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**THE YEAR THAT IS GONE.**

As we stand on the threshold of a new year and look back on the twelve months that have passed we have much to make us thankful and much to give us quiet confidence in the future. In the wider sphere of national life, the year 1942, after many disasters and setbacks and many falsified hopes, has ended with the general situation at least brighter than it has been since the war began. In the narrower life of the Exercise we have held our own, and there are as yet no signs of any general decay and loss of interest such as might reasonably be expected to result from so long a silence of the bells. On the contrary, there is every evidence that, once peace and something like normal times return, the Exercise will be able to set about the task of rehabilitating the art of change ringing with far fewer difficulties than at one time seemed certain.

The great test was, of course, the victory ringing of last November. It was in every way a great event for ringers; great, because it gave them an opportunity which they did not fail to rise to; and especially great because it showed unmistakably how strong and deep is the hold church bells have on the sentiment and affection of the people of England. It was not merely that church-people love church bells because of the message they bring and the associations they have. That we could have been quite sure of. The wonder was that so many unexpected people showed how greatly the bells affected them, often almost in spite of themselves.

This is a cause of deep satisfaction to us ringers, and it lays a great responsibility on us, too. We must do everything to avoid anything like causing annoyance; and if we can do that, we need not fear any serious opposition to our ringing from the general public.

One excellent result of the victory ringing was that many ringers who had become lukewarm and had absented themselves from the belfry perhaps for years suddenly found their old enthusiasm reawakened. They made their way back to the steeples, and many of them fully intend to resume their places in the band when the ban is lifted. We hope it may be so.

Those men who form the leaders and the backbone of the Exercise, and to whom we look to maintain the art, have not failed us, and everywhere the evidence is that they are doing everything that can be done to keep interest alive. One gratifying sign is the number of hand-bell peals. In 1941 one hundred and forty-eight were rung. Last year the number reached two hundred and sixteen. Most notable was the large number on the

(Continued on page 2.)

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higher numbers. There were no fewer than six peals of Bob Maximus, ten of Stedman Cinques, twelve of Stedman Caters, and fifteen of Plain Bob Royal.

By the death of Mr. John S. Goldsmith, the Exercise and 'The Ringing World' suffered a grievous loss. So far, it has been possible to carry on this journal. No final settlement has yet been made, but it is hoped to reach one shortly. Ringers, however, must not lose sight of the fact that whether or not they are to still enjoy the benefits of a weekly paper depends entirely on how far they support any scheme that may be put forward, and whether the circulation can be increased to the point which will give reasonable financial security.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 3<sup>d</sup>, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

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

Tenor size 17 in A.

CLARENCE H. DOBBIE...	...	1 2		*WALT R H. DOBBIE ...	...	5-6
BETTY SPICE...	...	3-4		J H N E SPICE ...	...	7-8

Composed by J. A. TOLLOPE (C.C. Collection No. 14).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First peal on an 'inside' pair.

DAGENHAM.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

AT 1, ST. GILES CLOSE,

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

LEONARD W. BULLOCK ...	...	1-2		JAMES BULLOCK ...	...	3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK ...	...	5-6				

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—Mr. G. Playle.

The peal was rung as a 74th birthday compliment to the umpire, who has been a ringer at the Parish Church for 59 years.

## THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

TRIBUTE FROM TASMANIA.

The following letter has been received from Mr. A. R. Wilson, hon. secretary of the Holy Trinity Association, Hobart:—

Dear Mr. Trollope,—It was with deep regret that the bad news reached me of the death of our dear friend, Mr. Goldsmith. The tower flag was flown at half-mast and a muffled peal of Doubles was rung out of respect. During his stay at Hobart he made many friends, and they all deeply regretted his death. He stayed with me, and my sister naturally, together with myself, would like you to express our sympathy to his relatives. May 'The Ringing World' long continue. We send to all our English friends war-time Christmas and New Year greetings.—A. R. Wilson.

## GUNWALLOE CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading Mr. Ernest Morris' very interesting account of the 'Detached Towers of England,' now appearing in 'The Ringing World,' I see he states, in reference to the most unusual one of the church at Gunwalloe, Cornwall, that it has three bells. This was formerly true, but in 1926 my firm, Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., was asked to undertake their restoration. Two of the old bells were found to be badly cracked and broken and the remaining one, the treble, of exceedingly poor tone. The old framework was in the last stages of decay. In the circumstances it was decided to recast and augment them, and the tower now contains a most musical little chime of six bells in the key of E flat played by clavier.

