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FRIDAY, APRIL 12th, 1940.

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FALLING MEMBERSHIP.

These are difficult days for ringing associations. The war is affecting them in many ways, and it will not be easy to keep activities alive. Apart from the 'black out' which has curtailed ringing since war broke out, the bell-fries are already suffering, some of them seriously, from the withdrawal of man-power, owing to the claims of the fighting forces. A still greater drain upon them is to be expected in the months immediately ahead, and this calling up of ringers is going to have its reflection in the financial resources of the associations. Already the strain is having its effect, and several of the associations, whose annual reports have recently been issued, have shown heavy falling-off in paying members. For instance, the Midland Counties Association reports no fewer than 242 unpaid subscriptions among 835 members. The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association records 130 members lost during last year, as well as 90 who failed to pay their contributions. The Worcestershire Association has a falling-off of 73 ringing members, and the Irish Association has had to delete a great number, the majority of whom got into arrears with their subscriptions. Such facts as these are not a little disturbing. Losses of membership on this score cannot all be traced to the claims of the forces, and it looks as if some associations, at any rate, are faced with a two-fold struggle—to make good the gaps caused by the absence of those who are on national service, and to recover lost ground caused by the apathetic in their ranks.

There is always something of a mystery about the membership of ringing associations. Scores of new members are added every year, and yet the total does not grow to anything like a corresponding extent, even allowing for deaths. We remember the question being more than once asked at the annual meetings of the Oxford Guild: What becomes of these new members? The answer is to be found in the lapses of subscriptions. Far too many ringers take up the pursuit in a half-hearted manner, or, even if they start with keenness, let their enthusiasms evaporate. They pay an association subscription for a year or two, and then let it drop, even if they do not drop out of ringing altogether. They do not take their responsibility to their association seriously, and more often than not this type of ringer fails also to take his full responsibility in his own tower. At the best of times he becomes just an incubus; in these days his apathy may prove a real danger, involving the risk of breaking up his own band as well as depleting the resources of the association. It is not easy under present circumstances to start a drive for new members, or even the recovery of

(Continued on page 170.)

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arrears of subscriptions, but it is certain that some fairly definite and organised effort will have to be made if associations are not to sink into difficulties. Better try to stem the tide now than wait until it is beyond control. This is not merely the business of the association officials; it should be the immediate objective of every man—and woman—who has the interest of ringing at heart. A determined attempt should be made to bring back the ringers who have fallen out and to add to the ranks by getting new blood into it. There must be many people in nearly every parish who at this moment are looking for some definite outlet for their desire to do useful work. Here, in co-operation with the clergy and parochial organisations, is a chance of turning this desire into a practical channel.

TEN BELL PEAL.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF ERIN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

CECIL RADDON Treble	FRED GRUNDY 6
STANLEY HARRISON 2	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD 7
ARTHUR JAMES 3	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE 8
ROBERT ALLRED 4	PETER CROOK, SEN. 9
FRANK BARRACLOUGH 5	PETER CROOK, JUN. Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by JOSEPH H. RIDYARD.
First peal of Erin Caters on the bells and by all the band.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HERSHAM, SURREY.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH
SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSCRIPTION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*HERBERT COLCOMBE ... Treble	MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK ... 4
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 6
CECIL C. MAYNE ... 3	WILLIAM SIMMONDS ... 7
JOHN W. WARD ... 4	EDWIN COLCOMBE ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

* First attempt for a peal in the method.

LISS, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt, 1 qr. 16 lb.

FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Treble	ERNEST J. AVLIFFE 5
JOSIAH D. HARRIS 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON 6
ERNEST J. MUNDAY 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
CHARLES E. BASSETT 4	C. ERNEST SMITH Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

First peal of Major on the bells.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

*PETER WOODWARD ... Treble	*FREDERICK NICHOLLS ... 5
WILLIE GREEN 2	ARTHUR GILL 6
MRS. EDWARD BRADLEY ... 3	EDWARD BRADLEY 7
SIDNEY BRIGGS 4	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by D. SMITH.

* First peal of Major.

DUNMOW, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

CLAUDE SNOWDEN Treble	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY 5
MISS HILDA G. SNOWDEN ... 2	GEORGE SAUNDERS 6
JOSEPH C. JENNINGS 3	H. WALTER SMITH 7
LEWIS W. WIFFEN 4	ALBERT WIFFEN Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

ALMONDSBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 25 cwt.

*RAYMOND C. HARDING ... Treble	*RAYMOND A. ADAMS 5
MISS MARGARET PACK 2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT 6
ALBERT M. TYLER 3	DONALD G. CLIFT 7
SYDNEY G. RICHES 4	FRANK SKIDMORE Tenor

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

* First peal. First peal of Grandsire Triples for all except the ringers of seventh and tenor.

SUTTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*ARTHUR YOUNG Treble	NEVILLE HOLLINGWORTH ... 5
*W. ALLEN RICHARDSON 2	JOHN G. AMES 6
HAROLD BARSLEY 3	*ALBERT E. FLATTERS 7
ARTHUR J. FARR 4	CYRIL A. BURRELL Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by C. R. BURRELL.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LITTLE AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

MISS K. BURCHNALL Treble	MISS G. BURCHNALL 5
GEORGE E. FOSTER 2	FREDERICK HOOPER 6
HAROLD DENMAN 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE 7
ARTHUR E. CHILTON 4	CLIFFORD A. VESSEY Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by C. A. VESSEY.

There were 2,464 changes of Plain Bob and 2,576 changes of Little Bob, with 43 changes of method. First peal of Spliced Major by all the band and the association. C. A. Vessey's 50th peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to H. Denman.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

CUCKNEY, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Double Bob and two of Plain Bob.

JOHN NORRIS Treble	FREDERICK FLINT 4
HAROLD DENMAN 2	JOE READER 5
WILLIAM DICKINSON 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE Tenor

Conducted by H. T. ROOKE.

Rung as a first birthday peal for Master Denman, son of the ringer of the 2nd.

SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Reverse Canterbury, Oxford Single Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise.

SYDNEY FLINT Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON 4
*ROBERT GUY 2	WILLIAM H. DEACON 5
THOMAS S. HORRIDGE 3	*GEORGE SKELLAND Tenor

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

* First peal in seven methods.

YARNTON, OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores (21 different callings) in four methods, Bob, Union, Grandsire and April Day. Tenor 28½ cwt. in D.

HARRY RADLEY Treble	LIONEL G. DURHAM 4
HARRY P. FLOYD 2	NORMAN B. BUSBY 5
GEORGE E. BROWN 3	DOUGLAS B. POULTON Tenor

Conducted by H. P. FLOYD.

