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RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

In these sombre days when we as ringers have so little of the present to think about, our thoughts turn naturally partly to the past in contemplation of the things we and others have done, and partly to the future in anticipation of the better days we know are coming. There is little we can do except to hope and to keep our interest alive, but we can prepare ourselves to meet the problems which will arise when the time of reconstruction comes, and that a good many of us are doing. Whatever we may think of the desirability of forming a National Association, we cannot have anything but praise for the spirit that leads men to consider such a thing and similar things.

Now there is one matter which deserves more than a passing thought and that is the attitude of the outside public towards ringing. We do not mean the general feeling of the people of England towards the bells of our churches. About that we feel we need have no fears. The present silence of the bells has created a sense of loss which, though vague and intangible, is yet very widely felt; and when peace comes there will be a general call for the bells to be heard again.

At the same time we must face the fact that in the exercise of our art we can very easily encounter local and individual opposition, and it will be well to consider how far such opposition may be justified and how best to avoid it.

Let us be fair. It would be foolish to deny that some bells, placed as they are and rung as they sometimes are, can be an almost intolerable nuisance to people who do not naturally like bells. Some of these people are unreasonable, but not all, and they have a right to be considered. It is a peculiarity of ringing that though ringers betake themselves away from their fellow men and often lock themselves in an almost inaccessible belfry where they seem to be far remote from the world, yet what they do is broadcast throughout the whole parish. It is not surprising that they seldom stop to think what the outside effect may be. If they did there would not be nearly so much bad striking and clashing.

This is particularly noticeable at times of general meetings. There we generally get a very mixed lot of ringers, most of them are anxious to attempt something a little beyond what they can do really well, and few people like to discourage someone who is trying to improve himself in method ringing.

Yet it is worth while considering whether it would not be better to tighten up the discipline at meetings; to insist that a certain proportion of the ringing should be

(Continued on page 190.)

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done only by selected and competent bands, that the amount of bad or indifferent ringing which is inevitable with beginners should be reduced to a minimum, and that those who cannot strike the more advanced methods should be asked to confine themselves mainly to those they can strike.

The official in charge of the belfry who is entrusted with the carrying out of such rules would need an infinite amount of tact and firmness, and his job would not be an enviable one. But if it became a regular custom there can hardly be a doubt it would largely remove a reasonable grievance of outsiders, and in the long run do the ringers themselves much good.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Barnett, my recent letter was a copy of one by myself which appeared in your issue of February 17th, 1928, excepting that the first and two last paragraphs of that letter were omitted by you, presumably on account of their irrelevancy at the present time. I was prompted to ask you to republish my earlier letter as I was of the opinion that it would serve as a reply to those correspondents who wished to know what some of the advantages of a National Association would be—it was intended to be complementary to that by Mr. Kippin and the letter under the joint signatures of Messrs. Hartley and Spears.

No doubt the proper course to adopt in order that consideration be given to this subject would be to table a suitable motion for the next Central Council meeting, when each speaker would obtain a fair hearing. If the motion was favourably received, the delegates could then refer the matter to their associations or guilds, and, assuming that a majority of them were in favour of a National Association being formed, the number of likely subscribers to the new body would be a large percentage of the membership of the present ringing organisations.

And in reply to Mr. Arthur V. Davis, I do not think that with a National Association there would be any fear of suppressing individuality—rather should we be better able to maintain it, for 'United we stand, divided we fall.' Would it not have strengthened Mr. Fletcher's case if, in his talks with the Home Office officials, he could have stated that he was the secretary of a National Association and had behind him their full backing? It may not have resulted in the revoking of the Order banning the ringing of church bells, but it would have at least put us on the map so far as those officials are concerned.

The point raised by Mr. Colles is quite right—this subject was worthy of a special and separate resolution, but surely Mr. Kippin's amendment will meet the circumstances. When all is said and done the successful merging or transforming of the existing ringing organisations into a National Association will require the blessing of our present Central Council, and when normal times return once more perhaps this question will receive the consideration it deserves.

COLIN HARRISON.

Bell Foundry House, Loughborough.

THE LATE MR. SIDNEY HILLIER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one who can claim the friendship of the late Sidney Hillier for 44 years, I should like, through 'The Ringing World,' to pay a tribute to his memory. He was a man of the highest principles which he lived up to throughout his life. He was an excellent ringer and instructor, whose passing is a very severe blow to his church and to the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. He leaves behind him hundreds of ringers to mourn the loss of a friend and who have benefited by his able instruction. His life's work and devotion to our art is finished here, but the result of that work will live on for many years.

His great heart of love and human sympathy, his charming personality and his never failing courtesy were some of the beautiful characteristics which endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. Little wonder was it said that to know him was to love him.

F. S. WILSON.

Lilliput, Dorset.

J. A.
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WOKING, SURREY.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*JOHN E. SPICE 7-8
†WILLIAM L. B. LEASE ... 9-10	

Composed by J. D. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
* First peal of Grandsire Caters and first of Caters 'in hand.'
† First attempt for Caters.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,
A PEAL OF SPLICED OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR,
8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 7-8

Arranged to a composition of C. Severn.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

This peal contained 2,560 changes of Oxford and 2,464 of Kent with 50 changes of method.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Thursday, April 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,
A PEAL OF J. D. STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

ALBERT WALKER 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN 5-6
GEORGE F. SWANN 3-4	*SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY ... 7-8
GEORGE E. FEARN 9-10	

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First peal on handbells and first attempt.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes.

AT 2, CEMMANS TERRACE,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Size 11.

WILLIAM J. RANDALL... .. 1-2	WALTER AYRE 3-4
*AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 5-6	
Conducted by WALTER AYRE.	

* First peal 'in hand' and first attempt. The peal was specially arranged, and rung to celebrate the wedding anniversaries of the ringers of 1-2 (April 12th), 3-4 (April 18th), 5-6 (April 19th); also as a birthday compliment to W. J. Randall (April 16th). The peal was finished in almost total darkness.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 19, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS FAITH M. CHILD ... 1-2	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
*MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Triples 'in hand'. Believed to be the first peal of Triples 'in hand' rung in Bournemouth. The peal was rung as a compliment to Mr. Frederick W. Townsend, of Poole, Ringing Master of Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Guild.

A SUCCESSFUL LONDON MEETING.

COMBINED GATHERING OF CUMBERLANDS AND MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

A most successful and enjoyable meeting between the Royal Cumberland Youths and the Middlesex County Association, was held at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road, London, on Saturday, April 11th. The meeting itself was the outcome of a project formed nearly two years ago. At that time everything had been arranged to hold the gathering in the summer of 1940, but the ban on ringing caused its postponement, and it was not until now that it was possible to carry out the scheme.

It was gratifying to find so many people arrive at the advertised time—unlike many pre-war meetings, when it was often difficult to get a band to man the bells properly much before service time.

Among those present were Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, Mrs. F. Housden, Mr. and Mrs. C. Matthews, Mrs. and Miss Kippin, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. Sanders and Miss Oakshett, Messrs. G. Cross (Master of the Cumberlands), C. T. Coles (hon. secretary of the Middlesex Association), J. A. Trollope, F. Symonds, Smith, T. Bevan, J. Bennett, W. H. Hewett, H. Hoverd, H. E. Audsley, W. Madgwick, R. Heazel, T. J. Lock, G. W. Steere and many others.

