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## BEGINNERS AND RINGING TERMS.

The correspondent, who last week asked for the standardisation of ringing terms, is making a plea that numerous people for themselves, or for the benefit of others, have made. We have every sympathy with the beginner who finds himself confused, both by the alternative words that are used to indicate the same thing, or by the same term used to indicate different things, but the art of ringing has now reached a stage when it will be difficult to effect standardisation. The obstacle is not so much to prescribe standard terms as to secure their adoption. It might be a fairly simple task—we do not say it would be—for the Central Council to say this particular word shall, in future, have only one specific meaning, or that thing shall be designated only by this one term. It would be a totally different matter to get the Exercise to adopt such a ruling. Ringers in the mass have always been very loose in their technical vocabulary and many of the terms which have grown into use are not the best that might have been chosen, because they were first used by men who had no knowledge of the finer distinctions of the meanings of words. They were terms that were at first never laid down in any text book, but were passed from mouth to mouth, until they grew into the language of ringers and have found a place from which it would be difficult to eradicate them. The same remark applies to those terms which have more than one meaning, such as 'lead' and 'course' for example, but it would need the efforts of more than a generation of ringers to tie down the use of such words to one specific purpose and to acquire the use of other words to replace them in other connections.

The solution of the beginners' troubles, we think, rests with the beginner himself and his instructor. The latter should be at great pains to explain every technical ringing term to his pupils as he comes to it and, what is more, should make sure that he understands it. The beginner should realise that a knowledge of these terms is an essential part of his studies. Moreover, while certain terms have dual meanings, it would be hard, we think, to find an instance where anyone, beginner or not, could really be confused in the application of the term to the matter in hand. There may be more difficulty in understanding the use of a word which has gradually slipped into ringing parlance without due thought, and the aptness of certain words to the purpose intended may be a source of dispute, as witness the recent correspondence in our columns on the word 'shunt,' but that gives rise not so much to a need for the standardisation of terms as a revision of them.

(Continued on page 134.)

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When, many years ago, the Central Council published 'The Glossary,' it did much to help clarify the situation and make plain, to those who cared to study the book, the many terms which had grown up in ringing. If, some day, a revised edition, modernising and simplifying the extensive technical vocabulary of ringers, could be produced, it might prove extremely useful to instructors and beginners of the future in enabling them to follow a common practice in the use of terms. And yet it would, we feel, be a matter of regret to those to whom the old words are so familiar and about which there is the halo of traditional usage—one might almost say romance—if these terms were to lose any of their age-long meaning. But then, perhaps the generation that loves these old terms, having studied and mastered them, and is content to know their proper application, will have passed. The future lies with others; there will be nothing to stop them improving on the old ringing terms—if they can.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

WIGAN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 12, 1940, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

Tenor 28 cwt.

SIDNEY FLINT ... ..	... Treble	SIDNEY FORSHAW ... ..	5
*ALBERT PARKER... ..	2	*WILLIAM PILKINGTON ... ..	6
JOHN POTTER ... ..	3	JOHN BROWN ... ..	7
*WILLIAM FARRIMOND ... ..	4	JOSEPH RIDYARD... ..	... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN BROWN.  
\* First peal in the method. Rung after meeting short for Grandsire Caters, and with the bells fully muffled in memory of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

GOSFORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.)

On Wednesday, February 21, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN ANDERSON ... ..	1-2	WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON... ..	5-6
*WILLIAM H. BARBER... ..	3-4	ERNEST WALLACE ... ..	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

\* The 200th peal as conductor for the above association.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 16, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... ..	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... ..	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... ..	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... ..	7-8

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

First peal in the method by all.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****PRESENTATION TO FORMER DISTRICT SECRETARY.**

A handsome oak clock, with Westminster chimes, has been presented to Mr. F. Ridgwell, formerly district secretary and afterwards District Master, in recognition of his ten years of valuable service to the Essex Association. The presentation took place at Earls Colne, where a meeting of the Northern Division of the association was held on Saturday week. Members were present from a wide area, including Earls Colne, Halstead, Colne Engaine, Greenstead Green, Braintree, Kelvedon, Maldon, Bocking, Dunmow, Colchester and Stebbing.

A service was conducted by the Rev. H. Monks, R.D. (Vicar), who in the course of a brief address said that in every craft one could always go on learning; the golfer, for instance, was always trying to improve his stroke. In the ringers' association, too, they realised the importance of individual effort and that they were members of a body. All the time they were a team; one was dependent upon the other; and as such they required team spirit. That afternoon they had been ringing in a tower which had been standing since 1532 and which bore the mallets of the Earls of Oxford. In that tower men had rung throughout the ages, and all along it was realised that men could only ring in harmony with their fellow ringers. Indeed, there was, perhaps, no craft where the team spirit was so deep and strong. It was such team spirit which was so much needed amongst the nations of the world to-day, so that, guided by the spirit of Christ, they could impart such harmony into human life that the life of the nations of the world might become glorious.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. C. H. HOWARD.**

After the service the ringers were entertained to tea at the Vicarage by kind invitation of the Vicar.

Mr. H. W. Smith (Dunmow), Master of the Northern Division, presided at the subsequent meeting and referred to the great loss the Essex Association had sustained by the death of Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree. Mr. Howard, who was Master of the association for 25 years had, he said, done much for bellringing in the county, and a number of restorations had been due to his efforts. He was most regular in attendance at association meetings, and never despised meetings in the lowly villages. They all very much regretted his death. The Master also referred sympathetically to the death of Mr. E. Turner (Gestingthorpe), who died in December, and who had been a ringer for many years.

As a tribute to the memory of these two, all stood for a brief silence.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen (Braintree) referred to the decision to arrange practice meetings and wondered what had been done.

Miss Hilda Snowden (Halstead), the hon. secretary, said that owing to the weather during the winter it had been difficult to get sufficient ringers together. It was up to the ringers themselves to decide what best could be done under the circumstances.

Mr. Ridgwell thought that as the weather improved more would attend. Such meetings did good, as they wanted to keep the ringers together. It was the Vicar's wish that practice meetings at Earls Colne should recommence as soon as possible.

It was decided to leave the matter for the summer months, the Master expressing the view that all companies should do their best to get new ringing recruits. Efforts would also be made to arrange local practices.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Witham, the date being left for the secretary to arrange.

The District Master moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his hospitality. There were but few places they visited where they were so generously entertained. He also thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and giving such an excellent address. Their thanks were also due to the organist and organ-blower.

Mr. Ridgwell, who is hon. secretary to the local St. Andrew's Guild of Ringers, endorsed the District Master's remarks, and said how thankful they all were they had a Vicar like Mr. Monks. Mr. Ridgwell recalled that he first joined St. Andrew's Guild in 1898, and although he subsequently left the village for some years, he found, on his return, that he had still been retained as a member. They had a splendid band of ringers at Colne, and were most grateful to the Vicar and Mrs. Monks for their interest and help.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and, in reply, the Vicar said he was pleased to do anything he could to help them. He hoped the association would forge ahead with their ringing and get all their towers fully manned. He mentioned that one of their Earls Colne members had been a ringer for 40 years and his father was a ringer for 50 years.