SUTTON COURTENAY, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 29, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising seven extents: (1) London Scholars' and Kingston Treble Bob; (2) Beverley and Cambridge Surprise; (3) Hereward and Oxford Bob; (4) Plain and Double Bob; (5) Double Oxford and St. Clement's; (6) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Thelwall and Childwall Bob: 81 changes of method. Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT E. LOCK Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 4
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 5
F. NOLAN GOLDEN 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG Tenor

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in 14 minor methods by all except the conductor. First peal in more than 12 methods in seven extents by the Guild.

DEEPING ST. JAMES, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, viz.: (1) Norfolk and Primrose; (2) London and Wells; (3) Durham, York, Surfleet and Beverley; (4) Ipswich and Cambridge; (5) York and Durham; (6) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Primrose, Hull and Bourne; (7) Beverley. Tenor 19½ cwt.

FRED BRIGHTMAN Treble	WILLIAM OLDMAN 4
CHARLES WOODS 2	HORACE M. DAY 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

NORTON CANON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 40 six-scores, 10 callings and 240 of Morris' Arrangement. Tenor 8½ cwt.

THOMAS R. PAYNE Treble	ALBERT E. JONES 3
LESLIE EVANS 2	*DAVID H. BENNETT 4
A. BRYAN ELSMORE Tenor	

Conducted by DAVID H. BENNETT.

* 25th peal for the Guild.

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GARSINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Double Court, Childwall, Thelwall, Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

MARIE R. CROSS Treble	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 4
*WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 2	†LESLIE J. GREGORY 5
FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 3	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in seven methods 'inside.' † First peal in seven methods. The Rev. C. E. Wigg's 200th peal.

POWDERHAM, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, April 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLERMONT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 different callings. Tenor 9 cwt. in G.

CHARLES R. LILLEY Treble	JOSEPH BREALEY 4
JAMES E. LILLEY... .. 2	BRIAN PIDGEON 5
REGINALD TRUMAN 3	*SYDNEY HOLWELL Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. A birthday compliment to the ringers of the 5th and treble and to the son of the ringer of the 4th.

Will the conductor of the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Brightwell, Berkshire, kindly forward his name, which he omitted to send with the report.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

EASTER-TIME MEETING AT EWELL.

A very successful meeting was held at Epsom and Ewell on Easter Monday, about 60 ringers attending during the day. A large number of methods were rung, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Treble Ten.

Ringling commenced at Christ Church, Epsom, at 11 a.m., and continued until 12.45. After a short break for lunch, the party proceeded to St. Martin's, Epsom, where ringling continued from 2 to 3 p.m., when a wedding service interrupted the proceedings for half an hour. The ten bells were then rung from 3.30 to 4 p.m.

Meanwhile ringling commenced at Ewell at 3.30 and continued until 5.30, when the company adjourned to the Church Hall for tea. Thirty-six members and friends sat down to tea, including Mr. H. M. Muggeridge, a churchwarden of Ewell. Mr. Muggeridge welcomed the association to Ewell on behalf of the Vicar, who was unable to be present.

A short business meeting was held, presided over by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master. Before the official business commenced the meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect to the late Mr. E. Acock, of St. John's, Croydon, who died at the beginning of February. He had been a member of the association for about ten years.

Mr. A. J. W. Hughes, of Kensington, was elected a ringling member of the association.

Banstead, St. Martin's, Epsom, and Dorking were proposed for the next meeting on May 25th, and after some discussion Banstead was chosen. As the Vicar of Ewell had expressed a desire that a meeting of the association should be held later in the year when he could be present to conduct a service and attend the meeting, it was agreed to hold another meeting at Ewell, in November if possible.

Messrs. J. Beams and C. E. Read, of Ewell, were congratulated on having reached their fiftieth year of membership of the Surrey Association. Mr. W. H. Hewett said that it was mainly due to Mr. Read that he had originally taken up change ringling.

The usual votes of thanks to the incumbents of the various churches for the use of their bells, to the tower secretaries for the arrangements made, and to the caterer for providing an excellent tea, were passed, and this concluded the formal business of the meeting.

Before the company returned to the tower for further ringling until 8.30 p.m., they were entertained to several courses in various methods on handbells by the experts present.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

On Easter Monday, at the Parish Church, Cirencester, the wedding took place of Mr. F. J. Lewis, jun., and Miss Olive May. The bridegroom is a very popular member of the local band and was the recipient of a present from the ringers. As the happy couple were leaving the church the bells pealed forth and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by H. S. Parsons 1, A. Painter 2, A. W. Baldwin 3, E. Cooper 4, W. Godwin 5, H. Lewis 6, J. Hope (conductor) 7, W. H. Hayward 8.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL BELLS.

ALL THE RINGING PEAL CAST.

The thirteen bells which are to form the ringling peal at Liverpool's new Cathedral have now been cast. The last of them came out of the mould at the Whitechapel Foundry recently, and they form a noble peal.

With a tenor of over 80 cwt., they are, of course, easily the heaviest peal to be hung for ringling, but at present they cannot take their place in the tower, as the structure is not yet complete. Building operations are still in progress, but until the tower is ready for their reception the bells have to be stored, and the Cathedral authorities now have this matter under consideration. The probability is that the bells will be taken to Liverpool and stored somewhere in the Cathedral.

It has been decided that the bourdon bell, which will weigh over 14 tons, shall not be cast until after the war.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A MEMORIAL JUG.

A special meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, when members were present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Rawmarsh, Hoylandswaine, Retherham Parish and Wath. The bells were kept busy from 3 p.m. until 5.30 p.m., when a service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector (Canon W. E. Wilkinson), who gave a brief but inspiring address.

The party then adjourned to the Royal Hotel for a 'ham and eggs tea,' which was thoroughly enjoyed. The ceremony of installing in its case the jug which was bequeathed to the society by the late president and founder, Mr. C. D. Potter, was the chief item of interest.

The president (Mr. E. Brookes) opened the proceedings and said the death of Mr. Potter created a great gap in the society, but the jug would help to preserve his memory. He hoped the members would do all they could to preserve it for all time.

It was very pleasing to have Mr. A. Nash, of Rotherham, the first secretary and a founder of the society, present. Mr. Nash gave a brief outline of how half a dozen ringers used to meet about the year 1905 and eventually decided to form the society, which was founded in January, 1909. The principal object was to encourage six-bell ringers and ringling. It was very pleasing to see that the society had been a success. The membership at the end of 1909 was about 50 and now it was just over 170, which was, without doubt, due to the efforts of the late Mr. C. D. Potter.

