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**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

It has been most unfortunate that the jubilee year of the Central Council has had to be passed over without a gathering of the members to celebrate the event. In normal times we can imagine the proceedings of the Council might have been made noteworthy by some sort of special commemoration, but anything of the kind has been out of the question in this second year of the war. There has, however, been a widespread interest in the series of articles which Mr. J. A. Trollope has been writing for our columns and which has given us something far more than a mere record of history of the Council. It has taken us behind the scenes, as it were, and we have had word pictures of some of the men who helped to make the Council. On this subject Mr. Trollope can speak with the authority of one who has been a member since the very early days and has been in close contact with the moving spirits of the Council through the intervening years. It is fortunate that the Exercise in these days, when quite a new generation of ringers has grown up since the Council first came into being, has an historian who can put on record, not only facts obtainable from the printed reports, but can clothe these bare bones with the flesh drawn from personal knowledge. The publication of these articles may be the only thing which will mark the Council's jubilee, but it is a not insignificant contribution to the history of the Exercise which future ringers will be glad to have.

The questions about the Central Council which were put in the letter by 'Observer' in our last issue were not without point and those on the twin subjects of the affiliation fees and the maintenance of membership by the associations are really pertinent. The Standing Committee would do well to issue an official statement as to the action which should be taken by associations before the time, next year, when in ordinary circumstances a new Council should meet in London. Unless it is to fill a vacancy for a shorter time, members are elected for three years, and the period of office of the existing Council will expire before the next meeting. Under the rules all affiliated associations have to elect their representatives in time to notify the secretary of their appointment at least one month prior to the triennial meeting in London, the next of which is due in 1942. Presumably these elections must take place during the present Council year, or will there be a tacit understanding that where associations fail to do this their existing representatives will remain members? The rules do not provide for such a contingency as now arises, and it would appear that the safest thing for all associations to

(Continued on page 328.)

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do is to elect their representatives as usual at their forth-  
coming annual meetings.

This leads to the further point, on which the Standing  
Committee ought, we think, to give some guidance.  
Many associations have had a loss of membership which  
in some cases may affect their representation; associa-  
tions which before the war had just sufficient members to  
enable them to elect a certain number of representatives  
may find themselves with only sufficient strength to en-  
title them to a lesser number. Are the special circum-  
stances of the times to be taken into account and the  
associations allowed to elect the number who now repre-  
sent them, in the hope later on, when ringing is again  
permitted, membership will return to its former propor-  
tions, or must the associations adhere strictly to the rules  
and elect only the number of representatives to which  
they are entitled at the time?

The question of the honorary members is also one  
upon which some decision should be given. Speaking  
strictly again, the term of office of members elected in  
1937 and 1938 has expired and unless a meeting is held  
next year all the rest of the honorary members also re-  
tire. It is true that they can all be re-elected the first  
time the Council meets, but it would be better if the  
position were put upon a proper basis, otherwise the  
Council might conceivably be left without some of its  
most important officers. We realise the difficulties which  
confront the Standing Committee in this matter, but on  
all the subjects which we have mentioned guidance would  
be welcome. Quite a number of associations are, we  
believe, still in doubt whether or not they should con-  
tinue to pay their affiliation fees so that on this, too, a  
clear decision ought to be given. If the fees are to be  
collected, associations whose funds are diminishing on  
account of the present situation will not be pleased if  
later they are called on for two or three years' arrears.  
They ought to know now where they stand.

### THE LAST PEAL AT COVENTRY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. C. E. Borrett's interesting letter  
in a recent 'Ringing World,' re the peal of Stedman Caters rung  
at St. Michael's, Coventry, I should like to point out that, although  
this peal is true as a 5,021, it is false as a 5,063. If the figures are  
examined, it will be found that changes in the 13th six of the 40th  
tittum course, repeat with changes in the 11th six of the coming-  
round course. The figures of the actual sizes are as follows:—

40th tittum course.	Coming-round course.
13th six from course-end 24356.	11th six.
825376419	258376419
285734691	528734691
258376419	582376419
528734691	852734691
582376419	825376419
852734691	285734691

It would be interesting, if it could be ascertained whether the  
5,063 was really Henry Johnson's work, or whether it was a varia-  
tion of the 5,021 by some other person. The late Henry Johnson  
was a brilliant Stedman composer, and it is very difficult to imagine  
that he would make a mistake of this kind.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

327, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.6

Letters from Mr. W. Barton, of Bradford, and from Mr. Harry  
Miles, of Kensington, subsequent to the above, point out the same  
facts

The peal rung at Coventry on June 9th, 1883, was the 5,063. The  
figures were published in 'The Bell News' of the following August  
4th, and apparently the falseness was soon afterwards pointed out.

The peal in both its forms was undoubtedly the composition of  
Henry Johnson, and was published over his name, but even the best  
of men make mistakes. Henry Bastable was the conductor, and no  
doubt received the figures from Johnson, who himself took part in  
the peal.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,  
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

### A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

\*MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 1-2 | MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6  
JOHN THOMAS ... .. 3-4 | GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

\* 100th peal, also first peal of Kent Major 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

### A PEAL OF RICHMOND BOB MAJOR, 5104 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 1-2 | \*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6  
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | \*FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 5th, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

### A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

## BACKWARD HUNTING.

'ORIGIN OF THE EXPRESSION.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I wonder how many people know the origin of the expression,  
'Hunting backwards.'

It was in the early eighties, I believe, when the Oxford men were starting to practise London. One day Charlie Hounslow set his bell and, when the others remonstrated, he said, 'I have rung forward all my life, and I'm not going to start ringing backward now.'

To understand the expression, one must first understand what hunting means. Here is a hunting course on four bells, and every bell in it is hunting and never doing anything else:—

1234

2143

2413

4231

4321

3412

3142

1324

1234

If you start off:—

1234

1324

they will all be hunting backwards.

E. BANKES JAMES.

(Continued from next column.)

stairs and negotiate several hair-raising passages, and you will find the bells 110ft. up.

'St. J.; key of church (which is locked) is wrapped in paper and buried in gravel in angle of south-west buttress of south aisle.'

'St. H.; bottom of tower forms a mortuary, usually tenanted, as mortality in the hospital is high. Rope will be found in a dark and damp corner, usually sally resting on a coffin (or two), which may be empty—or not. You must shut yourself in, owing to black-out.'

'St. M.; tower must be climbed by perpendicular ladder. Board locked on to ladder must first be unlocked with key, which is kept at neighbouring post office.'

It would be nice if someone would send the above description to the person who thought of the ban on ringing; and nicer still if each night he were to dream of himself visiting the above churches and being compelled to go through with the job in each church.

A. G. G. T.

## IN CASE OF INVASION.

A POSER.

