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UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

Should associations insist on the presence of an umpire at every handbell peal? That is a question which has been debated by ringers for many years, and about which so much worth saying can be said on both sides that it is hardly likely any definite answer will ever be given by the Exercise.

As Mr. A. B. Peck's recent letter reminds us, the Ancient Society of College Youths has a rule by which peals rung on handbells without an umpire cannot be booked, but the College Youths are in a rather different position from one of the territorial associations, who at present are unable to go further than the resolution passed by the Central Council in 1895—that where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.

The reason why there is no agreement on this question is mainly because men argue it on grounds which have nothing whatever in common. On the one hand people point out that in every other sport, whether it is cricket, or football, or racing, or rowing, or anything else, an umpire is considered necessary. Why, they ask, should peal ringing be an exception? Unless there is some independent and competent person who is willing to attest the truth of the performance, who is to know whether or not the peal has been rung fairly? On the other hand, people point out that competent umpires are not usually to be had, and if they are to be had they are only necessary in exceptional cases.

Everyone is agreed that when attempts are made to set up new records umpires are necessary if only to safeguard the interests of the band; but what applies to them does not necessarily apply to an ordinary average peal.

It should be pointed out that there is no real analogy between an umpire in a handbell peal and an umpire in, say, a game of cricket. An umpire is necessary in the latter case to give an instant decision on a doubtful point because without it the game could not go on. Is a man l.b.w.? The bowler honestly thinks he is. He equally honestly thinks he is not. The umpire decides, and, whether he is right or wrong, that settles it. There is nothing like that in handbell ringing. Practically all an umpire has to do there is to see that there is no cheating in the peal. Is this necessary? Most certainly it is not necessary in the great majority of cases. It would be ridiculous to imagine that those men whose names figure most prominently in the peal records would think it worth their while to claim a false peal. Why should they? The only reward and satisfaction they get out of peal ringing is the knowledge they have rung true peals.

(Continued on page 366.)

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For them umpires are not necessary, but it is not they who can settle the matter. It is the men whose standards are lower, and who are not proof against the temptation to do things in a peal they would hardly like to own up to afterwards. There always have been some such men. Is it to the interests of the Exercise for their sakes to make a general rule?

GOOD STRIKING.

A PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I sincerely hope that you have been able to persuade Canon Coleridge to respond to the plea so ably made by Mr. G. N. Price that he should give us more reminiscences of the men he knew and the ringing he did so many years ago.

To those of us just old enough to remember its surviving but fast vanishing customs and habits, the latter half of Queen Victoria's reign seems like a golden age, and we envy those fortunate people whose youth was passed in the English countryside during those peaceful years. There were giants in those days, giants who are little more than names to many of us. Canon Coleridge knew them all (was he not one himself?), and anything he can tell us about them will be eagerly read.

There was one passage in his letter which struck me as being full of significance for young ringers to-day. He was very glad to hand over his rope to someone else, he said, as he was afraid that the striking in a peal attempt would not be first class. When peace (if not plenty) comes again, how many of us, confronted by a similar situation, will follow his example? Shall we not rather be found to be pressing anyone who can handle a rope to make up a band? Ringers of any calibre will be scarce, opportunities for peal attempts legion, and the temptation to include incompetent beginners or indifferent strikers will prove too strong to resist. I suggest that we should resolve now to set our faces against anything of this sort.

I am firmly of the opinion that only a small proportion of the tower peals which in happier times were reported in your columns came up to that standard which ringers owe to the public in general and to themselves in particular. This is a sweeping statement to make, but I am sorry to say that I believe it to be true. What can be done to improve matters? I used to argue that it would be a splendid thing if every guild and society adopted for tower peals a rule something similar to that of the College Youths relating to hand-bell peals. No peal would be booked unless certified to have been well and truly struck by an umpire recognised by the society for which it was rung.

It is easy to see that such a rule would be unworkable, but the quality of striking generally would be greatly improved if the following precepts were everywhere put into practice:—

(1) Every beginner should be trained to use his ears even more than his eyes.

(2) He should not attempt half-pull changes until he can ring rounds and call changes really well.

(3) When he can do this competently he should be allowed to take part in short touches of call changes for Sunday service. No poor striking should ever be tolerated on Sundays.

(4) No beginner should be eligible for guild membership until he has proved himself to be a competent striker to the satisfaction of duly appointed officials of the guild to which his tower is affiliated. Then, and only then, should he be allowed to take part in an attempt for a peal.

Strict regard to these rules would no doubt tend to reduce the number of peals rung, but would greatly increase their average quality, and I submit that the Exercise as a whole would benefit from the change.

E. J. TAYLOR.

17, Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, Yorks.

ANCIENT NORWICH CHURCHES.

DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION.

In an air raid on Norwich during the earlier part of the year two of the ancient parish churches, St. Benedict's and St. Bartholomew's, Heigham, were destroyed, and in a later raid two more were ruined. They were St. Julian's and St. Paul's.

St. Julian's was the smallest and possibly the most ancient church in the city. The walls are Norman and the round tower is said to be Saxon. It contained one bell of pre-Reformation date cast by one of the Brazier family.

St. Paul's had little or nothing of interest in it, and the ancient round tower was partly rebuilt of brick in the early years of the last century. There was at that time a ring of three pre-Reformation bells by the same founder as the one at St. Julian's, but two were sold (probably to pay for the rebuilding), and they now hang in village towers in the county of Norfolk.

Both churches were in the poorer parts of the city. Norwich had five churches with round towers, and three of them have been destroyed. The many large and splendid churches of the city and their bells, which are of great interest both archaeologically and for the part they played in the history of change ringing, have, so far, escaped destruction, though not altogether without damage.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At 9, BEVERLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

* W. L. B. LEESE... .. 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6
 * JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed and Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* First peal of Double Norwich 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 1, 1942, in Three Hours and Six Minutes;

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

ALFRED BALLARD... .. 1-2 | ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
 ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4 | FREDERICK E. WILSON 9-10
 HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6 | JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

Witness—Rupert Richardson.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
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On Sunday, August 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At 43, WALSINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6
 JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7-8
 * WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 9-10

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor size 12 in F.

HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON 5-6
 ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4 | *MRS. H. J. POOLE 7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witness—Mrs. R. Richardson.

* First peal of Stedman 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

* MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6
 RUPERT RICHARDSON... .. 3-4 | A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Miss Jill Poole.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' Rung as a compliment to the ringer of 7-8 on gaining his pilot's 'wings' in the R.A.F.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5053 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD... .. 1-2 | ALFRED H. PULLING 5-6
 HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4 | RUPERT RICHARDSON 7-8

* A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN... .. 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witnesses—Mrs. H. J. Poole and Mrs. R. Richardson.

* First peal of Stedman 'in hand' and first on ten bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Ernest Morris for his 53rd birthday.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6
 ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 7-8
 JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witness—Mrs. H. J. Poole.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6
 RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4 | A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Miss Enid M. Richardson.

THE NOTATION OF PEALS.

Other men besides Mr. Charles J. Sedgley have wondered why, when the figures of a peal are given, the calling is always put after the course end. In actual practice, they point out, the course end is the result of the calling, which precedes it and logically, therefore, should be shown first. In his book on the Surprise methods, C. D. P. Davies did print the calling first, but his example has not been followed, and the Exercise has stuck to the century old custom.

When we look for the reason we must remember that change ringing with its rules and customs was not invented at one time by some clever person, but grew up and developed spontaneously and to some degree haphazardly, and therefore it has many things that look illogical and even absurd, but had their reasons at the time they were introduced.

At a very early time men found out the convenience of representing changes by pricking figures on paper, and they did so at first so as to show every change, but as the science developed they found it only necessary to write certain distinctive rows. These were usually the bob changes, and that form of pricking compositions is still often the best.

But in Major and Royal ringing the most distinctive rows are the course ends. They to a very large extent represent all the other changes, and so, towards the middle of the eighteenth century, it became the custom often to give them only, and to leave the rest to be understood. Sometimes when economy of space was necessary, as in a peal book, only the more important of the course ends were given.

This was possible in methods like Bob Major, because practically all the peals rung conformed to one general plan, and it was not difficult for a competent man to see from these course ends what bobs were used. For instance, a 5,152 rung in 1755 by the London Youths at Whitechapel is given as follows:—

43526	52436
32546	42356
24536	34256
54326	53246
35426	23456

And another rung in 1758 by the same society at the same church as follows:—

52364	45236
43526	42563
43265	35264
52436	42356

This sort of thing was not possible in Grandsire Caters, which was always given by the bob changes, and in Plain Bob and Treble Bob its limitations were obvious as soon as compositions became more varied and complex. To meet this difficulty the authors of the 'Clavis' employed a plan of using mixed bob changes and course ends, but there was a strong feeling that the course ends were the essential rows, and if possible the calling should be deduced from them. To facilitate this tables of course ends were invented.

Shipway was the first man to employ the modern notation. He inherited the old ideas, and the course end was still for him the essential row; but instead of leaving his reader to find out from the table of course ends how a course end was got from the preceding one, he supplied the information himself by printing the bobs alongside it. They were, so to speak, an explanation of the course end and quite naturally were put after it.

The Exercise followed Shipway's example to its great profit, and the plan has never been misunderstood. It may be a good and logical plan to put the bobs first, but there hardly seems any real necessity for altering an established custom.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 361.)

When chimes were originally introduced in Boston tower is not known, but Jean Ingelow in a fanciful poem called 'The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire,' in 1571, relates how the bells rang out the alarm called, 'The Brides of Enderby':—

Play uppe, play uppe, O Boston bells!

Play all your changes, all your swells.

Play uppe the Brides of Enderby.

In 1732 new chimes were ordered, which, becoming out of order, ceased to play in 1832. In 1867 a set of 36 carillon bells was installed by A. L. I. Van Aerschodt, of Louvain, varying in weight from 17½ lb. to 3½ cwt. A new machine was made by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, and had four musical barrels constructed to play 28 tunes on 44 bells. Andre Van Aerschodt had a brother, Severin, who made the drawings and plan for the bells, and it is said that it was unfortunate in the choice of Andre for the casting of them. Severin said, 'My brother had my designs, but he could not cast my bells.' This carillon, however, proved a failure. Several of them were too small for the great height at which they were placed and, there being too many of them, caused a jangle. The four musical barrels were each pricked with about 3,000 brass pins, one-sixteenth of an inch square. They were arranged to play one tune every hour, and a fresh tune every day. It is said that on one occasion, some hundred years ago, when the nave of the church was discovered to be on fire, the chimes were playing, 'Oh dear! what can the matter be?' Of course, you can believe it or not, equally so with the legend that the chimes of the Royal Exchange, London, when the building caught fire on January 10th, 1838, played, 'There is na luck about the 'ouse.' Boston bells now are a good ring of 10 by Taylor and Co., with four additional clock bells, all new cast and rehung in 1932.

Some new chimes of the old kind were erected at St. Albans Cathedral by Mr. Goodman, a local clockmaker, from his own design. The barrel is 7ft. long of wood on iron rings, and the levers are worked by cams of phosphor bronze screwed on for eight tunes on eight bells. The tunes change mechanically, and Cambridge quarter chimes in connection with these chimes are worked on the same plan in a room above the clock.

At Great Gransden the chimes play on the six bells, and the Rev. T. M. N. Owen ('Church Bells of Hunts') says there is a local story to the effect that the chimes came from Stamford, being rejected thereat because they did not play 'God save the King'! The chime barrel is for five tunes, to play one every three hours. The date and source of the chimes are not known, but they were repaired by Taylor's at the beginning of the 19th century, when the tune 'Marlbrook' (commonly called 'Molbrooke'—Marlborough) was added. Mr. Owen remarks

(Continued in next column.)

ST. BRIDE'S AND ST. SAVIOUR'S.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—While turning over my books recently I came across a volume of Latin poems, dated 1764, by Vincent Bourne, sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in it I found one headed 'Certamen Musicum.'

