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**WHEN PEACE COMES.**

Our readers will remember that during the Ringers' Conference a representative and influential committee was appointed 'to consider and report on the best means of rehabilitating ringing after the war.' In due time, we hope, their report will be published, and it cannot fail to contain many valuable suggestions, which will be certain to receive full consideration.

Meanwhile, in these days of suspended activity, when there is little else to do but hope and plan for the future, the more ringers consider and discuss the ways and means of meeting and surmounting coming difficulties, the better it will be; and many will read with interest, if not perhaps with complete approval, the letter we print on another page.

There is one point which, we think, everyone should keep clearly in his mind. Men think and talk quite naturally as if there will be a general problem of the re-starting of bellringing, but there will be no such general problem. The Church of England and the people of England will want the bells rung again immediately peace comes. The Exercise will be willing and anxious to do its part and once more man the ropes. The difficulties will be in the individual belfries. There will be not one general problem, but hundreds of separate problems, each independent of the others, and each needing its own separate and independent solution. From the lowest to the highest, from the humblest and remotest five-bell tower to St. Paul's Cathedral, every band will need restoration as a unit.

Success in one instance will do little immediately to help other cases, and inevitably the measure of success will vary to a very great extent. There will be towers (we hope they will be many) where, when peace comes, the ringers will be able to resume their office and carry on their work with no greater disability than the lack of practice caused by the long enforced silence. But there will also be towers where no immediate restoration is possible and which unfortunately will lapse into the number of silent belfries. Between these extremes there will be every degree of success and failure.

What will decide between success and failure will be local conditions and local efforts; and it is to those that attention must be directed. Something can be done by the Exercise as a whole by co-operation and sympathy, but the main work must fall on local shoulders.

For this reason we very much mistrust the efficacy of any heroic schemes such as are advocated by our correspondent. Even if we assume (and it is a big assumption

(Continued on page 334.)



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tion) that his suggested means of interesting the general public would be possible, would they do any good? We do not think so. If it were possible by advertisement and propaganda to create a general interest in bells and make change ringing a popular pursuit, would that be a benefit? We doubt it. Our art is, and must be, a thing for the select few, not for the many. The number of ringers that is possible in England is strictly limited. It has never reached that limit because expansion must be slow and deliberate. If it were possible to obtain a large number of recruits after the war the Exercise would not know what to do with them, and their presence would create more difficulties than it would remove.

No universal rules can be laid down as to how ringers should set about the task of restoring ringing in the various belfries, because the conditions in no two places will be alike, and in the same place will vary from time to time. What is best to do in one parish may be impracticable or inadvisable in another. Leaders will need to keep open and flexible minds and not to approach their immediate problems with their opinions and intentions already fixed and settled. For that reason the more the various aspects of the question are ventilated and discussed the better it will be for the Exercise.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

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

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4  
JOSECELIN M. TURNER ... 5-6.

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 19, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-five 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 JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6  
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | MISS FAITH M. CHILD ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

\* First peal of Grandsire Triples and first attempt.

## NEWS OF MR. A. R. PINK.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—It will probably interest many of your readers to know that I received a letter on July 7th from Mr. Alan R. Pink, who is now serving with the Royal Navy. The letter was written from St. John's Auxiliary Hospital, Muizenberg, South Africa, on May 14th. When Mr. Pink's ship arrived at Cape Town he was given 48 hours' leave, and he tells me that he made an immediate dive for the suburb of Woodstock to find St. Mary's Church with its ring of eight bells. He says that the Rector was very helpful and hospitable, entertained him and got the ringers together, with the result that they were able to ring some Grandsire Doubles both morning and evening on the second Sunday after Easter. He says he got a photograph for his collection. This interested me because last year, when Mr. A. P. Cannon wrote to your paper to say that he had rung at Woodstock, I happened to mention the fact to a man who I was then preparing for Confirmation, and the next time he came to me he brought and gave me a photograph of the church, which he took himself in 1903.

When Mr. Pink returned to his ship he developed malaria and was taken off and sent to a naval hospital and then on to the place from which he was writing to recuperate. This gave an opportunity to find and inspect other bells. He has seen the carillon of 37 bells at the City Hall, Cape Town. These bells are by Taylors, 1925, with a 47 cwt. tenor. Mr. Pink was able to tap these bells round. He was also able to look at the eight bells by Thomas Mears (1830), which are hung dead in the tower of St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

A. S. ROBERTS.



**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.****NORTHERN BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 27th, and members attended from Uleby, Goxhill, Southorpe, North Kelsey, Bigby, Grimsby, Burton-on-Stather and the local band. After a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Varah, the business meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms. As the president, Canon E. Lisle Marsden, of Grimsby, was unable to be present, Canon Varah took the chair. The secretary reported that subscriptions had fallen greatly and he urged the members to keep their subscriptions up so that after the war is over there will be enough funds to build up the Exercise again. Secretaries should not be expected to write to every member, and if tower correspondents would send all the subscriptions along, things would be easier.

Mr. J. Bray, the Ringing Master, in his report, said that the going in the Northern Branch was not too good. The Steaford District seemed to have closed down altogether, but he was hoping for better times to come. He spoke of Mr. Goldsmith's death and the great loss to the Exercise, and he urged the members to give their full support to 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. A. W. Hoodless proposed that the secretary send a letter of sympathy to the parents of the late Sergt. J. W. Goddard, R.A.F., a valued member of the Barton-on-Humber band of ringers, who was killed in action. To show their deep respect members stood in silence while the chairman offered a short prayer.

Mr. E. Brittain proposed and Mr. F. Lord seconded the re-election of the officers en bloc, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Brittain proposed that £50 worth of Savings Certificates be bought in the names of the trustees of the Bell Fund, Mr. M. Walker and Mr. W. Bramwell. It was seconded by Mr. Bramwell and carried.

The half-yearly meeting is to be held at Brigg in September.

Mr. Brittain proposed and Mr. G. Fearn seconded a vote of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year. Mr. Bray proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Canon Varah, for conducting the service and presiding over the meeting and for the use of the bells. It was seconded by Mr. W. Bramwell and carried.

The Chairman replied and said it was a great pleasure to him to be amongst them and to see so many old faces again.

**TUNES ON CHURCH BELLS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have been very much interested in the correspondence on chimes, but I do not understand Mr. Taylor on the Westminster chimes. On any octave of eight bells the chimes can be played on 234 and 7 or 345 and 8, the tenor being the hour bell. How can this bell be in a different key? We have ten bells, two above the octave C, the chimes being played on 123 and 6. This, of course, gives a much heavier bell for the hour.