Handbells were quickly brought into use by some of the party, while others occupied the seats in the churchyard, enjoying the glorious sunshine and a gossip with old friends.

The church itself has been badly hit, only the bare walls remain, but the tower appears to be intact. The service was held in a chamber in the crypt, a long narrow apartment about the size of an underground railway coach. This, with its freshly whitewashed walls, had been tastefully decorated with flowers, and had a very pleasing appearance. Father Hutchinson conducted the service and gave a most excellent address, using as his theme such contrasts as are experienced by us in war time, among his examples being the contrast between black-out and light, silence and noise, etc., and while he emphasised the beauty of silence he stressed how much the clangour of the bells will be appreciated when once again they can raise their joyous tongues to celebrate peace and victory.

Tea was partaken of in the schoolroom, and here Mrs. Davis had collected around her a goodly band of lady helpers to serve the very generous fare she had provided, a real work of art in these days of points and coupons.

Other clergy of St. John's present were Father Carey and the Rev. J. Trainer.

The latter, an enthusiastic ringer, is a member of the Midland Counties Association and formerly belonged to the Kelham band. He is teaching a band of girls to ring double-handed. It might be stated here that he would welcome anyone who could assist him in these practices, which are held regularly in the school at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The school is in Exton Street, which runs at the side of St. John's Churchyard.

The meeting being a purely social affair, no attempt was made to provide a business agenda, and beyond a few words of very warm welcome by the Vicar, who was introduced by Mr. T. J. Lock, and a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. G. W. Steere, handbells and more gossip formed the main items of entertainment.

Ringing continued until nearly 9 p.m., many taking part in various methods before the party broke up.

No doubt the weather contributed largely to the success of the meeting, but it is very encouraging to organisers of these gatherings to find that with only handbells available, in the ringing of which only a percentage of visitors can necessarily join, there should be such a good attendance and so much interest shown.

BOB MAXIMUS ON HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With regard to our peal of Maximus 'in hand' on March 27th, whilst thanking Mr. Barnett and others who have congratulated us I would like to correct a misapprehension concerning the footnote.

It was ambiguous, but unless the last sentence referred to our local band at Eckington it read as though no local band had rung a peal above Ebor.

I was trying to infer that no Eckington band had rung a handbell peal, and that no peal had been rung by the local band on the eight tower bells. With regard to Minor or Doubles on the old six (i.e., previous to 1899), we have no record, and I take this opportunity of saying that I should be grateful for any records of peals rung in this tower previous to that date.

G. G. GRAHAM.

5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the footnote to the peal of Bob Maximus rung on handbells at Eckington, in Derbyshire, may I say that the Bailey brothers rang a peal of Bob Maximus in hand at Leiston, Suffolk, on March 27th, 1920. I have no doubt that other peals have been rung on 12 handbells by local bands.

A. F. BAILEY.

Stockport.

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GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

KEEPING ORGANISATION TOGETHER WITH
SILENT BELLS.

Mr. A. E. Harman the New Master.

With silent towers throughout the country big difficulties confront ringers in keeping their organisation together. So deep-rooted are ringing friendships that the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, brought together a large muster from all parts of the diocese. As in former years, the Guild service was held in S. Nicolas' Church, the Vicar of Horsell (the Rev. F. A. Woodard) conducting the service. Mr. Walter Harrison presided at the meeting, supported by Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer) and Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary). Mr. A. E. Harman, of Leatherhead, was elected Master in succession to Major J. H. B. Hesse.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT MEETING.

Previous to the Guild meeting the annual meeting of the Guildford District was held. The balance sheet showed that the year started with a balance in hand of £27 7s. 7d. and concluded with one of £32 14s. 4d.



MR. A. E. HARMAN,
the new Master.

both wisdom and courage. We know that Englishmen have plenty of courage, but courage must be directed by wisdom and wisdom must be sought at its true source.

As regards the district, its activity is almost at a standstill, and the effect of war conditions on our finances is shown by the amount given as members' subscriptions. A few members, often with difficulty, but with some success, maintained a weekly handbell practice in Guildford, and visits have been paid to some outlying parts of the district. We have on occasions rung handbells in church before the principal service of the day on some of the great feasts. This is found quite acceptable to the people if carefully done. I commend this to ringers generally as a means of keeping the traditional connection of bells with the great feasts of the Church.

The report and accounts were adopted. The officers were re-elected en bloc and the district decided to nominate Mr. Albert E. Harman, of Leatherhead, as Ringing Master of the Guild in succession to Major J. H. B. Hesse.

NEW MASTER ELECTED.

Warm congratulations were given at the Guild annual meeting to Mr. Harman on his election as Ringing Master. All other officers were re-elected, and Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer) and Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary) were thanked for past services.

Presenting the accounts, Mr. J. Corbett said the year started with a balance in hand of £44 18s. 1d. and ended with a balance of £49 9s. 4d. District contributions were: Chertsey £1 5s. 3d., Farnham £3 9s. 9d., Guildford £5 6s. 9d., and Leatherhead £3 1s. 3d. There was a balance on the Benevolent Fund of £71 5s. 4d. and on the Cathedral Bells Fund of £39 12s. The accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. R. Hasted, seconded by Mr. A. E. Harman.

Mr. G. L. Grover read to the meeting a letter from Major Hesse wishing ringers a happy meeting and extending a welcome to the new Master. 'I hope it will not be long before I meet my old friends again,' concluded the letter. An apology was also received

from Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who had had a bit of a relapse, and other apologies were from Mr. Denyer and Mr. Arthur Smith (Leatherhead).

GUILD'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The committee, in their report, said: There has again been a considerable falling off in the number of annual subscribing members, both honorary and ringing, but in the circumstances which exist it would have been very optimistic not to have expected this. Indeed, the committee is of opinion that we ought to congratulate ourselves on the fact that there still remains in the diocese such a large number of faithful members and the nucleus at any rate of the majority of our pre-war hands. The membership is now 79 honorary and 203 ringing. This does not include members whose subscriptions are excused by reason of service with H.M. Forces. The information received from towers has, however, been so incomplete that it has been impossible to attempt to include any particulars of these members.

The fact that as many as 30 tower affiliation fees have been paid indicates that the Church authorities in the diocese are, as a whole, looking forward to the day when it will again be possible for the bells to announce our Sunday services.

In view of the remarks they made on the subject in their last report, the committee are pleased to record that Chertsey renewed their affiliation fee for 1941, and in the issues of the Chertsey Parish Magazine for April and May, 1941, the Vicar made reference to the silence of his bells and to the committee's comment on the seeming apathy of his church towards the Guild, and announced that a local effort had been made to obtain funds for restoration work at Chertsey. Although apparently the response of the parishioners to the appeal had not been so generous as the Vicar had expected, there is evidence that the committee's efforts are not so overlooked at Chertsey as had perhaps been thought.

Even though the committee take into account all the difficulties, they are still very disappointed at the neglect shown to the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Funds. They appeal to all ringing members to make some contribution, however small, to these funds during the year 1942, and suggest that instead of waiting for their tower secretary to collect amounts each individual member should post his donation direct to the treasurer.