'Octo trans Tamisin campanis Diva Maria;
Cis Tamisin bis sex Diva Brigetta sonat,
Haec tenues urget modulus properantius Aedes,
Alternat grandes lentius illa modos.
Nec quis in alterutro distinguat litore iudex,
An magis haec aurem captet, an illa magis.
Tantae est harmoniae contentio Musica; turris
Altera cum Numeros, altera Pondus habet.'

For the following translation I am indebted to my friend, the Rev. A. G. MacDonald, late of Ventnor and now of Lymington:—

Chimes In Rivalry.

'From the farther side of Thames
Peal the eight bells of St. Mary.
From the near St. Bridget answers
With a twelve-voiced chime.
The nearer spire sings softly,
In a ripple, swift and airy,
But the distant tones are solemn
With a slow, strong rhyme.
The anxious ear is doubtful
'Midst the sweet, contending measures
Which to crown for greater beauty
The far song or the near?
Whether praise the light-tongued twelve
That sing of careless, passing pleasures,
Or commend the graver judgment
Of the eight-toned seer?'

Presumably the towers referred to are those of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Mary Overy, this latter being the previous name of Southwark Cathedral, the change to St. Saviour dating from the dissolution of the monastery to which it was attached, in 1540.

Southcliff, Ventnor, I.W.

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, July 26th, at Severell Hospital, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, W. Keeble (composer and conductor) 3-4, A. A. Andrews (first quarter-peal inside) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from previous column.)

that this tune is pariously suggestive of 'We won't go home till morning!' The other tunes are 'Canaan,' 'Nehemiah,' harvest song, 'Nuts are brown,' and a fifth tune at present unauthenticated. The writer has the musical setting of these.

The famous bell tower of Evesham had an ancient clock with two quarter Boys or Jacks outside the tower to strike the quarters on two small bells. It is said they dated from the time of Edward IV., or at least from that of the erection of the present tower. They were taken down about 1860 and transferred to the Abbey Manor, where they still remain. Chimes used to be played regularly on the bells since 1878.

Pershore Abbey has a similar fortnightly rota of tunes, the mechanism being set up in 1879 by Gillett and Co., of Croydon. At Wellingborough there are two chime barrels, one with seven sacred tunes and the other with seven secular ones. A similar double set was set up at St. Paul's, Bedford, each barrel having three sacred and four secular tunes, while at Newport Pagnell, in the same county, a somewhat similar arrangement holds good.

(To be continued.)

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DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM G. CRICKMER.**A PROMINENT SUFFOLK RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William G. Crickmer, of Earl Soham, Suffolk, which took place at the age of 74 years. He was digging a post-hole in his garden and stumbled into it and fractured his thigh. He was at once conveyed to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, but nothing could be done, and at the inquest the Coroner returned a verdict of 'Death by misadventure.' The funeral was at Earl Soham Cemetery on Friday, July 31st.

Years ago Mr. Crickmer was a well-known figure in Framlingham. With a horse and cart he was a general carrier of parcels and merchandise between Framlingham and other parishes. He rang 113 tower-bell peals and six on handbells for the Norwich Diocesan Association and six on tower bells for the Suffolk Guild.

Mr. Crickmer was one of the band who rang the then record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, at Debenham, on June 6th, 1892. Messrs. R. H. Brundle and F. J. Tillett are now the only survivors of that company.

Mr. Crickmer was a first-class striker and an outstanding man in a district where ringing standards were high. He was a frequent visitor to St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, where on December 17th, 1932, he rang what is believed to have been his last peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal. He was also a member of an excellent band at Framsdon, where many methods were rung up to Bristol Surprise Major.

DEATH OF MR. ALBERT NASH.**WELL-KNOWN YORKSHIRE RINGER.**

We regret to report the death of Mr. Albert Nash, of Wath-on-Dearne, who passed away on August 3rd in Rotherham Hospital following an operation.

The funeral at Wath-on-Dearne was conducted by Canon J. Waring, Vicar of Rotherham, who paid tribute to the work done as a ringer by Mr. Nash for the church. At the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on his own handbells by Messrs. Sidney F. Palmer, Colin Ryder, George Lewis and Charles R. Wright.

Mr. Nash was an enthusiastic ringer both on handbells and tower bells. He had rung upwards of 200 peals, and had conducted a little less than half of them. For a number of years he was the backbone of two bands, and both Rotherham and Wath will miss him greatly.

For more than 40 years he had belonged to the Yorkshire Association, and during that time was a most active member except for a period of about six years following 1916, in which year he suffered from a most severe accident.

DEATH OF A SURFLEET RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Frank Dobney, of Surfleet, which occurred on Tuesday, August 4th, under rather tragic circumstances, at the early age of 18 years.

Up to the Monday afternoon he was in good health. During the day he had entered wholeheartedly into the sports, races, etc., at a garden fete. Immediately afterwards he collapsed, and died on Tuesday without regaining consciousness.

Deceased had been a ringer at Surfleet since 1937. He rang his first peal on November 10th, 1938, at the age of 14. Since then, owing to the ban, he had only had the chance to ring one more peal.

Frank was of a genial disposition and was liked by all with whom he came into contact. He will be sadly missed by the Surfleet ringers when ringing recommences.

The funeral took place on Saturday, August 8th, at Surfleet. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Surfleet, the Rev. G. H. Clarke, assisted by the Vicar of Pinchbeck, the Rev. E. C. Gee, and was fully choral. The hymns were 'Peace, perfect peace' and 'Abide with me,' and the 23rd Psalm.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung in the church by Miss Enid M. Richardson 1-2, A. J. Brian Wayman 3-4, Rupert Richardson 5-6, Mrs. R. Richardson 7-8.

DEATH OF A CIRENCESTER RINGER.

The ringers of the Cirencester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have just heard the sad news that Private Jack Godwin, of Quenington, one of their most promising members, died from smallpox in Burma on May 24th.