**MR. RIDGWELL'S VALUABLE SERVICE.**

The District Master said that for eight years Mr. Ridgwell served the Northern Division as hon. secretary and then for two years he was District Master. He resigned last year and the members felt they could not allow the occasion to pass without some recognition of Mr. Ridgwell's work, for he had always been most courteous, took much trouble in arranging meetings and was always willing to assist in ringing a peal. They were very grateful for all he had done.

Mr. Wiffen also paid a tribute to Mr. Ridgwell's work for the division, which was always carried out most efficiently.

On behalf of the members, the Vicar then handed the clock to Mr. Ridgwell, and, in doing so, said he fully agreed with what the District Master and Mr. Wiffen had said. He had known Mr. Ridgwell long

(Continued in next column.)

**TECHNICAL RINGING TERMS.****STANDARDISATION NOT ADVISABLE.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—The standardisation of the technical terms of the Exercise which Mr. C. A. Levett asks for is neither possible nor advisable. The great majority of the terms employed in the belfry were evolved naturally by ringers and have been in use for two or three hundred years. The beginners' difficulties are not in the terms, but in the things which the terms express, and, like most difficulties, they cannot be overcome unless the beginner is prepared to take some trouble.

Whether technical terms used in books and writings are a success or not depends on whether the author knows his job and whether the leader is prepared to do his share. Words in ringing matters, as elsewhere, are (or should be) living things, and the skilful writer can give them the precise meaning he requires by the way he uses them.

The use of the term *Right* as an alternative for the 'good old-fashioned Home' was approved some fifty years ago by the Central Council because the latter can often be ambiguous. For instance, if Mr. Levett were told to call the fifth, 'Fourth's and Home,' three times in a touch of Bob Minor, where would he call his bobs?

Why in the Central Council's book on Triples the tables of Stedman course ends are pricked from 1234567 and the peals and touches from 2314567 is obvious to anyone who knows what tables of course ends are used for, and how peals and touches of Stedman are customarily rung.

To speak of a 'peal' of bells is perfectly good English, though there has been for some years a preference for 'ring' of bells, which also probably is the older use.

The existence of two terms which mean practically the same thing is not a defect but often a very great help to a writer. X.Y.Z.

**EXAMPLES WHICH BREED CONFUSION.**

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. A. Levett's letter in to-day's issue of 'The Ringing World' concerning technical ringing terms suggests to me the following additional examples which breed confusion. I happen to be organist as well as ringer, and when 'seated at the organ,' *up* means from a low note to a higher one in pitch, *down* means from a high note to a lower one. A note *above* means a note higher in pitch, and a note *below* means a note lower in pitch. In the ringing chamber, *up* means from the treble bell to the tenor or high to low; *down* means from the tenor to the treble or low to high. A bell *above* another means a bell higher in pitch; a bell *below* means a bell lower in pitch.

I am getting used to this somersault business now, but it still requires a strong mental effort. It seems to me that Lewis Carroll missed a fine opportunity by not introducing bellringing into Wonderland!

C. HUTCHINSON.

**KELVEDON'S OLD INHABITANTS.**

At St. Mary's Church, Kelvedon, Essex, on Sunday, March 10th, a quarter-peal of Minor (720 Oxford Treble Bob, 360 Kent and 180 Plain Bob) was rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. W. W. Thorne, who passed away at the age of 88 years, and to Mr. L. G. Fitch, another old inhabitant, who died on February 27th.

Mr. Thorne was headmaster of Kelvedon C. of E. Boys' School for 42 years, organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's Church for 46 years and was always ready to co-operate with the ringers.

Mr. Fitch was churchwarden at Kelvedon Church for many years.

WRAYSBURY, BUCKS.—On Saturday, February 24th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Double Oxford Bob Triples, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, composed by C. Charge and rung as a birthday compliment to his wife: C. Charge 1, G. Martin 2, Guardsman R. Chance 3, N. V. Harding 4, W. Birmingham 5, W. Welling 6, Sergt. A. Ford (first quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor) 7, G. Gilbert 8.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous column.)

enough to realise that he would bring every thought and care into all that he did.

In returning thanks for the gift, Mr. Ridgwell said he had been taken completely by surprise. What he had done had been with the idea of benefiting the association, and he assured them that he would continue to do his best, not only for his own tower, but for the Essex Association as well (applause). Mr. Ridgwell eulogised the work of Miss Snowden, who, he said, was carrying out the duties of hon. secretary in a most efficient manner.

The clock bore the following inscription: 'Presented to Mr. F. Ridgwell on his retirement from office by the members of the Northern Division Essex Association of Change Ringers, March, 1940.'

After touches on handbells the ringers returned to the tower. During the afternoon and evening the following methods were practised: Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise and London Surprise.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

Double Bob Major and Double Bob Royal were methods which were practised in London almost as early as Plain Bob Major and Plain Bob Royal. Annable called the first peal of Major in 1727, of Royal in 1734, and of Maximus in 1740, all with bands belonging to the College Youths. These peals were rung with the bobs made when the treble was leading, but, soon after 1760, the opinion began to be held by ringers that the method could only be said to be properly double when bobs were made with the treble behind as well as in front, and for many years the only Double Bob rung was that 'distinguished,' as the 'Clavis' says, 'by the epithet of Real Double.'

Then many disputes arose as to what was proper Real Double. 'The first system was broached about 1765, the method of which is to have the first bob when the treble is behind, and the second bob perhaps at the distance of half a lead from the first, or perhaps one lead and a half, or two and a half &c, at pleasure, the object being only to have one behind and one before alternately.'

On this plan George Gross composed a peal of Major, and called it for the Cumberlands at Whitechapel in 1769. Following their custom the society booked it as 'Cumberland real Double eight in.'

In 1771 the 'ancient' Society of College Youths rang at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields a peal of Maximus on the same plan.

Many ringers, however, held that these peals were not 'real' Double at all. 'Everyone agreed,' they said, 'that all double was spurious and lopsided till bobs behind were brought up, consequently to have a bob behind and perhaps ring a hundred or more changes before the other bob comes to counterpoise the system and balance it equal, when a bob at half a lead would have effected it so much sooner, is no other than ringing one hundred or more changes of lop sided double unnecessarily.'

These people held that, whenever there were bobs, there should always be two in a lead. There seems to have been quite a heated controversy on the matter, and it led to a competition between the two societies of College Youths.

A fortnight after the 7008 of Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark very nearly the same band rang at St. Bride's '5160 changes of Real Double Bob Maximus with 2 bobs in a lead, one before and one behind, being the first ever rung.' It was composed and conducted by John Povey.

