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FRIDAY, JULY 19th, 1940.

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## 'LET ENGLAND HEAR THE BELLS AGAIN.'

The determination of the committee of the Yorkshire Association that, as far as possible, the life of the organisation shall be carried on as usual in these difficult times, will, we think, be applauded by the majority of the members. To other associations, hesitating whether or not to 'pull down the blinds' for the duration of the war, it should prove an incentive to keep going. The defeatist attitude can descend to other things than the actual war itself; indeed, it is the one thing against which the ordinary citizen must guard more than any other. To accept the spirit of defeat in the small things which affect our lives would prove an insidious step towards taking the same outlook in regard to the much more important and vital issues that confront us. Do not let us think, because the actual ringing of church bells is stopped for the time being, that all is at an end with regard to our art. Rather should we face the position with stouter hearts and a grimmer determination to maintain the spirit of co-operation and mutual encouragement. Associations *can* carry on successfully even without having church bells to ring, as our columns continue to show, and the faint-hearted and the 'all-is-lost' brigade should take courage from what is being done in various parts of the country to continue the work of the ringing organisations, restricted, as it perforce must be, despite the handicaps of the moment.

Moreover, is there not something encouraging in the speech of Lord Mottistone in the House of Lords, from which we quoted extracts last week? Here is a responsible member of the Legislature asking the Government to allow the church bells to ring again. It was a stirring appeal and, coming from such a source, may well lead to some modification of the complete ban which is now imposed. 'What folly was this to tell our people not to ring the bells?' he asked. 'Who was the timid soul who suggested that?' he pressed, and added, 'Let England hear again the bells. Why not be joyous, and meet death with a smile if it must come?' That was spoken like the Englishman that he is; and we think many beside ringers will applaud the sentiment which Lord Mottistone expressed. Ringers naturally want the bells to sound again, and so do many members of the public. Actually there need be no confusion between the ringing of the bells for service and an invasion alarm, if the intention of the Ministry of Home Security is to have only one bell rung when the invaders arrive.

But Lord Mottistone's appeal goes deeper than that. The church bells are part of the life and the tradition of this country, and their cheering sounds would help to

(Continued on page 338.)

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enliven the spirits of the people, help to remind them in times when it is more important than ever that they should be reminded, not merely of the fact that the Church continues an active force in the land, but of the even wider truth that the Christian faith still prevails among the people of this nation, the faith for whose principles, express them how you will, we are determined to fight to the bitter end. The bells on Sundays would be a regular reminder of all this nation stands and fights for in this stupendous struggle, and they would recall to those who are giving themselves without stint to the country's cause—and thus, perhaps, are hardly able to distinguish Sunday from any other day of the week—the faith which is the foundation of all our hopes, our endeavours and our ultimate aims. We do not think that this is putting too high a value on the service which the bells might render if they were free to do so; and we believe that Lord Mottistone was interpreting the feelings of a large majority of the people when he said, 'Let England hear the bells again.' When they do, nothing, we are convinced, will give them greater cheer or pleasure. And after all, as Lord Mottistone said, let us 'meet death with a smile if it must come.' That is the spirit that has made Britain what it is; and that is the spirit that will carry us to victory in this great struggle.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 4, 1940, in One Hour and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT 9, PATRICK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 six-scores.

BERNARD BROWN ... .. 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH ... .. 3-4

KENNETH NARBOROUGH ... .. 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

First peal and first attempt by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 9, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15.

\*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 1-2 | †ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 5-6

†CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | †THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First peal in the method on handbells. † First peal in the method.

PRESTON, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*EDWARD COWPERTHWAIT 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 3-4

†CERCIL CROSTWHAITE ... .. 5-6

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

\* First peal. † First peal on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15.

\*EDWIN H. LEWIS ... .. 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 3-4 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

\* First peal in the method on handbells.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE RECOMMEND DISTRICTS TO CARRY ON.

### Annual Report to be Published.

A special war emergency meeting of the General Committee of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, on Saturday, July 6th, when the following members were present: Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A. (in the chair), Messrs. L. W. G. Morris (general secretary), S. F. Palmer (treasurer), W. Barton (peal secretary), G. Lewis, F. Cryer, E. Hudson, H. S. Morley, E. Bradley, R. B. Smith, F. W. Dale, F. Rayment, F. W. Dixon, T. W. Strangeway and H. Armitage. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. Ewbank, D. Smith, J. Ambler, A. Staveley and P. J. Johnson. The President announced that recent developments in the war situation, and in particular the Home Office ban on the ringing of church bells, automatically rendered it necessary for ringing organisations to recast their procedure, and the purpose of that meeting was to review their position in the light of the present situation.

A long discussion then took place on the Home Office ban on the ringing of church bells, and whilst the committee agreed that, as matters stood, ringers in general had no say in the question, it was pointed out that in view of the fact that much damage could be done both to person and property by a non-ringer trying to ring a bell without any supervision, and that arrangements for carrying into effect the ringing of church bells for the purpose of warning the public of the arrival of parachutists would appear to be ambiguous, it was urged that the ringing organisations could, and no doubt would be only too glad to co-operate with the military authorities in this matter.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris moved, and Mr. W. Barton seconded that the president be instructed to communicate with the president of the Central Council relative to these important questions and to ask for as complete information as was available.

The next matter under discussion was the question of continuing to hold meetings during the emergency. The committee were unanimous that district meetings should be held wherever possible, and eventually the following resolution, drafted by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, was adopted on the motion of the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. S. Morley: 'That in the opinion of this meeting, it is inadvisable to discontinue all meetings of the association, and district secretaries are asked to arrange as far as possible to hold meetings in their district in order to carry on the business of the association, and that while such meetings must necessarily be more of a social character, with perhaps handbell ringing, it may in addition be found most instructive to ask some competent person to give a simple lecture or exposition on conducting or other matters.'

A discussion followed regarding general meetings. It was agreed not to hold the September general meeting, and that the next general meeting shall be the annual general meeting in January, 1941. The committee, however, in pursuance of their agreed policy of doing all possible to maintain the life of the association during these difficult times, unanimously decided to adopt the following motion, proposed by Mr. W. Barton, seconded by Mr. G. Lewis, that 'in view of the fact that the Snowdon Dinner was postponed for the duration of the war, a tea and social evening be held in Leeds on Saturday, October 5th, for any members who liked to come, and that the arrangements be left in the hands of the usual Leeds Sub-Committee.'

The committee then discussed the publication of the annual report. It was pointed out that the report was and must be considered a vital necessity in the welfare of the association, and it was moved by Mr. E. Hudson, seconded by Mr. S. F. Palmer and carried nem con, that the annual report be published, and, in order that it may be as up to date as possible, the district secretaries be asked to get in all available matter and details, especially relating to members in their districts serving with H.M. Forces.

The treasurer drew attention to the fact that authority had been given empowering the four principal officers and the district secretaries to purchase suitable bags or cases for their official use, and asked that this matter be attended to forthwith, as prices would rise rapidly, and that it was desirable that all accounts in connection with this matter should pass through the same year's accounts.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the General Committee in Leeds on December 7th.

