20 members attended the quarterly meeting at Allesley; Bilton, Birmingham Cathedral, Castle Bromwich, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Stoke, Rugby and Wolvey being represented, together with the local band. Good use was made of the bells, which were available during the afternoon and evening. A splendid tea was provided at The Rainbow Inn and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. F. W. Perrens was voted to the chair in the unavoidable absence of the Master. Apologies were received from the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White), Mr. T. W. Chapman and Mr. A. H. Beamish.

Although it was decided at the previous meeting not to hold any monthly meetings during the winter months, this resolution was rescinded and meeting places arranged for the next two months. Kenilworth was decided upon for February and Stoke for March, both places having 'blacked out' ringing chambers.

It was announced that the annual meeting is due to be held at Nuneaton in April.

Two new members were admitted, viz., Alan Carter and Peter Burks, of Stoke.

Mr. J. Beale, of Wolvey, brought to the notice of the meeting the case of an old Wolvey ringer who had been a regular attendant in the belfry for 45 years, but who had been recently stricken with blindness.—The members were unanimous in expressing their desire to admit Mr. W. Thorpe to life membership of the Guild, and the hon. secretary was asked to write a letter of condolence.

The question of members of the Forces being relieved of payment of their subscriptions was brought up by Mr. W. C. Rhodes, of Castle Bromwich.—It was decided to leave the matter for the annual meeting to decide.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector for the use of the bells, to Mrs. Tatlow for arranging the tea, and to Mr. J. Taylor for making the necessary arrangements enabling the meeting to be held.

A few stalwarts afterwards returned to the belfry for further ringing, whilst others remained in the tea room for change ringing and tune ringing on handbells. The party broke up about 9 o'clock, the meeting having been a great success. D. E. B.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WORDSLEY.**

The quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Wordsley on Saturday, January 20th, and the bells of Holy Trinity Church were rung during the afternoon prior to the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. H. Fowler.

Welcoming the members to Wordsley, the Rector touched upon the difficulties under which ringing had to be carried on at present and expressed his appreciation of what he knew had been done and was being done in the Northern District. He had no doubt similar efforts were being made all over the country, and hoped it would be possible for sufficient learners to come along and fill the gaps which must inevitably occur as the older ringers joined the Forces or were moved away from their districts by reason of their work and other causes.

Tea was provided in the Church Hall followed by the business meeting, 34 members being present.

The chair was taken by the Branch Master, Mr. John Lloyd, supported by Mr. John Bass, Central Committee representative.

The secretary, Mr. B. C. Ashford, announced an apology from Mr. William Short, who had not properly recovered from a cold and regretted his inability to be present.

The question of bi-quarterly meetings for practice was discussed and it was decided to hold the first of these at Halesowen on the kind invitation of Messrs. J. H. Cox and T. Greenhall, the date to be announced later.

It was decided to hold the June quarterly meeting at Hagley, an invitation from the Hagley band through Mr. John Walton being unanimously accepted, and, in thanking him, the secretary reminded the members of the Saturday afternoon practices at Clent on the first and third Saturdays, and at Belbroughton on the second and fourth Saturdays in each month.

Thanks to the Rector for the service, the local captain, Mr. Herbert Quarry, and his co-warden for the tea, and the ladies who had done so much to make everything a success, brought the meeting to a close, after which some of the members returned to the tower, where the methods rung varied from Grandsire to Cambridge, and Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Others remained in the Church Hall and spent a pleasant hour with the handbells.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. It is hoped to have some more ringing after meeting. All ringers are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting and tea at 5 p.m.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — A practice will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 10th, at 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The general committee are meeting at St. Albans on Saturday, February 10th, when the bells of St. Peter's (10) will be open from 2.45 p.m. and after tea if required. The usual practice at the Cathedral (12) will be held at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome at both towers. St. Peter's bells are also available for practice on Mondays.—H. Frost, Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Thomas' on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Bells available after meeting.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Tea, in St. Barnabas' Hall, by kind invitation of the president of the Guild (the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird). Business meeting to follow. A coach will be available (free) to take ringers to and from the tea room. Tea cannot be arranged near church owing to requisitioning of nearby hall.—B. Saunders, Hon. Sec., 18, New Road, Ridgwood, Uckfield, Sussex.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Northill on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Please come and have a good time. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 13th.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Names for tea, please, to Mr. F. C. Farnsworth, 16, King's Road, Faversham, not later than Tuesday, February 13th. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday afternoon, February 17th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the belfry at 5 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Burton Latimer (8 bells) on Saturday, February 17th. Usual arrangements. Everyone requiring tea is asked to notify me by February 13th. Ringing after meeting.—H. Baxter, Branch Sec., 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wroxham on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. till black-out. Meeting in belfry. Make own arrangements for tea. Bus leaves Norwich bus station at 2.15 p.m., returns from Wroxham at 5.52 and 7.27.—Henry Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Backwell, on Saturday, February 17th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk.—Percy G. Yeo, Local Sec., Long Ashton.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ludlow on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (8, recently overhauled) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Royal Oak Cafe 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Will those attending please advise me by Wednesday, February 14th?—W. J. Benjams, Hon. Dis. Sec., Ben-All, Henley Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden Parish Church on Saturday, February 17th. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting has been provisionally fixed for Saturday, February 17th, at Kenilworth. Further details will be announced next week.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Barwell on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing until 7.30 p.m. No tea but let Mr. C. R. Belton, Westgates, Hinckley Road, Barwell know how many want a 'hot' supper at the Queen's Head after ringing. A very short meeting after supper.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Owing to the present catering difficulties, will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as early as possible in the week?—A. H. Smith.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided in Welfare Hall at 4.30 for those who notify me by Thursday, February 22nd. Special invitation to Derby District members.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LADIES' GUILD.—A meeting will be held at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on February 24th. Names for tea by previous Monday to Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough, Leics.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6/6 each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 28th inst. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

DEATH.

FREEMAN.—On Sunday, January 28th, William Freeman passed away suddenly, aged 74, at 35, Warwick Terrace, Olney, Bucks. R.I.P.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WASHINGTON.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th, when 23 members attended from Arundel, Heene, Lymminster, Lower Beeding, Storrington, Wisborough Green, West Grinstead and the local band.

At the business meeting which followed the tea six new members were elected, Miss P. Streeter, Miss R. Chessman and Messrs. W. Edwards, J. Gumbrell and L. Cooper, of Wisborough Green, and A. Blackman, of Arundel. A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Washington was passed, the members wishing him a speedy return to better health.

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