I feel that Mr. Morris and others may be interested to have the foregoing information. The tower, if such it can rightly be called, must almost certainly be unique. It is at sea level and, as indicated in Mr. Morris' article, the solid granite of the cliff face is utilised for the landward half, the seaward half only being built up in masonry. Occasionally, when there is a very high tide and rough weather, the seawater actually washes into the ground floor chamber. I believe the church is only used during the summer months.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon.

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. A FAMOUS LONDON COMPANY.

(Being part of the twelfth chapter of an unpublished History of London Ringing by J. A. Trollope.)

The Society of Cumberland Youths was named after the youngest son of King George the Second, and out of the political events of the mid-eighteenth century. That much is certain, but most of the details of the account that has come down to us and that passes for history are embellishments supplied by men's fancies, and have no foundation in fact. Osborn tells us that in his time (that is a century ago) the tradition was that when the Duke of Cumberland returned to London after the Battle of Culloden, he entered the metropolis by the old North Road through Kingsland and Shoreditch. The London Scholars welcomed him with a merry peal on the bells of Shoreditch Church, and to show their loyalty and joy at his safe return they changed their name, and afterwards, to commemorate the event, an appropriate and ornamental medal with the likeness of the Royal Duke on his charger, enamelled in gold, was presented to the society, which medal is usually worn by the Master at the society's meetings.

The official rule book of the society, issued in 1891, contains substantially the same account, but other writers have allowed their fancy some freedom, and we are usually told that the Duke was so pleased with his greeting that he desired an interview with the ringers, congratulated them, and himself presented the medal.

The account, given in a history of Shoreditch Church written by Mr. Bradley, at one time secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths, is still more circumstantial. 'It is thought by some that the Duke was riding on horseback whilst a peal was being rung on the eight bells, and that he was so charmed by the music that he entered the tower and afterwards presented the two bells which then made them ten.

He certainly was a ringer and the founder of the Cumberland Society . . . and the medal was presented to the Society by the Duke himself in 1746.

'The Duke also presented a large oil painting of himself to the society, and this hung in the centre porch until the bells could be no longer rung, when it was removed to St. Martin-in-the-Fields.'

Osborn was secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths, and it is quite certain he knew all that there was to be known about the matter in his time. As he says nothing about any personal intervention of the Duke and nothing about his having presented the medal, we may take it that there is no truth in that part of the tradition. The story of the Duke being a ringer and presenting the two trebles, and the story of the oil painting are hardly worth notice. We should have heard something more about them if they had been true. Actually what was moved from Shoreditch to St. Martin's was a couple of peal boards, which still exist.

The tradition, then, is narrowed down first to the statement that the society is the same as the London Scholars with changed name, and secondly that the change was made because the ringers were the first to greet the victor of Culloden on his return to London. I think I can show that neither statement is true, but to understand how the name really was taken we must glance briefly at the

political events of the time and the part the Duke of Cumberland played in them.

William Augustus was the third son of King George the Second. He was born in London on April 15th, 1721, but by race was entirely German. He entered the army at an early age and, like his father and most of his family, was conspicuous for personal bravery. He was wounded at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, and in 1745 he was appointed Captain General of all the British forces at home and in the field. It was an office which no one had held since the great Duke of Marlborough.

England was then in the middle of one of the many wars with France, and on May 31st, 1745, an English and Hanoverian army, commanded by the Duke, was defeated at Fontenoy by Marshal Saxe. It seemed to Charles Edward, the grandson of James the Second, the last Stuart King of England, an excellent opportunity to try to re-establish the fortunes of his house; and so with a few friends he landed in August on the coast of Scotland. In a short time he was joined by many of the Highlanders, and with an army that grew as he advanced, he marched on Edinburgh, where he proclaimed his father as King James the Eighth.