I think tune playing very interesting for service, and quite a lot of good tunes can be played on eight or ten bells. I have more than fifty. But a lot of our most popular hymn tunes are unplayable correctly by one note. 'Abide with me,' 'O God, our help,' 'While shepherds watched' all have one accidental in the second line and many others. But there is still a lot that can be played perfectly. Christmas is not well provided for, 'The First Nowell' being about the only popular tune; Palm Sunday, 'All glory, laud and honour'; Easter, 'Ye choirs,' 'Jesus Christ is risen to-day' and 'The strife is o'er'; Trinity Sunday, 'Holy, Holy'; harvest, 'Praise, O praise.' 'We love the place,' 'Watch and pray' and several others can be played at either end of ten bells, yet a simple tune like 'Glory be to Jesus' is ruled out.

F. SMITH.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****LEICESTER DISTRICT.**

On Saturday, June 27th, a most successful meeting was held at Sibley, in the tower of whose church hangs the heaviest ring of six bells in the county. Good use of them was made (with clappers tied) during the afternoon and evening, when members attended from Belgrave, Billesdon, Leicester Cathedral and St. Margaret's, Syston and elsewhere, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Baker, of Gainsborough, and Pte. R. Davison, of West Hartlepool.

A good tea was provided by the local ringers' wives, and 23 sat down. At the subsequent meeting the chair was taken by Mr. G. T. H. Walker, supported by the local secretary, Mr. H. W. Perkins. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with Hinckley District at Earl Shilton on July 11th, and a local meeting at Kibworth on August 22nd.

The Rector of Sibley, the Rev. C. C. Harcourt, welcoming the members to his church, said he had the unique experience of never hearing any English church bells rung, as when he arrived from Canada the ban was on. He had been most interested and intrigued by ascending to the belfry and bell chamber to see how the ringers manipulated the ropes and how the bells looked when ringing was in full swing. He was pleased to become an honorary member of the association. He very kindly invited those present to go round the Rectory gardens, and almost all present availed themselves of the opportunity. Further ringing and a convivial concluded a very happy and successful meeting.

**DEATH OF MR. GEORGE A. HAYES.**

The death occurred recently of Mr. G. A. Hayes, of Swanscombe, Kent, after a long and painful illness.

He had been a member of the Kent Association for nearly 60 years and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Owing to his affliction he had been unable to ring for many years, but he followed with keenest interest all that took place in 'The Ringing World.' He did much in his younger days to further the art and was a member of the Swanscombe band that rang the first peal of Surprise Minor for the Kent Association. He had been a member of the Swanscombe band all his ringing career, and before he became afflicted was regular in his attendance at Sunday ringing.

He was buried quietly and without ceremony in the Swanscombe Cemetery. Two of his old colleagues, Messrs. F. Ring, sen., and W. Lane were present, as was also Mrs. F. M. Mitchell, wife of the hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, who was unable to attend.

**THE BILBIE FAMILY.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' last week Mr. J. H. B. Hesse asked for the latest date that Bilbie, of Chew Stoke, cast any bells.

The latest one that I know of is the third at Chew Magna, which was cast in 1810.

In 1735 John Bilbie recast the five original bells in the tower and a small 'ting-tang' into a peal of six. This 'ting-tang' I presume to be a sanctus bell, and apparently it was not hung in the tower, although I am not sure of its position in the church.

In 1810 Thomas Bilbie agreed to recast the treble (now the third). This should have been completed in six months, but it was not finished for three years, and the bell was put back in the tower in 1810. The inscription on it reads: 'The Revd. John Hall, Vicar. Richard Mullins and Charles Weaver, Church Wardens 1810'11. The latter resigned the office and Wm. Bush was chosen in his stead. My treble voice make all hearts rejoice. Thos. & James Bilbie fecit.'

The fourth, the only one left of the 1735 ring of six, bears the inscription: '1735 T. Bilbie cast all wee. William Jones and William Hall Esqs Church Wardens.'

I have never heard of any Bilbie bell of over two tons, and as far as I know the tenor at Yeovil is the heaviest that was ever cast at Chew Stoke foundry.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN, Pilot-Officer.

Chew Court Farm, Chew Magna, Somerset.

**HANDBELL PEALS AND UMPIRES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I remind members of the Ancient Society of College Youths that, in accordance with rule 7, handbell peals rung without an umpire cannot be booked in the society's peal book.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec.

Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****MEETING AT WORPLESDON.**

At Worplesdon on Saturday, a goodly company from Leatherhead, Aldershot, Haslemere, Pirbright, Bagsnot and Guildford assembled to share the traditional local hospitality and to repay the effort which Mr. S. Petter had made on their behalf.

The Guild service was held in the Parish Church and an address given by the Rector (Canon Cornell), who made his first acquaintance with ringers, he having only recently come from St. Saviour's, Guildford, where there are no bells. He based his remarks on the character of St. Paul and especially on the thoroughness in all he did. If he waited, if he suffered shipwreck, if he was imprisoned or if he was flogged he used all for the furtherance of his great mission. The Rector was probably by his words a great deal nearer than he knew to the present need of ringers, who are waiting.

The ringers afterwards enjoyed tea and each other's company, handled a small amount of Guild business under the guidance of the Master, Mr. A. Harman, and after some handbell ringing dispersed to their homes, satisfied that even under the shadow of war meetings can be held and can be enjoyable.

**GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of July 17th I notice that Mr. William H. Hewett mentions two records made by the Columbia Company, one of the bells of St. Paul's, and the other of Bow Bells. I have both these records in my collection. The numbers are: Bow Bells (12), Call Changes, Rounds, Queens and Whittingtons, Columbia D.B. 1637. St. Paul's, half-muffled Stedman Cinques, Columbia 4660. Stillington, York. J. B. HUTCHINSON.

**THE CURFEW.**—Time out of mind has the curfew sounded from the height of our church tower. Years ago the first stroke of the bell was a welcome sound to many a hard working man. Many of our tradesmen, the tailor and the shoemaker toiled until the curfew sounded the knell of parting day.—Thomas Geering (born A.D. 1813) in 'Our Sussex Parish.'



## THE SURPRISE METHODS.

(Continued from page 325.)

### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Shipway gives the three standard Surprise Major Methods. On six he gives Cambridge, and London, and one which he calls Superlative, but which is really Cambridge reversed. He had an orderly mind and his object was to reduce each method to a system with its different variations on all numbers. In carrying out this idea he extended Superlative to Royal. The extension is a clever one, but the good qualities of the method exist on eight bells only. Cambridge is a method which readily adapts itself to any even number. Superlative is not; and neither Shipway's Royal nor the Maximus which in recent years was rung at Ipswich and elsewhere; nor any of the other ten-bell versions which have appeared from time to time, is worth practising.

Shipway was an industrious and competent composer. He, as he tells us, 'devoted the most strenuous exertions and steady perseverance' to the task of getting true peals in the Surprise methods. He succeeded in producing the extent of Superlative with the tenors together, and a peal of each Cambridge and London in which he had to part those bells. Rather disingenuously he omitted in his book all reference to the peal of London with the tenors together which John Reeves had composed and printed in the 'Clavis,' and indeed says that the problem had, till his time, baffled the skill of every composer. He made free use of the 'Clavis' in writing his book.