### Trials of a General Secretary.

Becoming general secretary of an association can be no joke at any time, especially if—as with so many folk to-day—one's rapid promotion results from the war. Such an officer to-day seems to have some very odd jobs to do. This one had his equanimity disturbed the other day by the message, 'There's a constable waiting to see you outside the Cathedral, sir.'

What had he done? Had he walked in his sleep one night in the ringing chamber at Mncrft, where he regularly sleeps nowadays, and tried his skill at raising 41 cwt. unaided? Had he crossed the traffic lights once too often? A multitude of rules, regulations, instructions, compulsions, and the like, evaded, flashed through his mind. Was the Cathedral to be dragged down into the dirt with headlines in the papers? What could he do now? A miserable existence might be possible for some time, hiding in the miles of secret passages in the Cathedral, but that was not to be thought of. Better face the law.

But the law was nothing more terrifying than the foreman of one of the local towers, who has become a policeman, as he can't ring any more now. His message, however, caused much head scratching on the part of both bearer and recipient.

The Chief Constable wants to know how to ring all the bells in the city in the event of an invasion. If he thinks he has only to press an ecclesiastical button and they will all ring, he is going to be disillusioned. If we think we are going to give him all the information he wants, quickly, we are going to be disillusioned, too. For there are fifty churches in this ancient city (thirty-three of which are mediæval, forming, with the Cathedral, a unique collection of churches of this date), and nearly all of them possess bells.

### A BUSY MORNING.

Quickly a list of churches and incumbents was got together. While the constable spends the rest of the morning getting a police car to use in the afternoon, the general secretary spends the morning phoning those incumbents who may be more difficult than others to reach by car. It proved an interesting psychological experiment, putting exactly the same questions to a number of different parsons: 'How many bells have you available for ringing now? Where is the key of the church, if same is locked? and/or where is the key of ringing chamber? Are ropes in order? . . . Police want to know.'

Some were slick at answering, some slack, some verbose. 'Oh yes, I have two churches, you know, one old and one new. The new one has a little bell, you know, like a school; we haven't a tower, you know (yes, I know all right, I've taken services there); I've locked the vestry and hidden the rope, but I'll put it back again (all this thrice repeated, with slight variations). Yes, and my old church. Well, that has two bells, only they are different. I mean, you might pull for some time and they wouldn't sound at all. You see, you have to learn how to do it. You have to hold a coloured thing. . . . You see, these bells are the sort that make a noise more like Big Ben. I mean, they are bigger than the other one' (thrice repeated, with variations).

'Yes,' I comment, '5 cwt. and 7 cwt.'

'Oh, I forgot; I'm talking to an expert' (well, it's nice to be described like that, occasionally).

And another, 'Oh, no one can ring my bell except me. You see, I've hidden the rope among the organ pipes to stop people pulling it' (bad for the organ if there's an invasion, I comment).

Then in the afternoon a nice little tour at the country's expense. By about 10 p.m. we have contacted nearly all of the 50 churches (not bad going, considering this was Ascension Day, and I had services, of an average length of 55 minutes each at 7, 8, 10, 5 and 8 p.m.).

### HOW TO RING THE BELLS.

Our report must have meant much scratching of constabulary heads. Read some extracts: 'St. P.M.; 13 bells. Should be rung by a change ringer, if possible. One sleeps in the church every night. Tenor weighs 41 cwt.' (Horrors! How many Austin sevens or prisoners or handcuffs, or whatever terms Chief Constables think in, go to make that weight?)

'St. G.; key of tower in verger's box in right-hand back pew. Fifty-two stairs to ringing chamber.' (Horrors! What a trial to the eyes, and the heart, in the dark!)

'St. M.; key at neighbouring iron works, with fire watchers.'

'The Cathedral; go upstairs in north transept (what's that?), the umpteenth door on left leads to the triforium (what's that?) of the presbytery (query as before). Chiming apparatus to be found here. Ropes must be at correct tension or 15th century bells will crack or not sound at all. Of the two people who can work the apparatus decently, one will be ringing the bell at the top of this list, the other is shipbuilding in Sndrld. If you can't work the apparatus and want to hit the bells, you must climb three sets of

(Continued in previous column.)

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 317.)

### CLASSIFICATION.

With the adoption of the Methods Report, the committee had completed the work for which it was appointed and it asked to be discharged. But it was kept in being to settle the further question of classification, which at the time was considered of some considerable importance. On the one hand, there was that desire to tidy up everything, which I have referred to, and, on the other hand, there was generally in the Exercise a somewhat vague and indefinite feeling that the comparative value and merit of peal performances could be assessed if methods were properly divided into classes.

Everybody agreed that it was more meritorious to ring a peal of Treble Bob Major than a peal of Plain Bob Major; that a peal in a Double Method (which in effect meant Double Norwich) was more meritorious than a peal in a Single Method (which meant Grandsire Triples and Bob Major); and that a peal in a Surprise Method was most meritorious of all. The matter was discussed by the Council at several meetings, and between 1897 and 1900 a schedule of points for peals was formally adopted. All Plain Methods were given one point for each bell—Triples 7, Major 8, Caters 9, and so on. Double Methods had 16 points for Major, 18 for Royal and 20 for Maximus, with the exception that Double Norwich secured 28 points for Royal and 32 for Maximus. Stedman Triples and Caters each had 24 points, and Cinques 28 points. Treble Bob Major had 12 points, Royal 14, and Maximus 16. Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major each had 30 points; and London and Bristol Surprise Major each 50.

This schedule is interesting as showing the comparative merits attached to peals by the best opinion in the Exercise forty or fifty years ago. Few would agree with it to-day and its anomalies are easy to point out. The men who said it is half as hard again to ring a peal of Stedman Triples as it is to ring a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, had for the most part never even heard the latter, nor did they show much practical knowledge when they rated Stedman Cinques only four points higher than Stedman Caters. Still less did they know about the many methods they casually lumped together as 'All Plain Methods' or as 'Treble Bob Methods.' In the end the scheme broke down, and after some years, points for peals were dropped; but while it lasted it added weight to the call for a proper classification of methods.

The first serious attempt was made by Earle Bulwer in 'The Glossary.' It was a failure, as we have seen, because his definition of a Surprise method excluded London, but it was bound to fail because neither he nor anyone else knew enough about methods in the bulk to realise what were the difficulties in the way. Everybody assumed without much thought that methods can be grouped into mutually exclusive classes, and that the titles and sub-titles which ringers through the ages have given to them were an attempt at such classification. Actually methods have got their names in a variety of quite different ways, and no system of classification is possible which will grade methods according to their characteristics and difficulty.