A victory at Prestonpans over an English army under Sir John Cope put all Scotland in his power, and he then prepared to invade England. As General Wade was gathering forces at Newcastle, he took the western route. Carlisle was captured after a feeble resistance, and the invaders marched through Lancashire by Preston and Manchester to Derby, which they reached on December 4th. In London the news created a panic; there was a run on the Bank of England, which is said to have been reduced to the expedient of paying out in sixpences in order to gain time; and 'Black Friday' was long remembered in the City.

At Derby, Prince Charles was only a hundred and twenty miles from London, and the question has often been argued what would have happened if he had pushed on rapidly. At Finchley there was a force made up of guards and train-bands, and a victory over them, not impossible in the circumstances, would have given him the capital. But the citizens were bitterly hostile; the weavers of Shoreditch and Spitalfields offered the Government a thousand men; and two armies were marching to the relief of London, one under the Duke of Cumberland, who had been recalled from Flanders, and the other further north under General Wade. It could only have been a matter of time before the gallant band of invaders was surrounded by overwhelming force and cut to pieces. Charles Edward had all along only a gambler's chance. His one hope was a rising in England in his favour, and that did not happen. Even in Lancashire, which was strongly Tory and Jacobite, though the people cheered him as he marched through, they did not join his standard. Sir Watkins Wynn (a member of the Society of College Youths), who was the most influential man in North Wales, sent promises but sat still and did nothing. To go forward was to go to almost certain destruction. So the officers of the Prince's army thought, and much against his will they persuaded him to retreat. With that, all hope of success was gone.

Carlisle was reached on December 19th, on the return march, and, leaving a small garrison there, the Highland

(Continued on next page.)

**THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.***(Continued from previous page.)*

army fell back to Glasgow. The fear of a French invasion had called Cumberland to the south. His command was taken by General Hawley, who was badly beaten in a fight near Falkirk, and then Charles Edward and his army retreated to the Highlands, where, after one or two minor successes, they were finally overwhelmed on Cul-loden Moor (April 16th, 1746) by a superior army under Cumberland, who had resumed the command.

Two rather curious incidents happened in connection with this raid. Ten days after the Highlanders abandoned Carlisle, the small garrison left behind surrendered to Cumberland's army. The Duke treated the city not as an English town recovered from invaders, or as the capital of his own Duchy, but more like a captured enemy town. The mayor, town clerk, and eight other citizens were arrested and sent to London and, though the Cathedral clergy had been conspicuous in their loyalty to King George, the church was used as a prison for captured rebels and suffered so much from damage and defilement that it was months before it was again fit for divine service.

A demand was made by a Major Belfour in the Duke's name for the bells as a perquisite to the train of artillery, a demand which, naturally, 'was a surprise upon the members of the Chapter, and very ill relished by them.' Prebendary Wilson and two others waited on the Duke to desire his protection, and pointed out that the bells were the property of the dean and chapter, given them in their charter, and that the town had not any right in them.

The Duke received them coldly and refused to interfere. If it was a perquisite to a train, he told them, they could say nothing against it. This answer, of course, did not satisfy, and Wilson wrote to Dr. Waugh, the Chancellor of the diocese, who was in London, asking his advice and help. 'A moderate composition,' he wrote, 'would, I believe, pacify the claimant, but I'm firmly resolved at present, as are my two brethren, not to admit to any'; and he goes on indignantly, 'Is this the reward of all our toil? If the major takes them down, which he still threatens, I doubt not that the Lord Chief Justice would oblige him to replace them.'

In his reply, Dr. Waugh said the news had surprised him not a little. He had heard something about it, but could not believe the demand was made in earnest. He was fully persuaded that no law of the land and no military law would justify Mr. Belfour's demand. Every person he had spoken to had expressed surprise, and an old lieutenant-general of great reputation with whom he had dined (and others in that way of great consideration) was out of patience at the mention of it. He heartily and readily joined in the resolution of not paying one farthing as a composition.

The clergy's resolute stand had the desired effect. A few days later Wilson wrote to Waugh that the Dean (who apparently was away from the city) had assured him 'that the officers of the train are acquainted how agreeable that demand is to their superiors. Mr. Belfour has left the town without pressing the thing further. I imagine we shall hear no more from him, and that he is ashamed of the length he has gone. He has reason to be so, for it was scandalous, unprecedented, and illegal demand, and this he ought to be made sensible of. I have no patience when I think of it.'