He joined the Gloucestershire Regt. in November, 1939, and was drafted to Burma early in 1940. Although he had taken part in only one peal, he had rung numerous quarter-peals in the four standard methods and was getting on nicely with Double Norwich Major and Cambridge Minor. Whilst in training he rang in several of the Bristol towers. He was a good service ringer, and he and his brother often cycled to Cirencester twice on a Sunday, a distance of eight miles each way. He will be much missed.

THE BELLS OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

Mr. John G. W. Harwood, of Great Yarmouth, writes us that the destruction of the twelve bells of St. Nicholas' is complete. He went to look among the ruins, but all there was to see was half the treble, which was split down the centre. The stock of the tenor, a built-up one of H iron and castings, is lying among the debris intact with the clapper attached, but the bell is gone.

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The typescript of the article on Lewes Bells, which we print this week, was found in one of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's books after his death, and evidently was written by him in the year 1915 for a Sussex newspaper. Whether it ever was published we do not know. Lewes was, of course, his native town, and St. John's, Southover, the church with which he was associated from his infancy and where he first learnt to ring.

We have had a letter from Mr. Albert Walker, and we are pleased to say he reports that his operation has been completely successful. He is still on his back, but 'it's simply a matter of time.'

Will our correspondent who wrote from Weston Street, Coventry, please send us his name, which he forgot to add?

The first peal of Hertfordshire Surprise Major was rung on August 11th, 1934, at Bushey, by the Hertford County Association, conducted by Mr. H. G. Cashmore.

William Willson, of Leicester, was born on August 12th, 1868.

Edwin Barnett, one of the best known and most loved of the ringers of his generation, died on August 13th, 1932, at the age of 70.

On August 13th, 1883, the Burton-on-Trent band rang the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in Wales, at Rhyl. Two of the band, Messrs. John Jagger and Joseph Griffin, are still alive.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in ten methods was rung by the Middlesex County Association at Willesden on August 13th, 1929.

William Pye was born on August 14th, 1870.

On August 15th, 1906, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower. The band included William and George R. Pye and Bertram Prewett.

On the same date in 1925, the Midland Counties Association rang the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal.

Fifty years ago three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples and two Grandsire Caters.

MR. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Readers who are interested in the preservation of Mr. Pearson's collection of books on bells and change ringing will be glad to know that one of the two copies of 'Tintinnologia,' 1667, has been presented to the British Museum, and that the other books were offered to the Cambridge University Library, and, with the exception of certain duplicates, have been gratefully accepted.

The books will be listed and labelled as presented by the C.U. Guild of Change Ringers from the library of the Rev. W. C. Pearson, and will be available to readers under the usual regulations of the library. Persons who are not members of the university who wish to consult the books for the purpose of study and research will need an introduction from two members of the Senate, which I have no doubt members of the Guild will be very willing and glad to provide.

A. C. BLYTH, President, C.U.G.C.R.

Selwyn College, Cambridge.

A BIRMINGHAM BELLFOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I had been hoping that someone with more definite information might have replied to Mr. F. C. Smale's recent inquiry concerning the firm of 'Blows' (presumably Blews), of Birmingham, which I believe I am correct in stating has been out of existence for many years.

One of their last—possibly the last—installation was a clock chime and two independent ringing bells at St. Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster, the Carthusian monastery near Cowfold in Sussex.

I was shown these bells in 1933, and the explanation given by one of the monks who remembered the bells being installed as to why the third bell was fully a tone flat was that the firm was closing down, and as the bells had been paid for in advance they had no redress and had had to take what they could get.

In the clock tower hung five bells, the largest weighing about 8 cwt., the two smallest hung 'dead' and the other three hung for ringing. The front four were apparently intended for the Cambridge quarter chimes, but the effect was discordant to a degree owing to the wildness of the third bell, while instead of the hour striking on the fifth bell a single 'warning' blow was sounded on this bell three minutes before each quarter. The clock bore the name 'J. Chavin à Grenoble, 1881,' and did not strike the hours at all.

In a separate tower hung a heavily counter-balanced bell of some 12 to 14 cwt., which had subsequently been rehung by a French firm, and in a further turret on the chapel was a small sanctus bell.

With the exception of the sanctus bell all were recast by Taylors in 1935, the largest clock bell being increased to 14½ cwt. and the swinging bell to 22 cwt.

I see that Mr. Smale refers to the Cheriton Bishop bell being cast in 1887, whereas all the Parkminster bells were dated 1881, so that possibly the information given to me as to the firm being about to close down was not correct.

R. H. DOVE.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Friday, July 17th, in the Parish Church tower, 720 Bob Minor: D. Laud 1-2, C. N. Leman 3-4, R. G. Bell (conductor) 5-6. D. Laud is wished the best of luck on his joining the R.A.F.

THE BELLS OF LEWES.

INTERESTING AND VALUABLE POSSESSIONS.

BY J. S. GOLDSMITH.

'Old Gabriel Hung in Market Tower, Lewes, October 22nd, 1792.'

This entry in the 'Diary of Local Events,' in the 'East Sussex News,' is a reminder that among the many antiquities which Lewes possesses some of its bells can be counted as almost priceless relics of past centuries. These bells are not to be seen in any museum, but hang in the towers of the ancient churches, still in use for the purpose for which they were originally made.

In view of the anniversary of the 'hanging' of Old Gabriel, which doubtless was originally a church bell, but now reposes in its present habitat like a solitary hermit, never seen and seldom heard, a brief description of some of these ancient treasures and their makers may not be out of place.

To deal first with 'Old Gabriel'—and he really is old. It must not be supposed that 1792 was the date of its casting. That was the year in which it went to its present home. Its birth was certainly more than 250 years earlier. The exact year is not to be found on the bell, but its decoration enables antiquarians to place its casting fairly accurately. Round the bell is cast the inscription, 'gabrielis menti dedens habio nomen.' On the waist there is a large shield bearing the royal arms; below the shield a figure of St. Catherine; above it a crown, and beside it a large medal of Henry VIII. and a Tudor rose. There is also on the waist of the bell a large cross and the words 'Johannes tonne me fecit' (John Tonne made me).