The task given to the Methods Committee was therefore an impossible one, and, of course, they failed,

though it seemed at first they had succeeded. I have pointed out elsewhere how the definition of a Surprise method, clever as it was, has proved a complete mistake and I need say no more about it now. There was also in the classification misreading and falsification of history. Court Bob originally was the name of a particular six-bell method, the same we now call Double Court Bob Minor. Norwich Court Bob and London Court Bob were what the men in the two cities respectively thought was the same method applied to eight bells. They spoke simply of Court Bob Major. There was no warrant for applying the word Court to dozens of methods which have no connection with Court Minor,

The word "Bob" was used in the first instance as roughly the equivalent of our word 'method.' It was a mistake to confine it to those which have second's place at the lead end. The sub-title "Surprise" was used to indicate the kind of method that was rung, but it was bad history to use the words 'Delight,' 'Pleasure' and 'Exercise,' in the same way. London Scholars' Pleasure and College Exercise meant that the words say—methods in which the London Scholars took pleasure and the College Youths exercised themselves—but College Bob IV. Delight and Evening Star Delight are really absurd.

I took little or no part in the preparation of the Report on Classification, but I agreed with its conclusions; I spoke and wrote in support of it; and I must bear my share of the responsibility for the mistakes.

In 1907 at the Exeter meeting the committee's definition of a Surprise method was sharply challenged by William Snowdon. He was at the time engaged in revising his brother's 'Standard Methods,' and he was trying to find a better selection of Minor methods. Especially he wanted to include 'seven Surprise Minor Methods of as true a Surprise character as repeated researches point to as possible.' For this reason he drew up a definition of a Surprise method which naturally differed from that of the Methods Committee, for while theirs was based on comprehension, his was based on exclusion.

This is his definition. It served his purpose well enough, but when we consider it as a general definition we can see how inferior it is to the one adopted, faulty as that may be. 'A Surprise Method has a Treble Bob hunt and demands the following places: (a) Places with the treble before and behind; (b) when she dodges; (c) when she moves from one dodging place to another. Further, these places shall cause at least four bells—taking a Minor example—to divide the work in front, there being no Slow Work. No bell shall be detained in the middle for a whole lead. At least four bells to take part in the work behind between the visits of the treble.'

The seven Surprise Minor methods he picked for 'Standard Methods' on those lines make an excellent selection, and when recently I entirely re-wrote the book, I saw no reason to alter it.

### LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

#### JUNE MEETING AT BATLEY.

The society's June meeting was held on June 28th at Batley. Handbells were rung before the business meeting, which was held in the tower. The president (Mr. J. P. Harvey) was chairman, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Liversedge and the local company.

A vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. J. W. Baxendale was passed by the members standing in silence.

Thanks were given to the curate-in-charge and the local company on the proposition of Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. F. Hodgson.

The next meeting is to be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****SUNDAY MEETING AT PULBOROUGH.**

With the kind co-operation of church officials and the local ringers, the meeting at Pulborough on Sunday, June 29th, of the Western Division of the Sussex Association attracted some 17 ringers from Arundel, Billingshurst, Chichester, Lewes, Liss (Hants), Lyminster, Storrington, West Grinstead and the local band.

Those arriving early lost no time in selecting an ideal spot in a meadow adjoining the churchyard, where two sets of handbells were soon ringing to various methods. The tower was later visited, and here rounds and methods to Cambridge were practised under the strange conditions of silent ringing.

Tea was the next item, in which direction Mr. Stilwell and his lady helpers scored an outstanding success, with no evidence of war-time rationing. Two new members were elected at a brief business interlude before the service.

A large percentage of those present during the afternoon attended evensong, preceded by the ringing of handbells around the font. In the opening words of his sermon, the curate (the Rev. Mr. Jennings) mentioned that 'a short while ago you were listening to the ringing of handbells by members of the Sussex Association of Change Ringers, whom we have been pleased to welcome this afternoon. They have given you some of their music; they would, no doubt, have liked to ring the whole peal, but this must be kept in readiness for a call to defence. Before long we pray that the bells may soon be ringing the call to thanksgiving.' He recalled his visit to the Croydon Bell Foundry and described the various processes of casting and tuning, particularly noting the care taken to make the bells ring out, 'like the call of God, clear and true.' Continuing, he dwelt on the several calls of the bells, and concluded with the call to challenge.

Another visit was made to the tower for further 'ringing.' Judging by the persistent requests for more meetings, the efforts of those taking part in the arrangements were not in vain. The meeting came to an end at about nine o'clock.

**BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We read a lot to-day of what the Government intend to do after the war. They will pay for damage to furniture and houses and will replace the fabric of churches. I suppose all this money will come from the pockets of the long-suffering taxpayer. Surely it is time the German people were made to realise that those who damage should pay? They should be told that, after this war, those who backed up the cry, 'Guns before butter,' will be made to listen to other cries, among them being 'Churches and bells before butter.'

C. A. LEVETT.

Slough.

**THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.****RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD PERFORMANCE.**

At the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday, the Master presided and was supported by the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer and other members, including Mr. R. F. Deal, Mr. Herbert Langdon, Mr. William Passmore, Mr. Harry Miles, Mr. F. Collins and Mr. J. Cripps. The Master welcomed Mr. McDougal, of Hornchurch, and Mr. J. A. Trollope, of Ealing, and another welcome figure was Gunner Herbert Thompson. Greetings were received from Mr. E. H. Lewis and Mr. H. Northover, of Reigate.

A letter from Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wycombe, was read. Mr. Wilkins stated that he was made a College Youth in 1879.

'Among the three or four hundred peals I have rung,' continued the writer, 'the following is one I consider unique. It was a peal of Grandsire Major at All Saints' Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, somewhere about 1890. I was foreman of the belfry, and the band of College Youths included F. G. Newman, Edward Rogers, E. F. Strange (who conducted it after he and Newman had tossed a coin), J. M. Hayes, Sam Hayes, H. Rogers, A. W. Garraway and myself, who rang the tenor. The last three were local men.

'To me it was notable because I came up from repairing a pump at the Clergy House down a well 80ft. deep and within 100ft. of the tower straight up to the steeple to ring. I don't know if either of those London men are living, but Mr. E. F. Strange, I believe, was connected with a museum at Kensington.'

The sympathy of the meeting was expressed with Mr. E. A. Young, who was suffering from a severe chill and unable to be present.

**PEALS AT COVENTRY.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The record mentioned by Mr. Borrett brings to my mind the following extract I took from 'The Leicester Journal' of February 24th, 1809:—

'On Sunday evening, the 12th instant, was rung by the Society of Coventry Youths at St. Michael's, Coventry, a complete peal of Grandsire Caters, containing 5,219 changes, in three hours and 58 minutes. The above peal being the full extent of changes that can be obtained with only four bells behind the 9th and tenor together. On Tuesday, the Coventry Youths rang a new peal called the Valentine, containing 5,075 changes, in three hours and 51 minutes.'

Can any reader tell us what the 'Valentine' peal was? Would it be an ordinary peal of Grandsire specially rung for St. Valentine's Day?  
ERNEST MORRIS.  
Leicester.

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.....