In a later letter he wrote, 'No further demand has been made of our bells, and from your letters we are encouraged not to fear any.'

So the matter dropped and partly, perhaps, because the exigencies of the war had called Major Belfour away to other things. The demand was, of course illegal, but not so unprecedented as Mr. Wilson supposed. The Duke of Cumberland and his officers had been trained in the German wars, and here was a general idea that the officer commanding the artillery had the right to the church bells of any captured place as a personal perquisite. There is nothing very strange in the Duke's attitude, but it is not what we should have expected from the man who a few months later is supposed to have been so captivated by Shoreditch bells.

*(To be continued.)***A LETTER FROM INDIA.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—During May we called at a South African port, and, hearing there was a peal of bells in the town, I spent the first possible moment in tracking them down.

I was fortunate upon reaching the tower to find one of the local ringers performing on the hand apparatus, and, after canvassing among the Services canteens in the town, we collected enough to raise the back six (they are a peal of eight recast by Taylors, of Loughborough, about 20 years ago). Judging by the back six they are a very nice peal, and I was disappointed not to hear the full eight. However, we were able to manage Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles and some rounds with the less experienced visitors.

The local band only ring call changes, but are very meticulous strikers. The visiting ringers came from all branches of the Services, and among them was a ringer in the Royal Navy whose ship had been in action and who had sustained a broken spine. Although encased in plaster of paris, he nobly volunteered to stand in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, which, unfortunately, was unsuccessful due to someone hammering on the door for admittance. On opening the door we found another ringer, who had heard the bells and come to join us. We had not time that evening to start again for our 'quarter,' so after a few touches for the late arrival we reluctantly lowered the bells and sought entertainment of a different kind. The hospitality in the town was most exceptional, so you may imagine our shore leave was most enjoyable.

The following took place in India a few weeks ago. I was proceeding one Sunday evening to the Garrison Cinema at some barracks where I had arrived a few days previously, when I heard three bells being chimed with the regularity of clockwork. Following the sound, I came to the church and ascended the belfry stairs, where I found a native pulling three levers operating the hammers. He no doubt found it monotonous, but it sounded almost automatic. It had the effect, however, of sending me to church instead of the cinema.

I was grieved to read of the loss to the Exercise by the death of Mr. Goldsmith. I hope 'The Ringing World' will still be able to carry on. I look forward to it out here, although the news is three months old, just as much as when I received it on Friday of publication.

B. G. KEY (Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford).

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## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

## MEETING AT NORWICH.

A very successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, December 12th, in Norwich. Ringing took place during the afternoon on the eight at St. Giles', with clappers tied, and after the service, at which the general secretary was the preacher, 30 sat down to tea in the Suckling House. The towers represented were Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Norton Subcourse, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Wymondham and Great Yarmouth.

At the business meeting the general secretary announced that the new Bishop of Norwich had consented to become patron of the association. The safety of Mancroft bells was discussed. It was felt that a better course than lowering them would be to try to get the belfry windows bricked up to prevent draught in event of fire, and that the Rural Dean should be presented with a concrete proposal to this effect, also with an offer of up to £40 financial help.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Attleborough on Saturday, February 20th, if possible. It was announced that Mr. Arthur L. Coleman, former general secretary, was arranging to reinvest the association's holdings of National Savings Certificates, to gain more interest, also to have them held in the name of 'The President and General Secretary for the time being.' It was decided that a former proposal, to have the annual service in the Cathedral on Easter Monday instead of in Mancroft, should still hold good, even if the ban is removed from ringing by that time. The general secretary announced that he had stored the association's valuable old minute books, etc., in a safe in St. Peter Mancroft for the duration.

The general secretary announced that he had just accepted the benefice of St. Clement, Norwich, with St. George Colegate and St. Edmund, which he would in future hold together with the office of Precentor of the Cathedral; he will have three towers under his care, but alas! only two rings of 3 and one of 1; one tower has room for eight, if anyone has any to give away.

W. D. Taylor, R.A.F., was elected a non-resident life member, and Mrs. Goodman, of Mulbarton, was elected a member. It was pointed out that the local Press had given ringing very good publicity the day the ban was lifted, and this had led to some volunteers coming forward to learn ringing. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for playing the organ, Mr. Bird, the steeplekeeper, for tying the clappers, and the preacher brought a successful meeting to a close.

## NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

## RINGERS MEET IN A BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the past I have received two letters from the Middle East—one from Pte. S. Harrison, of Leicester, and the other from Sgt. J. Freeman, of Lincoln.

For a few days Pte. Harrison was stationed at Lincoln and during that time he, my youngest son and I made good use of his handbells. Early in January, 1942, Pte. Harrison left England and some eight months after my son John and now they have met somewhere in the Middle East. I leave the letters to describe their meeting.

An extract from Pte. Harrison's letter: 'Last evening, whilst doing my usual Sunday chiming at the Cathedral, another reunion in the Middle East took place. I had nearly finished a plain hunt on eight when someone entered the belfry. Almost every Sunday someone pays a visit to the belfry, so I paid no attention to this visitor until stopping for a breather. As it was five years since I had seen him, I did not recognise him until he spoke—then I knew him—it was your John.'

Sgt. Freeman's letter reads thus: 'I was just finishing a meal in a canteen next to the Cathedral when the bells started off as though being raised in peal; this was followed by a plain hunt on eight. By this time I had left my meal and was half-way up the belfry stairs, and, having gained the belfry, there saw Sid Harrison performing at the keyboard.'

The letter goes on to say that Sgt. J. Freeman, accompanied by Pte. S. Harrison, met on the same day a ringer from Irthingborough, whose name, I am sorry to say, I do not know.

JOHN A. FREEMAN.

95, Sincil Bank, Lincoln.

## A COMMEMORATION.

On Saturday, December 12th, a meeting was held at Hughenden to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the ringing of the first peal of London Surprise Major by the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Mr. F. Biggs was the only surviving member of the peal band who was present at the meeting. Mr. J. Evans was unable to attend, but sent his good wishes to those present. It was not possible to get into touch with the other two surviving members.

Ringers were present from Maidenhead, Hughenden, Wendover and Beaconsfield.

It was hoped to celebrate the occasion by ringing a course of London on handbells, but the band was unable to attempt this. Various methods, including Double Norwich, were rung.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths to-morrow a proposal to delete the rule requiring umpires at handbell peals will come up for discussion. There should be a very interesting debate.

At Waterloo and Victoria Stations, between 9 a.m. and noon on Christmas Day, records of church bells were broadcast by loud-speakers.

The first peal of Major, one of Oxford Treble Bob, was rung on December 27th, 1718, by the Union Scholars at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. The church and the bells were destroyed during one of the air raids.

On the same date in 1904 William Willson called the record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 17,104 changes, at South Wigston. It beat Washbrook's 17,024 rung at Kidlington in 1899.

The record peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, 10,176 changes, was rung at Brierley Hill by the Worcestershire Association on December 27th, 1909.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Morning Exercise Major at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on December 28th, 1737.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques outside London was rung by the Birmingham men at St. Martin's on December 28th, 1820. The length, 6,600 changes, was the longest at the time.

On December 28th, 1872, at Earlsheaton, Yorkshire, a band attempted to ring Thomas Day's 16,608 of Kent Treble Bob Major and stood the length, but at the end the bells were out of course and had to be jumped round. The peal has since been twice rung, once as Kent at Mottram in 1883, and once as Oxford at Debenham in 1892.

The first peal of St. Clement's Bob Major was rung at Eccleston in 1911; and the first peal of York Surprise Royal at Leicester in 1928; both on December 28th.

The four following anniversaries fall on the last day of the year: 1887, 6,720 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major at Liversedge; 1888, 15,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton; 1892, 12,096 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Maidenhead; 1897, the first peal of Oxford Surprise Major, at St. Peter's, Brighton.

To-day is the 150th anniversary of James Barham's 100th peal, one of Bob Major at Leeds.

The Huddersfield band rang a peal of Halifax Treble Bob Major on January 1st, 1866.

Fifty years ago on Boxing Day the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major on the bells was rung at Christchurch, Hampshire. Messrs. George Williams and Frank Bennett are the sole survivors of the band, who scored a second peal at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, on the same day.

On the following day the same men (with one exception) rang the first and only peal of Stedman Triples on the now destroyed bells at Holy Rood Church, Southampton.