## BELLS ABROAD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest the article, 'Bells Abroad.' A few weeks back my husband, who is serving in the Royal Navy, wrote, 'I have put two more tenors in the bag. During the week previous to December 17th I pulled up the tenor at St. Mary's, Greyville, Durban, where there are ten bells, tenor 18 cwt. 25 lb., 47in. diameter; and on Sunday, December 17th, I rang the tenor to call changes at St. Paul's, Durban, tenor 10 cwt. 19 lb. in G sharp, 37in. diameter, eight bells.'

He was very interested to find that the Vicar of St. Mary's knew the Rev. Percy Woodward, who is a brother of Mr. H. C. Woodward, tower secretary at Lyonshall, Herefordshire.

Kington, Herefordshire.

ELSIE C. CHANDLER.

## HAMPSHIRE CHURCH BURNT DOWN BELLS DESTROYED.

Ringers, and particularly those who know Hampshire, will regret to hear that the Church of All Saints, Dibden, has been totally destroyed by fire. The bells, which were hung in a wooden frame, crashed to the floor when the fire reached the tower. Only the walls of the church and tower remain standing.

Dibden, anciently 'Depedene,' is situated on the eastern outskirts of the New Forest, and the church was built on a slight eminence, in beautiful woodland scenery.

A church has existed on the site from Saxon times, and is mentioned in Domesday in 1080. The church was built of flint in the early English style and the main portion of the building dated from that period. The tower, which was constructed of Portland stone, was erected in 1884 and contained a ring of eight bells, with a tenor of 10½ cwt. They were provided by public subscription in 1887 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's Jubilee. They were considered by experts to be a fair 'Warner' peal.

The first peal on the bells was rung on May 18th, 1891. It was Bob Major, conducted by the late Henry White, of Basingstoke. The last peal, also Bob Major, was rung on May 13th, 1939, conducted by R. A. Reed.

Altogether 21 peals have been rung at Dibden in the following methods: Grandsire Triples 7, Stedman Triples 3, Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Superlative Surprise 3, Cambridge Surprise 1, London Surprise 2, Bristol Surprise 1. The conductors of the peals have been G. Williams 11, K. Hart 2, G. R. Pye 2, W. A. Cave, G. Preston, H. W. Wilkes, O. Sippetts, H. White and R. A. Reed one each. Mr. George Williams took part in all the peals except the first and the last, and these, curiously enough, were his compositions.

The Rev. G. T. Tritton has been Rector of Dibden since 1925 and chairman of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild since 1928. Mr. Tritton is a great friend of ringers and Dibden bells were always available for Guild meetings and peals. The sympathy of all ringers will go out to the Rector and the parishioners of Dibden in the loss of their church. Mr. Tritton hopes to be able completely to restore the church and bells and has started a fund for this object. Donations will be gratefully received and may be sent direct to him or to Mr. G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants, hon. secretary of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS.

To the Editor.

'Dear Sir,—It would seem from Mr. Ernest Morris' letter that he finds fault with me because 'when dealing with history' in my 'usual manner' I 'pull a statement to pieces,' although 'it is in cold print,' and say, 'This is impossible and cannot be allowed.' No doubt there is some truth in the charge, but on the whole I take it as a compliment and not as a reproach. The duty of any man who tries to write history is, first to collect his material, then to test its truth by all means available, and then to arrange it and present it to his readers in the best way he can. Merely to copy scraps of information from older books and manuscripts and to reproduce them uncritically is not writing history.

Mr. Morris refers to the not infrequent instances where in old records the number of changes given for peals are such as cannot be produced by the ordinary work of the method, and he appears to suggest that we should infer that the composers, for one reason or another, have departed from the method. That is not the conclusion I should come to. I should be much more inclined to suppose that the men who wrote out the reports made mistakes. It certainly was so in the two instances he quoted from my account of Birmingham ringing. The number of changes rung at Deritend in 1786 was 6,128, not 6,218. There the mistake was mine (or the printer's). The length of the peals rung at Aston in 1787 I copied correctly from a hundred-year-old manuscript, but I do not doubt that the writer had made a mistake, though I did not notice it when I copied it. In a similar way it is pretty sure that the writers of the records referred to by Mr. Morris made mistakes.

The College Youths' peal book says that on January 6th, 1785, the society rang 5,113 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, but I do not believe that they did ring that number.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

## AN EARLY SHREWSBURY PEAL.

Sir,—Supplementing Mr. Trollope's interesting reference to Shrewsbury, the following extract might interest your readers as being one of the earliest peals at St. Mary's Church there.

1777. 'On Tuesday, Feb. 25, a true and compleat peal of ten thousand and eighty changes of Bob Major, 8 in. (which continued 7 hours and 4 minutes) was rung on the new peal of 8 bells at St. Mary's in Shrewsbury by 8 of the Society of Change Ringers in that town, and in their first attempt for the fame. The order of the Bobs for carrying the above performance were composed by W. D. Crofts of Nottingham—and the above peal of Bells were lately cast by Messrs. Pack and Co. of White Chappel, London, and are remarkably tuneable.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

## CHANGE RINGING IN SHREWSBURY.

A DISTINGUISHED OLD SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

No attempt was made to rebuild St. Chad's Church after its collapse in 1788; such a thing was not in accordance with the ideas of the times, even if it had been possible; and after some delay the present church was erected on an entirely new site.

The fall of the tower had caused the destruction of Rudhall's bells, and a scheme was set on foot, largely through the influence of the Union Society, to provide the new church with a heavy ring of twelve. A committee was formed with Thomas Powell as chairman. He was a wagon proprietor and a member of the Union Society. Sir William Pulteney gave £150, Richard Cross gave two guineas, and Robert Lloyd two guineas. Altogether £1000 was subscribed, to which was added £600, the value of the old bells.

Thomas Mears was given the order for the new ring, and, after paying for the bells, frame, ropes, and a new floor, there was a surplus of £33, which was distributed among the poor.

The new bells arrived at Shrewsbury by water on July 14th, and by the 18th they were hung and ready for the opening.

At the suggestion, probably, of Samuel Lawrence or Thomas Mears, the College Youths were invited to attend the opening and attempt the first peal. It was not a professional engagement. They paid their own expenses and received no fee. It was owing to the prestige of the society that they were allowed to ring the first peal on the bells. Whether the actual opening was performed by the local ringers is not stated, but directly afterwards the Londoners started for 5,184 changes of Grandsire Cinques and completed them in three hours and fifty-four minutes. Thomas Blakemore called from the second, and the other bells were rung by John Lyford, William Wilson, Joseph Holdsworth, John Povey, Peter Ashley, James Dovey, Edward Bartell, Charles Barber, Edward Simmonds, Samuel Lawrence and Philip Pilgrim.

It was most unusual that so heavy a bell as the tenor could be rung single handed to a peal immediately after being hung for the first time, and the fact that Philip Pilgrim needed no assistance shows not only that he was a first-class heavy-bell ringer, but that the work was well done.

This was Thomas Blakemore's last peal, and we hear no more of him. For many years he had been one of the leading ringers of London. He was publisher and joint author of the 'Clavis,' and since the reunion of the College Youths in 1788 had been the principal man in the society. His chief title to fame is that he called the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung.