Only two days later the other band, the 'ancient' Society of College Youths, rang 6048 changes at St. Saviour's. John Reeves, who composed the peal, was the conductor, and the band included some of the most distinguished ringers of the time, among them being Thomas Blakemore, one of the authors of the 'Clavis,' Christopher Wells, George Byers, who had called the peal at St. Martin's on the other plan, and Francis Wood, who had fallen out with the Cumberlands. George Harris rang the tenor single-handed, a feat which gives him an honourable place among heavy bell ringers, but though he rang many more peals, this was his only outstanding performance at the back end.

The next peal at St. Saviour's was rung by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. It was one of Grandsire Cinques which George Gross called from the eleventh. The ringer of the sixth was William Shipway, who only

six months before had come up to London from Bath because he was keenly anxious to advance in the art of change ringing and saw no prospects of so doing in his native city.

Grandsire on even numbers of bells is a good deal of a misfit, and the four blows behind at a plain lead and six at a bob are glaring defects. Yet for all that it has had great attraction for some leading ringers and composers. It was popular in Birmingham in Henry Johnson's time, John Carter called several peals of it, and earlier still John Reeves favoured it. He, indeed, claimed the credit of being the first to extend it to Maximus. 'We shall just observe in respect of this method,' says the 'Clavis,' 'that it is far superior to the other plain method on an even number of bells both for music and variety of changes; as, for instance, in ringing a peal of Plain Bob Maximus you have in every course the same thing over again except a little alteration with the small bells; but here you have both music and variety of changes upon the whole number.'

It is not surprising, therefore, that during the time he held office in the Society of Cumberland Youths, John Reeves should have arranged a peal of Grandsire Maximus. This he called at Southwark on May 7th, 1792, with a band which included William Shipway.

The only other peal at St. Saviour's during the eighteenth century was one of Grandsire Cinques by the College Youths on March 25th, 1799, and the next one in the steeple was on March 22nd, 1802, when the Cumberlands gained the final victory in the long peal contest by ringing 7104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in five hours and a half.

The composition was John Reeves' one-part peal in nine courses which in Royal runs to 5200 changes and was very popular on ten bells. Four of the men who had taken part in the 12,000 of Royal at Shoreditch in 1784 rang in this peal. They were the elder George Gross, James Barnard, Thomas Reeves and Malachi Channon. The younger George Gross called the bobs from the second, Shipway rang the fifth and John Hints the ninth. Hints was at the time one of the most active ringers in London. He appears to have been the steeple-keeper at St. James', Clerkenwell, and it was out of the band of young ringers he got together there, that the St. James' Society was formed.

The two back bells were rung by the two best heavy bell men the society possessed, William Stephens and James Marlton. Stephens had rung Spitalfields tenor to Royal and Edmonton tenor to the then longest peal of Treble Bob Major, 10,112 changes, in 1800. Like many another famous London ringer, Marlton was born an East Anglian. Nearly a year later these two men rang the two big bells at St. Mary-le-Bow to the first single-handed peal of Royal accomplished on the bells. It was the same composition.

The College Youths had still many excellent and active ringers, and we may be sure that they did not see with indifference the double honour pass from them. But they had no tenor men of the calibre of James Marlton, and they were getting older and not enough of them were prepared to face the physical strain of record peal ringing. William Lyford, indeed, said his ambition had always been to 'stand the clock round,' but he had no support. We can get some idea of the difference be-

(Continued on next page.)

**DEATH OF MR. A. C. PANKHURST.  
SUSSEX DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.**

The Sussex County Association has suffered the loss of a good ringer and officer by the death, on March 5th, after a short illness, of Mr. Alfred Cyril Pankhurst, of Eastbourne, at the early age of 43. For eight years he held the position of hon. secretary of the Eastern Division, and he was a member for 19 years of the St. Saviour's Guild.

The funeral service took place on Saturday week at St. Mary's Parish Church and the interment at Ocklynge Cemetery. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Hughes, and many friends were present. The bells of St. Mary's Church were rung fully muffled. Mr. Pankhurst leaves a widow, son and daughter in bereavement.

**MUFFLED RINGING IN CANADA.**

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL BELLS, VICTORIA.**

On Wednesday, February 14th, preceding the memorial service for Baron Tweedsmuir, a quarter-peal of 1,260 changes of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled: D. Boniface 1, Margaret Izard 2, A. C. Melhuish 3, A. King 4, W. Sampson 5, A. B. Lomas 6, E. W. Izard 7, E. Hutchins 8. The bells were also rung immediately after the service. After the service, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Sexton came up into the belfry and congratulated the ringers, on behalf of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Eric Hamber, on the excellence of the ringing. D. Boniface is 16 years of age, and this was his first attempt at a quarter-peal.

**CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.**

(Continued from previous page.)

two heavy bell ringing then and now, when we notice that after Cripplegate bells were increased to twelve and rehung, it took two men to ring the tenor to a peal of Cinques, and those two men were Philip Pilgrim and James Marlton, the only two ringers who, till then, had been able to ring Bow tenor behind single-handed to a peal.

The 12,000 at Shoreditch and the 7104 at St. Saviour's still stand as the record lengths for Oxford Treble Bob Royal and Maximus.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

**MEETING AT SILKSTONE.**

The March meeting was held at Silkstone on March 9th, when 14 members attended from the following towers: Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company. Ringing was delayed until 4.15 p.m. owing to a wedding and a funeral.

Tea was served at the Ring of Bells at 5 p.m. and the business meeting was held in an adjoining room, with Mr. E. Brookes (president) in the chair. The Chairman expressed the thanks of those present to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to the local company for the arrangements they had made. This was strongly supported by the secretary, who added extra thanks to the Vicar and the local secretary for haying at a very short notice arranged this meeting, which had been transferred from Sandal.

Shelley was chosen next place of meeting, to be held on April 13th. Further ringing followed until 8.15 p.m., the methods being Plain Bob, Double Bob, Double Stedman Slow Course and Treble Bob methods, ranging from Oxford to Cambridge Surprise.

**MR. AMOS' CRITICISMS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Although not a very outstanding personality in ringing circles and probably, as my letter will indicate to you and other ringers as well, not much of a writer, I feel, after reading various letters concerning the controversy over major and minor rings of five in the country, that I, like many others of my ringing 'pals,' would like to say a little, not about the same thing, but about the waste of valuable space in your paper which Mr. Amos is using to criticise what Mr. Trollope tries to explain as fully as he can to enlighten such people as myself who are interested in ringing as it should be in these critical times. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Trollope at one of our meetings, and he seems to me to be a man who deserves all the credit he can possibly be given for the work he has done for the Exercise as a whole. When in the belfry he doesn't seem to mind whether he rings the treble for a course of Grandsire Doubles or 'makes one' for a touch of Cambridge Maximus.

I am sure the letters of Mr. Amos would be more appreciated if at times like these he would write something to help further the art of change ringing, which is the main idea of all ringing associations.