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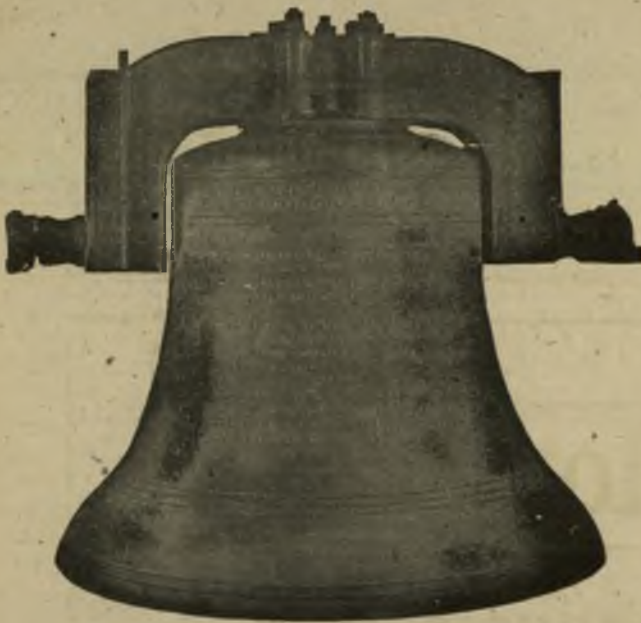
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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. William J. Nevard's many friends will be glad to know that he is now fairly well after his recent illness. He has, however, experienced a fresh and severe misfortune. His house has been burnt and much of its contents destroyed in addition to his workshop and all his tools. He is now living at Hare View, Thorington. He will have the sympathy of the whole Exercise.

Messrs. G. and F. Cope, of Nottingham, have in hand a new striking clock for Everton Church, Bawtry. They have also recently completed the renovation of the old clock in Market Deeping Church, Lincolnshire, made in 1765, and have just received the order for overhauling the church clock at Crowle, Worcester.

On July 6th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Giles' in that city, the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major. The method has had a fair amount of practice, but its excessive dodging prevents it being really popular.

John Holt sat in the belfry of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and called from manuscript the Original when it was rung for the first time on July 7th, 1751.

William Sottanstill, of Sowerby, was born on July 9th, 1800. He was the author of a book on change ringing for which not much good can be said. Sottanstill composed some good peals of Treble Bob Major.

Carter's Odd Bob peal of Stedman Triples was rung non-conducted by the College Youths on handbells on July 10th, 1917. A very fine performance.

Mr. W. H. Barber called the first peal of Erin Caters at North Shields on July 12th, 1909.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. One was seven 720's of Minor at Hadley in Middlesex, the first peal on the bells; the other was Kent Treble Bob Major at Foxearth in Essex. Mr. W. J. Nevard rang the fifth.

### BELLS AS INVASION WARNING. SIRENS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED.

The Government are considering representations from a number of areas that the proposed church bells warning of invasion should be varied or supplemented by other methods.

'The Evening News' states that one suggestion under consideration is that sirens should be used, giving a five-minutes long signal.

Since the decision—taken last June—to reserve church bells for invasion warning, a number of bells have been dismantled and removed to places of safety, and more than 1,000 churches have been destroyed in raids.

In some districts people are outside the range of hearing church bells however loudly they might ring.

An official announcement is expected shortly.

The leaflet giving instructions to the public in the event of invasion gives the present official statement on the subject:—

What does it mean when the church bells are rung? It is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question. Church bells will *not* be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has taken place. The ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches.

Many people, and some newspapers, evidently still think that church bells will be used as an invasion warning to the general public, but it is clear that there never was any such intention. The only people who are concerned are the military authorities; the general public must take no notice whatever. We should not be surprised, however, if the military authorities now realise what has been evident all along to ringers, that church bells would be a very inefficient means of giving warning in the case of the landing by parachute or other air-borne invaders.

### ALLEGED LOOTING OF CHURCH BELLS.

#### MAN CHARGED AT BRISTOL.

The bells of a Bristol church destroyed by enemy action were the subject of a charge at Bristol Police Court on July 4th.

The bells, which belonged to St. Mary-le-Port, were valued at £750, and Edward Richard Pearce (60) was accused of receiving them at some date between March 25th and June 19th.

The owners of the bells were said to be St. Mary-le-Port Church Lands Charity.

Pearce was remanded for a week and was granted bail on his own surety of £100, and a second surety of £100.

Asking for the £200 sureties, Insp. Stiles, of the C.I.D., said that there might be another charge preferred against Pearce, and that he had, since the receiving charge had been preferred, left his business address and gone to Worcester.

Mr. G. D. Wansbrough (for Pearce) asked that at least part of a sum of over £100 belonging to him, and now in the possession of the police, should be released for his use.

Insp. Stiles said that the bells had been sold, and Pearce received a substantial sum in connection with the transaction. Whether this sum formed part of the money in the possession of the police he could not say.

Insp. Stiles asked the magistrates to allow Pearce sufficient of his money for his defence, but that the remainder should remain with the police. This was granted.

The bells at St. Mary-le-Port were a ring of eight with a tenor of 19 cwt.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT GRAVESEND.

#### Insurance of Church Bells.

It proved a wise decision to postpone the annual general meeting until the longer days, as at Gravesend on Saturday, June 28th, nearly eighty put in an appearance for the 61st annual meeting of the Kent County Association, and in spite of no bells being available, a very pleasant and happy time was spent.

The presence of youth, so noticeable at these meetings as a rule, was very limited—they have other work on hand, and are scattered all over the country and in the East doing their part to help speed the time when we can have the bells ringing again.

The committee met at Church House at 3 p.m. to consider various matters, and at 4 o'clock the whole assembly met in St. George's Church for the association service.

The Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate) welcomed the members, congratulated them on the splendid attendance, and expressed the sincere hope that they would soon be called to their belfries to ring the victory peal.

An address was given by Canon G. C. E. Ryley, of Rochester Cathedral, who is a member of the committee. He also read the lesson. Mr. F. E. Fletcher was organist.

A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to £1 5s. 7d.

After tea had been served at the Town Hall, the company was warmly welcomed to Gravesend by the Mayor (Councillor R. T. Lester, J.P.).

Everyone regretted, he said, that in the present circumstances they did not hear the church bells. He missed them very much and hoped the time was not far distant when the ringers would recommence what he from personal experiment regarded as hard work.

Thanks were expressed to the Mayor for the loan of the Town Hall. The business meeting was held in the Council Chamber, the Mayor's chair being occupied by the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley, supported by Messrs G. H. Cross, G. H. Spice, T. Groombridge, jun., E. Barnett and F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary).

#### EFFECTS OF THE BAN.

The past year, said the annual report, was one unparalleled in history, as, owing to war restrictions, all ringing has ceased. For generations the bells have been rung in cities, towns and hamlets declaring the message to all, 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all men,' and it is lamentable to think that all this has been changed, and the whole of the ringing fraternity deprived of following their art through the avarice of one man.