Thus we see that Old Gabriel has come down to us from the spacious days of King Hal and that its founder was a craftsman of Tudor times. John Tonne worked in Sussex and Essex, and Old Gabriel is an example of the decorative work which he introduced after the French fashion of ornamenting bells with large florid crosses, figures and other devices. His name suggests French descent, being derived from Antoine, but, unlike some other of the early founders, he cannot be traced to his origin. His bells in Sussex are to be found between the dates 1522 and 1536, and he then appears to have removed to Essex, with Thaxted as his possible centre of operations, for there are bells bearing his name to be found within a radius of about 24 miles of that town. There he worked for about eight years and was then succeeded by Stephen Tonne.

It would be interesting to know where Old Gabriel hung before coming to the Lewes Market tower. The date of its acquisition by the town is cut on the bell with a chisel: 'T. Mandall S. Jesse Headboroughs A Brook Gent. constables. 17c. 3q. 2½lb. 1792.' The inscription 'gabrielis menti dedens habio nomen' has been translated 'I have the name of Gabriel which brings to mind.'

But Old Gabriel is not the oldest bell in Lewes. This is to be found in the little belfry of All Saints' Church, and has moulded upon it the inscription, 'Sancta Katerina Oro Pro Nobis.' In pre-Reformation times it was not the practice of founders to put their names on bells, and thus this bell does not bear the founder's name or the date of its casting. Its age can be fairly accurately gauged, however, by a comparison of the lettering and 'stops' with those appearing on other bells. The

'stamps' used in forming the inscription on this bell are those of Stephen Norton, of Kent, who was a founder who is thought to have carried on his trade in London in the latter half of the fourteenth century and who was buried at Maidstone Parish Church. Antiquarians, and among them Mr. A. D. Tyssen, the great authority on Sussex bells, think it is unlikely that this All Saints' bell was actually cast by Norton, but attribute it to a founder who succeeded him in business or came into possession of his foundry marks, and place the date of the bell between 1420 and 1440, so that this venerable bell, which can still be heard every Sunday, has been calling people to worship for just 500 years. Do the good people of All Saints', I wonder, realise what a wonderful relic of antiquity they have hanging out of sight in their bell loft?

The two other bells in this tower, although not so old as the one just mentioned, are also ancient specimens of the founder's art, and one of them (the middle one of the three) is specially interesting because it is by a Lewes bellfounder. The bell itself bears the name and the date of casting, for it is inscribed 'Edmvdn Giles Bell Fovnder, 1595.' It was about this time that founders made it the practice to put their names and the dates upon their castings.

Edmund Giles was the first among Sussex bellfounders of whom anything is known, but this part of his business was probably very small, and he must have done business in other branches of founding, a supposition which finds support from the fact that on two of his other bells are found some of the insignia of iron founding, viz., a pair of pincers, a horseshoe, an axe head and a hammer. His foundry was probably in St. Michael's parish, and the parish register there records his burial on February 27th, 1614. His foundry passed to Thomas Giles.

The other bell in All Saints' Church is by Roger Tapsell and is dated 1625. Roger Tapsell's foundry was at West Tarring, and the conclusion is therefore drawn that by this time the Lewes foundry of Thomas Giles had ceased to exist, at least as far as the craft of bellfounding was concerned.

The second oldest bell in Lewes is one of the three at St. Anne's, another valuable treasure in the shape of a pre-Reformation casting. It bears a similar invocation (very popular on bells in those times) to that on the All Saints' bell, 'Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis' (St. Catherine, pray for us). Experts have not been able to identify the founder of this bell, although several specimens of his work are still extant. Some of the stamps used had been in the possession of one John Daniel, but the St. Anne's bell and others of the same group bear another distinctive mark not found on any of Daniel's bells. This enables the date to be placed somewhere between the years 1470 and 1487.

The two other bells at St. Anne's were put in 200 years later. On each of them is the inscription, 'William Hvl made mee 1683. Iohn Smith Thomas Whiskey Chvrchwardens.' On one of the bells also are the initials 'IH.'

William Hull was another local founder who, at the time he cast these bells, had his foundry at South Malling. His history is not uninteresting, because his connection with the bellfounding industry can be traced, a matter which is impossible with many of the early mem-

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THE BELLS OF LEWES.

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bers of the craft. In the distant days to which we refer the means of communication even between places no further apart than London and the towns and villages in East Sussex, were slow and difficult, and it was often the case that the Master and Founder did not personally superintend the job, but sent one of his assistants, and it was no unusual thing for these assistants to place their own name or initials, as well as their master's, on a bell. By this means we are able to identify William Hull as an assistant of John Hodson, in his day the leading London bellfounder. William Hull's initials occur on many of Hodson's bells in Surrey, Kent and Middlesex between the years 1654 and 1671. His name occurs in full on some bells at Hailsham in 1663, which have also cast upon them 'John Hodson made me.' These bells Hull cast on the spot, making his furnace close to the church. About the year 1672 William Hull left the service of John Hodson and worked for another founder, Michael Darbie, for whom, in 1674, he cast two bells at Withyham and placed thereon his own initials. The same lettering which he used for these bells he used for himself when he set up in business on his own account at South Malling in 1676. Here he carried on his craft for eleven years, and apparently had a fairly prosperous business for, when he died in 1687 (he was buried at South Malling on August 13th of that year) his house and workshop were his own property. These he left to his wife for her life, but to his son, John Hull, he left 'all the Bell mettle that is really mine' (thereby indicating that there were other bells at the foundry to be recast or for some other purpose and which did not belong to him), 'and alsoe to have liberty to use the work house about the concern of his trade when hee shall have occasion.' The initials 'IH' on the St. Anne's bell are doubtless those of the son, John Hull, but the son does not appear to have carried on his father's trade.

The larger of the two bells at St. Michael's Church is by a founder whose initials were 'R.B.,' and it was cast in 1571. R.B. has never been identified by the antiquarians, but there are five bells in Sussex with these initials and all dated 1571 or 1572. He may have been one of the itinerant founders who travelled the country, setting up a temporary furnace wherever he could find work. But whoever he was, his identity has disappeared in the mists of the ages, although his handiwork remains.