Mr. H. Potter, son of the late president, who had kindly attended to perform the ceremony of placing the jug in the case, said although he was not a ringer, he was always pleased to meet ringers and wished the society success in every way.

The jug, which is of earthenware, has recorded on it the details of a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 6,080 changes, rung at Barnsley on December 26th, 1879, with the ringers' names who took part. It holds just over a gallon. It has been placed in an oak case so that it may be handy for 'state occasions' and be kept safe at all times.

The president moved a vote of thanks to the Rector and also to Mr. H. Potter (who had borne the entire cost) for providing the case for the jug.

The rest of the evening was spent in ringling touches of Major and Minor on handbells.

BROADCAST RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After hearing this morning's broadcast from Lichfield Cathedral, I feel like asking, 'Does any member of the Lichfield company take "The Ringing World"?'

If the answer is in the affirmative, might I suggest that he turns over some of the past copies in which you have stressed the responsibility to one's fellow-ringers, which accompanies the 'honour' of being chosen to broadcast, of putting over a touch which shall be a credit to the Exercise.

If there are no readers in the tower, perhaps you, sir, might undertake to forward a few extracts from your back numbers to the tower secretary for the benefit not only of the band, but of ringers and listeners generally.

I have contemplated writing this letter for some considerable time, but have kept postponing it in the hope that some improvement might be shown in this periodical broadcast, but unfortunately I can only detect deterioration, with Sunday morning's broadcast as the limit so far in that direction.

I do not doubt that Lichfield, in common with all places, is hit by the Forces' demand for man power, but why on earth attempt to ring Triples with the 2nd out and 8-10 covering when the same band could not strike in rounds at the finish? I do not apologise for interfering in others' business, for I consider it is the business of ringers at large, when a caricature of ringling is periodically put on the air, as is done from Lichfield, and I would suggest to them that they tune in to Croydon when they are on the air, and listen to the interval signal of the B.B.C. Call changes on the front six would be a much greater credit to them than the 'floundering' attempts at method ringling which they have so far supplied.

Crayford.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAST DEVON BRANCH AT OTTERY ST. MARY.

Ottery St. Mary has a beautiful church and the lady friends of the local band are excellent caterers; at least, that was the opinion of the 73 ringers and friends who visited the town on Easter Monday for the annual meeting of the branch. All ringers like Ottery bells, even if the circle is a bit uncommon and the 'stances' awkward.

At the service the Vicar, the Rev. B. C. Jackson, welcomed all who came from the neighbouring parishes and from other branches of the Guild. He said that change ringing was a unique feature in English life and that there was a bond of fellowship between ringers. Ringing contributes to the impressiveness of church life. The appeal of the bells 'opens the cells where memory sleeps.'

At the business meeting after tea, the Rev. E. V. Cox, president of the Devon Guild, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. B. C. and Mrs. Jackson and the Rev. Carew Cox. The Vicar and Mrs. Jackson, who left early, were thanked for their presence and the use of the bells.

The annual report showed that during the past year three meetings had been held with an average attendance of over 50; five peals had been rung; the membership was now 100, of which five were serving with H.M. Forces. Sunday ringing had been done regularly, but practices were difficult. There was a balance in hand of £19 12s. on the year's working. It was proposed that an Instruction Fund should be formed.

The Rev. B. C. Jackson was elected as an honorary member and also as the chairman for the ensuing year.

Messrs. J. H. Godfrey (hon. secretary and treasurer), W. G. Burrow (Ringing Master), H. G. B. Gundry, J. Chown and J. Wheaton (representatives to the Central Committee) were re-elected.

It was decided that the next annual meeting should be held at Honiton. Fayhembury was fixed as the venue of the meeting on the last Saturday in August.

Messrs. K. Percy (Feniton) and J. Connatt (Sidmouth) were elected as members, and Mr. J. G. Sparks, of Trull, as a life member.

The President expressed the thanks and appreciation of all present to the ladies, the organist and all who had helped in this successful and happy gathering. He also informed the meeting of the severe illness of Mr. T. Laver, the valued general secretary of the Guild, to whom an expression of deep sympathy was accorded. Mr. Laver is resigning his post as secretary.

From a ringing view, the meeting was most successful, even enterprising, and excellent touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich were brought round.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. QUARTERLY PEALS FOR BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at St. Mary's Church, Bitton, on Saturday, March 30th. Members attended from St. Ambrose's, Mangotsfield, Herlway, Stapleton, St. Werburgh's, Coalpit Heath and the local tower. There was also a visitor from Melksham, Wilts. The bells, a peal of eight, were set going at 3.30 p.m., and service was afterwards conducted by Canon Phillips, who gave a very interesting address. The branch secretary ably presided at the organ. Tea was served at the Church Hall by ladies of the Women's Hour. The short meeting that followed was presided over by the branch chairman (Mr. C. Harding). A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies for preparing tea and to Canon Phillips for taking the service.

The members stood in silence as a token of respect to the late Canon Taylor, who was always pleased to welcome the ringers to Bitton.

The question of quarterly peals for the branch was discussed. It was decided that a peal be arranged each quarter, and that any member wishing to take part in a peal should send his name and the method he wishes to ring to the branch chairman as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made as to place, time, etc.

The next monthly meeting will be held at Olveston, and a joint meeting will be arranged with the Bristol City and Wotton-under-Edge Branches at Chipping Sodbury in May if possible.

Standard methods and a touch of Cambridge Minor were rung when the tower was revisited.

LADIES' GUILD.

MEETING OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.

The March meeting of the Northern District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Armley, Leeds, last Saturday. The attendance of ladies was rather disappointing, and it was wondered if some members had not got out of touch with 'The Ringing World.' Those present came from Sherburn, Armley, Bramhope, Headingley and Sheffield.

It was a grand day, and, owing to the fact that the meeting was held jointly with the Leeds and District Society, some good ringing was enjoyed.

One new member, Mrs. Hill, of Goole, was elected. The annual meeting is to be held at Todmorden in June.

TAUNTON (St. James' Guild).—On Easter Day at St. James', a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Hunt 1, W. G. Gigg 2, H. H. Walker 3, A. A. Walker 4, W. E. Priddle 5, J. Roy 6, A. H. Read (conductor) 7, W. T. Jeanes 8.