Using a previous quotation of yours, I am certain that if Mr. Amos was to visit our band and criticise Mr. Trollope as he does in 'The Ringing World,' he would find himself again 'in the soup.'

Deeping St. Nicholas.

C. E. BLACK.

**John Taylor & Co.**

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

THE

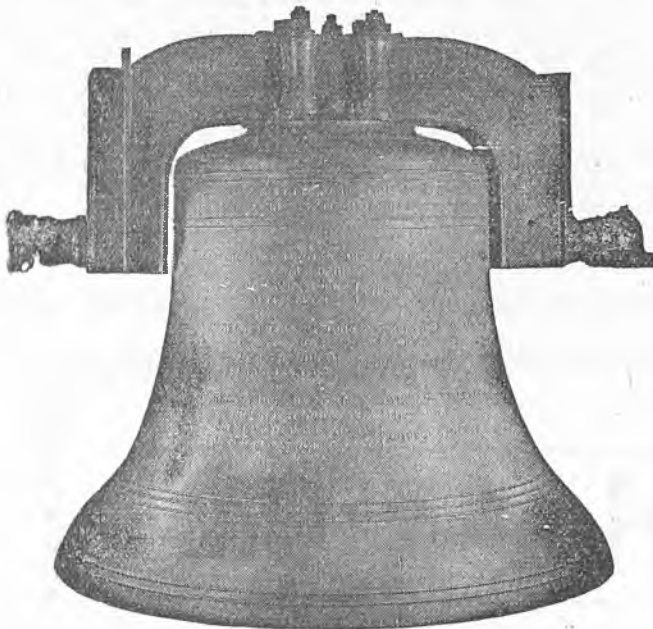
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The bells of St. Andrew's, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, have been restored by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who have recast the second, fifth and seventh and rehung the whole peal on ball bearings. A great improvement has been effected. The bells were rededicated on Sunday week by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in the presence of a crowded congregation.

To-day (Friday) is the anniversary of the 7,104 of Treble Bob Maximus which was rung by the Cumberlands at Southwark in 1802.

On the same date in 1901 the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major was rung at St. Peter's, Brighton. It was conducted by Mr. George Williams, and two others of the band, Messrs. George Baker and Frank Bennett, are still alive.

Elijah Roberts tapped 19,440 changes of Treble Bob Maximus at Liverpool on March 23rd, 1837. He started at nineteen minutes to four in the morning and finished at twenty-four minutes past five in the afternoon. Although no ringer heard it, there is no reason to doubt the truth of the performance, which was a most marvellous mental and physical feat, but hardly one that we should like to see repeated.

The St. Martin's, Birmingham, men rang 8,888 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells on March 23rd, 1898, and on the same date in 1783 a band of College Youths, mostly made up of men who lived at Kensington, Hammersmith and the western suburbs, rang at Fulham a peal of Old Double Caters, i.e., Plain Bob Caters. James Barham's men had already rung peals of the method at Leeds, and on March 23rd, 1751, they rang a peal of Reverse Bob Major, which was nearly, but not quite, the first of its kind.

Last Sunday would have been the 82nd birthday of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney, who died a few weeks ago. His friends in the College Youths remembered him by ringing a well-struck touch of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes.

## DEATH OF MR. H. SHEPPARD, OF DUDLEY.

SECRETARY OF DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Herbert Sheppard, of Dudley, which took place at his residence on March 5th in his 71st year. His loss will be keenly felt, as he was hon. secretary of Dudley and District Guild for nearly 30 years and carried out his duties with the greatest enthusiasm. He was also secretary and treasurer of the band at St. Thomas', Dudley, for about 20 years.

The funeral took place on March 9th at St. Thomas' Church, and the service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Dudley (the Ven. Dr. Sheppard), who was assisted by the curate (the Rev. E. H. Ivall). The hymn, 'Let saints on earth,' was sung, and after the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells at the graveside by J. Lloyd 1-2, J. Goodman 3-4, C. Skidmore 5-6, B. Ashford 7-8.

The bearers were Messrs. J. Goodman, N. Leech, C. Rowley, H. Hubball, brother ringers, and Messrs. Deakin and Oakley. There were also many old friends at the church.

The deceased leaves a son, who is in South Africa, and two daughters to mourn their loss.

## DEATH OF MR. E. J. BOTTLE.

BELLRINGER FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS.

One of Sittingbourne's most respected inhabitants has passed away in the person of Mr. Edwin John Bottle, who had reached the venerable age of 84 years, and with his passing goes one who has left his mark in the community in which he had lived so long.

He went to Sittingbourne about the year 1870 and was the oldest change ringer in this part of the county. As a boy he rang the bells at Tonge Parish Church, where his father was then verger, and he was the sole remaining member of the original band of ringers who rang the first peal on the occasion of the founding of a branch of the Kent Change Ringers' Society at Sittingbourne. This was nearly sixty years ago, when there were only six bells in the tower.

In this connection it is interesting to recall that the original six bells were cast in 1687. Prior to 1882 these bells had never been properly rung, and the following ringers took part in the first 720 of Plain Bob Minor on the bells: W. G. Gordelier 1, F. C. Mattison 2, E. J. Cooper 3, E. J. Bottle 4, Sam Snelling 5, W. J. Judd 6. Two years later these same six ringers rang the last touch (a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor) on St. Michael's bells before the two new trebles were added.

After the opening of the eight bells on December 20th, 1885, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples was rung, with Mr. Bottle at the fifth. Before then Mr. Bottle used to walk to and from Leeds, ten miles away, to practise eight-bell ringing. As a bellringer he was full of enthusiasm, and had travelled widely (both in the county and out of it) ringing in different towers. At one time he was a fireman; in fact, he was one of the original members of the Sittingbourne Brigade when it was formed in 1874.

On March 17th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled: H. E. Simpson 1, Miss D. Dobbie 2, W. Dobbie 3, E. Dobbie 4, A. S. Boar 5, G. Eastman 6, S. Dobbie (conductor) 7, F. Holdstock 8.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.****LIAISON WITH GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****Serving Members and Their Subscriptions.**

Between sixty and seventy members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Surrey Association at Croydon on Saturday; indeed the number of visiting ringers present was remarkable. They came mostly from London towers, but there were others present from Sussex, Kent and Essex. The Surrey towers represented were Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Leatherhead, Epsom, Beddington, Kingston, Southwark (St. George's), Hersham, Banstead, Merstham, Camberwell, Ashted, Mitcham, Reigate and Redhill. Towers represented by visitors were Henfield and West Grinstead (Sussex), Leytonstone, Stepney, St. Stephen's, Westminster, Willesden, Chelsea, Brockley, Bishopsgate, etc. The fine peal of twelve bells at St. John's Parish Church was, of course, a great attraction, and, under the direction of Mr. Dan Cooper, everyone had an opportunity of taking part in the ringing both in the afternoon and during the 'black-out.'