DEATHS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

The committee deeply regret to record the deaths of the following members: Mr. S. Alden, of Godalming (life member); Sergt. V. G. Elliott, of the Cathedral Church band, who was killed on active service with the R.A.F.; Mr. S. Elton, of S. Nicolas', Guildford, and Mr. Gordon Allen, of Womersley, both of whom are reported lost at sea while serving with the Royal Navy; and Mr. F. G. Woodiss, of Banstead. As well as acting as tower secretary at Banstead, Mr. Woodiss was the first secretary of our Leatherhead District, was for some time a member of the Executive Committee, and had done a great deal of work for the Guild, especially in its Northern area, where he will be greatly missed.

Four handbell peals were rung at Aldershot in the early part of 1941, all conducted by Sgt. J. Freeman. Apart from these peals there has been a certain amount of activity throughout the diocese—handbell practices have been held, meetings convened, handbells have been rung for services at various places, and the Leatherhead band, at least, meet weekly for practice on silent tower bells.

Last year our respected Master, Major J. H. B. Hesse, intimated to the committee that as he had left and was not likely to return to Surrey, he did not wish to retain the office of Master and that it was imperative that the Guild should find a successor. This bad news came too late for the committee to deal with the matter in its last report or to find a successor in time for election at the last annual meeting. The excuse upon which the committee postponed accepting Major Hesse's resignation cannot, however, be advanced at this meeting, and reluctantly the Guild is compelled to face the fact that they must elect a new Master.

MAJOR HESSE'S SERVICES TO THE GUILD.

Major Hesse has held the office of Master since the formation of the Guild on December 31st, 1927, and the committee are certain that all members will find it hard to visualise our continuing under any other leadership, as from his first election we have all felt that Major Hesse was an indispensable part of the Guild, and during his period of office, in addition to the way in which, by his ability as a ringer, he has helped to write pages in the history of the Guild, he has successfully maintained his position as respected Master, not, as he might well have done, from the pinnacle of exalted remoteness, but from the plane of friendliness and comradeship with us all.

We place on record our sincere thanks to Major Hesse for his work on behalf of the Guild, and trust that in the future we shall all have the pleasure of meeting and ringing with him on many occasions.

Sympathetic reference was made to the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, one of the vice-presidents, and the report went on to say: The committee are well aware, of course, that at many towers steps have been taken to preserve bell fittings and ropes during the ban, but perhaps there are towers where a word to those responsible is not out of place. If therefore, the words 'out of sight out of mind' have anywhere been adopted as a maxim, may we venture a warning that iron frames and bearings rust and ropes perish more quickly out of than in use, and a little paint and grease now may save considerable expense later on. Ropes, too, which are not required (and possible invaders

(Continued on next page.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL SECRETARY APPOINTED TO ADVISORY BOARD.

The annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held in Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. It was very well attended, considering the present difficulties, and 40 sat down to tea. The afternoon started with ringing (silent) at St. Giles', methods up to Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Major being rung. Handbells were rung in the ringing chamber at St. Peter Mancroft.

The service was held at Mancroft at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral (general secretary). An interesting sermon was preached by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, late Rector of Bergh Apton. Tea followed in the County Restaurant.

The business meeting was attended by ringers from Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Attleborough, Cambridge, Diss, Fornceit, Haddiscoe, Long Stratton, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft and St. Giles'), Shelfanger Warsop (Notts), Winfarthing, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth. A letter was read from the late general secretary, Mr. Nolan Golden, who occasionally works from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the next day.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard was unanimously elected president of the association in place of the late Canon Aubrey Aitken. The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow was re-elected general secretary, and the surviving vice-presidents and Standing Committee were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. E. Whiting on the Standing Committee to replace the Rev. A. St. J. Heard.

The report for 1941 was accepted as printed, and absent members who want one are requested to write to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at East Dereham on June 20th if possible.

Four new members were elected from Diss. If more towers follow the example of Diss, ringing will not disappear.

Votes of thanks were passed to the president, the general secretary, the Vicar of St. Giles', the organist of Mancroft, etc., for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The general secretary read a circular he had received, signed by some of the most prominent ringers in England, speaking of the debt ringers owe to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World.' It was proposed that the Norwich Diocesan and other Associations should lay aside periodically a sum of money to guarantee the continuance of 'The Ringing World,' and that this should start while the paper is still in being and before it is too late. Other associations, it was hoped, would consider taking similar steps.

The general secretary said that the Bishop of Norwich had made him a member of the Diocesan Advisory Board (which has to be
(Continued in next column.)

THE LATE MR. FRANCIS TAYLOR.

HIS SERVICES TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret that I read of the death of Francis E. Taylor in your issue of April 10th. By a strange coincidence your leader in the same number expressed the debt of the Ringing Exercise to the University Societies.

As a member and former Master of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers, I should like to put on record my appreciation of what the Oxford city ringers, Frank Taylor among them, did for us.

We were very dependent on them for our tower-bell practice, and the case of Frank Taylor was typical. It didn't matter whether it was our own private practices at New College, practices with the stout-hearted members of the St. Ebbe's, All Saints' and St. Giles' bands, or Sunday service ringing in the many Oxford churches, he, like the others, was always there to give a helping hand. And many must have been the occasions when breakdowns even in the simplest touches inwardly infuriated a man of his skill and brain. Yet he always remained the same patient, quiet, unassuming, ever-ready helper.

In my opinion, the Exercise has lost one of its unknown geniuses.
ANTHONY E. F. TROTMAN.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous page.)

will not expect to be greeted with a full course of Stedman) will keep much better if stored in a dry place than they will hanging in a damp belfry.

The report was adopted on the proposition of Mr. F. Nye, seconded by Mr. A. H. Pulling.

Mr. J. Corbett thanked Mr. Heath for arranging the service, the Rev. F. A. Woodard for conducting the Guild service, and the choir and organist for their assistance. Mr. Corbett also spoke of the debt of gratitude of the Guild to Mr. Grover for the amount of work he did as Guild secretary. Mr. W. Harrison was thanked for presiding. A collection taken for the Benevolent Fund realised £4.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

(Continued from previous column.)

consulted before any material alterations can be made to church fabrics or furnishings); this means that any projected work among bells in the diocese will come before his notice, and that any acts of vandalism which ignorant authorities may contemplate perpetrating to their bells can be nipped in the bud.

This concluded the business of the meeting, and further handbell ringing brought a most successful day to a close.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Denison Taylor, who reaches his 78th birthday on Sunday next.

Messrs J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese wish to thank all the ringers who so kindly gave them hospitality and rang with them during their recent week-end in London.

The handbell peal at Bournemouth was the reward of much perseverance, for though only three attempts were actually made for the peal, many touches and quarter-peals were lost in practising for it.

The National Guild of Police Ringers has not held a meeting since 1939 owing to the very difficult conditions of duty and transport, but a special effort is being made and the date has been arranged for a meeting at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th next. Full details will appear in a notice later.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Bob Major, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday five peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Kent Treble Bob Royal 1.

The first peal of Primrose Surprise Major was rung ten years ago yesterday at Edenbridge by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, conducted by J. W. Lake. Primrose is Cambridge with eighth's place at the lead end, and is hardly so good a variation.

On April 26th, 1894, a young band at Norwich rang the then longest peal on handbells, 11,200 Bob Major. Mr. Charles E. Borrett conducted.

The long peal by the Cumberlands at Romford in 1894 was Double Norwich, not Bob Major as stated in this column last week.