After the Wakefield peal no more five-thousands in the standard Surprise Methods were rung in Yorkshire, and it was not until 1891 that the long silence was broken by a 5,056 of Superlative at Sheffield. There was, however, in the early days of the century, an excellent band at Liversedge, who rang several methods and two of them they called Surprise, although the Exercise generally has not recognised them as belonging to that class.

The first was Albion, rung on May 24th, 1837, conducted by J. Firth. The method is Plain Bob turned into a Treble Bob Method, and repetition avoided by making Kent places in 5-6 above the treble and in 3-4 below the treble. It was composed by Hugh Wright, and, intentionally or unintentionally, is a simplified and regularised variation of Imperial the Third, at one time a popular method in the Eastern Counties.

Albion has a clear proof scale and several good features, but in practice has not proved to be so good as it is in theory. The other method, Liversedge, is a very poor affair. Having regard to the long and hotly debated controversy on Bob Major Lead Ends, it is interesting to note the opinion expressed by Henry Hubbard in the first edition of his 'Elements of Campanalogia,' published in 1845. 'Imperial,' he says, 'was much practised in the City of Norwich in the latter part of the last century. Although full of work, its formation is not such as to excite admiration, owing to the tenors being so much apart; and the changes of the treble leads not being legitimate, as will be observed by comparing it with other methods.' Although the method itself appeared in all the later editions, this comment, for some reason or another, was omitted.

As early as 1788 the Wakefield men rang 5,040 changes of Wakefield Delight, followed (without setting

the bells) by 5,040 Wakefield Surprise; but evidently they were seven-bell methods, and most probably simple variations of Plain Bob or Grandsire. Thackrah, in his book, gives Huddersfield Surprise, Leeds Surprise and Dewsbury Surprise. These methods, if ever practised, are now irregular and obsolete.

The Norwich Scholars had a long succession of eminent ringers, and not the least among them was Samuel Thurston. Under his conductorship two peals were rung in 1835; 5,376 of Superlative at St. Giles', and 5,280 London at St. Andrew's, each being claimed as the first in the method, but rightly so only in the case of the London. As with most of their peals, the Norwich men claimed that the striking was 'bold and regular,' and indeed good striking was always traditional in the city.

Following these peals, at an interval of fourteen years, two were rung at Woolwich, also Superlative and London, conducted by William Banister; then in 1850 one of Superlative by the St. James' Society at Bethnal Green, conducted by Henry W. Haley; and then for more than a quarter of a century there were no more Surprise peals rung, save for four by Squire Proctor's band at Benington in Hertfordshire. These men, most of whom could neither read nor write, were the first to ring all three standard Surprise methods—5,376 and 6,048 Superlative in 1855, 6,048 London in 1870, and 5,600 Cambridge in 1873.

Samuel Thurston died in 1841, and soon afterwards the Society of Norwich Scholars began to decline, at first slowly, but after a few years decisively. About this time (1839) they were joined by a man whose name will always be closely associated with Surprise ringing. This was Charles Middleton. He was born in 1813 at Marsham, a village about ten miles from Norwich, where he learnt to ring, and he died in 1886 and was buried in Norwich cemetery. It is, of course, on account of his peal of Cambridge that he is famous, for it is the one composition of which we can say that it is indispensable. Not only is it the only possible peal of Cambridge Major with the tenors together, but it is equally necessary to many other methods.

One naturally asks the question; how was it that Middleton was able to solve the problem which, up till then, had baffled the best brains in the Exercise? Was it genius? Or hard work? Or the good fortune that sometimes attends those who earn it by their industry? Or was it sheer luck?

We may, we think, rule out the first two. Such memory of him as lasted in Norwich gave him as quite an ordinary average man. Of education he had none, but that would not necessarily have prevented him from being a first rate composer, provided he had the right sort of brains. Such a man will educate himself in the things that are essential. We remember John Holt. He, too, was illiterate, but he produced peals of which any mathematician might be proud. But here is the difference. Holt's Ten-part does not stand alone; he had other peals which show that what he did was the result of knowledge and real understanding of his subject. Nor is it very well possible that his masterpiece could have been produced by blind experimenting. But Middleton's easily could. To work out all the possibilities that the composition of Cambridge is capable of and so arrive at Middleton's peal—that would be a task of no small difficulty. But the peal is just the sort of thing that a man



might write out, who simply set down a few course ends experimentally and then tested the result. The chances against success might be a hundred to one, but the hundred to one chance does come off sometimes.

Middleton never produced another peal to show that his knowledge of composition was more than rudimentary. He was friendly with Henry Hubbard, and if he had had any good peals Hubbard would have printed them in his book. He did include four, and they are quite ordinary. Middleton has gained a lasting name in the history of ringing, but we can hardly place him among the old composers of the first rank, alongside Holt, and Reeves, and Johnson.

It is often said that Henry Johnson composed the peal independently, but that is not likely. He was one of the subscribers to the first edition of Hubbard's book in which the composition appears, and so must have been in communication with the Norwich people. What he did was to point out how it can be reduced to 5,056 by introducing a bob Before.

The Norwich men tried many times to ring the peal, but were never successful.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the Exercise reached its nadir, but before 1870 the first signs appeared of that reform movement which was to change and improve everything connected with bells and ringing. Primarily it aimed at raising the status of ringers, doing away with prize-ringing and other scandals associated with the belfry, and seeing that the bells were used properly for the service of the Church; but a not less notable result has been the spread and development of change ringing. In the seventies, territorial associations were founded all over the country, a better class of men was coming to the belfries, and it resulted later on

in an improvement in method ringing. The Norwich Diocesan Association was founded in 1876 and its first peal was one of Superlative at Redenhall, a worthy send-off to a guild which in after years was for long the most prolific peal ringing association in the country.

But it was the band at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, which may be said to have started modern peal ringing history. With the exception of Squire Proctor's men, they were the first who practised the Surprise methods as a regular thing. The older men had got together a band, made a special effort, rung a peal, and then dropped the method. The Burton men rang Superlative in 1884, and Cambridge and London in 1887; and during the following years they rang many peals in all three methods. In 1886 they broke fresh ground by scoring a peal of New Cumberland. This was composed by Henry Earle Bulwer. He had been given a verbal description of Hugh Wright's Albion and, sitting down to write out that method, he produced the new one. It is an excellent method, musical, not very difficult, with a clear proof scale, and practically unlimited scope for composition. A few peals of it have been rung since, some at Burton, the rest in the South of England; but as it does not now rank as Surprise it has dropped into disuse.

Two bands followed the example of the Burton men—one at Oxford under James W. Washbrook and Francis E. Robinson, the other at Brighton; and presently Superlative was rung in many parts of the country. Long lengths were attempted. In 1894, at Loughborough, 8,800 changes of Superlative were rung, followed seven months later by 9,312 at Crawley. Only want of true compositions hindered attempts at record breaking.