St. Chad's was the tenth ring of twelve erected in the country. Besides the four in London—St. Bride's, St. Martin's, St. Michael's, and St. Saviour's—Cirencester had twelve bells in 1722, Cambridge in 1770, Birmingham in 1771, and Norwich in 1775. There had also been an earlier ring of twelve at York Minster, which had since been recast into ten.

Peals of Grandsire Triples had been rung at St. Chad's in 1762, 1769 and 1770, and in 1772, 6,210 changes of Grandsire Caters; and on March 28th, 1798, 5,151 changes of Grandsire Major were rung at the Abbey. The peal

probably was taken from the 'Clavis,' and it was conducted by Richard Cross, who was now the leading ringer in the town.

The local men then set themselves the task of surpassing the peal which the College Youths had rung on the new bells at St. Chad's. This they did on November 25th, 1799, when they accomplished 6,006 changes of Grandsire Cinques in 4 hours and 27 minutes. Cross called from the second, Richard Wilding, the schoolmaster of High Ercall rang the sixth, Thomas Groves was at the seventh, and Robert Lloyd at the eleventh. William Bull, who rang the third, was, next to Cross, the leading conductor in the company. John Perrett rang the tenor single handed.

Two months later the band, again with Cross as bob caller, rang 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, when Richard Wilding turned the tenor in without help.

In 1803 a band belonging to the Union Society, and made up partly by Shrewsbury men and partly by some of their outside members, went to Wrexham, and on June 27th rang the first peal of Caters in Wales. Richard Cross called from the treble, and the other ringers were Samuel Lee, James Hartshorn, James Dovey, Robert Rawlings, James Lee, Thomas Hill, Joseph Riley and Samuel Lawrence.

Samuel Lee was the most distinguished of any of the members of the Union Society, and one of the most remarkable men who have been members of the Exercise. He was born in the year 1783 of poor parents at Longnor, eight miles from Shrewsbury, and received his only education at the charity school there. At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to a Shrewsbury carpenter, and he worked at that trade until he was twenty-five years old and was married. Then a fire broke out in a house where he was working, which destroyed his chest of tools, and with them, as he said afterwards, all his views and hopes were destroyed. He was now 'cast on the world without a friend, a shilling, or even the means of subsistence.'

During these years he had developed an extraordinary love and aptitude for classical and oriental languages. He learnt first Latin, then Greek and Hebrew, and followed them up with Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, Persian and Hindustani—a marvellous record for a man entirely self-taught, who had no access to any library, and had to buy his books with the little he could save out of his wages of a few shillings a week. He could only do so by buying one book at a time and selling it when he had read it to find part of the money to buy another.

The fire which destroyed his tools was really the turning point in his life. In his extremity he could think of no other means of earning a living than to apply for a schoolmaster's job, and he became a teacher in a school at Shrewsbury. After a time the Church Missionary Society, in order to make use of his gift of languages, sent him to Cambridge, where he was entered at Queen's College in 1813. He graduated B.A. in 1815, and afterwards took holy orders. He became Professor of Arabic in 1823 and Regius Professor of Hebrew in 1831; and in 1833 the University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, at which time he was said to be master of eighteen languages. He held at times one or two benefices in the Church, including a canonry at Bristol Cathedral. He died on December 16th, 1852, at Barley in Hertfordshire, of which parish he was Rector.



Samuel Lee was still only a journeyman carpenter when he learnt to ring. His love of the art was deep and genuine, and so long as he remained at Shrewsbury he was an active, though relatively unimportant member of the Union Society, with whom he took part in four peals, all of them Grandsire Caters. James Lee, who rang the eighth at Wrexham, was his half-brother.

On Monday, December 6th, 1802, 5,058 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, 'forming a selection of the most harmonious changes with 5, 2, 4, 6, behind the 9th in regular succession, being the first true 5,000 ever rung on those bells in the method.' It was composed and conducted by William Bull, who six years later, on Tuesday, April 5th, 1808, called 10,097 changes in the same method, 'which if surpassed by future practitioners will still stand as a memorial that their predecessors were not deficient in skill and perseverance.'

Surpassed it never has been on St. Chad's bells, nor in the method on any other bells of the same weight. The tenor, however, was rung double-handed. Samuel Lee rang the sixth, Richard Cross the eighth, and Richard Wilding the tenth.

**RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.**

Mr. J. H. and Mrs. Paulson, of Matlock, Derbyshire, have recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding day. Mr. Paulson has been in charge of the Matlock belfry for many years, and a goodly number of ringers have been instructed by him.

He was a well-known ringer in the Nuneaton district in his younger days, having rung a number of tower and handbell peals there. Quite a number of his family and Mrs. Paulson's relations, too, are or have been ringers, sons, daughter and grandsons among them.

On Sunday, June 30th, a family gathering took place at his home. Owing to the ringing 'silence,' no ringing could be done to mark the occasion, but it is hoped that at some future time the bells may ring for them—perhaps a diamond wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Paulson still enjoy good health and will have the congratulations of all ringers.

**THE LATE MR. A. WOODROW.**

The death of Mr. Alfred Woodrow, at the age of 75, has severed a connection of almost a lifetime with the village of Hersham, Surrey. The deceased gentleman had undergone an operation in Walton Hospital, from which it was thought he would recover, but a relapse occurred and he passed away on Friday, July 5th.

His connection with St. Peter's, Hersham, went back to his boyhood days, when he sang in the choir of the old church. Following his trade, he assisted in building the present church and steeple, and when the peal of eight bells were installed in 1901 he was one of the first to join up as a ringer, a position he filled continuously till 1938.

He was of a cheery disposition and was excellent company; he had little patience with slack ringing and would not tolerate bad striking. A wreath was sent from his brother ringers, who were represented at the funeral by Messrs. W. Mills and W. Simmonds.

It was with regret the ringers were unable to ring him a farewell peal, but his work for tower and church will keep his memory green.

**DEATH OF MR. C. S. TUTHILL.**

**CAPTAIN OF FAKENHAM BAND OF RINGERS.**

We regret to announce the death at the age of 61 of Mr. Charles Samuel Tuthill, of Fakenham, which took place on June 27th.

Mr. Tuthill had been in business as a builder for many years. A churchman, Mr. Tuthill had been the captain of the local company of bellringers, and he was well known amongst bellringers throughout the county. Mr. Tuthill had served as a member of the Fakenham Parish Council and as a special constable.

Mr. Tuthill had taken part in about 24 peals, nearly all in his own tower, where his genial disposition and cheering smile will be greatly missed. During his captaincy of several years he kept a record of all ringing done for service and practice. Many a pleasant outing arranged by him will long be remembered. The last one in June, 1939, was a tour into Lincolnshire, when about 130 miles were covered.

There was a large attendance at the funeral service at Fakenham Parish Church on Monday, July 1st, including the following members of the West Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association: Messrs. R. W. Cooke (captain of the local band), Miss J. Cooke, Mrs. Ovens, Messrs. G. Cooke, E. Cooke, P. Allfrey (three of the bearers), G. Beverley, F. R. Borrett (Tattersett), R. Lingwood (Sculthorpe) and J. A. Godfrey (chairman of the branch).