James R. Haworth, for many years a well-known London ringer, was born on April 21st, 1821.

Last Wednesday was the twentieth anniversary of the record peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton. 21,363 changes, in 12 hours and 25 minutes. It was also the forty-third anniversary of the 15,227 Grandsire Caters at Cheltenham.

James Pettit, for many years the conductor at St. Paul's Cathedral, was born on April 25th, 1834. He died in 1912.

NEW MIDDLESEX MEETING PLACE.

Owing to the non-availability of nearly all the church halls in the district, great difficulty has been experienced in fixing up the usual annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, but the difficulty has been overcome through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Coles and of the Vicar of Cranford, with the result that the meeting is to be held to-morrow at a church where, as far as is known, no change ringing and no ringing meeting has ever taken place previously.

The church, an ancient and historic building, is beautifully situated in Cranford Park, just off the main Bath Road, near Hounslow, and previously possessed an ancient ring of three bells, which have now been increased to five by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and it is hoped that they will be on view, though they have not yet been hung. The Vicar took up the idea of a meeting with enthusiasm, and is very anxious to meet the ringers and eventually to have a change ringing band of his own. It is hoped, therefore, that the meeting may prove a success, and that a good attendance may encourage those responsible. In happier times to come Cranford should be an ideal place for summer gatherings.

AN EAST LANCASHIRE MEETING.

INFORMAL RALLY AT ACCRINGTON.

A most interesting and enjoyable gathering was held at St. James' Church, Accrington, on Saturday last. By 3 p.m. ringers had arrived from various parts of the county, one (Mr. Rapley) from Liverpool, forty miles away; L.-Corpl. Gower, of Aldershot and Basingstoke, now stationed at Clitheroe; three members of the Preston Branch, and during the afternoon and evening members from Padilham, Bacup, Helmshore, Rishton, Church, Oswaldtwistle, also three of the local band.

The six tower bells were made good use of, touches and courses rung in the standard methods including London and Cambridge Surprise, Court Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Stedman Doubles and Grandsire.

A course of Grandsire Caters, three leads of Kent Royal, a course of Duffield Major, Bob Major and a few touches of Bob Minor by the local ringers made a good show for many who are novices at double-handed ringing.

Owing to war conditions it was found impossible to provide food, but Mrs. Leigh and Mrs. Blakey kindly provided cups of tea to all present in the schoolroom.

There was no business meeting, as the rally was the outcome of a suggestion by some of the local men at a handbell practice held a few weeks ago. Everybody was highly pleased with the good attendance, and thanks were expressed to the two ladies for providing tea, and fervent wishes for a complete restoration to health of the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

Maybe a little regret was felt by the handbell ringers that no one came forward with an inquiring mind to ask how this branch of the art is mastered. Perhaps at the next rally (if there happens to be one) a few more recruits will be made.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE. GUILD SECRETARY'S CRITICISMS.

Some Important Points.

The discussion on Motion (a) by Mr. J. P. Price has been continued. Mr. J. A. TROLLOPE (Ealing): I completely, sincerely and wholeheartedly disagree with everything the last speaker (Mr. J. C. Mellor) said. I will not follow him into details except this. He told us we must 'abolish the clique habit.' I maintain that cliques have done more good for the art of change ringing than almost anything else. It has been my great privilege during 50 years to be connected with several cliques, and I would much sooner be a member of a good clique than of any properly organised band with regular officers and rules, a due place in the parish organisation, the vicar's patronage, and all the rest of it. Of course, there are cliques and cliques, just as there are bands and bands. Some are not so good as others, and some are intolerable. But the cliquy spirit, properly exercised, is a great blessing.

A clique is, of course, a 'clique' when you are outside it, and probably want to get inside. When you are inside a clique is a circle of personal friends who have regard for each other's interest and rate them higher than those of outsiders.

Mr. T. J. LOCK (North Mimms): The speech by Mr. Jarrett is surely an admirable one and in my opinion to be highly commended. His resolve for ringers is ideal. There is no doubt in my mind that the rehabilitation of ringing after the war will follow its natural course and will not, at any rate, be subject to or influenced by any amount of hard work the proposed committee may put in. The incumbent has sole charge of the bells and we ringers have to receive consent before we can exercise our art in ringing them, so it follows that the sympathy and interest of the person to whom we are subject should be aimed at. The passive interest of the reverend gentleman when we hold a meeting is not enough, it is the active and permanent interest required.

Mr. Jarrett's speech has forestalled the work of the committee to consider and report upon the best means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.

A GUILD SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS.

Mr. G. L. GROVER (secretary, Guildford Diocesan Guild): I support the original motion principally because I think that any attempt to lift the Exercise out of its present seeming apathy and give it some hope for the future is well worth supporting. Although the committee (to the constitution of which I offer no objection) may make suggestions and proffer advice, the real task of rehabilitating (a terrible word and I hope I know its meaning—anyway I should have thought that restarting, which doesn't mean quite the same thing, would have furnished the members of the committee with a sufficiently large field for exploration) ringing must fall on the shoulders of the hundreds of people throughout the length and breadth of the land whose one desire will be to recommence ringing the bells of their own particular church for Sunday services.

I trust the committee will recommend that all our various territorial ringing associations appoint their own committees to consider the problem of restarting (and that equals half of rehabilitation) in their own particular districts, for, of course, what will happen unless some balancing action is taken is that ringing will recommence in the fairly large centres, but small villages will find it impossible to restart and the older men there (and while the ban remains we all grow older) will not want the bother of struggling with recruits again unless they receive a good deal of assistance and encouragement from the strong centres.

SERVICE RINGING.

I should like to hear, too, a recommendation from the committee that the various associations should make such arrangements as will ensure that all the bells in their area are rung for some services at regular intervals by bands who are capable of ringing the bells well.

This will mean, of course, that bands which are able to recommence with a full complement of ringers after the ban will have occasionally, but I hope, only for a time, to forsake their home tower for the purpose of ringing the bells of a neighbouring church and ensuring that, as well as their own, other bells are sometimes (and regularly) put to their proper use—that is rung for the church's Sunday services. And just by way of an aside, what a test this will be as to how many of our ringers are guild or association let alone nationally minded!

I trust the committee will not waste time expressing pious hopes as to or attempting to frame rules and directions for the teaching of beginners. They will stand little hope of reaching the proper quarter and if they do they will probably fall on stony ground. When we recommence ringing the one way to rehabilitate (and here I think of the word as meaning 'reinstating in the public esteem') is to make certain that from the start the best possible standard is served up on all occasions, that things which have been tolerated in the past, such as meetings at which for hours on end a terrible travesty of change ringing was forced on the public—ringers' outings, at which it was painfully obvious that the visiting bands have taken an opportunity of showing complete ignorance of their own ability—bell openings at which all and sundry are allowed to show just how a new peal ought never to be rung, are no longer permitted by

well-organised societies, and that no tower is used for peal ringing to such an extent that it becomes a perpetual source of annoyance to the neighbourhood.

It's no use contenting ourselves with saying that the royal and only road to a high standard lies in the teaching of recruits. We all know that this is so, but we must realise that such a state of affairs is beyond the bounds of practicability. What is really practicable is a better regulation on all occasions of the material which we have on the spot. In this direction, then, I look for some useful suggestions from the committee.