(To be continued.)

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Alfred Lawrence, of Swindon, wishes to thank all who have sent him good wishes on the occasion of his 87th birthday. He tells us he started ringing at the age of 13 and has been a ringer at Swindon Parish Church for over 73 years. He has taken part in 104 peals.

To mark the 58th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kemp's wedding day, members of the Halesworth Society rang on July 28th several touches on handbells, including 720 changes of Grandsire Doubles, and two courses of Grandsire Triples by Messrs. E. Codling 1-2, G. Gowing 3-4, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 5-6, W. Barber 7-8. Mr. Kemp was for many years verger clerk and sexton of St. Andrew's Church, Wissett, and is a member of the Halesworth Society, Norwich Diocesan and Suffolk Guild of Ringers.

Congratulations to Mr. Arthur L. Coleman, who will reach his 80th birthday to-morrow. He was secretary of the Warwickshire Guild from 1907 to 1911, and general secretary and treasurer of the Norwich Diocesan Association from 1918 to 1937.

Last Monday was the 30th anniversary of a peal which may fairly be said to have been a definite and important landmark in the history of the Exercise. On July 20th, 1912, at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, among the London docks, eight ladies rang a peal for the first time. The method was Grandsire Triples and the conductor Miss Edith Parker, who had already made a name as a ringer. The Ladies Guild was formed shortly afterwards.

What is still the record for Kent Treble Bob Major was rung on July 21st, 1923, at Over in Cheshire. The conductor was Mr. Robert Sperring, Mr. J. H. Riding rang the tenor, and the composition, 17,280 changes, was by Mr. Joseph W. Parker. The time was 10 hours.

The Helmingham band rang the first peal of Edmundsbury Surprise Major on July 22nd, 1932, Mr. Wightman conducting.

To-day is the twelfth anniversary of the first and only peal of Surprise Major in eleven spliced methods. It was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields by the Middlesex Association, with William Pye as conductor. A previous attempt on the same bells was lost just before the end through one of the band mistaking the right method to ring. The striking was first class throughout.

### COMMEMORATION.

THE SUGGESTED PYRFORD PILGRIMAGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to support very strongly Mr. Albert Walker's suggestion in your issue of June 26th that our late Editor's memory be perpetuated by an annual pilgrimage to his grave at Pyrford.

I feel sure that if such a pilgrimage could be arranged it would be widely supported, and even if only a few could attend the actual ceremony, the fact that it was being held would be known throughout the Exercise and every ringer in the land could stand for a few moments and offer up a short prayer for the soul of one of the finest charactered men that ever lived.

I think his suggestion of a short service in Pyrford Church an admirable one, to which might be added a course on the handbells round the grave. It wants something quite simple, for Jack Goldsmith loved the simple things in life, and although he could not be with us in the flesh, I feel he would be with us in the spirit. It may not be possible to hold such a service during the war, but I see no reason why it should not be inaugurated as soon as hostilities cease.

Mr. Goldsmith's death came as a great blow to me. I have known him for a good many years, and during the Australian tour was in close companionship with him for four months, and I can fully endorse everything that has been written about his unselfish devotion to anything he set his hand to do.

He was a man who, if it was humanly possible, would never let anyone down. To illustrate this I should like to relate an incident of the Australian tour. When the party were due to leave Tasmania we had to leave him behind in bed suffering from a severe attack of 'flu. The peal attempt for Grandsire Cinques at Melbourne had been arranged for three days later. Jack Goldsmith was the only one of the party who could call it, and we were wondering what was going to happen. We need not have worried. Jack got up from that sick bed, left Hobart about 8 a.m., travelled all day across Tasmania by train and all night by boat across the Bass Straits, arriving at Melbourne at 6 a.m. with the peal due to start at 12.30. Before starting for the peal he came to me and said, 'Will you just keep your eye on the coursing order. I think I can manage to call the hobs but I am afraid I cannot do anything else.'

Fortunately there was no need for anyone to do any correcting, for the ringing went without incident throughout the peal, except for a very slight hitch at the beginning of the last course, for which I myself must take the blame. What he must have suffered during that peal no one knows, but when we had finished he was completely exhausted, and I am quite certain it was only his indomitable pluck and determination that had carried him through.

We must also see to it that the paper he started and built with such patience and, I am afraid, at great financial loss to himself is kept in existence. If we fail in that the Exercise will have let down a man who would never have let the Exercise down.

RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.



## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

At the 62nd annual general meeting of the Kent County Association, held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th, over 50 members attended, every district being represented, and several lady members being present.

At the committee meeting, Mr. E. Barnett was elected a member of the Benevolent Committee in place of Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., who has removed to Nottingham.

The association service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs, Mrs. G. H. Spice, of Sittingbourne, being at the organ. The Vicar welcomed the members and gave a short, helpful address.

A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised 18s. 7d.

Tea was at the Carlton Cafe, and the business meeting followed at the Parish Hall, when Mr. F. White, of Tunbridge Wells, presided in the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis, who sent a telegram regretting his absence and wishing the meeting success.

The hon. secretary read a letter he had received from Sir Irving J. Albery, M.P. for the Gravesend Division of Kent, who had brought the resolution passed at the last meeting before the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The answer was that no funds were available for the replacement of bells, which would have to be done through insurance by the Church authorities.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) read the annual report, which was adopted on the proposition of Mr. H. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. F. Macey.

It was stated in the report that owing to the ban, interest in ringing and the association has fallen considerably. In some districts a faithful few are striving to keep the members together with meetings and handbell ringing, but in others the enthusiasm seems to have died out completely, and it will need a deal of reviving when peace does come.

Owing to so very few returns having been sent in, it was difficult to even estimate the number of members for the past year. All were asked, even if they did no ringing, to pass on their subscriptions to their district secretaries, as the work of the association must go on.

### LOSS BY DEATH.

Meetings had been held in the Lewisham and Tonbridge District, with a fair amount of success, and all credit is due to those who keep the interest alive, and to those who try and are not successful.

'The hardest blow that has fallen on the ringing fraternity for many years,' said the report, 'occurred recently by the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor of "The Ringing World."' His passing means a great loss to the Exercise and he will be greatly missed. It is early yet to say what will happen as regards the publication of "The Ringing World," but the question is being considered by a committee appointed to go into the matter. Two other well-known ringers have also passed on—Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, a great composer and one who can be considered as one of the pioneers of our association; also Mr. A. G. Driver, who, although not a ringer, did such good work as a composer, and six-bell ringers have to thank him for his wonderful work in arranging the spliced peals of Minor. Amongst others taken from our midst is the Rev. F. L. Schriber, for many years a member of the committee; Mr. Horace Whitehead, one of the Canterbury District representatives; Mr. W. A. Tanton, Lyminge; Mr. W. C. Good, Charing; Mr. H. Poulter, Gillingham; Mr. George Jenkins, Canterbury (enemy action); Mr. G. A. Hayes, Swanscombe. Among the non-resident life members were Messrs. Cornelius Charge, New Zealand; E. Brett, London; F. G. Woodiss, Banstead; W. Bibby, Cheshire; A. B. Bennett, London; J. Holman, Sheffield; A. Pye, Ilford; J. C. Truss, Marlow.'