The Rev. E. F. Morison, D.D., officiated at the service, and the organist was Mrs. F. Jude.

Amongst the many floral tributes was a wreath from the local company of SS. Peter and Paul. Owing to the short notice and difficulty in travelling, many were prevented from attending.

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**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

.....

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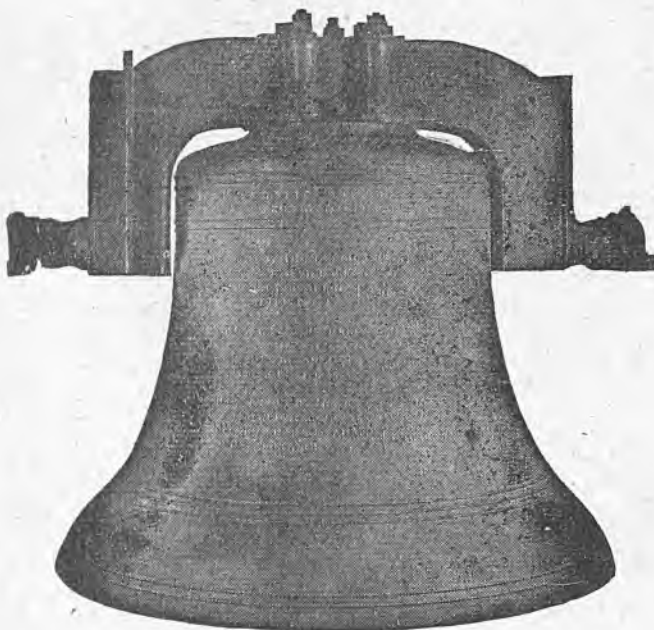
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BELL ROPES, MUFFLES &c.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell practice at West Bridgford on July 4th had a happy ending. As two other members were at the last moment prevented from attending, it was suggested that Grandsire Doubles be rung for an hour. The ringing having been perfect, Mr. Narborough, the conductor, decided to go on, and his son, Kenneth, who is 15, and Bernard, whose age is 16 and joined St. Mary's ringers when his brother Harold was mobilised, were delighted at ringing their first peal.

•What remains of the property of the old Waterloo Society has been removed from St. John's, Vassal Road, Kennington, to its old home at St. John's, Waterloo Road—the church where the society had its origin.

The society was formed in 1868 and rang its first peal in 1869 (conducted by William Barron). Its headquarters were removed to Vassal Road about the year 1900, but since that time it has been in a moribund state.

Two of the 'John' peals, London Surprise (1904) and Stedman Cinques (1912), were rung under its auspices, as the only alternative to ringing non-association peals, and the Stedman Cinques was the last, or nearly the last, recorded for the society.

Yesterday was the one hundred and forty-second anniversary of the first peal on the twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. An account of it is given on another page.

On July 9th, 1926, Isaac George Shade was knocked down and killed by a motor-car when returning from a ringing practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. At the time of his death he had rung 1,450 peals, a number then exceeded only by William Pye. Among his performances were the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, and four Surprise peals in four methods rung in one day in four counties.

The first peal (one of Grandsire Triples) by a band of ladies was rung at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, on July 20th, 1912. Mrs. Fletcher, of course, was the conductor. She was then Miss E. K. Parker.

For very many years Thomas Day's 16,608 was supposed to be the longest possible length of Treble Bob Major, but it was at length exceeded. On July 21st, 1923, a band of the Chester Diocesan Guild, with Mr. Robert Sperring as conductor and Mr. James H. Riding as tenor-man, rang at Over 17,280 changes of Kent, the composition of Mr. J. W. Parker.

Will Reuben Sanders please send his present address to C. T. Coles, 21, Vincent Road, E.4?

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

We have received information from Northampton that Mr. James George is as comfortable as can be expected after his recent serious operation. He wishes to be remembered to all his ringing friends, and if any are visiting Northampton he would be very pleased to see them at the General Hospital. Among his recent visitors have been Mr. W. Rogers, of Northampton, the brothers Lane from Bletchley, and Mr. W. Perkins from Irthlingborough.

## A WARNING.

### DANGER TO BELLS FROM 'CLOCKING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the bells of all churches may now be used as a warning signal, it is desired by bellringers that a warning should be given of the danger involved in this use. Some of the gravest of these have already been pointed out in the proper quarter, but there is a very common one and my society desires to point out as quickly as possible the necessity of avoiding wrongful 'clocking' of bells.

I refer to a favourite usage, i.e., running a long line from below up to the heavy clapper, so that it may be roped across to strike the sound bow, often with a maintained impact. This, in the past, has led to the destruction of thousands of bells, including many of the old bells whose entity can never be replaced, and it will be remembered by readers of Miss Dorothy Sayers' 'Nine Tailors' that the old bell 'Carolus' was unfortunately cracked by the abominable practice of 'clapping' for service.

If 'clocking' must be adopted, then a bellhanger or other expert should be consulted and instructions broadcast.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

## A NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EXAMPLE.

Dear Sir,—I went into a tower recently and saw only one rope. The others had been taken off and this one hung so that the end was 3ft. or more off the floor.

I just touched it and found it moved very easily, so I asked the steeplekeeper (a fairly well-known ringer) where it was fixed. 'Oh,' he said, 'I thought the L.D.V. would manage to ring the alarm better if I put the rope on to the clapper of the next bell, so actually it is the fourth that sounds and not the third.' Now I consider this is very dangerous if done by unskilled persons, and if the bell has a good strong blow and the clapper is held up to it, it may result in cracking the bell. What do you think?

We decided yesterday at our Kettering Branch meeting at Isham to hold the quarterly meetings as usual, with the service, handbells, and the social side of our work will keep going and we keep in touch with each other. It is very nice to meet frequently even if no ringing is available.

ROBERT G. BLACK.

# THE GREAT TENOR BELL FOR LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.



The great size of Liverpool Cathedral tenor can be judged by comparing it with the height of the workman standing beside it.

### DIMENSIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.

The great tenor bell of the new ring for Liverpool Cathedral has been photographed at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and this picture of it will give an impression of its huge size when judged by the height of the workman standing by it.

It is the largest bell ever cast to take a place in a ringing peal. As we recorded in our recent issue, it is 82 cwt. in weight, its diameter is 6ft. 4in., and its note A flat.

The inscription on it reads:—  
 THOU ART THE KING OF GLORY O CHRIST  
 THOMAS BARTLETT  
 WHO DIED 4TH SEPT 1912 BY HIS WILL  
 LEFT MONEY TO PROVIDE THIS RING OF  
 THIRTEEN BELLS WHICH WERE CAST BY  
 MEARS & STAINBANK AT WHITECHAPEL  
 1938 & 1939  
 THE LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL  
 THE RT REV ALBERT AUGUSTUS DAVID D.D.  
 NAMED ME  
 EMMANUEL

### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT MEETING AT SPELDHURST.

The programme advertised in 'The Ringing World' was duly carried out at Speldhurst on Saturday, July 6th. As might have been expected, it was hardly a representative gathering, members from only four towers in the district being present. Two friends who cycled from Croydon brought the number up to thirteen. It was considered, however, worth while to try and carry on meetings in the district, and it was left to the secretary to try and arrange for a visit to Leigh in August.