I think, too, after the war there will be a great demand for a simple book on change ringing in its most elementary stages, something which is a real but not complicated explanation of ringing on, say, from three to five bells. Once a learner can ring the despised Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles he has a firm foundation on which to build all future progress. Perhaps the committee will think it worth while to invite the submission to them of drafts by would-be authors, and then from the point of view of lucidity, simplicity and price recommend the publication, immediately it is possible to restart, of what they consider to be the most useful work. Well, so much for the motion and now for the amendment.

CRITICISM OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

I must confess I was bitterly disappointed when I opened 'The Ringing World' for April 10th. I was looking eagerly forward to learning from the proposer and seconder from where the 39,998 other subscribers to a National Association are coming and how an annual subscription of a couple of bob is to make financially sound such a grandiose scheme as a ringing association providing paid full-time secretaries, incidentally office accommodation presumably on the trade union or friendly society (I nearly said Civil Service) scale, free peal ringing, free 'Ringing Worlds,' free reports, free refreshments, free fights and any more to come glad of it—in fact, a glorious Utopia of campanologists. (Not exactly free though, but all for a couple of bob, and did anybody say 'Ho, Ho!') Anyway, if a National Association cannot do all this what is the use of it, and we might as well stick to our present imperfect methods of organisation. Seriously, however, how many ringers really have any interest in a National Association? If my experience as secretary of a Diocesan Guild is any criterion, very few I warrant.

Let us ask ourselves why we became ringers or so-called ringers if you like. I think, Mr. Chairman, the majority of us—at least yokels like myself from country districts—thousands of us I am sure entered the ranks of the Exercise not because change ringing was held out to us as an interesting and extremely fascinating pastime, but because we were told that our parish church needed ringers to keep going the bells that from childhood we had heard and looked upon as an indispensable part of the life of our parish.

LIMITED INTERESTS.

The great majority of us have been content to let our own particular church services and practices furnish us with all the ringing we want. A few, perhaps, have developed the craze for change ringing and have reached such a state of interest that they would, if the ringing of bells ceased to have any relationship to church services and they were permitted to do so, carry on their art as a secular pastime, but the interest of most people who can to-day be described as ringers would quickly wane. No, the general body of ringers have little interest in ringing outside their own tower. They have no interest in their diocesan, county or other association beyond paying an annual subscription, and that only because it has been the custom of their forerunners to do so and some enthusiastic member of their own tower or a neighbouring one badgers them to continue. (Perhaps this isn't quite the state of affairs in the South London and a few other suburban areas, but it is generally true of the country as a whole.) What call or need is there in these circumstances for a National Society? Tell us, Mr. Kippin, what it could do that the existing societies haven't either done or tried to do, and to get my vote you'll have to be pretty convincing.

In closing, may I be permitted to remind anyone who has forgotten the fact that the bells are unquestionably the property of the Church, their one and only purpose so far as their owners are concerned is their use for service ringing, and on the tolerance of that use by the public at large depends the whole future of our art, for once the Church has no further desire to use its bells then no society or body of ringers whatever its constitution can prevent, at the mildest, drastic interference with the exercise of change ringing.

In hoping that the Exercise will show clearly that it makes no call for a National Society, may I add that personally I think it would be better served to concern itself with the regrouping of its existing organisations on a diocesan basis.

HUGE SUCCESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to thank you and the various writers whose speeches have already appeared in the Ringers' Conference. I certainly think it is going to be a huge success and will, as time goes on, cause many, both old and young alike, to do some hard thinking. One old friend has written to me to know what lay behind my motion, but he was afraid he would have to wait until my speech appeared. I can assure him he certainly will. The reason is I don't want favouritism, only fair play.

W. KEEBLE.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEICESTER.

Recruits from the Police Force.

In accordance with the Government's wishes for no travelling at Easter, the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, which has hitherto been always held on Easter Monday (except last year), was held on Saturday, April 11th. Following the usual rota, the meeting took place at Leicester, and during the afternoon the bells of St. Martin's Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (front 8) were rung clapperless to a variety of standard and Surprise methods to suit all comers.

The committee met in the Cathedral Church House during the afternoon, when the usual routine business was disposed of. The committee also discussed at length various items brought forward at the general meeting.

A very nice tea was served by the wives of local ringers, who in some mysterious way appeared to have overcome the present rationing difficulties. A company of 44 sat down, the towers represented being Belgrave, Burbage, Ashby, Burton, Broughton Astley, Billesdon, Dalby, Derby, Earl Shilton, Hineley, Ibstock, Knighton, Loughborough, Leicester Cathedral St. Margaret's and St. John's, Melton, Nottingham, Rugby and Wigston Magna.

The general meeting followed, and in the absence of the president (the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson), the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, took the chair. He was supported by the hon. treasurer (Miss I. B. Thompson) and the hon. secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris).

The Chairman said how pleased he was to see such a good and representative gathering present, although they had met under such sad and difficult circumstances. They all trusted that before the next annual meeting they would see things improve and, they all hoped, peace come to the earth once more. He referred to the great loss the association had suffered in the passing of Mr. William Willson, who for so many years had been a stalwart of the ringing fraternity. He was pleased to welcome Mr. Willson's daughter Lillian, now Mrs. White, with her husband, and hoped that when ringing became normal again they would see her more often in the belfry as in days gone by.

The hon. secretary then presented his review of the past year's activities, in the course of which he said the continued ban on all bellringing throughout the country had naturally curtailed most of the activities of ringers, and the Midland Counties Association in this respect shared with other guilds and societies a most difficult situation. Although in some districts the restriction had seemingly killed all life and activities in the art, in others valiant efforts were being made to keep it alive. Handbell peals showed that at least in three centres the art was not defunct, and they recorded four peals by the Leicester district, one of Stedman Cinques and three of Stedman Caters, one of the latter having been rung muffled to the memory of its composer, Mr. William Willson, immediately following the funeral service. They congratulated the Hinckley District on scoring the first seven-method peal of Doubles by the association on handbells, a performance which was repeated, together with a peal of Bob Minor. Nottingham scored four peals of Grandsire Doubles, one in two methods and one of Bob Minor.

Leicester handbell ringers had done fine work which might be copied with advantage elsewhere, and that was to ring for service in the church—somewhere near the west entrance or other convenient place. This they did at the Cathedral, St. Margaret's, Knighton, St. Augustine's and St. Barnabas' Churches, the two latter of which do not possess any ring of bells! The occasion at St. Margaret's was worthy of record when Stedman Cinques were rung for a special service for all branches of the nursing profession, when about 1,000 attended. The preacher at this service was the association's late respected president, the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert, chaplain to H.M. the King. Another occasion worthy of record was that of 'ringing out the old and ringing in the new,' when for the departure of 1941 a convivial and ringing party was held at Leicester Cathedral, some 40 ringers, wives and friends assembled.

During the year 1941 some ten or twelve policemen had been initiated into the art. They were taught by Inspector H. J. Poole and others, and these 'tyros' rang the New Year in on 'silent' bells. Each in turn called out his name and the general hon. secretary took them down. Thus nine new members were proposed immediately 1942 was proclaimed. 'May it be an omen for continued progress during the year,' said the report, 'and, let us hope and pray, a sign and token that when peace comes again the fingers will be ready and eager to broadcast the message to all the land.'