In spite of the bells being silent, the work of the association must go on, so that we shall all be ready when peace and victory come to take a stand in our accustomed places in the belfry. Many faces, alas, and perhaps towers, will be missed when that time comes, but we would urge all members that remain to meet whenever possible for friendly discourse and handbell ringing. One thing we would stress is that all in charge of the bells should see that they are not neglected and are kept in ringing order.

As is generally known, church bells will be rung in any area if and when enemy troops might land, but no information has been issued as to who will do the ringing. In the hands of the incompetent much damage can be done to the bells, a fact well known to all ringers, but perhaps unknown to the authorities. Many attempts have been made to have the ban lifted on Sunday ringing, but we are sorry to say with negative results.

During the past nine months the affairs of the association as regards meetings have been suspended in the various districts, and some of the secretaries have come in for criticism for not arranging meetings. On the occasions when this was tried, results were very discouraging, the attendances being very poor, and it is small wonder that the interest lagged. When one is apt to criticise the secretary, let us remember he is not working for one or two individuals, but for the whole district and association, and poor response is not conducive to encouragement in his efforts. It is up to us all to keep the interest alive in our own particular tower and district. All of us are, in our spare time, doing our part to help beat 'the mad dog of Europe,' and when that is done there is no doubt we shall get into working order again, and we pray God that will come soon.

The postponement of the annual general meeting of the association, usually held at Easter, until to-day was undoubtedly a wise decision, as this enables members coming from a distance to travel in daylight. Thirty-two towers are represented, and the attendance is greater than it might have been had the meeting been held earlier.

Many members have joined H.M. Forces, and it is hoped a full list can be obtained for future reference. Very few names have so far been forwarded. To all, in whatever capacity they are serving, we wish 'godspeed and a safe return.'

#### ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP.

The war and the discontinuance of ringing has naturally affected the towers in union and the number of ringers. All serving members are retained on the books, with non-payment of subscriptions, so it is a matter of encouragement to report that subscriptions were received from 638 members. Honorary members totalled 33.

We have lost many members by death and to the relations of all we offer our sympathy. The following lost their lives through enemy action: Mrs. Hay (Chilham), hon. member; Messrs. G. R. Ambrose

(Milton-next-Gravesend) and H. Trinder (Walmer), practising members; and Mr. S. H. Wood (Bristol) and A. E. Bacon (King's Lynn), non-resident life members. The following have also been called to higher service: Mrs. Taylor (Bexley), the Rev. Canon E. F. Campbell-Ward (Swanscombe), Mr. H. G. Dunn, hon. members; Messrs. R. Goldup (Ashford), E. Slingsby and F. Giles (Sturry), S. G. Twyman (St. Lawrence), E. Kendall (Wingham), R. Morgan (Dartford), J. L. Harris (Rochester), C. Goodburn (Milton-next-Gravesend), E. J. Botten (Sittingbourne), F. Sharp (Marden), J. Shorter (Bearsted), E. F. Pike (Brockley), G. F. Lovelock (St. Mary Cray), and H. Reeve (Tonbridge, missing from Dunkirk), practising members; Messrs. G. Copnell (Newport), A. Bowell (Ipswich), G. Dent (Harlow), G. B. Lucas (Walthamstow), A. J. Pankhurst (Eastbourne), non-resident life members.

The annual general meeting was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday and 100 attended, which, considering the prevailing conditions, showed that the interest in the association was still alive. At the time the ringing of bells was not banned, which attracted more than might otherwise have attended. Very few district meetings were held, and those held before the ban were fairly well attended.

We regret that Mr. A. Richardson, who succeeded Mr. Latter as Tonbridge district secretary, has resigned from that position, and we are pleased to record his services rendered to the district and association. No successor has so far been appointed. Here is an opportunity for a volunteer to carry on the work.

A course of instruction was carried out at Boughton, but we fear that the ban on ringing has nullified the effort.

#### SATISFACTORY FINANCE.

Ten peals were rung during the year, six on tower bells and four in hand. The peal of outstanding merit was in four spliced Surprise methods at Crayford. Congratulations are offered to the Misses Richardson on ringing a quarter-peal on handbells during a raid, and to the Spice family on ringing a 'family quarter.'

The amount so far subscribed to the Helmore Memorial Fund is £1 9s. 6d., and this has been deposited in the Benevolent Fund account for the time being.

The income on the general account has dropped by £37, and the expenditure decreased correspondingly. On the year's working there is an increased balance in hand to £72 9s. 10d. One grant of £5 had been paid from the Belfry Repairs Fund to Bethersden, where the treble had been recast and the whole rehung with new fittings. The income more than met that amount, and the fund shows an increased balance, viz., £158 7s. 6d. The income in the Benevolent Fund amounted to £27 1s. 5d., and as no applications for assistance during the year were received, the balance was increased by that amount to £35 1s. 10½d. With invested funds and various balances, the total worth of the association now stands at £1,047 1s. 1d., an increase of £37 0s. 7d on the previous year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The balance sheets, which revealed the healthy condition of the association, were presented by the hon. auditor, Mr. G. H. Cross, and unanimously adopted.

The president, vice-presidents and committee were re-elected.

The hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) explained at length the whole position as regards the investments, and said that their interests were well safeguarded, but he and some of the other members thought they should be even more strongly so. The committee had discussed the subject earlier in the day, and they recommended that all the investments should be in the name of 'the treasurer for the time being' and three trustees elected to govern the funds, the power delegated to the two signees to remain as at present.

On the proposition of Mr. E. A. G. Allen (Rochester), seconded by Mr. H. Hoskins (Greenwich), it was unanimously decided to adopt this course and that the hon. secretary and treasurer take immediate steps to carry this out.

Mr. F. White (Tunbridge Wells) and Mr. W. J. Jeffries (Petts Wood) were unanimously re-elected, and Mr. G. H. Spice (Sittingbourne) was elected the third trustee.

The Chairman said he knew they could not do better than re-elect their present hon. secretary. They all knew the interest he took in the association.

Replying, Mr. Mitchell said he did not know whether this was lucky or unlucky—his 13th year as hon. secretary. He considered it lucky, because if Jerry had been a few yards nearer three weeks ago they would have been electing a new secretary that day. He would still do his best for the association.

#### INSURANCE OF CHURCH BELLS.

A long discussion took place on the insurance of church bells. Many members spoke of the measures being taken in their own particular towers. The general opinion of the members was that the restoration of bells damaged or lost through enemy action was a matter for the Government, and the following resolution was proposed by Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., and unanimously agreed:—

'That the Kent County Association of Change Ringers is of the opinion that as the Government has ordered church bells to be rung in any area where enemy troops may land, churches become military objectives, and the association considers that in the event of any damage being done to bells through enemy action the expense of restoring the same should be met by the Government.'