### 'AN OPPORTUNITY MISSED.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to refer to your issue of 'The Ringing World' of June 14th giving an excellent account of Liverpool Cathedral's great peal of bells. The details give a list of 13 bells, which include a sharp second for a peal of eight, tenor approximately 25 cwt. in E flat, and the main peal of twelve, with a tenor bell 82 cwt. in A flat, which will require very experienced ringers to handle them. No doubt Liverpool will not be lacking when the time comes in finding a capable hand of ringers, but I do think a great opportunity has been missed by not incorporating a second peal of twelve bells using the 55 cwt. eleventh as tenor. This would have meant three additional bells as follows:—

- One bell above the existing treble, note F, approximately 9 cwt.
- One bell between the existing 4th and 5th, note A, approximately 11½ cwt.
- One bell between the existing 8th and 9th, note D, approximately 31½ cwt.

This second peal of twelve, tenor 55 cwt. in B flat, would be exceedingly grand, and most useful in practice for the main peal of twelve, tenor 82 cwt. in A flat. Moreover, Liverpool Cathedral would have the unique distinction of having two peals of twelve bells in one tower with many combinations.

No doubt the designers of the reinforced concrete radial frame would have been able to incorporate the three additional bells without upsetting the circle of ropes to any extent.

ALBERT WALKER.

REDRUTH, CORNWALL.—At the Parish Church of St. Uny on Whit Sunday for early Mass, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 covering: D. Tregarthen 1, E. Sanders 2, S. Jeffrey (first quarter-peal as conductor) 3, J. Reed 4, H. Seymour 5, V. Williams 6, S. Seymour 7, D. Wills 8.

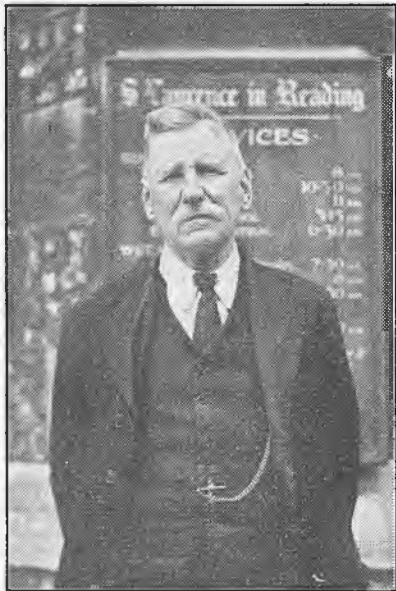


## THROUGH SWEDISH EYES.

### IMPRESSIONS OF RINGING AT READING.

A Swedish gentleman, Mr. Curt Berg, on a visit to Reading was attracted by the sound of church bells. Here are his impressions of ringing and ringers, as expressed in an article which appeared in a leading Stockholm newspaper. We reproduce the translation without in any way attempting to edit it.

On a mild evening in June I wandered to the oldest church in town, built some time in the 900's, an old temple looking almost like a fortress with pieces of flint in the plaster. I heard a tiny bell with a brittle sound from within. In the porch, a middle-aged, strongly built man, obviously the churchwarden, stood with a big watch in hand and pulled some beautifully plaited ropes in an even rhythm. I asked him whether it would be possible to attend a ringing in the tower and he looked very pleased. Are you a ringer, sir? No, unfortunately, I had to admit that I was not, but I stressed that I would like to acquaint myself with this learned mystery. His question was, however, a very natural one. A person who comes to a church in the evening and asks to be allowed to attend ringing is in most cases a member of the association that embraces 42,000 members, who in their spare time occupy themselves with campanology. In this association there are people of many different occupations, priests, doctors, innkeepers, workmen, clerks, shoemakers and tradesmen; the chairman of the branch of the association in this town is a famous surgeon. When a member of the association is on a journey and he has a free day, he goes to the nearest church, and if there happens to be a rehearsal or other ringing event and he is a capable ringer, he may be allowed to take a place in the party and help to ring a Grandsire Doubles or a Kent Treble Bob Minor. It is almost like being a Freemason.



This is the photograph of Mr. Tom Hibbert which the Swedish newspaper reproduced, and this is what it said about him in the caption:— Mr. Richard Hibbert, framstaende man i engelska klockringarkretsar.

The churchwarden told me that there would soon be a rehearsal in a neighbouring church—true enough, this church only dated from the 13th century, but it had 12 bells—and he was sure I would be welcome. He would be there to meet me. I am a ringer myself, he added in a fatherly way. The hour, which I later in the evening spent in the tower of St. Laurence, I regard as one of the greatest experiences in my life. We went up a small wooden corkscrew staircase 400 years old and after a strenuous climb we came to a chamber in the tower. In the sunset's red light that entered through one of the windows, the twelve ropes making shadows on the walls, a party was assembled, waiting for the ringing to start. There was a curious mixture of types, short and stout, tall and thin; old, bent men with white moustaches and young men in good tailored suits. There were also a few ladies, old ones and young ones, one a real beauty. The man who looked like the leader of the party was a fine old artisan with a furrowed face and forceful look. I greeted him and asked if I could attend the rehearsal. He was very amiable and showed me the arrangements willingly. He proved to be an important person amongst English ringers, it was Mr. Richard T. Hibbert, honorary secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, the same man for whom the Johnson peal had been rung on his birthday.

After he had shown me the arrangements he gave me a surprise. He took me to the oldest of the ladies, a charming, vital looking woman by the name of Robinson. 'She is the daughter of Dean Robinson, of whom you have certainly heard,' said Mr. Hibbert. Naturally I knew who Dean Robinson was. You don't have to study campanology a long time to know his name. During the latter part of the 20th century, his was perhaps the greatest name in the English Church Bell Ringers' Guild, a great reformer, learned, pious and very energetic. He has published a book, 'Among the Bells,' that is one of English literature's greatest rarities, a thick volume full of accurate descriptions of all important occasions when something has

(Continued in next column.)

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

### MEETING UNDER WAR-TIME CONDITIONS.

The quarterly meeting originally arranged to be held at Solihull on Saturday, July 6th, was, on account of the ban on ringing church bells, held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham.

At the business meeting Mr. Vice-President J. H. Shepherd occupied the chair in the absence of the Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett. Apologies were received from Vice-President A. Paddon Smith and Mr. John Jaggard, the latter sending kindly greetings from Bourne-mouth. The purely formal business was quickly disposed of, but under the item 'any other business' an interesting discussion developed.

Mr. Albert Walker called attention to the facilities arranged for handbell ringing. He mentioned that there would be a weekly meeting in that room every Tuesday night at 7.45. He asked for the support of all expert handbell ringers in the training of learners, and urged young ringers interested in change ringing on handbells to come along, and if they would put their minds to it they would have a glorious opportunity of becoming expert handbell ringers, as he and many others did during the years 1914-1918.