Nine peals had been rung during the year, all in hand, one of Royal, four of Major, two of Triples, one of Minor and one Doubles. The peal at Tunstall in August by the Spice family is worthy of mention, more especially as Mr. W. Spice rang his first handbell peal at the age of 80 years.

### OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The whole of the officers were unanimously re-elected, and the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley was elected a vice-president, an honour, to put it in the words of the proposer, Mr. E. Barnett, long overdue.

The Central Council representatives, Messrs. F. J. Cullum, F. M. Mitchell, T. E. Sone and G. H. Spice, were re-elected on the proposition of Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. P. Corby.

An alteration to Benevolent Fund rule, giving power to the district secretaries and representatives to bring forward application on behalf of deserving members who might otherwise be overlooked, was carried unanimously on the proposition of Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. A. J. Batten.

Mr. P. Corby spoke on the news of Mr. Geoffrey V. Murphy being reported as missing in the Middle East. He said as one who knew him intimately he had a great future in front of him as a ringer, and hoped that at the least he might be a prisoner of war. On Mr. Corby's proposition, the hon. secretary was asked to write to his parents on behalf of the association and condole with them in their anxiety.

The Chairman referred to the appeal on behalf of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and the action of the trustees was endorsed. He said it was up to them all to support 'The Ringing World' to ensure

(Continued in next column.)

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### DORCHESTER BRANCH.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Wool on Saturday, June 27th, and proved very successful. The members met at the Farm House lawn, by the kindness of Mrs. Hyde, and during the afternoon enjoyed handbells and good fellowship. The Guild Office in church was conducted by the Vicar, assisted by the chairman of the branch, the Rev. Canon A. W. Markby. The service was very bright and the singing was led by the choir. The Vicar gave a very interested address on his experience of bells and bellringing in a parish during his boyhood days.

The members were invited to tea by the ringers and friends in the Parish Hall, and 36 were present.

At the business meeting the hon. secretary read apologies for absence, including one from the general secretary, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards.

The members heard with regret of the death of a member of the Wyke Regis band, Brian Swaffield, Sergeant-Observed, R.A.F., who was killed by enemy action on St. Barnabas' Day while on active service. The chairman and hon. secretary paid a tribute to this gallant lad. Regret was expressed at the passing of the late Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

During a discussion on the future of 'The Ringing World,' the chairman read the letter in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' by their Guild Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox, and the letter received by their hon. secretary from Mr. G. Fletcher, the Central Council hon. secretary. No resolution was passed, but all agreed with their Guild Master, 'That the ownership of the paper should be vested in the Exercise generally and in no case be dependent upon private enterprise.' The hon. secretary made an appeal for a larger circulation.

It was decided to hold a branch practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, August 8th, starting at 6 p.m. It was also resolved to hold the next meeting at Stratton at the end of August, by kind permission of the Rector of Stratton.

The Chairman proposed votes of thanks to the Vicar and all those that provided such a tea, to Mrs. Hyde for her kindness during the afternoon and evening, also to the organist and choir. This was seconded by the Rev. R. P. Farrow, who also spoke of the good work of their chairman and their energetic secretary in carrying on, and was carried with acclamation.

Handbell practice was again enjoyed until train time. It was a very happy gathering.

The following towers were represented: Bere Regis, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester (St. Peter's), Stratton, Upwey, Wool, East Lulworth and Wyke Regis.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT WOOLTON.

A meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Woolton on Saturday, July 11th, when members were present from Bebington, Childwall, Farnworth, Hington, Walton, St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and the local company. The tower bells with clappers tied were made good use of until tea was served, and the handbells were also rung both before and after the meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. D. P. Roberts. The members were given a very cordial welcome by the new Rector, the Rev. M. Pryce Jones.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Halewood on Saturday, August 29th, if suitable arrangements can be made, and a further meeting at St. Francis Xavier's on Saturday, October 10th.

Messrs. Horridge, Gray and Newton were elected respectively to the offices of bell adviser, Ringing Master and branch secretary, and the Rev. D. P. Roberts was elected a committee representative.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

its publication. It was too early yet to say what would happen, but it would be a calamity if the paper ceased to exist.

Mr. E. Barnett advised them to order 'The Ringing World' by post weekly, thus ensuring early delivery and saving intermediate expense.

On the proposition of Mr. H. Hoskins, it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

Mr. G. H. Spice said he would try to arrange a meeting at Tunstall in August so as to revive interest in the Rochester District. Did the member who asked for the meeting earlier have memories of the happy pre-war meetings in that delightful village when the cherries were ripe?

Mr. Tom Groombridge, sen., informed the meeting that it was just 50 years ago that he called his first peal at Tunbridge Wells. This was greeted with acclamation.

Hearty thanks were accorded the Vicar, Mrs. G. H. Spice, the organist and to all who helped to make such a happy and successful meeting. The youth who were so noticeable in pre-war days were sadly missed. They have 'a job to do.' All wished them all a glorious and safe return, and God grant it may be soon.

The handbells were brought out and made good use of.



## CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from page 329.)

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

At St. Peter's, Nottingham, in 1553, we read there were 'fye bells in one accorde a Saunce bell all hangynge in the steple of the same church with a clock,' and at St. Mary's in the same town there were also fye bells, a Sanctus bell, a clock and a chime. At the latter church, too, in 1577, eleven shillings was 'Pd. to Toms loke-smethe ffor the cloke,' while in 1640 this agreement was made:—

'Memorandum, it was agreed the day and yeere above written that William Nussie shall have of this p'ish 6 shillings and eight pence for keeping the clock and chimes with all ye iron workes thereunto belonging that is to say, hee is to receive his wages in yeare 3 shillings 4 pence at a payment, and hee is agreed for the summe of 6 shillings 8 pence whylest hee lives and is able to performe the worke. William Nussie + his mark.'

There were chimes at Grantham in 1646, for the Corporation in that year issued an order for their protection. The belfry door was to be locked on Shrove Tuesday because 'an innumerable concourse of old and young,' under the influence of pancakes, used to 'jangle the bells and break the chime wires.'

Mention has already been made of the frequent notices found in church accounts in reference to chimes, and here are a few examples which will serve to show how much attention was paid to these in earlier times. At St. Martin's, Leicester (now the Cathedral), as early as 1546/7, we read:—

'Itm p<sup>d</sup> for medynge of the barrell that the chyme goyth w<sup>th</sup> to the smyth at the West brydge . . . xij<sup>d</sup>.'