(Continued on next page.)

## A COUNTRY COUNCIL MEETING. VILLAGE CRITICS VENT THEIR GRIEVANCES.

From a Special Correspondent.

The following report has been sent to us, and as it is beyond editing, we present it exactly as it has reached us, except for the headings.

As there be no Central Council meeting this year what we could read about in our 'Ringing World' and talk about at our meetings, some of the ringers down this way thought it would be a good thing to have our own Council meeting. Us can't talk so well as some of those as get sent to Central Council—leastwise, not so well as it reads in the paper, all prim and proper like, but there's some chaps down about here as fancies themselves a bit when it comes to talking—Jim Blobs, for instance, goes to the Oddfellows' meetings—and they thought us could have some debates on things the Council has done and hasn't done during all these fifty years they've tried to tell we ringers what us ought to do and what us ought not to do in the belfry.

So we held our meeting Whit Monday; a County Council some of 'em called it, because there was ringers from all over our county—from four or five towers, that is, as well as ours. We didn't invite you, Mr. Editor, because for one thing we knew you was ill and we didn't advertise it neither, because we didn't want a lot of outsiders who might want to have all the say. But the meeting asked me to send an account to the paper, thinking as it would be interesting to others, which I have tried my best to do, although I can't take down speeches in that 'ere pothooks and hangers stuff that proper reporters use. Praps it was just as well, but it makes my report a bit sketchy like. Actually us talked about a lot more things than I am putting down here. I've missed 'em out partly because I don't think they matter anyhow, but mostly because now we are shorthanded everywhere in the village I ain't got time. In fact, that's the reason this report is a bit late.

### A GRIEVANCE.

For instance, it's no good walloping dead horses, so what was the good of raking up about the cheap railway fares that the Central Council got took away from us years ago. Tom Topper has always had a grudge against the Council for that, because these cheap tickets got stopped in the days when he was courting and it cost him another fourpence a week afterwards to go and see his gal. He had cause to grumble, I suppose, because apparently she wasn't worth it. Anyway, he didn't marry that one, and it ain't so certain the one he has got would have been worth it either.

Then Fred Foreman wanted to introduce the subject of free beer for ringers when they ring on great occasions, the same as he had read used to be given to 'em in the old days, but I told him he shouldn't talk about it in public, as it wasn't a edifying subject for ringers to discuss. But there I'm getting a bit before the story.

Well, as I said, we had the meeting on Whit Monday and held it in our village, which we often call Mud-under-Foot, although that's not its proper name, as you know, Mr. Editor. The landlord of the Hollytree let us use one of his rooms free, we ringers having always been pretty good customers. Those who got to the meeting before three o'clock were able to make suitable preparations, because drinks ain't rationed yet. The others had to start dry and it made a difference, I can tell you, to how much they talked. I was one of those that got there early.

### OFFICERS ELECTED.

When we started the meeting they elected me president (it sounds better than chairman, I told 'em), and as soon as it was decided I should write the report for the paper they thought it was best to make me secretary as well, because there was no need for two people to go messing about with the writing.

Then ole Sam Sink proposed that I should be treasurer. He said it would be quite safe, because there wasn't going to be any funds unless we paid into a 'kitty' for beer afterwards, and I shouldn't hold that money anyway, as it was nothing to do with the meeting.

So, having elected the officers, we proceeded to business and as they all sat quiet at first, like a lot of stuffed dummies, I asked Sam Sink to lead off. Sam was one of them that had got to the Hollytree real early, and didn't Sam lead off when I give him the chance!

Sam's never been in favour of the Central Council. When they've elected our association delegates every now and again, he's always said 'twas a waste of money and just to give 'em a holiday, but in the presence of so many of the nobs, parsons and suchlike, Sam's never been able to say all he thought, not till Whit Monday, and then, when he got going he said all he thought and a deal more besides. A lot of what he said couldn't be writ here, but he had his old grievance out first. What he wanted to know was what the Central Council had done for him or his tower? And then why couldn't he ring what he liked and call it what he liked? His father and grandfather before him had rung what they liked and what was good enough for them was good enough for him. Why shouldn't he ring Violet and Woodbine and Merchant's Return, and even the old Eight and Forty if he wanted to? These 'ere Council people wanted to stop him doing that, so as he should ring a lot of new fangled things what he didn't want to ring and didn't intend to ring. He wouldn't be ordered about by any Council, he said, danged if he would. And the Council never did do any good anyway, leastwise not to him or his tower.

This wasn't all he said by any manner of means; he talked about other things as well that don't matter much, but this is enough to show how Sam feels about the Central Council. He wanted to propose that we shouldn't have anything to do with all these new methods what some committee of the Council had been getting out and wasting their time on for years past, but George Adams, he's a young chap from next village, he ups and says if our meeting was to do that us would be as bad as the Council trying to tell other people what they should do and what they shouldn't do. If he wanted to ring one of these new methods nothing Sam Sink proposed would stop him.

George is a spry chap and he got this one in on Sam because Sam always found some sort of excuse never to let him have the bells at Little Tiddlecombe—that's where Sam's boss of the tower—for a peal. Sam says he don't believe in these boys riding roughshod over the old 'uns. He believes in keeping 'em in their place.

### ANOTHER GRIEVANCE.

Well, when we'd settled Sam's hash, Bill Nokes said he'd got a grievance against the Council—not our Council, but the one that jaunted all over the country and never seemed to do nothing except talk. This war, he said, had showed how neglectful they'd been. They'd let the government stop the bells altogether for one thing. Instead of getting up and stopping the government stopping the bells and making asses of themselves by saying that only a policeman or a soldier could ring the bells and hang themselves in the doing of it, they sat down and said nothing. Then there was that there committee what thought they knew all about towers and bells. They couldn't have known very much, Bill said, otherwise they'd have had all the towers lined with that fireproof asworstus stuff and have put it all round the bell frames to stop 'em being burnt when these hincendery fire bombs set light to the churches.

I chipped in here and says, 'Don't talk silly, Bill,' only a bit stronger. I told him there weren't enough of that asworstus stuff, as he called it, to go round, even if the Committee had got enough money to buy it all, and I didn't think they was rich men—at least not very rich—and it was certain the Council couldn't buy it. If they did it would come back on the associations and that was on the likes of him and me, and I asked him whether, with a wife and five kids, he could afford it?

With that Bill and me started arguing, not because of the Committee, but because I had told him not to talk silly. (Actually it wasn't just that what I said to him.)

Then, while we was arguing rather loud, we heard the landlord open the front door. Sam Sink slipped out to see what the right time was, and didn't come back. Fred Foreman whispered to George Adams and they went out to see if the front door really was open, and they didn't come back either. Then we heard the jingle of glasses and Tom Smithers and two or three of the others went to look for George and Fred. And they didn't come back.