The service in the Parish Church was a source of inspiration to those who shared in it. It was unusual for a ringers' gathering, it lacked the formality of the usual 'service form,' but lost nothing of the dignity and impressiveness associated with a beautiful old church. The prayers were not recited, as is customary, from a reading desk, but offered by the Rev. J. C. Kinnear (senior curate) standing in the aisle between the pews occupied by the ringers, and they were prayers which went deep to the heart of things.

The address by the Bishop of Croydon (the Rt. Rev. Dr. Anderson), who is also Vicar, was a homely discourse delivered from the chancel steps, as a man talking to brothers. It was based upon three simple things which Christ asked for during his life—a boat, in other words a dinghy, from which to address the multitude by the Sea of Galilee, a donkey, in which He rode in triumph into Jerusalem, and a drink, when He was dying on the cross. The lessons of these simple things were drawn by the Bishop, the first being that we should not be ashamed to try new methods—Christ was prepared to preach from a boat. This was a changing world. Whatever the result of this war, the world that comes out of it will be a very different world even from that of 1939. The Church might have to change her methods and it will be the duty of Christians to think keenly as to how they can apply their faith to the changed conditions. Secondly, we should never be afraid of simplicity—Christ did not despise the donkey—for there was no garb in which charity was more irresistible than humility. Thirdly, the request for a drink was an appeal to neighbourliness which to the last Christ hoped to find in humanity. There was a need for neighbourliness in the world to-day. 'I am more and more conscious,' said the Bishop, 'that the bellringers of our Church set to all other Christian workers an example of neighbourliness. I wish I could get to the bottom of your secret that I might pass it on to other bodies of Christian workers.'

**WAR-TIME PLANS.**

The Master of the association (Mr. Kenneth Birt) presided over the tea and business meeting, being supported at the former by the Bishop of Croydon, Mr. C. F. Johnston, the Rev. J. C. Kinnear, Mr. E. G. Talbot (hon. secretary) and Mr. D. Cooper. The Bishop had to leave before the meeting, but prior to his departure was thanked by the Master for allowing the association to come to his church, for his part in the excellent arrangements, and particularly for his address.

The Bishop replied by welcoming the association and remarking that if his own small part had been of any use, he was more than rewarded.

At the meeting which followed, the treasurer's statement of accounts was presented by the secretary and adopted. The year was begun with a balance of £23 4s. 3d. and ended with a balance of £25 6s. 8d., the receipts, including £13 9s. 3d. from the North-Western Division, and £4 8s. 6d. from the Southern Division, being £23 11s. 9d., and the expenditure £21 9s. 4d.

The committee, in the annual report, said: When war was declared in September it was generally expected that, in common with all spheres of activity, ringing would be seriously interfered with. We had visions of our bells being silenced altogether with consequent disastrous results to the art and to the association. Ringers, however, were undoubtedly more than glad to find eventually that the Home Office Order relating to the control of noise did not prohibit the use of church bells in a customary manner, and although in most cases the normal times of ringing have been altered, mainly by reason of the black-out, ringing has ceased absolutely only in two towers affiliated to the association. Moreover, up to the present time we can be thankful that our towers and bells have suffered no material damage as a result of enemy activity.

When the first shock had passed away the committee met to discuss the situation, with the result that the towers were circularised and sundry recommendations placed before members. It is hoped that these suggestions, wherever possible, have been acted upon.

In some churches ringing takes place twice on a Sunday, and in the majority of cases ringing for one service has been the custom. In quite a number of instances, despite the black-out, practice nights are being well attended; at one tower methods of a high order, which have been dropped for two or three years, are being revived.

What the future has in store no one can forecast with any certainty, but, if the association can maintain the ringing in its area as it is doing, the set-back experienced will not attain large propor-

tions. The committee, however, cannot emphasise too strongly the all-important fact of obtaining recruits to fill the gaps which must necessarily arise from the calls of national service. By striving to keep our bells going we are not only furthering the aims of the association, but we are also performing in some degree a national service. For when we ring the bells for Sunday service we are giving to our fellow-men and, on occasion to the very world a proclamation that there still exists in this country the right to worship and act in accordance with the principles of the Founder of true civilisation, and in this respect our bells may indeed be termed the voice of freedom.

Until the outbreak of the war, meetings of the association were held on the same scale as in preceding years, those in the North-West District being very well supported. Afterwards the programme of district meetings was revised, and, despite the difficulties of travel and the weather, three well-attended meetings, two in the North-West District and one in the Southern District, have been held.

**THE YEAR'S PEALS.**

During the year 15 peals were rung, 14 in the North-West District and one in the Southern, and the association is proud to have scored its second peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, rung at St. John's, Croydon. The number of peals is not high, but it cannot be said that variety is lacking as the following details reveal: Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Stedman Cinques 1, Cambridge Royal 2, Bob Royal 1, Stedman Caters 1, Grandsire Caters 1, London Surprise Major 1, Stedman Triples 2, Grandsire Triples 3, Bob Minor 1. It will be observed that the foregoing include peals on all numbers of bells from Minor to Maximus. The conductors were C. H. Kippin 5, F. E. Collins 3, W. H. Hewett, A. Walker, E. C. S. Turner, F. E. Darby, J. Beams, E. Hancox and H. R. Thorpe 1 each. Six members rang their first peal and 15 others their first in the method.

According to information received to date, the number of annual subscribing members amounts to 286, though this figure will have to be revised when exact details are available. The total funds of the association now stand at £47 7s. 4d., made up as follows: General Fund, £25 6s. 8d.; North-West District, £12 16s. 8d.; and Southern District, £9 4s. If members' subscriptions had been maintained at the 1938 level, however, the funds would probably have reached a figure of £52 10s.

The support given to the association by members during the past year does not, in view of the circumstances, compare unfavourably with previous years, and the committee, whilst expressing their thanks, make an especial request that those who are still with us should make a particular effort this year to give extra help to the association by regular attendance at their own towers and at the district meetings.

Mr. H. E. Wills (Croydon) thought the report unduly pessimistic, but it was adopted on the motion of the chairman.

Mr. H. Wood (Merstham) was elected a member of the association, and Messrs. H. Thompson, L. and T. Fox and G. Cecil (Stepney) compounding members.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Reigate, and the following officers, having been nominated, were declared elected: President, the Bishop of Southwark; Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin (in place of Mr. H. F. Wallis); hon. secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks (in place of Mr. A. J. Cook); hon. auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere. The Bishop of Croydon and Mr. Arthur Dean (Leatherhead) were re-elected vice-presidents.