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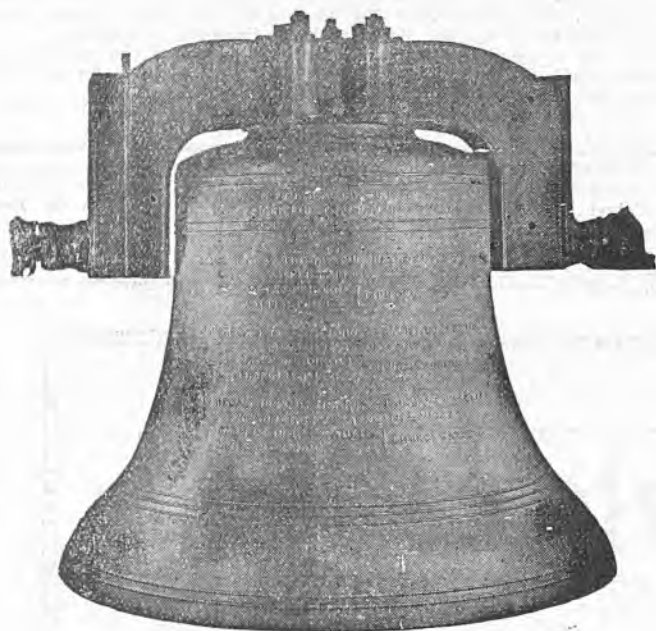
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The newly-appointed treasurer of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association is, like his predecessor, very keen and fond of the bells. Although not yet a change ringer, he takes the tenor regularly each Sunday. He has been at All Saints' just a year.

Caerleon bells have not been heard for some time until last Wednesday week, when they rang for the wedding of the Vicar's niece. The assistance of ringers from Newport enabled this to be done.

Caerleon, with a light ring of eight by Warner, with 7½ cwt. tenor, is really the home of change ringing in that part of the country, thanks to the late Mr. Evan Davies, father of Mr. Claude Davies, the hon. treasurer of the Lancashire Association and brother of the late Mr. William Davies, for many years at St. Nicholas', Liverpool.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Almondsbury was arranged to enable Mr. T. Harris to make his first attempt as conductor, but unfortunately illness prevented him from standing in and another conductor had to be substituted at short notice.

Mr. Percy H. Derbyshire, who rang the eighth to the peal of Erin Caters at Worsley on Saturday, was one of the band who rang the first peal of Erin Triples on the old eight, which was conducted by Mr. Joseph H. Ridyard's father.

Many city churches were closed for Sunday services at the outbreak of war. St. Lawrence Jewry was one of them, but this church is to be reopened on Sunday, April 21st, and the bells will be rung for service, for the first time since September, from 10.15 to 11 a.m.

Mr. Michael Girling, who rang his first peal at the first attempt on March 29th at Brightwell, Berks, is the son of the Rector, the Rev. F. B. Girling, and is now a serving member of H.M. Forces. He learnt to handle a bell a little over 12 months ago, and his only opportunities for practice have been when on vacation from Oxford and (since the war) when on leave.

Could not the Lincoln Diocesan Guild take the new Lincoln Society, Nebraska, U.S.A., under its wing and make itself responsible for furnishing special assistance in the way of such instruction and advice as may be possible from so great a distance?

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who conducted several peals of record length, was born on April 7th, 1857. On April 13th, 1914, he called Johnson's variations of John Reeves' peal of Treble Bob Royal, which contains 14,000 changes. It is still the longest length rung in the method.

On April 9th, 1830, Elijah Roberts 'opened' a new set of musical handbells by tapping on them a peal of 'Treble Bob Maximus with the Kent Variation.' It consisted of 7,536 changes and took 4 hours and 51 minutes. Joseph Powell called the bobs and several well-known Birmingham ringers were present, including Henry Cooper and Charles Thurstans.

George Newson, for many years the leading conductor of the Society of Cumberland Youths, died on April 7th, 1896. Among his peals he rang the tenor and called 13,440 changes of Double Norwich Major at Romford in 1894. The band, which included Henry Dains and Edwin Barnett, in a previous attempt at Brentwood broke a rope just before the bells should have come round.

Ringng at St. John's Church, Surrey Road, Bournemouth, has been cancelled for duration of war.

Should this meet the eye of A. Patrick Cannon, or anyone in touch with him, will he please communicate at once with the secretary of the Devonshire Guild, Mr. T. Laver, 21, Cross Park, Heavitree, Exeter, respecting the peal rung at Crediton in August last, as the inclusion of the record in the Guild report is held up.

Mr. Albert Coles' many friends will be glad to hear that he has now returned home from hospital after his serious accident.

In our account of the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, it was stated that Mr. W. E. White joined the association in 1884, but that was not so. He did not join until November, 1887. We are glad to learn that his health is slowly improving.

RINGERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

THE REMISSION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As will be seen from the report of the Midland Counties Association meeting at Derby on Easter Monday, the question was discussed of non-resident ringers who, being in H.M. Forces, are transferred to our area. It was pointed out that as we are allowing our own members now in H.M. Forces to remain on the books without fees, so we ought to allow members of other associations and guilds who come to our area the same privilege. We should be as generous as we could to such visitors and give them a hearty welcome to any tower in our area. Also that as the number of peals any such visitors might possibly take part in would be very small, no fee should be asked for or expected.

ERNEST MORRIS, General Hon. Sec., M.C.A.

WEDDING BELLS.

As a compliment to Mr. H. K. Mackinder and Miss W. Lake, who were recently married at St. Mary's Church, Woodford, Essex, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung at the Church of St. John the Baptist, West Wickham, Kent, on Saturday, March 30th: Miss H. Oakshett 1, H. Mackinder 2, C. Cullen 3, M. F. Oakshett 4, A. S. Richards 5, D. G. Brown (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method on the bells.

DEATH OF MR. W. D. SMITH. ONE OF THE OLDEST COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A Link with Bygone Generations.

Another veteran of the Ancient Society of College Youths has been called to his rest. Last Friday afternoon Mr. William David Smith passed peacefully away in his sleep at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Mr. Smith, who was 82 years of age, had been in failing health for some time and had been staying with his daughter for about six months. It was only in the last few weeks, however, that he became seriously ill.

His death removes another link with bygone generations of London ringers, for Mr. Smith came of ringing stock. Both his father, Mr. David Smith, and his grandfather on his mother's side (Mr. George Marriott) were born in Hackney, where Mr. W. D. Smith was also born (on December 13th, 1857), and all of them were ringers at St. John's Church, Hackney.

With ringing 'in his blood,' it was only natural that Mr. Smith should take up the art early in life, but while his father and grandfather were both members of the Royal Cumberland Youths, Mr. W. D. Smith joined the College Youths in 1878 and had thus been a member for 62 years. His first peal was rung with the society on December 9th, 1878—a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's, Bow, E., conducted by James Pettit.