The hon. treasurer then gave her report and balance sheet. Owing to the fact that no annual report had been printed this year, it was not possible to place the balance sheet in the hands of all members, but copies would be typed and distributed to each local secretary. There was a small deficit on the year's working balance, but as this had been more than covered by interest on invested funds, they were 'on the right' side as a whole. Subscriptions naturally showed a big decrease, but the Leicester secretary (Mr. H. W. Perkins) was to be congratulated on his efforts in getting every member's subscription (save four) during 1941, mostly by personal contact, an example that might be followed by other local secretaries. If all members who are not on active service would be loyal to the association and pay their

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF MR. JOHN HARRISON.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE'S OLDEST BELLRINGER.

Mr John Harrison, Ashton-under-Lyne's oldest bellringer, died in hospital on Sunday, April 12th. Born at Marphall, Chelford, Cheshire, on November 28th, 1851, Mr. Harrison first learned to ring a bell at the old Parish Church of Marple, and it was his customary rendezvous every year for the Whit Friday Sunday School and church procession.

He rang his first peal at St. Peter's, Ashton, in 1886, and his last one at St. George's, Mossley, on his 79th birthday. Since then his longest length was 81 leads of Bob Major, specially composed for his 81st birthday. His one and only peal of Stedman (on an 'inside' bell) was composed and conducted by the late J. W. Washbrook in 1919 and was specially arranged for him. It was a peal of which he was very proud.

Shortly after his 81st birthday he met with an accident and fractured several ribs. As a result he was confined to hospital for many weeks. After his recovery he found his way regularly to the church, where he continued to ring until the ban on ringing put an end to further activities.

There is no record of the number of peals in which he took part, but his longest length was the then record of Kent Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, rung at Mottram, Cheshire, in 1883.

Mr. Harrison joined the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows at the age of 18 and was the oldest member in the Manchester district.

He is survived by one son, six daughters, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service took place in St. Peter's Church by the Rev. L. A. Owen, M.A., prior to interment at the Dukinfield Cemetery. Owing to three of the ringers at St. Peter's being in H.M. Forces and four others on important war productive work, it was not possible to ring at the graveside, but Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft represented the ringers, who also sent floral tributes.

A SALVAGE 'FIND.'

RELIC OF THE LATE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

Two of the Sittingbourne ringers (G. and J. Webb) work in the local paper mills, and one of them, Mr. George Webb, while looking through a pile of waste paper for repulping, came across a black notebook which was filled with cuttings from 'The Ringing World,' 'Bell News' and East Anglian papers, all dealing with ringing, from 1899 to 1914.

There are accounts of peals, quarter-peals and ringers' meetings, etc., in Suffolk and Norfolk mostly. Mr. Webb brought this book to show me, and I found that in practically all these items the Rev. W. C. Pearson and/or Henley figure.

I, therefore, concluded that the book must have belonged to him and have been thrown out for salvage when his effects were disposed of. I have shown the book to various ringers, and of these Mr. Barnett says he recognises Mr. Pearson's handwriting in some of the notes of dates.

It seems to me a truly remarkable coincidence that the book should find its way to a paper mills where a couple of ringers work, and still more remarkable that one of these should happen, quite by chance, to find it.

J. E. S.

1,260 STEDMAN TRIPLES.

231456

614325 2.6.8.9.10.12.14.

314256 2.6.8. Single 9. 10.11.13.

125346 1.3.5. Single 7. 8.10.12.

Four times repeated.

Sixty 6-7's at back stroke.

B. H. SWINSON.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

subscriptions regularly, they would not show an adverse balance. Taking all things into consideration, the position was satisfactory.

Two auditors, Messrs. J. Harris and F. Poole, were chosen to audit the accounts. The present officers were re-elected, while the four representatives to serve on the Central Council for the next three years were appointed as follows: Messrs. A. Ballard, H. J. Poole, A. J. Harris and C. Harrison.

New members confirmed in their election were 10 ringing and one rejoined. Of the former nine were members of the Leicester Police Force, who have taken up the art in real earnest.

Votes of thanks to the ladies for their great work in providing such a good tea under present difficulties closed the meeting.

In the evening a social at the Victoria Hotel was thoroughly enjoyed by some 50 members and friends. The entertainment provided included handbell tunes by Inspector H. J. Poole and his 'Merry Optimists,' vocal and instrumental turns by the police and Mr. Len Styles, of St. Margaret's, with conjuring tricks. Several courses rung in various methods on handbells helped to complete a most successful meeting.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MR. H. G. CASHMORE ELECTED PRESIDENT.****Concern over Northern District.**

The 57th annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 11th. There was a most encouraging gathering of ringers from all parts of the county, together with a sprinkling of enthusiastic members from outside, which proved that although the bells were silent, ringers value very much the opportunity of meeting each other in happy fellowship. Whilst this feeling exists change ringing will never die, but will continue to prosper.

Choral evensong was attended at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. and the beautiful singing of the choir was much enjoyed. The preacher was the Rev. Canon Thorpe, Vicar of St. Mary's, Watford, who gave an address from quite an original standpoint, his many points being illustrated by apt stories of much practical value.

Canon Thorpe said that among the things he missed most during the war was the early morning peal on Easter Day at Watford

Parish Church, and expressed the hope that the day may not be far distant when the glorious Easter message will again ring out from many towers throughout the country. He went on to speak of the message of the bells, and said he felt that a ringer illustrated the ideal Christian worker, for he is a person who gets his message across to the world without himself being seen or heard and often he is unknown; this latter fact being especially true in large parishes where possibly not more than a dozen in a big congregation could recognise the ringers in the same way as they might be able to recognise the members of the choir.

The preacher spoke of three characteristics of the bells. Their message, he said, is distinctive. You cannot mistake them for anything other than church bells, and when walking in the countryside no one would stop and ask what that sound is. All know without enquiry the peal that comes from the

church tower. Secondly, they are clear and do not convey muddled ideas, and, lastly, they have a definite purpose which is to call men and women to the worship of God.

These points he asked ringers to apply to their own Christian discipleship, and asked: First, if our Christian witness was so distinctive that other people have no hesitation in recognising in us the character of Christ? Secondly, are we clear in our doctrine, not muddled in our theological thinking nor just ignorant about these things? Thirdly, have we a purpose in life to glorify God and by our witness call people to worship? The preacher closed by urging those present when thinking of their beloved bells to ask themselves if their own lives are distinctive, clear and purposeful in their witness to Christ and the service of the Church.

An excellent tea was served at the Waterend Barn (now quite famous for its catering), the number falling only two short of seats booked. The business meeting followed, the acting president being in the chair and offering the company a few words of welcome.

In the absence of the treasurer (Lieut. G. E. Debenham), the secretary (Mr. G. W. Cartmel) presented the balance sheet, which showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £3 3s. 3d. and closed with £14 15s., a most satisfactory position. But for the unfortunate state of the Northern District, where no money had been collected (but the ringers were willing to pay), the balance would have been larger.

The report on the Benevolent Fund showed a balance in hand on this account of £31 4s. 6d., representing an increase of £1 18s. 4d. on the year. No applications for grants from the fund had been received during the year.

The Voluntary Bell Fund has now a balance at the bank of £1. 11s. 10d., an increase of £2 3s. 6d. on the year. The chief source of income was the collection at the service at the Cathedral, by the kind permission of the Dean.

CARRYING ON.