### DEATH OF MR. F. E. DAWE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Francis E. Dawe, which occurred after his removal to hospital at Woking.

### MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.

The members of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, had a very pleasant surprise on Christmas morning, when Mr. Robert Brundle visited the belfry and took part in the ringing of Maximus in fine style. Mr. Brundle, who is in his 92nd year, walked two miles to ring as well as climbing the belfry stairs.

### JOINT MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A combined meeting of the Kent County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, December 12th, when 20 members attended. The bells were raised at 2.45 p.m. and were kept going till 4 p.m., the time fixed for the service, when an address was given by the Rev. — Duncan, who conducted the service.

Tea, arranged by Mr. Collinson and some lady friends, was served in the Parish Room, and the meeting followed with Mr. F. White in the chair. Apologies were sent by Messrs. Ladd and Collinson, of the local band, who were on Home Guard duties, and by Miss Richardson, who is now in the Land Army. This was the first meeting she had missed since coming to Sundridge, and the hon. secretary was instructed to convey the meeting's best wishes to her in her new vocation. The election of Mr. Kenneth Croft as a non-resident life member was confirmed, and an application for assistance from the Benevolent Fund was approved. The chairman welcomed a ringer from Tewkesbury Abbey, who is now stationed in the district.

Caters and Triples were rung on the handbells and later some returned to the tower for more silent practice, which concluded what many described as a very happy meeting.

The next meeting was fixed for Sevenoaks in March.

**CHRISTMAS BELLS.**—To-morrow (Christmas Day) church bells will ring out their joyful message and the day will be the better for this happy start.—The Times.

**THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

The Master presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on September 19th, and supporting him were the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) and the following members: Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope, C. Pothecary, R. Stannard, W. A. Hughes, F. E. Collins, W. H. Pasmore, R. T. Deal, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, H. N. Pitstow, H. G. Miles, C. H. Kippin, J. G. A. Prior, W. H. Hewitt and G. E. Fearn, of Birmingham.

A resolution was passed empowering Mr. Young to buy photographs of the members of the society at the Coffee Pot and St. Paul's Cathedral, for inclusion in the records of the tercentenary celebrations. Mr. Hughes kindly offered to supply one set of photographs.

The death of Mr. C. R. Lilley was mentioned, and the members stood as a tribute of respect.

Greetings were received from Mr. A. P. Cannon, now in India; and the Master specially welcomed Mr. G. E. Fearn, of Birmingham.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**

**MEETING AT GILLINGHAM.**

At the annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Gillingham, handbells were rung at the west end of the church, followed by a service, conducted by the Vicar, Canon R. E. G. Newman, assisted by the Rev. William Uphill.

At the business meeting the secretary stated that from the funds in hand £15 had been invested in Savings Certificates, leaving a credit balance of £7 7s. 1d. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins; vice-chairman, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; secretary and treasurer, the Rev. William Uphill; Ringing Masters, Messrs. W. Shute and L. Perrett. The Rev. C. E. C. Walker and Mr. G. Chaplin were elected members of the Guild.

The following resolution was carried unanimously: 'This meeting is strongly in favour of a speedy restoration of our church bells to their normal use, and respectfully asks the Hon. Member for North Dorset to support any action that may be taken towards this end.'

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards made sympathetic reference to the bereavement suffered by the chairman in the death of Mrs. Hellins.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF BRISTOL BRANCH.**

At the annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held on Saturday, December 12th, the question of the future supply of ringers was discussed, and it was finally decided that, if a suitable tower can be secured and the necessary permission granted, every endeavour will be made to equip it with a silent installation in order to establish a nursery for the sole purpose of training new ringers. A rota of selected members would be drawn up to act as instructors, and many offers have already been forthcoming. If the enthusiasm shown at the meeting can be maintained, the prospects should be good. Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. W. S. Emery were elected chairman and hon. secretary respectively.

**A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—While the subject of a National Society or Association is still being discussed, with all its advantages and disadvantages, might I say in a very few words how impossible the whole thing seems to me? With our Church of England diocesan system of church government, each ringing guild or society should belong to a diocese from which it receives its authority and power to use the bells either for service or peal ringing, and, of course, this authority only extends to the churches in the diocese. Any society, no matter how old or wonderful the name, without diocesan authority, always seems to me like Samson with his hair cut off. Even university societies seem to me to have only parochial authority.