Mr. Smith took part in the first peal of Treble Twelve at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1894, and the first peals of Stedman Caters at Canterbury and Lichfield Cathedrals. He also rang, in 1919, in a peal of Stedman Triples at Westminster Abbey, the first peal on the bells. Altogether he took part in 92 peals, the last being a peal of Stedman Triples at Eastbourne, Sussex, on October 15th, 1928. It is an interesting fact that he rang in Sir Arthur Heywood's first peals of Stedman Triples (at Shadwell), Caters (at Stepney) and Cinques (at Cripplegate).

Although Mr. Smith was an excellent conductor in the standard methods, and taught quite a number of young ringers how to conduct, he never called a peal, and the reason was that, after a succession of failures, for which he was in no way responsible, he made a vow never to attempt another peal as conductor.

Mr. Smith was elected Master of the College Youths in 1891 and again in 1903 and 1904. He was one of the first members of the Central Council, on which he represented the society from 1891 until 1899.

The family connection with ancient ringing history stretches back over an exceptionally long period, for George Marriott, who died in 1887, took part in the funeral peal of Malachi Cannon, who rang the 9th to the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in 1784. George Marriott himself took part in an attempt for a record peal of Stedman Cinques, on May 5th, 1851. At this time rivalry between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was very keen. On January 6th the former society rang 7,524 of Stedman Cinques at St. Giles', Cripplegate. The Cumberlands attempted 8,184 at St. Michael's, Cornhill, but after ringing 7,746 changes in 6 hours 2 minutes, 'they were too exhausted to finish their task,' and thus, for a time, the record remained with the College Youths, but the 7,746 was the greatest number of changes of Stedman Cinques up to that time rung by twelve men only.

Mr. W. D. Smith, of course, was intimately acquainted with many of the famous London ringers of both societies, who made history in the last century. It was a standing joke with John Cox to remind 'young Smith' that he called his grandfather's first peal a week before his (W. D. Smith's) mother was born. This was a peal of Grandsire Triples at Bishopsgate on March 12th, 1835.

Mr. W. D. Smith was in the postal service and rose to the responsible position of a superintendent at the General Post Office, St. Martin's le Grand. When he retired in 1917 he went to live at Eastbourne, and it was not until then that he severed his connection with ringing at St. John's, Hackney.

While in Eastbourne he rang at St. Saviour's Church, and interested himself in the Sussex Association, whose meetings he frequently attended. He usually made a point of attending the annual dinner of the College Youths and was present at the tercentenary celebration. The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Wednesday, the interment being in the family grave.

The sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended to Mrs. A. A. Hughes and other members of the family in their bereavement.

DEATH OF A ST. ALBANS RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph F. Chatley, of St. Albans, which took place on March 23rd at the age of 50 years.

At the funeral on March 29th a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Messrs. F. Kirk, W. Ayre, H. Frost and G. E. Debenham. In the evening, at St. Peter's Church, 588 changes of Grandsire Caters was rung half-muffled by T. Seymour 1, H. Frost (conductor) 2, H. Goodenough 3, G. E. Debenham 4, E. Gale 5, H. Mason 6, F. Spicer 7, F. Kirk 8, W. Ayre 9, K. Jones 10. Mr. Chatley became a member of the Cathedral Society in 1908 and was also an honorary member of St. Peter's Society, a member of the Herts Association and the College Youths.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire Association at Worcester on Easter Monday was marked by one of the best attendances of recent years, over 100 members and friends being present. They included Mr. L. G. W. Morris (the hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Association), Mrs. A. H. Beamish (the hon. secretary of the Warwickshire Guild), Mr. A. H. Beamish and visitors from Barnsley, Wolverhampton, Sutton Coldfield, Erdington, Castle Bromwich, Hereford and Leominster.

The general business meeting was presided over by the president, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester, supported by the Rev. G. W. Webb (clerical secretary), Mr. S. T. Holt (Master) and Mr. J. D. Johnson (hon. general secretary). In welcoming the association, the Dean observed that it did one's heart good to hear the bells that day and to know that one association at any rate had not abandoned its annual engagement. So many people had stopped doing ordinary things that when anybody carried on it was all to the good. This association meant to carry on.

The report of the Central Committee stated that it had been decided that members serving with H.M. Forces should be exempt from payment of subscriptions during war service. In response to a circular from the Lancashire Association, it was further decided that the privileges of membership be extended to all ringers in the Forces, stationed in or on leave in the county during war service, without payment of any subscription or fees.

In presenting the annual report and balance sheet, the general secretary remarked that he wished to refer to future balance sheets and to remind them of the lessons of the last war and post-war periods. They faced the present war in a strong position, much stronger than the last. They had reserves of over £100 and there was no necessity to increase them further, but they were probably facing a period of diminished income and rising costs, and it was far easier for a balance to dwindle than to be built up again.

After the last war, subscriptions had to be raised for several years to 2s., which was never a very popular step. He trusted they could avoid a repetition of this, and with everyone working together and pulling their weight they would be able to show a credit balance next year. Both report and balance sheet were adopted.

The librarian (Mr. C. W. Cooper) reported one of the leanest years—only 12 applications for 13 books, and the Dean stressed the value of the library and urged better use.

Arranged for the last Saturday in September, last year's annual dinner had to be cancelled, and although the wisdom of this step was never in question, there appeared to be a strong feeling in favour of reviving the function this year if possible. It was decided to leave this matter entirely to the discretion of the dinner sub-committee.

The whole of the officers were re-elected. Nine new performing members were elected, and the annual peal was left for arrangement at the discretion of the Master.

Worcester was again selected for the next annual meeting.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Dean and Chapter and incumbents of the various city churches whose bells were used that day—All Saints', St. John's and St. Nicholas', and, of course, the glorious twelve at the Cathedral, where the privilege of half an hour's extension to the usual hour was much appreciated.

The members later attended choral evensong in the choir of the Cathedral, when the special sermon was preached by the Dean. Here it should be remarked that the congregation of ringers compared favourably with the assembly for tea—contrary to a noticeable fact of recent years.

One snag marred the arrangements for the day. In spite of the general secretary's earnest appeal for 'numbers for tea by Tuesday previous,' postcards continued to arrive, numbers gradually mounted, and varying estimates were sent to the caterers (including the usual allowance for those who do not write) as late as Easter Monday morning. Even so, an extra table had to be hurriedly erected and at least two distinguished visitors were crowded out altogether. To these and others inconvenienced the association tenders this explanation and apologies.

PEALS AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope's articles on the bells of Southwark Cathedral were very interesting, but there are one or two points which call for correction. Mr. Trollope states that the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on the bells was rung on February 18th, 1922, but there were several peals in this method rung before this date. On March 23rd, 1912, Mr. A. B. Peck rang the tenor and conducted a peal of Cambridge Maximus, the first in the method on the bells, and on January 4th, 1913, Mr. F. Dench conducted a peal in the same method, with the late Mr. W. T. Cockerill ringing the tenor. Both these peals were rung for the College Youths.