The other bell at this church is another specimen of the work of Edmund Giles. It is inscribed 'Edmvdncv Giles me fecit 1608.'

Cliffe Church contains another Elizabethan bell whose founder is unknown. An indistinct inscription gives the date apparently in Roman numerals as 1566. This bell is the second of the ring of four.

The fourth is the next oldest bell, being one by Thomas Giles and cast in 1619. John Lulham cast the other two in 1649, and these bells bear the names of the churchwardens of the time, James Russell and Edmund Newbrough. Lulham carried on his business at Chiddingfold, and these two bells at the Cliffe are the only two specimens of his work which remain. They replaced older ones, and the details of the expense of recasting are to be found in the churchwardens' accounts for the period.

St. John's Church bells, although not so old, are nevertheless interesting as being examples of the work of a

known itinerant founder, one John Waylett, who can be traced through the county between the years 1714 and 1727, setting up his furnace in any neighbourhood where he could command orders. He first appears in Sussex at Burwash, in 1714. He was at East Hoathly in 1723 and, in the beginning of 1724, at Loughton, where he recast the five bells. From there he came to Lewes, where at St. John's there were three small bells, two of which were broken and the third much cracked. These he recast, and while in the county town also recast the old treble bell of the peal of five at Mayfield and supplied a new bell to make a ring of six. Of course, he visited



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, SOUTHOVER, LEWES.

Mayfield, in the first place doubtless to secure the job, and the churchwardens' accounts of the time include the following items:—

	s. d.
For beer to the ringers when the Bell Founder was here	2 6
For carrying ye bell to Lewes and back againe	£1 10 0
For beare to the officers and severall others & hanging up ye bell	18 0
For beare to ye ringers when ye bell was hong	6 6

Waylett probably cast a peal of five bells for Seaford while he was in Lewes or soon after, and he then appears to have gone to Steyning.

Of the other bells in Lewes it only remains to speak of those at Southover, which alone of all the churches can boast of a full peal. Its present ten bells are modern, but in tone they are individually and collectively far superior to any of the others I have mentioned. But the bells of Southover have a history, and the metal of which they

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are made probably includes some which for centuries has rung out from that tower. At the latter end of the seventeenth century there were four bells in the massive steeple, and they did duty until 1738. In that year it was agreed at a vestry meeting held on the 27th of September 'to send the four bells belonging to the said parish by Captain Wm. Headley to London in order to be new cast.' Thus probably they were loaded at the Town Wharf and despatched by water to the Metropolis. The old bells were recast and two new ones were added by Samuel Knight and Robert Catlin, and of the money contributed for the purpose 'Southover gave £62 10s. 6d., Lewes and the Cliffe £97 19s. 3d., Mr. Edward Trayton gave one bell value £32 0s. 6d., Country gentlemen £57 14s. 6d.' A hundred years later the bells were again recast and were then made into eight by the generosity of the Verrall family. As the 'East Sussex News' 'Diary of Events' reminded us, they were opened on October 29th, 1839. At the beginning of this century two more bells were added, to make a peal of ten, by Mr. John Thornton Rickman and his mother.

From this account of the bells of Lewes it will be seen that the county town possesses some priceless antiquarian relics in the church towers, some of them with far more than a sentimental value, for they have been hallowed by sacred use for hundreds of years. Perhaps this article will lead to more attention being paid to their care, for, strange though it may seem, bells, which, next to organs, are often the most valuable of a church's possessions and sometimes, indeed, intrinsically of more value than the organ, are often the most neglected part of the church's belongings. At Southover every attention is paid to them, because of the attention and activities of the ringers there, but one wonders when last anyone in authority at the other churches inspected their bells!

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT SUNDRIDGE.

A successful meeting of the Kent County Association was held on August 8th at Sundridge, at which 40 members attended from various towers in the district, as well as Mr. A. A. Hughes, of Whitechapel, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cross, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., Mr. C. Hazelden, Mr. H. Hoskins, Mr. T. E. Sone and Miss Spice.

The tower was open for silent ringing at 2 p.m., and at the service an address was given by the Rector, the Rev. J. Eyre, who referred to a peal rung in the tower 47 years ago, in which Mr. Groombridge took part. A collection for the association's benevolent fund realised 12s. 7d.

Tea was served in the Village Hall and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Rector took the chair. A member of the local band was elected to the association, and the Rector was made an honorary member on the proposition of Miss Brenda Richardson. The annual meeting of the district was fixed for Tonbridge on the second Saturday in October.

Mr. F. White proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, who replied and expressed a hope that the visit would be repeated.

Mr. W. Latter proposed a vote of thanks to Miss B. Richardson and the Sundridge band for arranging the meeting, and to Mrs. Richardson for playing the organ. The latter replied and said it had been a pleasure to her.

PROPAGANDA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the letter on propaganda from Capt. Daniels, and would like your readers to know of an experience we had at Beckenham, Kent.

A few years ago the band became sadly depleted, and in an effort to get recruits I suggested to the captain that we arrange a meeting and invite all and sundry to come along and see how the bells of their parish church were rung, also a demonstration of handbell ringing. I acquainted the Rector with our proposal, and he caused notices to be published in the magazine, and it was announced in several churches in the parish. In addition, I had several notices printed and placed in prominent places in the town. The local press also came to our aid and gave the cause some publicity.

A Thursday practice night was set aside for this purpose, and the belfry got an even more careful cleaning. I had also managed to get the support of some well-known London ringers to assist us give the demonstration.

The great night arrived, and half an hour after the appointed time to start the tower was positively filled to overflowing with parishioners who were 'interested.' And what a collection! Several old gentlemen with long beards, and quite a few elderly ladies trying to get their wind back after climbing 30 odd steps to the ringing room. In addition, there were quite 25 girls, ranging in age from 9 to 14 years. These all came from a local orphanage in charge of a matron, who, when asked if there were any possible recruits among them, told us that they could not be spared from training, as when they reached 14 years they were then sent into service. There were also a few schoolboys and young men.