The secretary referred to the paragraph in 'The Ringing World' regarding the serious condition of Mr. James George. He was sure every member of the Guild would be sorry to read it. On the proposition of the chairman, it was unanimously agreed that the secretary should send a letter of sympathy to Mr. George in his illness, expressing the hope of a speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. Fred Price called attention to the position of 'The Ringing World,' and referred to the strenuous efforts of the Editor to keep the paper going in these very difficult times. He made a special plea to every member of the Guild and, in fact, all ringers throughout the country to rally round the Editor and support 'The Ringing World' by sending interesting matter along for publication and by purchasing the paper regularly. It was vitally necessary that the paper should continue publication.

In supporting this, the librarian (Mr. G. F. Swann) referred to the interesting items now appearing regarding early ringing in Birmingham. Mr. Trollope had delved very deeply into the early history of change ringing in Birmingham and brought to light many interesting items regarding the early history of St. Martin's Guild. General approval was expressed regarding these articles, which in the main were historical facts and could be substantiated from the Guild's peal books and records, but one member expressed the opinion that in these days only facts should be stated, and that such phrases as 'but we may assume' and 'no doubt' took away from the value of these articles, and for the information of Mr. Trollope and in the interests of accuracy he might point out that St. John's Church, Deritend, although now closed, the last service being held only quite recently, was still standing, and had not been pulled down as stated by Mr. Trollope.

The handbells were then brought out and some good practice took place in various methods, Grandsire and Stedman from Triples to Cinques, Treble Bob Royal and Double Norwich Major. Several members showed their skill at darts, and so a successful and enjoyable evening terminated.

## THROUGH SWEDISH EYES.

(Continued from previous column.)

taken place in the towers of English churches. I felt as if I had suddenly been introduced to a daughter of Olaus Petri or at least Johan Olof Wallin. (Olaus Petri, famous learned churchman in the 16th century, who, together with the King, was largely responsible for introducing the Protestant Church in Sweden. Johan Olof Wallin, learned bishop in the last century. He has composed a great number of the hymns sung in the Swedish churches.)

Now one of the youngest members started to pull up the bells, that is swing them by the ropes until the open part of the bell was turned upwards and rested against a little edge. When this had been done Mr. Hibbert conducted me up a further corkscrew staircase in order to show me the works in the bell-room. It was really remarkable. Between the great walls there were a great number of oak beams and the twelve bells, each with a wheel with a rope next to it, and the open bronze mouths turned towards the ceiling. Now they were ready to begin. Downstairs in the bell-room the arms went up and down, and the Guild followed the proceedings with serious faces. The conductor looked round the circle and corrected the ones that did not keep the time correctly. Yes, you need a lot of practice to be worthy of ringing a full peal in an English Church. You have to practise for a year with handbells before you are considered competent to enter a guild, and even then it is not certain that you will make a clever ringer. 'It depends a great deal on natural talent,' said Mr. Hibbert. 'Some learn fairly quickly, others can work a lifetime without really learning the art. It is like playing the violin. Everyone cannot become a master.' He closed the porch of the church when the rehearsal was finished and the company broke up. We helped Miss Robinson with her flowers to the bus; she had visited some friends and had received a few plants and was now going home to the country to see what she could do with them. Mr. Hibbert went away in the warm summer evening and I remained alone in a quiet street in this strange, friendly England and thought of the verse that I had read on the wall in the church tower: 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.'



**CALL CHANGES.**

MR. DRAKE REPLIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The case for call changes does not seem very strong. Mr. J. E. Bailey has to drag in rows and changes, but does not say what they have to do with it. He then refers to some change ringing at Helmingham, which is still beside the subject. He then concludes that call changes is as good a way as any of getting good striking. This sort of reasoning does not get us very far. The question is, are East Anglians good strikers in spite of, or because of, their call change ringing?

He also says, and you repeat it, that good call changes are better than badly struck change ringing. But my point is that there cannot be good call changes. They are always bad. Why waste time discussing whether one bad thing is worse than another? Or to make one blind person lead another? We are not told to do this, but to overcome evil with good. Let both—bad striking and call changes—go headlong where the other rubbish goes, into the ditch!

What you and he meant, instead of 'good' call changes, to write 'well-struck' call changes. But if a row sounds unpleasant when rung by itself—that is, if it contains unpleasant intervals—those intervals will sound more clearly and more unpleasant when well struck than if slurred over by being badly struck. This argument is unanswerable and it shows that call changes are bad for ringing and bad for practising: for the better you strike them the worse they sound. Call changes are unutterably bad!

I think you must on consideration be sorry that you wrote that sentence about the 'outside public' not knowing the difference between the sound of call changes and the real thing. I am so unmusical that I can remember the time when I could not recognise the National Anthem, and I wondered why people were standing up when it was played. But I cannot remember, nor can I imagine that there ever was, a time when I could not distinguish between call changes and proper ringing, if it had been brought to my notice. I suppose that what you are thinking of, though it would not suit your argument, is that no one but a ringer would be likely to know the technical term—call changes—either the word or the thing. But I refuse to believe that there is anyone with the ordinary use of his ears who cannot tell the difference when it is pointed out to him; and who does not appreciate the superiority of proper ringing.

It is just 50 years to-day since I cycled into a town with a fine ring of bells. When the lady I was staying with knew that I was a ringer, she said, 'I should not so much mind ringers if they were not always ringing consecutives. Yesterday, for instance, they were ringing consecutive fifths, and not only so, but they kept on repeating them the whole time. I had some important work to do, but for over an hour I could do nothing but listen to their horrible noise. Why should they be allowed to waste my time like that? I do not claim to waste their time.'

I must say that I then had much sympathy with her; and that feeling still continues, and probably will be shared by your readers, if I explain that consecutive fifths are the discord which musicians especially dread and are on the look out for. When you hear changes properly rung, you know that there cannot be any consecutive fifths or thirds or other unresolved discords; though you may not know how to put that feeling into words.

I gathered from the words I have quoted that there was then only a band of what you would call good call change ringers there, and I did not attempt to visit the tower. I have not been there since, but from the peals you have recorded I see that they have a good band of change ringers now.

It is a matter of interest at present; for those who object to bells have for the time got their way, and they will not readily give back our old liberty. It may be easier if we are prepared to give up something. Can we not give up call changes?

In my previous article I pointed out that call changing had spoiled my power of striking properly, and I explained how this happened. In reply you write, 'It is absurd to say that call change ringing produces bad striking.' There may be differences of opinion as to the courtesy of such a flat denial (or of your reference to Mr. Law James), but there can be none as to this being no argument at all. Then, at the end of a long article, with most of which I agree, you point out one way in which the beginner 'can' learn something from call changes. Well I have never said that there were no advantages to be got from call changes. On the contrary I said that there are advantages, but that they can be obtained by teaching in other ways, which are free from the disadvantages of which I have spoken. I know what I am talking about, for some hundreds of pupils have learned through me, and none of them is a bad ringer.

The difficulty is that while in call changes the learner 'can,' as you say, judge where to put his bell, in practice he never does. And the other good ringers are learning to be careless strikers while this is going on. At least that is my experience. It is possible that there are some who can teach in this way, but as I have already said, they would do better still to teach proper changes from the first.

I have said that in more than eight bells, the overlapping of the notes of the octave, and the quicker ringing, reduces the unpleasantness of bad intervals; so that call changes on these higher numbers, though unpleasant, is not very unpleasant. This result is just what

(Continued in next column.)