By this time I thought we hadn't got what I think they call a 'koram,' and so I ruled Bill out of order and said it was no good going on with the meeting. I was thirsty myself and I was sure he was, so I asked him to come and have one. And he did.

I have just remembered we didn't decide where us would meet next year.

### KENT ASSOCIATION (Continued from page 331.)

The hon. secretary was directed to forward copies of the resolution to the president (the Archbishop of Canterbury), the Bishops, Archdeacons and Members of Parliament of the County of Kent.

Mr. E. Barnett proposed that Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., who had now completed 50 years' membership of the association, should be made an honorary life member. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Groombridge, in returning thanks, said that he had held office of some description during nearly the whole of that period.

The Chairman proposed that thanks be extended to the Mayor of Gravesend for the use of the hall, to the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate) and the organist (Mr. Fletcher) for his services.

The hon. secretary and treasurer was thanked for his services during the past year on the proposition of Mr. G. H. Cross, seconded by Mr. Allen.

Mr. W. Spice proposed and Mr. T. Saunders seconded that their best thanks be given to Canon Ryley for his excellent address at the service and his able conduct as chairman.

This was passed in Kentish style.

Canon Ryley said he felt honoured in presiding, as this was the first time in his life he had occupied a mayoral chair.

This concluded a very happy and harmonious war-time gathering, the Mayor remarking later on the large attendance and said it showed the keenness of the members in attending in such numbers in spite of there being no attraction in the way of ringing.

An hour's handbell ringing was afterwards enjoyed in the hall, many members taking part.

May next year's meeting be held in peace was the wish of all.

BRISTOL.—On Tuesday, June 17th, in St. James' vestry, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, 756 Grand sire Triples (from Holt's Original): Thomas S. Harris 1-2, A. M. Tyler 3-4, R. G. Bryant 5-6, D. G. Clift (conductor) 7-8.



**THE STANDARD METHODS.**

**THE PLAIN CHANGES.**

According to our best authority, changes were first rung in England during the first decade of the seventeenth century. For at least two hundred years there had been many peals of three and five bells in town and village all over the country, all hung for ringing, and all very extensively used, not only for Church and civic matters, but for pleasure and recreation. But, says Richard Duckworth, writing in 1667, 'within these fifty or sixty years last past, changes were not known or thought possible to be rang. Then were invented the Sixes.'

The Sixes, he tells us, are 'the very ground of a six-score.' They are, and they are more, for they are the 'very ground' of all our modern method ringing and peal composition, the germ from which the whole art has grown.

At first sight we might think that there is nothing much in the Sixes and little to be learnt from them, yet the way in which they were originally rung definitely fixed the development of the art and science of change ringing and ultimately gave us all our modern methods. All the bells in a six actually work in the same manner, but the ancients did not ring it so: 'Every bell hunts in the six changes,' says Duckworth, 'yet 'tis commonly rang by observing a Hunt and two Extream Bells. The name of Hunt is properly given to it because of its continual motion up and down among the other bells, which motion is called Hunting, and the other two are called Extream Bells, because when the Hunt is either before or behind them, that is at the extream or utmost place, there is a change then to be made between them called an Extream Change.'

Between the Sixes rung in this fashion and a modern peal of Spliced Surprise there is a continuous logical development, the first step of which was the Plain Changes.

In the early development of changes it was inevitable that there should be a good deal of experimenting. Duckworth gives two or three examples, 'which,' he says, 'though rejected in these days, yet in former times were much in use, which for antiquity sake I here set down.' In one of them, the Twenty All Over each bell is in turn hunted up from the front to the back, beginning with the treble and ending with the tenor. It illustrates in its simplest form the idea of a hunt, that is one moving bell passing through other bells which remain passive. Duckworth says that this peal was rejected in his time (1667), but it survived at Framlingham in Suffolk, and probably in other places, down almost to living memory.

The disadvantage of these early 'peals' was that, though they did not contain repetitions, they only produced short lengths, and an elaborate system of hunts was evolved which is almost the most perfect method of producing the extent of the changes on any number of bells that it is possible to get. By these Plain Changes, as they were called, the true extent of the changes on a million bells or a hundred million could be had as certainly as the extent on five or six.

The system is as follows. One bell (usually the treble, but it might be any other) was continually hunted up and

down from front to back and from back to front. It was called the Whole Hunt. Each time the Whole Hunt was leading or lying in front and behind a second bell called the Half Hunt was hunted one step. When the Whole Hunt and Half Hunt were together in the front or behind a third bell called the Quarter Hunt was hunted a step. And so on until all the bells but three had become hunts and they go the six.

Duckworth tells us that on six bells 'the 720 Plain Changes are to be rang or set down one thousand four hundred and forty several ways by altering the whole hunt, half hunt, quarter hunt, and extreme bells, but the course of each is the same.' He understood the truth that a peal can be the same thing though it exists in many forms.

Plain Changes had not long reached their full development before they were superseded by Cross Peals, in which instead of one bell only moving in a change, the movement is shared by all the bells. It made a vast difference in practical ringing, but the same system of hunts was used. Indeed, in varying ways hunts form the basis of the construction of nearly all peals and methods, for a hunt is not just a bell which has a simple and continuously repeated path; but is one which has a cyclical movement through the coursing order of other bells. The slow work bell in Kent Treble Bob is a hunt.

The Plain Changes.

1 2 3 4 5 6	2 3 4 5 6 1	3 4 5 6 2 1
2 1 3 4 5 6	3 2 4 5 6 1	4 3 5 6 2 1
2 3 1 4 5 6		
2 3 4 1 5 6	1 3 2 4 5 6	1 2 4 3 5 6
2 3 4 5 1 6	1 3 4 2 5 6	1 2 4 5 3 6
2 3 4 5 6 1		
	3 4 2 5 6 1	4 5 3 6 2 1
3 2 4 5 6 1	3 4 5 2 6 1	4 5 6 3 2 1
3 2 4 5 1 6		
3 2 4 1 5 6	1 3 4 5 2 6	1 4 5 6 3 2
3 2 1 4 5 6	1 3 4 5 6 2	1 4 5 6 2 3
3 1 2 4 5 6		
1 3 2 4 5 6	3 4 5 6 2 1	etc.
	4 3 5 6 2 1	
1 3 4 2 5 6		
	1 4 3 5 6 2	
	1 4 3 5 2 6	
	4 3 5 2 6 1	
	4 3 2 5 6 1	
	1 4 3 2 5 6	
	1 4 2 3 5 6	
	4 2 3 5 6 1	
	2 4 3 5 6 1	
	1 2 4 3 5 6	
	1 2 4 5 3 6	

Notice how the treble is made the Whole Hunt, the second the Half Hunt and the third the Quarter Hunt.