At this period St. Martin's had five bells. In 1585/6 a new 'foor' (treble) bell was added, and among the charges is this item: 'Payd to Christopher Needham for braddes to hange the for bell in his frame and for setinge the chimes in order . . . xij<sup>d</sup>,' while in 1604-5 'ijs' was pay<sup>d</sup> for mendinge the chime when the great bell fell downe.'

At All Saints', Northampton, in 1623, the churchwarden paid eleven shillings for repairing the clock and chimes. These chimes had been presented by the Corporation in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Five years later (April 15th, 1928) £12 was voted 'to be employed in making a new pair of chimes.' The work was put in the hands of John Ley, of Lutterworth, who undertook to 'make a new pair of chimes in all things compleat and amend the clock to go orderlie with them, and sett the clock hamer to strike upon the great bell, and to keep the chimes and clock in reparaire for one wholl yeare at his own charge, and keep them in repair during his lyf for ijs<sup>a</sup> vjd a quarter.' In 1651, 1680 and 1829, the Corporation presented new chimes to All Saints', Northampton.

An old chime barrel, alas! now disused and in a sad state of repair, is to be seen at King's Norton-by-Galby, Leicestershire. It has fixed studs, but unfortunately one is not able to say what tunes it played. It was given by Squire William Fortrey at the same time that he rebuilt the church, and placed in the tower a ring of 10 bells (later reduced to eight on account of the strain on the building), together with a clock. The latter, still going well, is inscribed:—

'Joseph Eayre,  
St. Neots,  
1765.'

The Eayres of St. Neots were clock makers, as well as bellfounders of repute. When Richard Sanders, of Bromsgrove, cast the bells at Kettering in 1714, the clock was put in order by T. Eayre, and one of the bells is inscribed, 'T. Eayre Horo 1714.' In 1732, this Thomas Eayre recast other faulty bells, and in the next year he was employed to set up the chimes. The vestry book records: 'Agreed at a Vestry, November 13th, 1733, that there shall be a new set of chimes made on the eight bells in the steple of Kettering: agreed by us whose hands are here set.' A 'case of chimes' was ordered the next year, and it is noted that these chimes, not having been in working order for many years, were on February 28th, 1891, sold by auction, the items consisting of the old wooden cylinder and old machinery.

Thomas Eayre made a curious chime for Lord Mahon, of Harrowden House, Northants. These chimes were unfortunately destroyed by a fire in March, 1791. Mr. Taylor, of Northampton, had this note about them:—

'They (the chimes) was suppos'd the best in England, and they play'd on 12 bells, the sashes of the room flying upon the clock striking, and shut down on their leaving off playing. They were taken from Italy at £1,500 expense, but the person who erected them was ruin'd, having three journeys before he could accomplish them.'

The Rev. J. Ludlam, of Trinity College, Cambridge, says they consisted of 'thirteen dish bells, the biggest (for the clock) about two hundredweight.' Eayre died in 1757. Thomas Eayre—the second—carried on bellfounding for a few years after his father's death, and Mr. Ludlam says he was 'a good bellfounder,' and that 'he cast a dish bell of 5 or 6 cwt. for the church of Boston, Lincs, the tone of which was very deep and wild.' At the present time there is one of Eayre's 'dish' bells in the Rectory grounds at Glaston, Rutland, reversed and serving as a flower pot! Formerly it hung on a beam outside the church spire, and was used as a clock bell.

Early churchwarden's references to chimes are to be found at Ludlow, Shropshire. Thus, in 1540:—

'Item pay<sup>d</sup> to Lokear the Smythe for reparacion of the chymes xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.'

'Item pay<sup>d</sup> for lecor (liquor or oil) to lecur them withe . . . ijd.'

In 1541 are payments of a similar nature and in 1542:—

'Item payde to Thomas Seasson for mendynge the chymes and for wyre and to nootes to the barelle . . . xiiij<sup>d</sup>.'

'Item for di a li of wyre for the chymes iij<sup>d</sup>.'

'Item to Thomas Season for pessynge of the bawdryke for the chymes and mendynge the chymes vjd.'

Many similar items occur in years following, all in their quaint old English style of phrasing, down to 1624 when they bought 'a payer of clippers to twiste wiers of the clocke and chymes.'

(To be continued.)

### NORWICH CATHEDRAL CHIMES.

The bells are a ring of five tuned to the minor scale, i.e., like the front five of a ring of six.

Quarter: 12345.

Half-hour: 54123; 25345.

Three-quarters: 54315; 31243; 54235.

Hour: 14325; 43241; 51234; 23451; 5.



## AFTER THE WAR.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR REHABILITATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have read from time to time suggestions and advice as to how we can get ringing on a sound footing after the war, but nothing very convincing has yet appeared, and I venture to state that while we think on old-fashioned lines we shall be as far from a constructive plan when the war is over as we are to-day.

We live in modern times and we must introduce modern ideas if we are to get the young people to take up change ringing.

As I see it, the future of our art is more or less entirely up to ourselves, the ringers who are anxious to get the bells of every city, town and village ringing once again, and we shall make a great mistake if we leave it to the Central Council or our local association or to one another. Every shoulder must be put to the wheel and every ringer must be prepared to bear his own share first of all by putting his hand deep into his pocket and bring it out full, and giving with a good heart.

The time has come when we must pay up, and pay heavy and regularly for a period of a few years at least. For a long while we have got away with it and we have enjoyed our pleasures while the public have paid. Let us, therefore, accept the fact cheerfully that first of all we must do our share by paying liberally if we are to re-establish our art as soundly and successfully as we wish it to be.

Now let us ask ourselves, 'What do we require in the future for our Exercise?' I suppose I am right in saying that in the first place we require the public to want the bells rung again: in fact, we would welcome a greater public interest than what we enjoyed before the war. Well now, the point is, 'Do the public want the bells again?' Let us not deceive ourselves, but rather let us face the hard facts as we know them to-day and which will be in greater evidence after the war. Certainly there are a lot of people, excluding ringers, who will hope to hear the bells once again, but are they not in the minority rather than in the majority? Even if bell lovers are in the majority, will they care whether the bells are rung, chimed or canned? I think not.

#### A CAMPANOLOGICAL FILM.

We change ringers want the public to be interested not only in bells, but in the real thing; how then are we to get them interested? What is wrong in financing a film for the public? There are short films of 30-40 minutes of almost every known sport being shown to-day, and only yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing a remarkably interesting one on angling. A campanological film could be produced at very little cost. We have ample history and romance of bells for the story, and we have the towers to photograph and bellfries large enough to photograph the bells and ringers at their work. The ringers all over the country would cheerfully volunteer their services, and who better than some of our leading men like J. A. Trollope, E. Lewis, E. Morris, C. Roberts, C. Sedgley, W. Barton and Co. as commentators. Or we could commission Dorothy Sayers to write another book similar to 'The Nine Tailors.' Or, again, each association or guild could arrange for regular lectures to be given all over the country.