**MUSINGS OF AN OLD RINGER.**

ON PATRONYMICS, TENOR-MEN AND OTHER THINGS.

I wonder if many of your readers have given a thought to the names borne by ringers, and particularly by the 'giants' of past days? When browsing over famous performances given by Jasper Snowdon in his historical chapters it has often occurred to me what splendid and uncommon names many of the men taking part possessed. Names that seem to fit. Take the heavy-bell men in the Treble Ten and Treble Twelve struggle between College Youths and Cumberlands from 1766 onwards—Samuel Mugeridge, Malachi Cannon, Edmund Sylvester, Joseph Holdsworth, James Marlton and Allen Grant. And earlier than this we had Philemon Mainwaring and Peter Merrygarts—two lovely names. Perhaps Allen Grant doesn't quite come up to standard—the bearer of such a name ought to have been a Mus.Doc. and organist of Shoreditch rather than the ringer of a 12,000 there. In the same way our dear old friend of yesterday—Edwin Horrex—should have been solo boy in the choir of St. Paul's instead of ringing the 11th in the tower.

With a little imagination we can picture any of these old timers, stripped and ready for a big job, on the box below a big bell. A pity photography and slow-motion pictures were not of their day, with an editor anxious to give readers illustrations of 'famous tenor-men at work.' Or, perhaps, not a pity after all, if one or other of the men offended our idea of what is right and what is wrong in heavy-bell ringing! If we are looking on during a touch of Royal or Maximus on a big ring, it is the tenor-man we watch, and it must be confessed only a few appear to fit the job 'like a glove.' Poise and knack are the fundamentals, rather than scuffle and brute force. One man, and one only, stands out in my experience as the perfect fit. There was no bending at the hips, no feet off the box, but the knees were dropped little or much according to the amount of 'lift' required, and the pull a thing of grace and a delight to watch. And the bell was always in the right spot. One fine day in the month of May this man stepped off the box of a 40 cwt. bell he had just rung to a peal of Royal, and complained of feeling cold. I touched his hands and face—they were cold as ice!

Another recollection is of a man with bare feet ringing the tenor to a peal of Maximus. When cutting in at back he jumped inches off the box, and simultaneously spread out his five toes. A wonderful gift, but most unpleasant! How rare it is to watch a company ringing where all taking part are graceful, clean and tidy 'handlers'! Such men are invariably good strikers, and the rhythm and beat is as clean and crisp as the handling. But, alas, as I say, it is rare. A well-known and experienced ringer at the conclusion of a very good peal of Maximus once said in my hearing, 'That's the first Maximus ringing I've taken part in where the little bells, in dodging behind, were clear and clean all through the peal.' Such ringing is worth while. And for our sins we read a fortnight ago of Mr. Drake's system of ringing call changes, 'Move a quarter of the right distance each row and you will be right in four rows; there is no hurry.' Ye gods! Surely the most pathetic and sloppy statement ever published in 'The Ringing World'! And let me finish with a piece of real news—copyright by Reuter, Exchange Telegraph and Central News, etc., etc.

Our Lancashire friends will be glad to learn the arrangements made for the opening peal on their new and mighty ring at Liverpool Cathedral. Here they are. A peal of Oxford Treble Twelve will be rung by the following band—

Winstanley Richardson ... Treble	Philemon Mainwaring ...	7
Charles Purser ... .. 2	Edmund Sylvester ... ..	8
George Meakins ... .. 3	Malachi Cannon ... ..	9
James Darquitt ... .. 4	Samuel Mugeridge ... ..	10
Joseph Holdsworth ... .. 5	Allen Grant ... ..	11
Peter Merrygarts ... .. 6	James Marlton ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by George Meakins.

If the tower is big enough to hold a thirteenth person, I hope to be allowed to watch these 'gallants' at their job.

**'OLD RINGER.'**

P.S.—Is my tenor-man, James Marlton, the same man who rang Paiswick tenor in 1815 to the first true peal of Grandsire Royal? Vide Snowdon's 'Grandsire,' page 148.

[Yes, he was the same man, but it was not the first true peal of Grandsire Royal.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

**HANDBELL RINGING AT FELKIRK.**

The ringers of Felkirk meet in the belfry every Sunday as usual, both in the morning and evening, to practise handbell ringing, with the result that some of them who thought they never would be able to ring handbells are beginning to grasp the idea and to enjoy it, thanks to their instructor, Mr. H. Chant. On June 30th two of them rang their first 720 of Plain Bob Minor: Daniel Smith 1-2, Harold Chant (conductor) 3-4, Peter Woodward 5-6.

(Continued from previous column.)

is wanted for an interval signal. But we need not imitate it in the tower.

What we have to do now is to find out how we can avoid annoying the outside public in the noises we cause on the bells. The sooner we do this the sooner possibly we shall be able to ring again. One of these annoyances, especially to musical people, is call changes.

HERBERT DRAKE.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****UNVEILING OF PEAL BOARD.**

A special meeting was held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, July 6th, to unveil and dedicate a peal board.

Before the service at 4.30 touches of Minor, Triples and Major were rung on handbells in the church. The service, conducted by the Vicar, was brief but very appropriate. After prayers, the Vicar proceeded to the west end of the church, where the board had been fixed underneath the tower and close to the tower door. It records two noteworthy peals, one rung on August 13th, 1936, with the bells fully muffled in memory of the 58 miners who lost their lives in a colliery explosion at Wharnciffe, Woodmoor Colliery; the other in honour of the Coronation of King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth in May, 1937.

The board was unveiled by Mr. A. Panther, of Wath-on-Dearne, and was blessed and dedicated by the Vicar, who thanked the ringers for what they had done and for providing such a beautiful board. Touches of Minor, Triples and Major were then rung on the handbells, followed by the Blessing.

The party then adjourned to the Church Hall, where a splendid tea awaited them, to which full justice was done.

A short business meeting was held, at which the future arrangements were discussed. It was decided to keep the monthly meetings going as far as possible and to arrange handbell practice in the afternoon, followed by a short service and tea with a business and social meeting to maintain the interest of ringing and keep the ringers together.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th.

The president, Mr. E. Brookes, said he would like to see more towers in the society take up handbell ringing, and if it was possible to start an annual handbell change ringing contest, he would provide a trophy of some sort to be competed for.

After a discussion it was agreed to appoint a committee at the next meeting to discuss this matter.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for all he had done and to the ladies for providing the teas were passed, and the Vicar suitably replied. He said he hoped that when victory was achieved another peal would be rung and another board would be placed in the church recording it and that it would not be long.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing. The towers represented were Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.****PROPOSED WAR-TIME GATHERING.**

When war broke out most ringers asked themselves, 'How will our ringing be affected?' and subsequent events showed that with the exception of the restrictions imposed by the black-out, activities, other than peal ringing, were not interfered with to any great extent. It was possible with an average amount of enthusiasm to carry out a programme of meetings.

But with the imposition of the ban on all church bellringing, a very serious problem has arisen, viz., how to prevent the possible break up of associations.

It was chiefly with this idea in mind that the General Committee of the Surrey Association met at Croydon on July 13th, when it was decided that some form of meeting should be held with a view to keeping the spirit of the association alive.