After referring with thankfulness to the preservation of Hertfordshire churches from the effects of war, the annual report, presented by the honorary secretary, said: Some have thought that the absence of church bellringing would cripple organisations such as ours. It is true that a few bands are in default with their subscriptions through want of application, and I trust that further application will have the desired result, for a little serious thinking will show that the fellowship of this or any other ringing association is well worth the small subscription contributed. One of the happy experiences that have come to me during my ringing career, and to many others, has been the making of lifelong friendships, and as the shades of life draw nearer this fellowship shines out brighter and illumines the past with sweet happy memories. One thing I would state with the fullest confidence that whilst we possess church bells there will always be found ringers to ring them for the church services and other special occasions, and the ones who will ring them with a good conscience will be those who have smiled at difficulties and supported their association's efforts to carry on.

District meetings have been held and the good work of holding frequent handbell practices has been continued at Bushey, Broxbourne and other districts, with appreciative results, for it has proved a rallying point where ringing matters could be discussed in a manner peculiar to ringers. I am glad to report that Mr. Cashmore has been elected secretary for the Watford District, and Mr. Jennings has joined the committee, a very useful combination. Mr. Radley has also succeeded Mr. Albert Lawrence as secretary for the Eastern District, and I trust that the members will back him up in his work. Thanks are also due to Mr. A. Lawrence for carrying on his brother's work.

Handbell ringing has been carried on with marked success at Bushey, 18 peals having been rung in a variety of methods, the conductors being Messrs. C. W. Woolley 9, E. C. Turner 6, E. A. Barnett 2, H. G. Cashmore 1. Where possible it would be a great advantage if more handbell ringing was done by other bands, for it is not only a fascinating occupation, but a useful stepping stone for the advance of change ringing. A few boys from a church choir, under a competent instructor, would be a valuable asset at any time. People love the bells—it seems inherent in the blood of Englishmen—and one welcomes the ringing of handbells in so many churches to-day now that the tower bells are silent.

THE LATE MR. C. H. HORTON.

We have lost many stalwarts during the past year, notably our president, Mr. Charles H. Horton, who passed away on May 22nd, whilst journeying to his allotment. His enthusiasm for ringing permeated his whole character, there was nothing superficial. He was a ringer of marked ability—he knew his job, and got on with it, and made it a success. He was first elected as secretary for the Watford District at Easter, 1924, and continued in office until his death, a great tribute to his worth. In the early years of office he was often misunderstood by sternness of speech, but time proved that it was only a veneer of his sincerity and sterling worth, and we to-day mourn the loss of one who did his duty fearlessly for this association, because his heart was centred in his work, and his enthusiasm was unquenchable. In the great London raids he lost everything but his indomitable courage, and it is consoling that his life was made happier, and that of Mrs. Horton, by the spontaneous help he received not only from his comrades but from many previously unknown people.

The report added that among others who had passed away were Mr. Henry J. Tucker, of Chichester, who was not only an original member of the association, but while living at Bishop's Stortford was for many years the outstanding conductor; Mr. W. H. North, of Braughing, who was one of the band who rang in the record peal of Bob Major at Benington; Henry Golding, a ringer at Hemel Hempstead for 59 years, a member of the association since 1897 and president in the year 1929. Information had also been received of the death on active service of Messrs. P. Buckell, of Stanmore, and R. Lawrence, B. Shepherd and R. Hall, of the Hatfield band; in addition, Comdr. Cartin, R.N.V.R., a member of the Bushey company, went down in H.M.S. 'Hood.'

(Continued on next page.)



MR. H. G. CASHMORE,
the new President.

G. & F. COPE & CO.
NOTTINGHAM
Tower Clock Manufacturers

Estimates submitted for New
Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
pairs, or Repainting of Dials

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)
COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS.

Reporting on the meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretary referred to the motion (submitted later in the meeting) that a collection be made of compositions of peals that have been rung by the association. Another resolution received from the Cathedral Society suggested that the representation of eight-bell towers with eight or more members on the General Committee was inadequate and also that only those members who were regular Sunday service ringers should be eligible to serve on the General Committee or hold office in the association. The resolution was carefully considered by the committee, who unanimously agreed that two representatives from each district committee were sufficient in accordance with the rule, pointing out also that the number of members belonging to any District Committee was unlimited and was at the discretion of each district, and further that whilst agreeing with the supreme importance of Sunday service ringing, considered that the aim of the resolution would be contrary to the spirit and traditions expressed by the rules and ringing in general. It was agreed by the committee that the annual report be published in an abbreviated form, and attention was again called to the fact that the original edition copy of 'Tinnallogia' was missing and any information that will lead to its recovery will be most welcome. The kindness of the treasurer, Mr. G. E. Debenham, in permitting the more valuable books from the library to be placed in the strongroom of his firm was gratefully acknowledged.

The report was adopted and the secretary thanked for his comprehensive survey.

COLLECTION OF COMPOSITIONS.

Arising from the report, Mr. E. Jennings proposed 'that a collection be made as far as possible of all peal compositions rung by the association, and that a suitable member be appointed to draw up the collection in manuscript form.' This resolution had been approved by the committee, and the mover brought it forward for ratification. Mr. Walter Ayre seconded and mentioned that many years ago he had brought forward a similar resolution which had never been carried out.

The president fully agreed with the resolution, for at the moment there was no complete record and nobody had the faintest idea what had been rung. When the work was done there would be a collection of peals for reference. He and Mr. Jennings had already done a good bit.

The motion was carried.

On the election of officers, Mr. Jennings proposed Mr. Harold Cashmore as president. He said that in Mr. Cashmore they had a gentleman and a most outstanding ringer in the association.—Mr. Frank Smith (just recovering from a long illness, whose presence was most cordially welcomed) seconded, and the election was confirmed.

The President thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, saying the office was not so difficult as the post of district secretary.

Mr. Walter Ayre, in proposing the re-election of Mr. G. E. Debenham as treasurer, said he frequently saw their treasurer, who was always concerned about getting the subscriptions in.—Mr. F. W. Elliott seconded, and the motion was carried.

The hon. secretary was elected 'as usual,' and, in thanking those present, he said he thought they were very bad bowlers in allowing him to be 52 not out.

Mrs. A. M. Fergusson was unanimously elected as librarian and Mr. Henry H. Hole auditor, with thanks for their services.

Mr. Walter Ayre read a circular letter concerning 'The Ringing World,' which had been signed by representative ringers throughout the country. He briefly commented upon the work Mr. Goldsmith had done for ringing, and a sum of three guineas was contributed to the fund.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED.

Mr. Jennings proposed that the association elect four representatives from the association to serve on the Central Council for the ensuing three years. Mr. F. W. Elliott seconded the resolution, which was agreed to. Those chosen were Messrs. Harold Cashmore, Walter Ayre, E. Jennings and Mrs. A. M. Fergusson. Authority was also given to the treasurer to pay the subscription on becoming due.

Grave concern was expressed by Mr. D. Mears and others at the position of the Northern District, and Messrs. Mears and Symons were given authority by the meeting to call a meeting of the ringers in the district and to 'put their house in order.'

The secretary was thanked by Mr. Ayre for his services, and regrets were expressed at the absence of the Dean and the Rev. Canon Thorpe (which was unavoidable), and cordial thanks given to both gentlemen for all the kind help they had rendered in connection with the day's proceedings.