**CLOSER RELATIONS WITH GUILDFORD GUILD.**

Last year the Surrey Association and the Guildford Diocesan Guild, whose territories overlap, each approved in principle of the election of a representative to serve on the committee of the other organisation. This proposal, said the Master, had been further explored and had now got so far that the hon. secretary of the Guildford Guild had suggested a form of resolution that might be adopted by both, but the matter had to come before the Guildford Guild's annual meeting for final decision on their part. The point that had to be settled was the position of these representatives on the respective committees. Apparently they could not be full representatives under the rules, and therefore would not have power to vote, but would be very helpful and useful in a consultative capacity, and tend to keep the associations closely together. He, therefore, suggested the adoption of the following motion: 'That with the object of maintaining cordial relations between the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Surrey Association and to facilitate the frictionless working of the two societies, the general committee be asked to invite to its meetings such representatives as the Guildford Diocesan Guild shall choose at their general meeting for the purpose of discussing but not of voting on the business of the meeting.' That, said the Master, was the form of resolution put forward by the secretary of the Guildford Guild.

Replying to a question, the Master said the fact that the person appointed was already a member of both organisations was not important and would not impede his work.

The Rev. J. C. Kinnear proposed and Mr. C. Parks seconded the motion, which was carried with applause.

The Master said the committee of the Surrey Association had discussed the question and had recommended that Mr. C. H. Kippin be appointed as the representative of the association to accept any invitation of the Guildford Diocesan Guild to attend meetings of its Executive Committee.—This was agreed to, and Mr. Kippin remarked that it was the first time in his life he had been appointed to a diplomatic post (laughter).

(Continued on next page.)

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**(Continued from previous page.)  
**REVISION OF SERVICE FORM.**

The Master said the committee had further discussed the printing of a revised form of service. They had come to certain conclusions and had consulted ecclesiastical authorities, but they had not yet got entirely what they wanted in the way of prayers. The prayers in the book they had been using, which were specifically ringers' prayers, dealt with the question from the point of view of the outsider, but there was an absence of any that dealt with the way in which the ringers should carry on their job in the belfry. That, he thought, applied no more in Surrey than elsewhere. They knew there were tremendous difficulties about carrying on the work in the belfries successfully, and such things as jealousies, undue ambitions, personal ambition as against ambition for the band and such things. There was no single prayer that they had seen for fellowship, for friendship and the close need of what he could describe as love that ought to be found in the belfries. The work of a band was a unique opportunity for getting to know one's fellow-men and for learning to treat them gently and quietly. They often saw remarkable examples among older ringers of tact and of the charming way they coached and helped along younger people—they were ready to help them in any kind of way. It was prayers to encourage that sort of thing that were lacking. He was interested to hear that day, almost for the first time, a suitable prayer for fellowship in the belfry, which Mr. Kinnear used in their service. He thought the committee wanted to get something of that sort into the service, so that it might be really useful and helpful. He hoped it would not be long before the committee would finish their labours.

The meeting sanctioned the printing of the service forms by the committee, when ready, at a cost not exceeding £5.

A discussion took place on the printing of the annual report. The Master stated that, if it was decided to dispense with the printed report in the usual form, a member had kindly offered to produce a report in a condensed form, giving just the essential details, without cost to the association.

After discussion it was resolved that the 1939 report should be printed as usual, with certain statistical omissions, but that no further reports be printed until after the war.

Thanks were accorded to the members of the committee for the offer to provide condensed reports.

**SERVING MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

The question of relieving serving members of their subscriptions was discussed, and the meeting agreed to the following resolution: 'That annual subscribing members serving with His Majesty's Forces be excused payment of subscriptions until their return to civil life.'

Mr. Wills raised the question of excusing the subscriptions of service ringers coming into the area to ring peals.

It was pointed out that if they were stationed in the area they would automatically come under the resolution, but it was decided that nothing could be done in the case of ringers stationed outside the county, who would have to pay the compounding member's subscription.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. J. C. Kinnear for his presence at the meeting and for his part in the service, and the Master welcomed the many visitors who had attended the meeting.

Thanks were accorded to the officers for their services and to Mr. Dan Cooper for making the local arrangements.

Mr. Cooper, in reply, congratulated the members upon the way they had sent in notifications for tea. Sixty had sent in their names and sixty were present (applause).

**BRISTOL RINGERS' SUCCESSFUL MEETING.****DISASTROUS END OF HANDBELL TOUCH.**

About 25 ringers attended a very successful meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at Stoke Bishop last Saturday. From just before 3 o'clock until 4.30 p.m. the light peal of six was used to its full advantage. It was very encouraging to see two recruits in Bryan Downing and Roy Miller, of only 10 and 12 years of age, taking such a keen interest in the proceedings. It was their first meeting, and the novelty appealed to them greatly. Visitors from Westerleigh were very welcome, and it was surprising to see nearly a dozen ladies.

At tea, which followed, the Rev. Canon Wortors extended a hearty welcome to all present, and hoped they had all reaped benefit from the afternoon's 'bell pulling.'

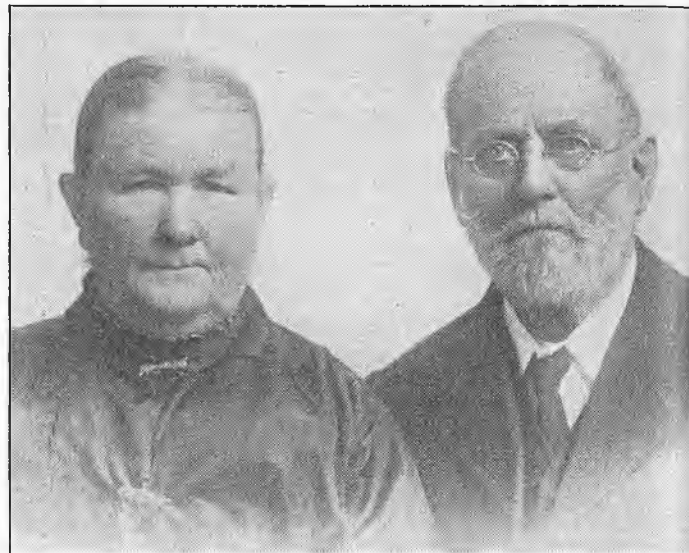
The vice-chairman (Mr. T. Harris) expressed thanks to the Canon on behalf of those present for giving permission to use the bells and providing tea.

Several ringers remained for handbell ringing, while the majority attended a short service of intercession. Heedless of the fact that A.R.P. regulations were not being complied with, a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells while walking back to the tower. The second touch, however, came to grief through the ringer of 1-2 walking into some brambles, which made short work of the pair of stockings she was wearing. Being her suggestion originally, she has, no doubt, paid the price for her request.

Ringings continued until 8 o'clock without further mishap, and two courses of Bob Minor completed an enjoyable afternoon's ringing.

**STONEY STANTON'S OLDEST RINGER.****DEATH OF MR. HARRY BRIGGS.**

The passing of that grand old man of Leicestershire ringing, Mr. Harry Briggs, of Stoney Stanton, occurred on March 5th in his 90th year. It can be said of him that the present standard of ringing in the Hinckley district was undoubtedly due in the greatest degree to his insistence that if you want the best out of the music in change ringing ears count equally or more than the eyes, the simple method being far above Surprise methods if one has to worry through the higher. This precept was handed down to those of the writer's generation, and it is now carried on in the next. It is noteworthy in that district Mr. Briggs' views, pointedly expressed at times, still bear fruit. In his own family three of his sons were ringers, and on

**THE LATE MR. AND MRS. H. BRIGGS.**

one occasion the father and his three sons rang in a peal together, but unfortunately all have now passed on. Mr. Briggs' last peal, rung some years ago, included his son Charles and a grandson. Harry Briggs was a gentleman worth calling a friend.