On February 27th, 1904, Mr. H. R. Newton rang the old tenor to a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, a magnificent performance, as the long dodging in this method makes great demands on the skill and stamina of the tenor-man.

I am indebted to Mr. A. B. Peck, who very kindly supplied me with the dates of these peals.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

JUBILEE MEETING.

War-time Difficulties in Somerset.

The annual meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association took place at Taunton on Easter Monday. It was the jubilee meeting, and attracted ringers from places so far afield as Bath, Frome and Minehead. It was also, in a sense, an experiment, for this was the first occasion that the annual meeting had been held on a Bank Holiday, and, in spite of adverse conditions of travel, the gathering was well attended. There were visitors from Plymouth, Newton Abbot and Buckfastleigh. Ringing began at 11 a.m. and service was held in St. James' Church, where the Vicar (the Rev. Walter Green) gave a short address, in which he paid tribute to the work of the association, particularly in regard to the improved tone of the belfries and to the advance in the standard of ringing.

Luncheon, which might easily have been a peace-time one, was taken at the Black Horse Hotel, and some 50 people sat down to it.

The loyal toast was afterwards drunk and the business meeting followed.

The secretary (Mr. J. T. Dyke) read a short report, in which he said: 'The two chief factors we have to consider in connection with war-time conditions are the inevitable loss in subscriptions owing to our members joining H.M. Forces, the curtailment of ringing and difficulties of travel; and measures which we must adopt in order to keep alive this ancient art of ours, so that always we may be able to render our service to the Church.'

'I am unable, at the moment, to tell you of the numerical or financial state of the association with accuracy, for the accounts of two branches, although due on January 31st, have not yet been received. Of the nine branches which have sent in accounts, three, viz., Chew, Crewkerne and Ilchester, show an increase over 1938, but there is a total drop of £6 5s. 8d. over the nine branches. There was a slight increase over the amounts paid direct to me. Your committee has proposals to put before you to meet this decrease in income, which will probably get more serious as time goes on, unless we make some constructive effort to get more young ringers into our towers. The times are in our favour, because, especially in the country, the restricted public transport services and the petrol rationing tend to keep people in their own villages. It is for you to make suggestions and to carry them out as to how to keep the numbers in our belfries.'

'Before you consider this matter, it is as well that you should see clearly what the task is. It is useless to generalise, because conditions vary so much in different parts of the county. We have fewer people living in the whole county than live, for instance, in Bristol. More than one-sixth of our people live in one town alone, and only about one-half live in villages. Yet these villages produce four-fifths of our ringers. In places where many ringers live in a comparatively small area, the matter of co-operative ringing should not present much difficulty. I am pleased to note that two branches, Chew and Axbridge, still carry out their practice meetings, and I hope that they will be able to continue them. The type of instruction which I was carrying out at the outbreak of war had to cease abruptly owing to petrol rationing, and the association's rule about instruction will have to be waived for the time being at any rate, where much travel by the instructor is involved. We know, too, that many of our towers are remote from a really capable instructor.'

The report was adopted and the meeting proceeded to consider the recommendations of the committee. It was decided to print a report, but to delete the long list of non-resident life members. Several members spoke of the use of the list, but reluctantly, in the interests of economy, the decision was made.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS SUSPENDED.

The meeting endorsed the committee's recommendation to grant to Burnham tower two guineas towards their recent bell restoration. It was also decided to discontinue the general quarterly meetings for the duration of the war. It was pointed out that this would still leave 44 branch, one general and many practice meetings per year.

The next recommendation was passed without discussion. It was that all members joining H.M. Forces should have their subscriptions remitted and that their names should be retained in the report, with an indication that they are the names of the serving members. Ringers visiting the county for military training may be admitted to membership without charge, for as long as they are resident in the diocese.

It was announced that Evercreech tower had decided to continue to pay the fees of its serving members, and this was considered very laudable.

The officers of the association were then re-elected without dissent, viz.: Rev. W. M. K. Warren, Master; J. T. Dyke, secretary; D. G. Taylor, auditor.

The meeting then discussed ways and means of keeping the bells going in war time, and it was evident from the animated discussion which took place that the members have the matter very much at heart. The following members contributed to the varied suggestions: Messrs. Smallwood, Hunt, Woodburn, Lloyd, Stacey, Taylor, Prescott, Beck, Davies and Osborn. It seemed that the consensus of opinion was that the strength of the Guild lay in its individual towers or in small groups of towers.

(Continued in next column.)

ANOTHER U.S.A. CENTRE.

LINCOLN STUDENTS FORM CHANGE RINGING SOCIETY.

Another 'group' interested in change ringing has been established in America. A few weeks ago we published a communication from Mr. J. F. Laker, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, giving information of a new centre of interest in the art.

Now comes news from Lincoln, Nebraska, of a 'club' founded about two years ago to study change ringing. It began under the title of the Society of High School Bell Ringers. It is now the Lincoln Society of Bell Ringers. Lincoln is a city about in the centre of the United States and there are some 15 members of the group—students at the High School and College.

Facilities have naturally been limited and progress slow, but there is marked interest among the members. Their president, Mr. D. Putney, has written a small monograph on the subject, which is intended to explain change ringing to the local people, who, for the most part, have never heard of change ringing, or heard changes rung, or seen bells hung for scientific ringing.

The society is now in touch with Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, librarian of the Central Council, and a number of the Council's and other books of instruction have recently been added to the society's library, of which the custodian is Mr. George Werner, of 3310, Dudley Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Among the books which the library possesses is 'Change Ringing' by Troyte and 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' by Wigram, which they were able to copy photographically when one of the members unearthed them in a college library on the east coast. Such patience and industry shows the extraordinary keenness of the students.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL NOMINATION MEETING.

The Leeds Society's annual nomination meeting was held at Armley on Saturday, when members were present from Bradford, Bramley, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Leeds, Pudsey, Rothwell, Selby, Sherburn, Shipley, Tadcaster and the local company.

At the business meeting Mr. W. H. Senior, as chairman, asked all to stand in memory of the late Mr. Charles Pratt, of Calverley, who, as stated in last week's 'Ringing World,' was a foundation member of the society.

The Chairman gave a welcome to the Rev. H. Gordon Hutchison, the new Vicar of Christ Church, Armley.