SWINDON.—On Saturday, June 28th, at 6, York Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 35 minutes: Ivor Bell 1-2, Malcolm Melville 3-4, and David Bell 5. The ringer of 5 is eight years and one month old, and is now the proud possessor of a blister on his finger.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.****PLEASANT GATHERING ON THE LAWN.**

On Saturday, June 21st, the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild held its summer meeting in glorious June weather in ideal surroundings on the Cottage Lawns, Bradford Peverell; by kind permission of Miss Clapcott.

The village is well off the main road, and some of the members arrived at 2.30 to practise on the handbells. Games such as bowls, croquet and darts were also indulged in. During the afternoon a good company of handbell ringers arrived, and Grandsire Triples were put on for the learners.

In the lovely surroundings under the beech trees everyone forgot there was a war on.

A course of Grandsire was rung in the church before the Guild office, which was conducted by the Rev. A. F. Godley, assisted by the chairman of the branch, Canon A. W. Markby. A full ladies' choir led the singing. The Vicar gave the members a very warm welcome and a well-thought-out address. The members then adjourned to the lawns, where tea was awaiting them, for Miss Clapcott and her friends had got over the ration difficulty all right. The chairman presided, and thirty-six members and friends were present. Canon Markby thanked the donor and friends for the kind hospitality, the Rev. A. F. Godley for arranging the service, the organist and the choir. He also gave the members one of his noted addresses, which was received with acclamation. The Rev. R. P. Farrow agreed with the chairman, and said they gave their active hon. secretary thanks for making the arrangements and sending out such a pressing invitation. He hoped they would continue to keep the spirit of the Guild alive. Although he had to cycle a good few miles on a hot summer day, he could not resist coming. The Rev. A. F. Godley returned thanks, and said he was glad the secretary was keeping the flag flying.

One new associate was enrolled.

The Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley (both ringers) invited the Guild to the Rectory gardens at Stratton in August. They were heartily thanked for their kindness.

After the meeting, the hon secretary had six children numbered, and illustrated some details in change ringing by going through two courses of Bob Minor, a demonstration which was quite enjoyed, and especially by the children themselves, some picking out their own places. Handbell ringing and games continued until the sun was dipping down in the north-west. It was in every way a very happy gathering. Miss J. C. Chick, a good handbell ringer, who started her ringing career in the branch, cycled from Bournemouth in the heat of the day, altogether with the return journey riding 60 miles. The following towers were represented: Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, St. Peter's, Fordington, Frampton, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Sydling, East Lulworth, Bournemouth and Wyke Regis.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.****PLEASANT MEETING AT HAGLEY.**

A very successful quarterly meeting was held at Hagley on June 21st, when the Northern Branch was joined by the Dudley and District Guild. Excellent weather favoured the event, and 68 members and visitors turned up to enjoy a few hours among the many beauty spots adjacent to the church.

The eight bells were available for 'silent' practice and were kept busy during the afternoon and evening. The methods ranged from Grandsire and Stedman Triples to London Surprise and provided far greater variety than many had been able to enjoy since the ban. Down in the park surrounding the church the handbells were also kept busy to Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters.

Owing to a last minute difficulty the Rector was unable to be present and the usual service was dispensed with.

A plentiful tea was served picnic fashion by the Misses Parkes and the Hagley Boy Scouts, who received great praise and a hearty vote of thanks for the excellence of their arrangements.

A short business meeting followed, presided over by the Branch Master, Mr. John Lloyd, supported by Messrs. William Short, John Bass and Charles Woodberry, of the Branch Committee. Mr. F. Colelough, of Bilston, was elected a member, and it was decided to hold the next three meetings as follows (D.V.): Belbroughton, July 19th; Chaddesley Corbett, August 23rd; and Clent (quarterly meeting), September 20th. A vote of thanks to the Misses Parkes, Mr. E. M. Ashford, Scoutmaster, and his Scouts brought the meeting to a close, and a move was then made to the tower by some, for the handbells by others, while the remainder availed themselves of the opportunity to explore the beautiful park, so delightfully situated upon the lower slopes of the Clent Hills, until all felt the time had come to adjourn to a popular local rendezvous, where the handbells, reminiscences and refreshment rounded off the best meeting since the outbreak of war.

Members were present from the following towers: Aston, Belbroughton, Bilston, Birmingham, Brierley Hill, Clent, Coseley, Coventry, Cradley, Dudley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Smethwick, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Wolverley and Wombourne, and the members were very pleased to welcome Aircraftman Hunt, R.A.F., of Reading, at present stationed somewhere in the Midlands.

**NOTICES.**

**NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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

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

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—**The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. —**A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—**A meeting will be held at Anstey on July 12th. Bells (8, silent) will be available from 3 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—**A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, South Croydon, on Saturday, July 12th. Eight bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. until black-out. Also handbells. Service 4.30. — Ivy R. Housden, Dis. Sec., 25, Southbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —**The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, July 12th. Tower will be open from 3 p.m. Handbells will be available, also front 8 (silent). Meeting at 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

**GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—**The July monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, July 12th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow at 4.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. —**The meeting arranged for July 12th at Maldon has had to be cancelled owing to circumstances beyond our control.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. —**This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—**Furness and Lake District Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held in the Parish Church Hall, Ulverston, on Saturday, July 19th. Service in church at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., meeting after tea. Names for tea to N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston, by July 16th.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—**Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—**A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—**The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—**Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—**Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those intending to be present kindly notify me not later than Monday, July 14th.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—**The next meeting will be held at Penistone on Saturday, July 19th.

A room will be reserved at Bridge Hotel. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m., followed by handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. E. Brookes, Hall Lane, Hoylandswaine, nr. Sheffield, not later than July 16th. All are welcome. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—**Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.) Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—**Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Woodhouse Eaves on Saturday, July 19th. Handbells at church from 3 p.m. Other arrangements as usual. Mr. H. G. Haynes, 31, Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, is trying to arrange tea for any who notify him by Wednesday previous. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—**Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea at the Carlton Café, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 o'clock. All those requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Thursday, July 24th. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

**HANDBELLS WANTED.**

WANTED, set of 9 to 12; any key.—Write, W. J. Chester, Hales Hall, Market Drayton, Salop.

**ST. MARY-LE-BOW.****THE DESTROYED RING OF TWELVE.**

Recently the 'Star' had the following paragraph on Bow bells. The statement that they will be lighter should be received with reserve, for obviously many things in reconstruction will depend on circumstances which cannot now be foreseen.

'When Bow bells ring again their tone will not be the same. The bells will be smaller.

'Some of them were broken when they crashed from the church tower in Cheapside after a recent City "blitz."

'Pieces of them are scattered at the foot of the tower. These are to be salvaged and kept until the bells can be recast.

'Two of the treble bells, caught up in the tower-girders, are intact.'

'Bow Church itself will have to be rebuilt. The tower, though intact, will need a good deal of repair.'

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