Mr. Briggs' wife predeceased him last June in her 92nd year. In the days gone by, when Stoney Stanton was the happy hunting ground for the Leicester, Nuneaton and Coventry ringers for peal attempts, the meeting place invariably was the home of the grand old couple for tea. It was reckoned that, if this visit was missed before the attempt, the result was inevitably no success.

Harry Briggs and his wife, 'Mother and Dad' the ringers called them, lived together through 68 years of married bliss. It is certain that many a ringer will give a thought to the passing of a pious old friend. The deceased was laid to rest with his wife on Saturday, March 9th, beneath the bells of Stoney Stanton that he loved so well. After the interment a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by T. Herbert 1, W. Wood 2, W. Clough 3, I. Bailas 4, C. Brown 5, F. Long 6, A. Ballard (conductor) 7, L. F. Watson 8.

**NORTH STONEHAM RINGER BEREAVED.****DEATH OF MRS. W. T. TUCKER.**

Mr. W. T. Tucker, of Eastleigh, Hants, has suffered a sad bereavement by the death of his wife, Mrs. Ellen Madeline Tucker. Mrs. Tucker, who was 63 years of age, had been in ill-health for a considerable time and died in the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. She had many friends among the ringers in that part of the county, for Mr. Tucker, who is a member of the North Stoneham band, was formerly hon. secretary of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

The funeral service took place at Eastleigh Parish Church on March 4th. The Vicar (the Rev. T. B. Randolph) officiated, and, in addition to the family mourners, there were present the Rev. H. G. Peile (Rector of North Stoneham), the Rev. L. Blackhall (curate), Mr. George Williams (Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild), Mr. G. Pullinger (hon. secretary, Southampton District) and other ringing friends. The North Stoneham ringers and the Eastleigh Mothers' Union were among those who sent wreaths.

**AUGHTON, LANCS.**—On Sunday, March 3rd, at Christ Church, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: J. Marsh 1, J. Taylor 2, J. Lunham 3, J. N. Brown 4, \*W. H. Deacon 5, \*J. E. Wilson 6, T. H. Dearden 7, T. S. Horridge (first quarter-peal and longest length as conductor) 8. \* First quarter-peal of Bob Major.



**FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

AND THE NEW SURPRISE MAJOR BOOK.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Even if they were fair and reasonable (which they decidedly are not), Mr. G. L. Joyce's criticisms in his article in your last issue would be entirely wide of the mark.

Whether a Treble Bob method has a false course end or not depends solely on whether, within the plain course, 1,7,8 fall twice into the same relative positions in rows of like nature; and any system of working out false course ends must, in the long run, consist of examining and comparing the rows where such a thing can happen.

At first the plan was to write out the full course, as is done in the 'Clavis.' Next men found out that the rows could be better and more quickly discovered by transposition. And then they found out that some of these transpositions can safely be ignored.

A man who has done a lot of work of this sort and is in good practice can usually spot the presence of false course ends without going to the trouble of making transpositions, and it is not at all difficult, by comparing the positions of the different pairs of coursing bells in alternate rows, to make sure that a method like Bristol has a clear proof scale. But it does not follow because a man has a system which he finds to be quick and safe in use that it is the best for everybody, and it certainly does not follow that it is the best to be recommended in a text book.

The new Surprise Major book was not written for a few 'experts.' It was written for average intelligent ringers. Such people have very seldom any need of working out false course ends, and the matter is of no great importance to them. The size of the book is strictly limited, and there is a great mass of material to be dealt with. Therefore, if any system of working out false course ends is given at all, it must be one which can be dealt with in a very short space, one which will fit into the general scheme of the book, one which requires little or no explanation, and one which an ordinary person can learn and use without much trouble.

The system recommended does fulfil these conditions and, I am sure, better than any other can. It is only childish of Mr. Joyce to talk of 'pitiful dogmatic re-hash of the old, old, stuff.' The essential features of the problem are the same as they were when John Reeves first faced them in the eighteenth century, no one can do otherwise than make a 're-hash' of them, and in the nature of the case it must be 'dogmatic.'

I suppose that Mr. Joyce's real grievance is that he thinks the merits of his own 'dogmatic re-hash of the old, old, stuff' have not been sufficiently appreciated. But that is neither here nor there.

It would have been easily possible to have expanded what has been written on working out false course ends, and to have explained how and why many short cuts can be made, but, apart from the limitation of space, I am very doubtful whether such a thing would have been desirable. One of the most subtle temptations which besets the man who attempts to write a text book on such a thing as change ringing is to try to do too much. You can easily defeat your own end if you ask more of the average reader than he is prepared to give. He wants to know, perhaps, two or three times in his life-time how to work out the false course ends of a method, and he wants as few and as simple rules as possible. He is not prepared to spend hours in studying a system in order that, when he has learnt it, he can save a few minutes in the actual working.

Further than that, it is very doubtful whether for ordinary people there actually is any saving of time. Personally I found, when I worked out the false course ends of more than 800 methods, that in the long run it was quicker to make the full transpositions, even the reverse ones (which, strictly speaking, are not necessary), for the reason that by so doing I got an automatic and reliable check. Mr. Joyce talks loudly about saving the necessity of making transpositions; but actually all the transpositions necessary in such methods as Superlative, Oxford, Kent, Cambridge, London and Bristol can be made in five or ten minutes. So the saving of time cannot in any case amount to much.

Mr. Joyce has criticised and condemned what has been written in the new book entirely on guesswork, for he does not know what has been written; and it seems a pity that he should so often think it necessary to be personal in his letters. That is a game more than one could play at, if it were not too low down.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

**RINGERS' DUTY IN WAR TIME.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Now that a more serious call is to be made on the younger ringers to serve in H.M. Forces, it is up to everyone concerned to make a determined effort to obtain recruits to replace our losses. This should be the aim of all ringers alike, and no one should leave the matter for someone else to do. Only so shall we be doing our duty to those who have been called upon to serve King and country.

T. HARRIS.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.**—On Sunday, March 10th, for evening service and as a farewell to Mr. H. Bird on his joining His Majesty's Forces, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples (1,260 changes): T. Ward 1, H. M. White 2, H. Bird 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, E. Ansell 7, W. Wilkinson 8.