A vote of thanks for the use of the bells was proposed by the Rev. Canon Marshall, who said it was very good of the new Vicar of Christ Church to give a personal welcome to the visiting ringers. It was a gesture we hoped for, but did not always receive. This was seconded by Mr. A. Armitage. A vote of thanks to the local company for making the arrangements and to the ladies for waiting at the tea tables was proposed by Mr. W. Barton.—Mr. J. W. Benten acknowledged the vote and said the Armley ringers were pleased to see so many visitors present, and if the visitors had enjoyed themselves the local company were amply repaid.

The next meeting will be at Burley on April 27th, 1940, when it is hoped the Vicar of Leeds will unveil the Jubilee Peal Board.

Nominations were then received for all officials for the coming year.

DEATH OF A FORMER LEISTON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Keeble, which took place rather suddenly on March 31st at Forest Row. The deceased, who was 67 years old, was one of the band at Leiston which some years ago made ringing history by scoring peals in many Surprise Major methods. He was a regular service ringer and had taken part in about 100 peals. The funeral service was at St. Margaret's, Leiston, on April 4th, and the interment at the local cemetery. The local band was represented by Mr. J. G. Rumsey.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

On the motion of Mr. W. J. Prescott, the meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. William Cave, who rang his first peal for the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.

Mr. Pugsley, the only member present who had been at the inaugural meetings in 1890, was congratulated by the meeting on the proposition of Mr. Stacey.—Mr. Pugsley, in reply, emphasised the need for even closer co-operation with the clergy.

It was decided to send the greetings of the meeting to some of the original members still living, but not present that day. They were Messrs. Brown, J. Maddock and J. Burge. Many members later conveyed their greetings in person to Mr. Maddock, who has so far recovered from his long illness that he was able to take a pair of handbells in a touch of Grand sire Triples. It was to men like these, and to the Rev. C. W. Griffith, that the association survived the very difficult days following its inception.

An omnibus vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. D. G. Taylor to the various incumbents and to the local ringers, in particular Messrs. J. Hunt (who made the catering arrangements with the host, Mr. Stevens), P. Merson and Hayward.

During the day, the bells of St. Mary's, St. James' and St. George's, Taunton, as well as those of Trull and Staplegrove, were rung in various methods.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.**

The city of Norwich, famous for its bells and ringers, heard again on Easter Monday the sound of four of its peals, when the customary annual meeting was held. In spite of the many difficulties of these times, the attendance was good, and the enthusiasm with which the subscriptions were paid in was extremely gratifying!

The bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles', St. Miles' and All Saints' were available from 10 o'clock, and a large variety of touches was rung from Doubles to spliced Maximus.

Divine service was held at noon at St. Peter Mancroft, conducted by the association's president, the Rev. Hugh McMullan, Vicar of St. Peter's. The Rev. Alfred G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral and a well-known ringer, gave the address, basing his discourse on St. John ix., 5. Mr. Thurlow said: 'The circumstances under which we meet this year force us to think more deeply than usual about what it is for which we stand as ringers. Churches, alone, are accustomed to have bells which loudly sound everywhere because they, alone, are meant to concern everywhere. We can only justify our position as ringers if we sincerely believe in our Lord's claim that He is *the* light, the only light which can truly lighten this otherwise dark and hopeless world. Similarly we can only justify the war against totalitarianism if, while guarding Christianity against destruction from without, we strive with all the strength of which we every one of us are capable to protect Christianity from indifference and opposition from within our land.'

Luncheon was served at the Samson and Hercules House. The business meeting followed, the chair being taken by the president, supported by Messrs. Arthur L. Coleman (vice-president), F. Nolan Golden (general secretary and treasurer), William L. Duffield, William J. Lee and John A. Godfrey (branch chairmen), Albert G. Harrison, J. G. William Harwood and Henry Tooke (branch secretaries), the Rev. A. St. John Heard and Messrs. George Bailey, R. William Barber, Eric G. Bennett, Robert W. Cooke, William C. Duffield and Leslie W. Houghton (committee), and members from Acle, Attleborough, Barsham, Beccles, Bergh Apton, Fakenham, Fornsett, Gressenhall, Halvergate, Hethersett, Kirby-le-Soken, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Reedham, Rockland, Shelfanger, Snettisham, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Swaffham, Winfarthing, Wroxham, Wymondham and Yarmouth. Mr. S. Breeze (Guildford) and Mr. D. Coombes (Prittlewell) were also present.

The report and balance sheet were adopted. The report stated that 13 branch and two general meetings had been held, and the attendances had been satisfactory. Forty-eight new members had been elected, but the total of annual subscribers showed only an increase of 14. Fourteen members were lost by death. Restorations had been carried out at Hethersett, Paston and Somerleyton. There was a balance in hand of £4 19s. 11d., while the reserve fund totalled £148 8s. 9d. Forty-three peals only were rung, but these included eight fresh performances.

The officers of the association were all re-elected and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow was made a vice-president. The Rev. Hugh McMullan, in acknowledging his re-election as president, conveyed to the members on behalf of his brother clergy their very sincere thanks for carrying on as best they could with the ringing for services. The ringing of the bells helped to keep up the morale of the people, and so ringers were performing an even greater service than they did in normal times. Mr. Golden expressed his appreciation of the support he had been given as general secretary and treasurer and hoped that the members would continue to rally round.

Four new members were elected—Miss N. Curson (Hethersett) and Messrs. R. C. Button (Watton) and F. and H. Smithson (Buxton).

It was decided to replenish the stocks of badges and certificates as soon as possible. Mr. W. C. Duffield urged members to enlist the support of their churchwardens and clergy, since the exemption of members of the Forces from paying subscriptions would affect the finances of the association considerably.

Mr. W. L. Duffield expressed the gratitude of the members to the president for his work and influence, and to the incumbents of the city churches for allowing them to have the use of the bells that day. Reference was also made to the organist, who gave up part of his holiday to assist in the service, and Mr. Golden voiced the thanks of the members to Mr. Thurlow for his stirring address and for his tact in refraining from talking about the history of bells and the other appurtenances of the traditional ringers' address.

SAXMUNDHAM RINGER'S BEREAVEMENT.

Sympathy will be extended to Mr. F. W. Watling, one of the Saxmundham ringers, in the death of his wife, Mrs. Rosanna Jane Watling, at the age of 67 years, after a long illness. Mrs. Watling's father, Mr. George Eastaugh, was parish clerk and a ringer at Wenboston, Suffolk, for many years.

HOME ON LEAVE.

At St. Peter's Church, Pentre Rhondda, on March 16th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Lovett 1, W. Page 2, J. Evans (first in the method) 3, T. Page (conductor) 4, G. Page 5, H. Davies 6, F. Lasbury 7, H. Crabb 8. Arranged for G. Page, who was home on leave from France.