We have the men in all counties capable in putting over interesting and instructive lectures introducing the history of bells and change ringing, their various weights, sizes and keys and founders, together with a simple explanation of the action of bells and construction of a method such as Plain Bob. I have often thought of giving a practical demonstration of ringing in villages after the war in order to create public interest and primarily to recruit young ringers.

#### ADVERTISED DEMONSTRATIONS.

For example, I would choose three villages joining each other where there are bells, and I would cause notices to be put up in conspicuous places announcing that 'a band of ringers will perform at Northsea Church on Sunday at 10 a.m. and again at Eastsea Church at 2.30 p.m. and at Westsea Church at 5.30 p.m. All people who are interested in bellringing are invited to attend, when the bells and ringing will be explained.' I should hope for a few keen beginners and if unsuccessful I would have another shot at the same thing the following week. Well, now, I have given four suggestions on how the interest of the public may be aroused and a few recruits netted, and we must now turn our ideas as to how we can teach the youngsters, and, having taught them, how best to hold them.

The next difficulty confronting us will be the certainty of complaints likely to be raised from local residents and our friends of the Anti-Noise League when teaching is in progress. I beg to suggest that

every church tower (where practices are held and peals are rung) should be fitted with portable louvre shutters, which can be brought into use during the period of practice and peals.

These shutters can be made by the ringers themselves or become the gift of the ringers and need not be very costly. They can be regulated on the hinge system, such as single or double doors, or, better still, they could be mounted on the sliding system, such as the doors of a warehouse. In some towers, due to the shape of the fabric and lack of space, these two ideas would not be possible and the sound shutters would have to be permanent, but better than having the bells prohibited due to their excessive noise.

#### BEGINNERS AND INSTRUCTORS.

Now we will assume we have the interest of the public and a goodly and promising number of would-be ringers and the towers and bells to make use of. What is our next move? In our travels we have seen the results of good training, and the sad results of bad training, and naturally, we desire our young blood to receive the best advice and instruction in the handling of a bell and later the correct application towards change ringing and future progress into the higher methods in order to sustain his interest and retain his membership. How often have we seen the hard work put in by some instructors in teaching young ringers and their pleasure and satisfaction when their pupils have rung their first method later turned to bitter disappointment when the youngsters suddenly fail to turn up at further practices or service ringing and nothing more is seen of them? Surely there is some reason for this sudden and sad turn of events, and we examine the case often to find the answer due to the fact that there was no further interest to hold the young ringer solely because one method only was, and had been for many years past, practised in that tower, tower.

We must, therefore, see that the right men who will teach on the right plans may be chosen as instructors, and in this connection may I suggest that Plain Bob be the first method introduced to the young ringers for the reason it can be rung on all numbers of bells from three up to twelve, and whenever possible that it may be practised on an even number of bells and so eliminate tenor covering. It is not too early during the short stage of handling a bell for a plain course of Plain Singles or Minor to be handed to the pupil, together with an explanation showing the course of a bell and the coursing order. The pupil can study the method thoroughly until he is able to ask or answer questions on the matter, and in the meantime he can commence hunting on the treble through Singles or Minor. The inside work does not prove to be a very great step after the treble can be successfully hunted, and ringing the treble to Treble Bob is again another easy step, followed by the inside work, later followed by methods such as Double Court or Double Norwich.

Then, and certainly not before Treble Bob has been mastered, such methods as Grandsire and Stedman could be introduced. By this time the young ringer shows all the signs of promise and success and could then—in fact he definitely should—be given every encouragement in the art of composing and conducting.

#### THE SOCIAL SIDE.

The social side, too, is one which must not be lost sight of, and I recommend the arranging of socials or even little suppers when the opportunity of meeting other ringers and practising on handbells presents itself. Upon the achievement of 720 of Minor 'inside' or a quarter of Major 'inside,' the ringer should be eligible for admission to the local association and his first year's subscription should be free.

Well, well. I have written a rather long skit: I will not call it an article in case my friends Tom, Leslie or Percy jump on me. However, I am willing to take the raps that my suggestions will cost money, but will it not prove worth while if we can extend our Exercise? The matter of the film and the book can be private affairs between those who care to put them on a philanthropic or a business basis, and I am willing to be the first to plonk down a fair donation to either plan.

I will conclude with one final brick by suggesting that a yearly subscription of 2s. 6d. be the minimum amount paid to our associations, when in return we would receive better service and better meetings and socials, and a peal fee of 3d. or 6d. paid to either the association or 'The Ringing World' would not hurt any ardent peal ringer.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope you will not consider my suggestions too revolutionary. After all they are only suggestions, put forward in a humble way with the hope that someone may find an idea here or there, in order to save and revive our beloved art.

C. W. P.

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## TWO DEPARTED FRIENDS.

J. S. GOLDSMITH AND J. F. GOACHER.

By GEORGE L. GROVER.

Only a few short weeks ago it was my sad lot to attend the funeral of the man known to a great number of ringers as the Editor of their weekly ringing paper, a man who many of us had the privilege of claiming as a personal friend and a man who we in the Guildford Diocesan Guild, at any rate, looked upon the leading light—the guiding star of our ringing lives.

Tributes to Jack Goldsmith have already been written by abler pens than mine—tributes that we, who knew the man as a man as well as a ringer, know full well he deserved and more than earned.

We who had the honour of addressing him as 'Jack' know what a life of ungrudging service his was, not merely to the Guild he founded and served, not only to the Exercise as a whole, but also to the community in general in everything he undertook.

From what we saw throughout the years we were in contact with him of the self-sacrificing care and devotion which he lavished on the helpless invalid who was his wife, the enthusiasm and energy he put into all the various affairs of the Exercise and our Guild, and the wholeheartedness with which he laboured in his war-time administrative duties, not one of us has any doubt that Jack Goldsmith's one desire was to be of service to others without one thought of the profit or reward accruing to him.

Jack Goldsmith as a ringer was a national figure known not only in this country but, one might truly say, throughout the world, and it is hard to realise that the Exercise must face a ringing future without his material presence and that we in his own Guild will no longer be able to look to him for a personal lead. We are left, however, with the example of his service, the light of his influence will continue to shine through generations of us, and we owe it to him to pledge ourselves to rebuild the Exercise after this war to the standard that he would have desired us to reach had he been spared to take part in the rebuilding.

Within a week or two of Jack Goldsmith's death it was my sorrowful task to help lower to its last resting place the earthly remains of another ringer and personal friend. Not a national figure this time, for Joseph Frederick Goacher, of West Clandon, who died on Wednesday, July 1st, had not aspired to reach great heights in the world of ringers, but for all that a figure whose loss is as great a blow parochially as was Mr. Goldsmith's nationally.