We rang several methods on six, eight and ten bells, and during each interval endeavoured to explain the intricacies of our noble art, also showing them the actual working of the bells.

The outcome? Well, the following week there came hesitating steps into the belfry, and two maiden ladies of about 50 said they would like to learn.

The following week we had two more single ladies of doubtful age, one of whom was so stout that each time the rope came down from backstroke it hit her in the wrong place and went sailing all over the tower.

We persevered with all our new lady members, in spite of the handicap of their ages and nervousness, but, alas, after six months we had lost them all except the stout one, and she just would not do what she was told.

Our best recruit was a boy of 13, who up to the ban was doing very well indeed. Well, that was the result of our propaganda.

We thought we had left no stone unturned to get the best results, but it was a failure. We certainly acquainted about 70 people with our art who knew nothing of it before. Wishing other bands more good fortune than we had.

GEORGE W. FOGDEN.

21, Tudor Gardens, West Acton, W.3.

JOINT MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The fourth ringers' rally, arranged jointly by the North-Western District of the Surrey Association and the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild, was held at Leatherhead on August Bank Holiday.

About forty ringers attended from, among other places, Beddington, Croydon (St. John's), Epsom (Christ Church), Kingston, Leatherhead, Reigate, Chichester, Crayford, Enfield, Feltham, Putney, Twickenham, Worplesdon and London.

A few members enjoyed the ramble from Box Hill to Leatherhead through Norbury Park, and other members went direct to Leatherhead, where eight silent tower bells and handbells were available.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge who once again welcomed the associations to his parish.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, where the usually enjoyable meal was made even more enjoyable by music played by the Misses G. and S. Harman. Votes of thanks were passed to those who had arranged the meeting and to the Vicar for conducting the service.

The tower was again visited by some of the company, while other handbell enthusiasts remained to exhibit their skill in the tearoom.

WEDDING OF COVENTRY RINGER.

On Saturday, July 25th, the marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Coventry, between Mr. William A. Stote, eldest son of Mr. A. H. and the late Mrs. Stote, 22, Mile Lane, Cheylesmore, Coventry, and Miss Margaret A. Crossley, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Crossley, 34, Sparkbrook Street, Coventry. After the ceremony handbells were rung by Messrs. A. R. Webb, F. E. Pervin, F. Stone and E. Stone.

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SURREY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT REIGATE.**

About 35 members and friends attended a meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th, including a fair number of members from the Southern District.

Before the meeting a few members had a very attractive walk through the grounds of the ancient castle and then through the beautiful grasslands and woodlands of Reigate Park. They arrived at the Parish Church in time for a short service, conducted by the Vicar, who welcomed the association to his church.

After the service the party adjourned to Mr. Northover's house, where an excellent meal awaited them. The Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, spoke in appreciative terms of the work done for the Exercise by the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. The question of the future of the Southern District was discussed during and after tea. Votes of thanks were accorded to all those to whom the success of the meeting was due, especially to Mr. M. A. Northover for providing tea.

Later a meeting of the General Committee was held, while the remainder of those present had an enjoyable time wandering through the grounds of the house.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A notable feature of the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Saturday, August 1st, was the ringing by four lady visitors of a touch of Bob Major on handbells. They were Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, and the Misses Brenda, Dorothy and Monica Richardson, of Sundridge.

The death of a member, Mr. George Haynes, of Swanscombe, was announced, and one new member, Mr. H. L. F. Derrick, of Nailsea, near Bristol, was elected on the proposition of Major J. H. B. Hesse, seconded by Mr. A. A. Hughes.

A letter was received from Mr. Albert Walker, and the hon. secretary was requested to send to him the society's expression of sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery after his operation.

An interesting discussion took place on the necessity for umpires in handbell peals, and it was strongly urged that unless a man was fully capable of checking the changes from start to finish he could not be considered a capable umpire.

Mr. Newton conveyed greetings from Mr. R. T. Woodley, and Mr. E. Hartley from Mr. G. M. Kilby.

The Master was supported by the secretary, the treasurer and Messrs. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), H. Marcom (Lincoln), W. Melville (Kingsworthy), Wilfred Williams (Cheltenham), R. F. Deal, C. W. Roberts, J. A. Trollope, C. H. Kippin, H. Hoskins, J. Thomas, G. N. Price, E. A. Young, W. Madgwick, D. Cooper, C. Potheary, C. C. Mayne, E. Jennings, E. Hartley, C. Parkes and Corpl. Arthur, R.A.F. Mr. George W. Fletcher was a welcome visitor.

THE BILBIE FAMILY.**THE TERM 'SALLY.'**

To the Editor.

Sir,—As I lived for many years close to Cheddar tower, where we used to claim the tenor to be Bilbie's masterpiece (and in this were supported by some outsiders), I was interested in the letters about the Bilbie and Bush families.

Can one of the gentlemen who have written, or some other reader, tell us how far afield the Bilbies sent their bells and if they are really numerous?

I have never visited either place, but have been told there are Bilbie rings at Beaminster in Dorset and Llangwynyd in Mid-Glamorgan, possibly there are bells of theirs much farther away.

I was intrigued by the term 'Hung to sally' in the advertisement of Messrs. Bush. Can someone versed in bell lore tell us exactly what it means?

In the West of England, we used to call the hand-stroke itself the 'sally,' which seems reasonable, because after pulling the 'tuffing,' and when the fillet hole passes the pulley, the rope is whisked upward, i.e., leaps, which is the meaning of the word 'sally' (the word salmon literally means the leaper), and in course of time the 'tuffing' became the 'sally.'

The bellfounders may be able to tell us when the term 'hung to sally' was first used and why. I suggest that when bells were hung with half-wheels (I have seen such) there was no handstroke, so the rope did not leap or 'sally'; when they came to put whole wheels, and obtained the double pull, they said the bells were 'hung to sally,' sally in this case being a verb.

12, Armory Street, Ebbw Vale.