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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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch, Rusholme, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secretary.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Bishops Cannings (8 bells) on Saturday, April 13th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5. Meeting to follow.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Broughton Parish Church, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Meeting to follow. Hearty invitation to North Staffs friends and Derby District members. Subscriptions now due, and reports ready.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cullompton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (10) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bottesford on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Please make own arrangements for tea. Come and try this fine peal.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

CORNWOOD, DEVON. — At 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th, the Lord Bishop of Exeter will re-dedicate the ring of six bells restored by John Taylor & Co.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Harpenden on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Forget your worries and come to Uckfield on Saturday, April 13th. A warm welcome and a cheerful company await you. Owing to war, etc., tea will be 1s. 6d.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at West Hallam, on April 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Come and have a ring at this handy peal. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Sandhurst, Saturday, April 13th, 5.30 p.m.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be at St. James', West Derby, on Sat., April 13th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 5. All ringers cordially invited.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Roydon on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. until dusk. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Whitworth Parish Church on Saturday, April 13th. Bells, available from 3 p.m., are well worth a visit. All ringers and friends cordially invited. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A practice will be held at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Saturday, April 13th, at 3.30 p.m. As ringing is restricted to one hour, ringers are urged to turn up promptly.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The following Saturday afternoon practices have been arranged: April 13th, Danbury; April 20th, Widford; April 27th, Boreham; and May 4th, Broomfield; all commencing at 3 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Overton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Overton Rectory. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by April 17th the Rev. E. G. Wells.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 20th. Bells at Cathedral Church 3 to 4.15 p.m., S. Nicolas' afternoon and evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe (next to S. Nicolas'). Numbers for tea must be sent to me by April 17th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Grimsby District.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at St. James', Grimsby, on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. and after business meeting till 9 o'clock. Service 4.15. Meat tea, at 1s. 9d. per head, 5 p.m., in the Church House, Bull Ring. Please be sure and notify me of the numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, April 17th. Subscriptions are now due. We should be very glad to welcome any ringers in H.M. Forces who are in the district.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

CORNWORTHY, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.—The ring of six bells, restored by John Taylor and Co., will be re-opened on Saturday, April 20th, at 3 p.m.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Aldenham, open for ringing from 3.30 till 7.30, Saturday, April 20th. Tea at Village Club 5.30. Business meeting after. Nearest station, Bushey or Radlett. Excellent bus service to church. Those requiring tea must let me know by Thursday morning, as arrangements have to be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Horley on Saturday, April 20th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Six Bells 5.30. It is essential that those requiring tea should send their names to Mr. A. Bull, Jesmond, Queen's Road, Horley, by Tuesday, April 16th.—A. T. Shelton, Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horbling on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (6) available from 2-8 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Plough Inn, P.R.H.A. Will those requiring tea please send postcard by Wednesday previous?—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Sleaford, Lincs.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting for practice will be held at Chew Magna on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting will be held at Tibshelf on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea in Church Hall at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, April 17th?—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting is to be held at Nuneaton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Committee meeting in the vestry at 4 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting in the Parish Hall. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. Visitors welcomed.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting is at Kegworth on Saturday, April 20 (not 13th as arranged). Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 1s. each for those who notify Mr. F. J. Sutton, Market Place, Kegworth, Derby, by Thursday, April 18th, at the latest. Reports are now ready.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—The next meeting will be at East Dereham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea in Church House at 5 p.m. at 1s. 2d. each. Will all members attending tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 17th?—H. Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

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YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh, on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. until dark. Short service at 4.30 p.m., which all are invited to attend. Tea (at 1s. per head) will be served in the Schoolroom at 5 p.m., and all those requiring same must notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, by Wednesday, April 17th. This is important owing to catering difficulties. Business meeting afterwards.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Long Sutton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All those intending to be present must let me know by April 15th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Witney on Saturday, April 20th, 3 p.m., at the church. All those requiring tea please let me know by TUESDAY, April 16th, certain.—W. Evetts, Hon. Sec., Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Fareham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Rosemary Cafe at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Burnett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Newcombe Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Next meeting on Saturday, April 20th, in Westminster. Ringing at St. Gabriel's, Warwick Square, 3.30 to 4.30, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, 6.15 to 8.15 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Dis. Sec. pro. tem.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Byfield (6 bells) on Saturday, April 20th. Usual arrangements. Kindly notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Woodford (6 bells) on April 20th. Usual arrangements. Please send names for tea by April 15th.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock, near Kettering.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Corringham (6 bells) on Saturday, April 20th. Tea (1/3) only for those who notify me by Wednesday previous.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Dis. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Wootton, Saturday, April 20th. Bells (a fine peal of six) ready from 3 p.m. No tea arrangements are being made. We shall be pleased to see you.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Please notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Wednesday, April 24th. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary Cray on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea, by kind invitation of the local ringers, to members notifying me by Saturday, April 20th, if possible, certainly not later than Monday, 22nd. Please support the efforts made on your behalf. St. Mary Cray expects large numbers!—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody cordially invited. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Cathedral (12 bells) practices for the summer months have now commenced. Every Tuesday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—John Anderson, Hon. Sec.

ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON.—We are now practising on Monday nights from 7.45 to 9.15 p.m. All ringers who can come along will be welcome—H. E. Mills.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. F. White has removed from Westfield, Cranbrook, to 142, Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The home address of Mr. G. V. Murphy (at present serving with the Royal Artillery) is now 219, Court Road, Mottingham, S.E.9. All communications should be sent to this address.

DEATH.

BARTRAM.—On April 1st, suddenly, at 33, Rosebery Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Arthur H. Bartram passed away peacefully, aged 35 years.

EASTER BELLS.

At Burnham, Bucks, for morning service by the local band, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): J. D. Taylor 1, G. W. Limmer 2, M. A. Blamey (R.A.F., Cranwell) 3, Miss S. M. S. F. Fleming 4, P. A. Blamey 5, C. A. Burgess 6, B. O'Neill 7, G. Gilbert (conductor) 8.

At Usk, Mon., on Easter Eve, March 23rd, for preparation service, 700 changes of Grandsire Triples, and on Easter Day for early Holy Communion, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, from Holt's Original: G. Thomas 1, L. Jones 2, A. Hawkins 3, G. Hawkins 4, S. Kear 5, D. G. Clift (conductor) 6, N. Sweet 7, E. W. Luff 8.

At Christ Church, West Didsbury, Lancs, on Easter Sunday, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Mellor 1, H. Longden 2, H. Hollingworth 3, A. Frost (conductor) 4, B. Walshaw 5, A. Ford 6, H. Jones 7, R. Longden 8. Ringing at Christ Church now takes place on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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