**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.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting at Cambridge, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service in the Church of St. Mary-the-Great, 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Consistory Court. Tea at Lion Hotel, 5 o'clock. Ringing: St. Mary's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 3.30, and 6 to 8 p.m.; St. Benet's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 3.15 p.m., and in the evening. Please note change of plan due to war-time conditions.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meet at 3.30 in vestry of St. Mary-le-Tower and service 4 o'clock. At 4.30 the general meeting, in the Oak Room, Oak Lane, followed by tea at Lyons Restaurant. The bells at various towers will be available all day for ringing: St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8), St. Clement's (6), St. Matthew's (6), Sproughton (6), Rushmere (6), and St. Lawrence's (5).—Harold G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

**DEVON GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ottery St. Mary on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. until 9.30. Service 4.30. Tea meeting at the Church Institute 5.15. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meeting in the College Room at 11.15. Association service in the Church of All Saints, at noon, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen. General meeting in the College Room at 2.15 p.m. Owing to local conditions and the uncertainty of catering and the numbers attending it has been deemed advisable to dispense with the lunch. All practising members attending will be allowed 2s. 6d. each. The bells of All Saints' (10) will be available from 10 a.m. till noon and after the meeting until 6 p.m. It is hoped other towers will be available; if so, will be announced later.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Subject to the approval of the Dean and Chapter, general business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m., with address by the Dean. Tea (non-members, 1s. each). Bells available: Cathedral (12) 1-2 p.m., All Saints' (10), St. John-in-Bedwardine (8). The usual six-bell towers will probably be available. Information at St. Alban's from 11 a.m. Central Committee meeting in St. Alban's Room at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid, and reports obtained in St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

**LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Newport, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service at 4. Tea and business meeting to follow in All Saints' Mission House, Lyne Road. Bells of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' available.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting.—The annual meeting will be held as usual at Bedford on Easter Monday, March 25th. The bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head, followed by the business meeting, will be held at the Lion Hotel, High Street, at 4.30 p.m. Postcards will be very welcome.—F. J. Plummer, Hon. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the Cathedral (12 bells), St. Peter's (10), St. Michael's (6), and St. Stephen's (6) will be open for members from 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 4.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A., followed by tea and business meeting in the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street (close to Westminster Bank). You can depend upon a sumptuous meat tea in this original 16th century barn. Please let me know if you are coming, so as to make adequate arrangements.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 50th annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Easter Monday. Committee meeting at St. James' Schools 11.20 a.m. Service at St. James' 12.30. Luncheon (2s.) at the Black Horse Hotel 1.15. Business meeting on the same premises 2.15. Bells available: St. James' (8), 11-12.30; St. George's, Wilton (8), 11-12.15; St. James' after the meeting until 4 p.m.; St. Mary's (12), 4-7. The rings of six at Trull and Staplegrave are also available if required. Do please let Mr. Hunt or me know if you require luncheon.—J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton, Bath.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting, Easter Monday, at Derby. Bells of St. Andrew's (10), St. Peter's (8) available all day, subject to weddings, etc. Cathedral (10) open for two hours before black-out time. St. Alkmund's (8) possibly available; notice will be given. Committee meet at St. Peter's Schools 3.30. Tea (2s. head) 5 p.m., at Babington Café, Babington Lane, followed by general meeting. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. Service at 4.15 p.m. Address by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall. Tea at 5 o'clock, Annual meeting immediately after tea.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 63rd annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday at Norwich. Bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles available from 10 a.m.; All Saints' from 11.30. Service at St. Peter Mancroft at noon; preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Luncheon at 1, at Samson and Hercules House, Tombland, 2s. 6d. per head. Subscriptions due.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec. and Treasurer, Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Ewell on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available: Christ Church, Epsom, 11 a.m. to 12.30; St. Martin's, Epsom, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Mary's, Ewell, 3.30 to 5.30, and again in the evening until 8.30 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following in Ewell Church Hall at 5.30.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—In addition to the Maidstone tower, the following towers will be open before the service and after the meeting at the annual general meeting on Easter Monday: Leeds (10), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8).—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, at Headquarters, The Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., at 7.45 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—A practice meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 2 to 4 p.m. and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, from 4 p.m. until dark.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilchester on Saturday, March 30th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Please notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly will be held at Weekley (6) on Saturday, March 30th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea must be sent in previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

**HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Hawkhurst on Saturday, March 30th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (free to members) at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting for the election of officers, etc., and to make plans for the future to follow. A really good attendance hoped for, but please notify me re tea by Thursday previous.—F. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., 18, Wellington Cottages, Hawkhurst, Kent.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—E. Bucks and S. Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Amersham (6 bells) on Saturday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head for those who notify me not later than March 26th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

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**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Ringing after. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H.Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify by Thursday, March 28th.—R. Gilling, Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A special meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, to instal society's jug and case at headquarters (Royal Hotel). Bells (8) available 2.30 until 5.30 p.m. Service in church 5.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged at Royal Hotel at 6 p.m., followed by social evening. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, March 28th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Bitton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Gifford House, Frampton Cotterell.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Boston on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Tea will be provided for those who let me know by Tuesday, March 26th.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Newton Longville, on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Bus leaves Bletchley about 3.15 p.m., returns 8.15 p.m. A good attendance required for a good practice.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting, Bolsover, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short meeting in belfry during afternoon. Owing to prevailing circumstances, refreshments cannot be provided. Why not bring a bit with you? Remember, Bolsover always makes you welcome.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD (Northern) and LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A joint meeting of these societies will be held at Christ Church, Armley, on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until dark. Arrangements for tea will be made for those who send in their names to me by Wednesday, March 27th.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**WITHINGTON, Nr. Hereford.**—The postponed rededication of the restored ring of six will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 31st, by the Lord Bishop of Hereford. The two trebles recast and the peal rehung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).**—Quarterly meeting

will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5.15. Business meeting to follow. Owing to food rationing, all intending to take tea must notify Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, not later than Thursday, April 4th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—A quarterly meeting will be held at Willenhall on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45, with an address by the Rev. A. F. Sargent. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word by Tuesday, April 2nd.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will all those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 3rd, so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held (p.v.) at Ecton (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Service at 4.30. Please send card if you require tea.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) at Co-op Café, High Street, 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Schools—election of officers, etc. Names for tea to C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by April 1st.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Epping on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and after the meeting. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Church Hall. It is hoped as many as can will avail themselves of the opportunity of ringing on this fine peal. *Kindly note:* it is essential I have numbers for tea by first post Tuesday, April 2nd, at the latest. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Topsham on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m., free to members. Those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, April 1st.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

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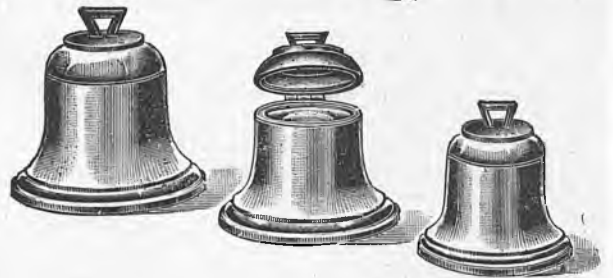
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