R. ALSOP.

P.S.—In case this comes under the eye of anyone in the Mendip country, they may be interested to know that as Cheddar tenor was cast in 1759, more than 40 years before the road was made through Cheddar gorge, she went down to the village from the top of Mendip, by the ancient track which up to that time had to serve, and of which only some portions now remain. I walked over the greater part of it some months ago, and I feel sure it must have been a ticklish job to transport a 24 cwt. bell over such a 'road' with the vehicles of that time.—R.A.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**WHY NOT AS AN EXTRA?**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—For the last few months I have followed with great interest the various articles in 'The Ringing World' about a National Association and the rehabilitation of ringing after the war. I think there are at least three things for which the ordinary ringer ought to be really grateful, viz., the existing associations and guilds, 'The Ringing World,' and the Central Council.

Now it seems to me that it would be a great tragedy for the Exercise if the existing associations and guilds were suddenly swept away after all the good work they have done during the last 60 years or more. On the other hand, it might be an advantage to the Exercise if ringing was, in some ways, considered more from a national point of view.

I have been wondering, therefore, whether it would be possible for a National Association to exist together with the existing organisations. In my humble opinion, the chief object of such a National Association would be to strengthen and bind together the present associations and guilds. I suggest that the officers of such a National Association should be elected by the Central Council and that all the present guilds and associations should be asked to contribute a certain amount of money to finance such a scheme, and that, if they did so, all their members should automatically become members of the newly-formed National Association. I suggest that for a start this National Association should hold four meetings a year in four widely separated parts of the country. I may have got hold of the 'wrong end of the stick,' but I have a feeling that if this subject was tackled somewhat on the lines I have laid down it would help to retain all that is best of the past and present and also give the Exercise additional strength and interest in the future.

As regards the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, I think we should all do our very best to support 'The Ringing World' to the utmost, even if it means some self-sacrifice to do so. It is most essential that 'The Ringing World' should continue both now and after the war. Also it will be up to each individual ringer to do his best to help forward the cause of ringing in his own tower and locality and to support his own county association or diocesan guild as the case may be. In conclusion, I would like to say that I think we ordinary ringers should have confidence in the Central Council, which has done so much good work in the past.

ALBAN DISNEY, Pte., 12th Batt. R.A.O.C.

THE SILENCE OF ITS ADVOCATES.

Sir,—If the advocates of a National Association do not put up a better show than they have at present there is not much chance of success for them.

I was at a meeting of the Essex Association on July 11th and hoped that at least one of the advocates who lives in the division would have been there to put forward the proposition of the above and also to tell us some, if any, of the gains which the Exercise will receive by it.

9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath.

E. W. PYE.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.**THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Taylor says I missed his point on the Westminster chimes. He is quite right, but I am not a bit sorry about it, as if I had caught it nothing further would have been heard of it. As it is, he has made his points clearer and brought an interesting letter by W. C. B.

Leaving out the tenor or hour bell, I am not so sure about different keys on eight bells. Any octave is made up of six whole tones and two halves with the halves between the 3rd and 4th and 7th and 8th tones. Starting on F, G or C, the three bells are a group of three whole tones F G A, G A B or C D E. Neither gets to the half-tone above or below. This is what I meant by saying why could the chimes on eight bells be in different keys?

About 50 years ago the clock in the Yeovil tower was erected and two trebles added, whether for the clock or for a ring of ten I do not know. I should say probably for the clock. They have since been recast and are a great improvement for ringing. I do not wish to contradict Mr. Taylor, only explain it as I see it. I am pleased to say that my remarks on hymn tunes interested at least one reader and ringer, as I have received a letter from him.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

F. SMITH.

THE CANTERBURY CHIMES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The Canterbury Cathedral chimes were composed by the late Canon Helmore on the fifth Gregorian tone to commemorate the landing at Ebbsfleet, Kent, in 597 of St. Augustine.

They are: First quarter, FEC. Second, FEC: BCDC. Third, FEC: BCDC—CDF. Hour, FEC; BCDC—CDF; ECB: C. The dash represents a pause. Only five bells are used, the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 of the peal of twelve. The hours are struck on Great Dunston (72 cwt.).

PETER J. H. SMALL.

Church Road, Upton St. Leonard, Glos.

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).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Leverstock Green on Saturday, August 15th. Tea and meeting in the School, Pancake Lane. Handbells, etc., from 4 p.m. Please let me know by Wednesday morning, 12th, if you require tea. Buses leave St. Albans (St. Peter Street), 314 route, every 1 and 31 minutes past the hour, and Hemel Hempstead (314 route) every 7 and 37 minutes past the hour.—W. Ayre, Old School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, August 15th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, at Swan Hotel.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, August 15th. Tower open 3.30 p.m. Bring your own tea.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the Schoolroom at Bulkington on Saturday, August 15th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Finchley, on Saturday, August 22nd, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow for those who notify me by previous Tuesday. Six-tower bells for silent ringing, also handbells.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Kibworth on August 22nd. Ringing (8 bells, silent) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.40 p.m., followed by tea. Those requiring tea must notify me by August 19th.—Herbert W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Handbells from 3 to 4 p.m. Business meeting at 4 and tea in the canteen at 1s. per head, 6 p.m. Tea can only be provided for those who notify me not later than August 24th. Please bring own sugar.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be at Springfield on Saturday, August 29th. Ringing on 'silent' bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. All who require tea must notify me by Thursday, August 27th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

PUBLICATION.

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

MARRIAGE.

STOTE—CROSSLEY.—On Saturday, July 25th, at All Saints', Coventry, by Rev. A. A. Thomson, William Alfred, eldest son of Mr. A. H. and the late Mrs. Stote, 22, Mile Lane, Coventry, to Margaret Amy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Crossley, 34, Sparkbrook Street, Coventry.

DEATHS.

NASH.—On August 3rd, at Rotherham Hospital, Albert Nash, of Rotherham and Wath-on-Dearne, aged 57 years.

WILKINS.—On Tuesday, August 4th, at the Acland Home, Oxford, Alice, the beloved wife of William H. B. Wilkins, sometime resident at Sittingbourne, Kent.

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