It was appreciated that a substitute would have to be found for the usual bellringing, and the committee decided to advertise a meeting to be held jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild on the following lines: Meet at Box Hill Station at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, August 3rd, walk through the very pleasant country, by way of Norbury Park, to Leatherhead Church and attend a service, which it is hoped will be arranged. Tea to follow with handbell ringing and conversation after.

This meeting will be held in place of the Ranmore gathering, which is an annual event between the two associations.

At the meeting it is hoped to discuss the question of the next gathering, which probably will take place towards the latter part of September.

Various suggestions were made to introduce variety into these social gatherings, such as short lectures on the various phases of change ringing, history etc.

Each tower might supply a darts team, and thus friendly tournaments could be arranged. Table tennis, etc., were also mentioned.

The committee will, of course, be pleased to learn of any further ideas which might be tried out.

The foregoing will show that the Surrey Association is trying to keep things going despite the blow which has fallen, and the opportunity is taken to make an appeal to those members who are inclined to let things slide to make just that little extra effort, and by keeping the associations alive to ensure the future of ringing.

**HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.****FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.**

Last week we began to tell the beginner how to approach the art of double-handed ringing, and here we may impress upon him that if he wants to understand the matter and to get on quickly, he should not wait until he is actually one of a band and ready to begin practice. As with tower-bell ringing, you can learn very much when you are by yourself, and the use of pencil and paper will help you not a little.

First of all write out a full course of Grandsire Triples on as large a piece of paper as you can, so as to have as few breaks as possible in the continuous succession of the rows. Next draw a line along the path of the treble in black ink and another along the path of the second in red ink. The only reason for the two colours is to mark the distinction clearly. Now study the paths of these bells as if you were learning a new method, but study them as a pair and get the combination into your mind and memory in the same way that you memorise the single line when you are learning the work of a bell to ring a method in the steeple.

Both bells, of course, plain hunt, and you will notice that, while on the front and behind they strike together, AB and then BA, everywhere else they strike with one bell between them. In rounds the second strikes after the treble; when the bells go into change, you reverse your hands and strike 2-1; the second finishes its lead and the treble strikes after it with one bell between. So you hunt up, watching the position of the second and striking the treble two blows later. When the treble lies its whole pull behind, the bells strike 2-1. You now reverse your hands, strike 1-2 behind and hunt the treble down, the second following at the interval of one blow.

This work of 1-2 in Grandsire Triples is the nearest equivalent of plain hunting on tower bells and, if possible, it should be the first thing attempted, the other pairs being rung by three experienced men.

If you have been taught properly on tower bells you will have realised the advantage of knowing which is your course bell, and if you have greater experience you will know something about coursing order. These things will help you to an even greater degree in handbell ringing, but it is well to take them by degrees. At first, and from the first, look after your course bell; then, when you have begun to find your way among the bells fairly comfortably, look after your after bell; and, finally, as you become more proficient, take notice of the coursing order of all the bells, especially when you are ringing Plain Bob and Grandsire. We said something about coursing order in our issues of September 22nd last and the following numbers. It will pay you to study those articles.

As in the belfry, you must use both your eyes and your ears when you are handbell ringing, and you must use them in the proper way. You must use your eyes to find out where you should strike your bells and your ears to find out whether you are doing so properly. You must not let your ears usurp the duties of your eyes or, in other words, you must not ring by the tune. To do this is to some people rather a temptation, and not only in the plain course where it is easy. We knew a young lady who had a rather remarkable aptitude for handbell ringing, though she did not pursue the art. She got as

(Continued on next page.)

**BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.**—On Whit Sunday, for Sung Mass, a date touch, 1,940 changes of Doubles, consisting of 480 of Canterbury, 500 of Plain Bob, 600 of Grandsire and 360 of April Day; R. Bayes 1, E. Smart 2, M. Laughton 3, D. Cockings (conductor) 4, T. Fleming 5.

**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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The July quarterly meeting will be held at Monk's Kirby on Saturday, July 20th. Business meeting 6 p.m. at the Denbigh Arms. Social evening to follow. A good attendance is requested.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 27th, at 6.30 p.m. All towers are expected to send a representative to discuss the society's future.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**A BAD HABIT.**

(Continued from previous page.)

far as to be able to ring a pair of inside bells to touches of Grandsire Triples, but it was some time before she could be broken of the habit, when she was doubtful of what she had to do, of dropping her bells in her lap and humming the tune to find out where she should next strike her bells.

One other thing. Avoid the bad habit indulged in by some quite good ringers who flourish their bells and swing them about when they are ringing. Move your bells up and down steadily so the other members of the band can see exactly when and where you are going to strike.

When you have mastered the art of ringing 1-2 to a course of Grandsire Triples, the best thing you can do next is to tackle 3-4 to a course, but before doing so it is a good plan, provided that the other three members of the band are competent handbell ringers, to practise the plain course with the bells mixed up. The treble can still lead in rounds and the tenor can still be the covering bell, but instead of starting rounds with the other bells in the order of the natural scale, mix them up anyhow. The idea of doing this is to avoid any temptation to ring by the tune.

If you thoroughly study these things by yourself, and if you are fortunate enough to have the help of three competent men, you should be able, after one good practice, to ring the trebles to a course of Grandsire Triples and strike it correctly.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, July 30th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint gathering will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30 p.m. to walk through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by handbell ringing and social evening at the Duke's Head, at 5.30. If wet, handbells available in Leatherhead Church belfry from 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 30th. All members are requested to give this venture their fullest support. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton, and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The meeting at Cheadle has been cancelled.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**APARTMENTS.**

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**CHURCH BELL BAN DISOBEYED.****PRISON FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR.**

The first prosecution under the recent order was at Spilsby, Lincolnshire, on Monday last, when the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for sounding his church bell otherwise than for the purpose authorised.

P. C. Peck stated that on June 16th he saw Mr. Graham sitting in the belfry pulling the bell-rope. Asked if he did not know of the Order he replied, 'I know nothing about it. It will save me the trouble of ringing them.' At the evening service that day Mr. Graham stated that he had received a letter from the Bishop prohibiting the ringing of the bells.

Giving evidence, Mr. Graham said that he understood a notice would be served upon him. He had acted in ignorance, and was a loyal law-abiding citizen.

Supt. Little said that all the clergy in the county had received a letter from their Bishop telling them that bells were not to be rung except by the police or military.

The chairman of the Bench, Mr. F. L. Stephenson, said that in their opinion the ringing was intentional and deliberate. A fine would be inadequate.

J. A.  
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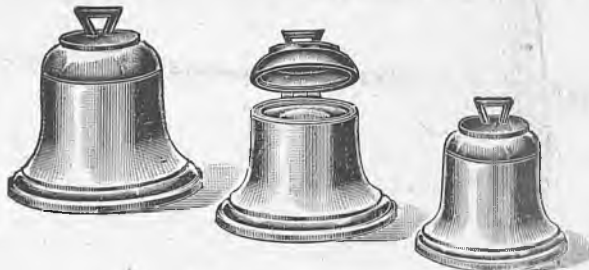
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