Joe Goacher, like my other friend, had worn himself out at a comparatively early age by a life of that same quality of ungrudging service which he too gave without a thought of material reward.

In his ringing Joe Goacher could be depended upon to be there when required. He hated the thought of letting the rest of us down. A good method ringer who had several peals of Surprise Minor to his credit, a man to whom London Major had no terrors when it came to standing in with visitors for a touch, Joe never complained, never stopped away, never flagged in his enthusiasm through the many months and years that we were forced by circumstances to plod the somewhat weary path of Grandire Doubles for service ringing.

And in his work-a-day life as village storekeeper and latterly as sub-postmaster, Joe Goacher served the public with the same desire to assist, the same willingness to serve others, the same quiet helpfulness as he showed in his ringing activities.

We buried his mortal remains on Saturday, July 4th, four of us his fellow ringers and fellow members of the British Legion acting as bearers. The funeral service, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. E. Curry), was attended by a large congregation from the parish and neighbourhood. Messrs. A. H. Pulling, W. J. Robinson and A. C. Hazelden represented the Guildford Diocesan Guild. The standard of the West Clandon branch of the British Legion, of which Joe was vice-chairman, was carried in the funeral cortege escorted by fellow members.

In an address during the course of the service the Rector paid tribute to the sterling qualities, the Christian principles and exemplary life of Joseph Goacher in words which to a stranger might have seemed a too extravagant eulogy, but which we his friends knew were only the simple unexaggerated truth.

And now the earthly labours of both my friends, John S. Goldsmith and Joseph F. Goacher, have been concluded, and what a wealth of pleasant memories of the past, what hopes of a joyful ringing future we might allow to lie buried in those two flower-strewn graves, but I know that neither of them would have us leave it at that. We must not, we cannot give up hope. We owe it to both of them to keep green their memories, to work the harder when opportunity presents itself to reinstate the Exercise both nationally and parochially (not merely in this one parish of West Clandon, but throughout every parish in the land), and as our inspiration to keep ever before us the vision of their unselfish lives.

**IN PRAISE OF CHANGE RINGING.**—When the first difficulties of the art are overcome, a new and glorious field for recreation, and also for scientific research, is opened, which will amply repay the student for any expenditure of trouble at the outset.—Jasper W. Snowden, 1872.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. A good train service, so no excuses, please.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25th, at Arksey. Handbells available in the Church Hall from 3 p.m. Silent bells will also be available if required. Tea will be provided at moderate charge for all who attend.—E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in Vestry 3 p.m. Service 4, followed by tea and handbells at Vicarage. Visitors welcome. Numbers for tea by July 21st to B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th. Members and friends meet at Reigate S.R. Station at 3 p.m., to walk through the Castle grounds and Reigate Park. Service at Reigate Parish Church at 5 p.m. Mr. M. A. Northover has kindly offered to provide tea, and his house and gardens will be at the disposal of members from 5.30 for the purpose of the meeting. Members from both districts are asked to make a special effort to attend.—G. W. Massey, North-Western Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Kinver (D.V.), Saturday, July 25th. Eight bells (silent). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in the Schools from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, to-morrow, Saturday, July 25th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Bushey.

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

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Lawford on Saturday, August 1st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. in the church. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business



meeting and more handbell ringing in the Ogilvie Hall. There is a good bus service from Colchester. Manningtree Station is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford on August 1st. Tower open for silent bellringing, also handbells, from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45. Tea at 5.30, followed by short business meeting. Those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, July 29th. All ringers welcome.—G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton and Loughborough joint meeting.—A meeting at Copt Oak on Saturday, August 1st. Silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Handbells in Vicarage grounds. Cups of tea provided, but bring own eatables. Buses from Coalville or Leicester every 15 minutes. Connection there at 2.46. Bus from Whitwick approximately 3 p.m.—J. W. Cotton and A. E. Rowley, Hon. Secs.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at Algarkirk on Saturday, August 1st. Bells (6) available for silent ringing at 5 p.m. Service 6.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All ringers welcome.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint rally will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Meet at Boxhill S.R. Station at 3 p.m. to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service at Leatherhead Parish Church at 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available during the afternoon and evening. Notifications for tea should reach Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 28th. All ringers heartily welcome. — G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge on Saturday, August 8th. Tower open from 2 p.m. with six silent bells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Miss B. M. Richardson, Beechcroft, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, know by Wednesday, the 5th. London Transport buses run every half-hour from Tonbridge via Sevenoaks, and from Croydon via Westerham, No. 403. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid to members who have paid their subscriptions.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Moorside, on Saturday, August 8th. Tower bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided for those who bring own food. Please make a special effort to attend. All are welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Barnsley and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society, and the Sheffield and District Society will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th. Handbells available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Church House at 5 p.m. for all those who notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhills, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, August 5th. Owing to catering difficulties, this is important. Business meeting after tea, followed by handbells and friendly discussions. All are welcome, and a good attendance is desired, this being our last summer gathering.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

#### PUBLICATION

**THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE**, Part IV, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archæological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

#### BIRTH.

**WIGG.**—On July 20th, at the Royal Bucks Hospital, to Florence, wife of the Rev. C. E. Wigg, a son, Martin Charles Elliot.

#### HANDBELL PRACTICE AT LISS.

On Saturday, July 11th, a very happy gathering took place, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Munday, at Station Road, Liss, Hants.

The company included Messrs. A. H. Pulling and C. Hazelden (Guildford), E. J. Ayliffe (Haslemere), J. R. Mackman (Bramley) and Pte. Cox (Aldershot), representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild being represented by the Master (Mr. G. Williams), the hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and Mrs. Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Tower R. Taylor.

After a hearty welcome had been extended to the visitors, Mr. Mackman brought out his fine set of ten handbells, which were much appreciated and made full use of till tea was called, at which a lot of chatter took place on things past, present and future in the matter of ringing.

More handbells followed till train time for those who were leaving early, and most of the standard methods were rung or attempted, not without trips and corrections.

The best joke of all near the close was when Alfred said, 'Let's try a course of London single-handed,' the result being 'that it be not reported.'

This brought to an end one of the most enjoyable little social gatherings it could have been possible to arrange. Some of the party remained for supper, and, notwithstanding rationing conditions, everyone had sufficient and yet fragments were left. Before the final goodnight Mr. and Mrs. Munday were thanked for their most kind and generous hospitality.

This is the second gathering at Mr. and Mrs. Munday's this year and no doubt is the outcome of weekly handbell practices arranged by Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford. The previous meeting was in January last, when a very heavy fall of snow prevented some from attending.

**A FOREIGN OPINION.**—The people of England are vastly fond of great noises that fill the ear, such as the firing of cannon, beating of drums and ringing of bells; so that it is common for a number of them that have got a glass in their heads to get up into the belfry and ring the bells for hours together for the sake of exercise.—Paul Hentzner, A.D. 1560.

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