During the day the bells of St. Peter's were rung silently and good work done with the handbells.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

George Crayson, a member of the band at Burton-in-Kendal, Westmorland, has been killed while on service in the Middle East. He started ringing under Mr. E. Jennings in 1932, and leaves a wife and one child. He was 37 years of age.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SOUTHGATE.

A fairly representative gathering, numbering to just over forty ringers, attended the annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild at Southgate on Saturday last. The handbells were well employed despite the fact that many friends effected a reunion after several months and some even after years, which, of course, tended to turn the hall into a hive alive with busy bees.

The service was conducted by the curate of Christ Church, the Rev. — Baylis, who, although admitting that this was the first opportunity he had had to address bellringers, gave an interesting resumé of his experiences at churches with no bells with which he had been connected. At one new church in a new district an electrical apparatus for amplifying music from gramophone records was installed. This resulted in an unmusical din with attendant protests from the public.

An excellent war-time tea, provided through the generous efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, of the local band, was very much enjoyed.

The business meeting was under the chairmanship of Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. general secretary of the association. The following were elected as ringing members of the association: Messrs. F. G. Symonds, J. E. Spice, W. L. B. Leese, A. G. Crane, the latter an old member of the Southgate Society and whose lapse in membership of the association was unintentional, and the Rev. J. Trainer; a ringer from the Midlands, who is now curate at St. John's, Waterloo Road. Those present respected the memory of the late Mr. R. E. G. Geare, St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, after Mr. Coles had paid tribute to this honourable gentleman.

Mr. T. J. Lock, hon. district secretary, read the names of the 39 members who were serving in His Majesty's Forces. One of them, Mr. P. Buckell, of Stannore, had been accidentally killed whilst undergoing training.

The statement of accounts was presented and approved, but the receipts from members' subscriptions showed a very sharp decline, which, of course, affected the balance. The retiring officers of the district were all re-elected, and other items of local interest were discussed.

The next item on the agenda concerned the suggested formation of a National Association, about which members were invited to express their views, and this was done freely. Mr. E. B. Hartley commenced by recalling the main points of his letter, which had already appeared in 'The Ringing World.' He added that had he known the matter would be up for discussion he would have prepared some other points in favour of its formation. Mr. E. A. Barnett enquired as to where the money would come from to support such a venture, and Mr. E. C. S. Turner asked how many of the 40,000 bellringers in this country would give their continued support.

Mr. C. T. Coles did not agree that trades unions were national, as quoted by a previous speaker, and added that it was entirely a wrong assumption that what cannot be done under one name can yet be done under another name. Mrs. G. W. Fletcher asked what the estimated cost of running a National Association would be. Mr. J. A. Trollope suggested that if 'The Ringing World' changed hands under the proposed scheme it would need a trade journalist to be editor, who must know something about ringing, and who was there to fill that position?

Mr. C. T. Coles said that as their ringing journal was the personal property of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, there would be the cost of buying the copyright, even if it was for sale, and there would be fundamental difficulties in starting a new paper. Suppose, he went on, that a National Association was set up and associations now existing did not agree, the result would be chaos, and he considered amalgamation highly improbable. To support this Mr. A. W. Coles referred to the time when 'The Ringing World' supplanted 'The Bell News.' Mr. R. Spears suggested that inasmuch as settled times had emerged from the upset there was no reason to assume that any difficulties which would arise were insurmountable.

The usual votes of thanks ended the business meeting.

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.

ATTEMPT AT INCENDIARISM.

The Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, is well known to ringers not only as one of the finest parish churches in England, but for its grand ring of twelve bells. During the severe air raids of a year ago the building had several very narrow escapes, but came through the ordeal practically unscathed. Last week an extraordinary attempt was made by (it is supposed) a maniac to set it on fire as well as two other Bristol churches, St. John-in-the-Wall and St. Stephen's, the latter of which is hardly less known to our readers than St. Mary's.

The Vicar of Redcliffe, the Rev. S. E. Swann, was sleeping in the crypt as a precautionary measure, for someone had broken into the church on the previous night. Mr. Swann was awakened, and found the vestry in flames. Firemen were summoned and the blaze was got under control before the main fabric was involved, but considerable damage was done to a memorial gateway.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1., at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on April 25th. Bells of St. John's available for dumb ringing from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, followed by meeting.—E. C. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

In view of the rising costs of production we regret that, as from and including our issue of May 1st, it will be necessary to make an increase in the charge for NOTICES.

A notice of six lines or less will be 2s. per insertion, with an addition of 4d. per line after (a line averages eight words).

Notices other than of meetings will be charged at 6d. per line (minimum 2s. 6d.).

Correspondents are reminded that Notices should be received at 'The Ringing World' Office by Monday.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Cranford (Church of St. John) on Saturday, April 25th. The Memorial Hall will be available for handbell ringing and social intercourse from 3 to 7 p.m. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea (1s.) and meeting. Church about 15 minutes' walk from Berkeley Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow. Hall three minutes' walk. Bus services, 81, 91, 98 and 222. Stations Hounslow East and Central. An urgent appeal is made for subscriptions, many of which are badly in arrear.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13. Phone Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Kidderminster (D.V.), Saturday, April 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ten bells (silent). Usual evening arrangements. — B. C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Cookham on Saturday, April 25th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the King's Head (1s. 6d.). Names MUST be sent. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Great Tey on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and 6 silent tower bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m., tea and business

meeting in Village Hall at 5 p.m. As this village is somewhat isolated I appeal to everyone who can to come along and try and make this a great success. We only need 23 to beat 1939 attendance. This can easily be done if you all play your part.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — A meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 25th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells available before and after. Will all those who require tea please notify Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to support this meeting. There is a good bus service to and from Great Baddow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, April 25th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome. —H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome. Notice for tea not later than April 28th to Mr. B. C. Castle, The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided for all who notify Mr. E. A. Ridgway, 11, Shirley Street, Leek, Staffs, before April 29th.—Andrew Thompson.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD and the HINCKLEY DISTRICT OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse will be held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 6 p.m. Will Birmingham ringers please note?—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. C. Ernest Smith is now Newcroft, 1, Green Lane, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—After the end of April the address of the Rev. John Pelloe will be The Bishop's House, Ely, Cambs. Telephone Ely 249.

FAREWELL TO THE RECTOR OF LIVERPOOL.

On Saturday afternoon, April 11th, several Liverpool ringers gathered together to say good-bye and farewell to the Rector, the Rev. D. Railton, who is leaving the city to take up work associated with the Toc H movement in Scotland.

The meeting was held at a well-known club in Hope Street, and after some handbell ringing and a cup of tea, the Rev. D. P. Roberts, now Vicar of St. Catherine's, Edge Hill, voiced the sentiments of those present and handed to the Rector a small gift to remind him of the friends he was leaving behind. Mr. Railton has always been a good friend to ringers, and his departure will be a great loss to Liverpool and district.

After the Rector had expressed his appreciation of the company's kindness, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung as a farewell touch with much sincerity.

Those present were, in addition to the Rector and the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Messrs. T. R. Butler, L. L. Gray, F. Varty, T. Hammond, E. C. Birkett, T. S. Horrigan, F. S. Owen, T. W. Gilmour and G. R. Newton. An apology was sent by Mr. P. W. Cave, who was suffering from tonsillitis.

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