At the moment we are a National Association, for only with permission of Parliament are we allowed to ring.

W. LINTER.

24, Serpentine Road, Fareham.

[Diocesan authorities, as such, have no power over church bells, and, therefore, cannot delegate it to any society or other persons.—The Editor. 'The Ringing World.']

**THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.**

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

The peal of Stedman Cinques rung at Birmingham on December 12th was the 200th by the St. Martin's Guild from 1889 to 1942. The following are the details:—

Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 14, Caters 2, Cinques 1, Stedman Triples 15, Caters 49, Cinques 102, Sextuples 1, Erin Caters 1, Cinques 1, Bob Minor 2, Major 2, Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 5, Maximus 2.

Ten others were rung by combined bands of the St. Martin's and Holt Societies—Grandsire Triples 5, Caters 2, Stedman Caters 2, and Stedman Cinques 1.

**SPliced CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR**

By H. G. CASHMORE.

5,056

23456	B	M	W	R	Methods
45236	—	—	—	—	C S C C C S S
24536	—	—	—	—	C S S C C S C
52436	—	—	—	—	C S S C C C S
34625	—	—	—	—	S S S S C C C
62345	—	—	—	—	S S S S C C C
36245	—	—	—	—	C C S S C C C
23645	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C S
64235	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C C
26435	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C S
42635	—	—	—	—	S S C C S C S
42356	—	—	—	—	C S C C S
35426	—	—	—	—	C S C C C C C
43526	—	—	—	—	S S S C C C S
65324	—	—	—	—	C S S C C C C
36524	—	—	—	—	S S S S C C C
53624	—	—	—	—	S S S S C C C
63425	—	—	—	—	C S S S S C S
54326	—	—	—	—	C C S S C C S
32546	—	—	—	—	S S S S S C C
53246	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C S
25346	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C C
34256	—	—	—	—	S C C C S C C
23450	—	—	—	—	C S C C S C C

Rung at 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, Herts, on December 10th, 1942, conducted by the composer.

**ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.**

**THE BROADCAST OF THE BELLS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your issue of December 4th a note from Mr. G. W. Steere appears asking for information about a broadcast from St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Sunday, November, 15th.

Well, I have heard no one here mention it, but this morning I received an airgraph from A. P. Cannon, now in India, saying he heard the ten bells quite plainly. I thought perhaps this may be of interest to readers of 'The Ringing World.'

G. WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

[Mr. James E. Davis sends us similar information.]

**DEATH OF MRS. ALFRED BOWELL.**

The death is announced of Mrs. Rosa Bowell, widow of the late Alfred Bowell, bellfounder and ringer, of Ipswich, and mother of Mr. Frederick Bowell. She had been in poor health since last Christmas, but in September it was found necessary to remove her to Ipswich Hospital, where she passed away on November 25th after a long illness, at the age of 66 years. Although having no great interest in bells, she was well known among the older ringers of the district, and by those visiting the foundry. She leaves no other family except her son. The funeral took place in the grave of her late husband in Ipswich Old Cemetery on December 1st, only near relatives being present.

**DETACHED TOWERS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As a personal friend of Mr. Ernest Morris, I am loth to criticise his account of the tower and bells of the old church at Woburn. It is correct up to a point, but somewhat out of date—32 years to be exact.

In 1910 the Vicar, prompted by the late Charles Herbert, the founder and first secretary of the Bedfordshire Association, persuaded the Duke of Bedford to remove the bells to the tower of the new church, which was built in 1868. The front six and tenor were taken down (leaving the seventh to strike the hours), and, together with the metal of the 55 cwt. bell from the new church, were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry into the present very fine peal of eight with a tenor weighing 24½ cwt. in D.

H. D. HARRIS.

Woburn, Beds.

**DEATH OF MR. EDWIN J. HARDING.**

The death is announced of Mr. Edwin J. Harding, sen., of Portsmouth, who passed away on November 26th at Ilfracombe after a short illness, at the age of 68.

Mr. Harding began his ringing career at the age of 12, and his interest in the art increased as time went on. For many years he was secretary of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and he did much to raise the standard of ringing in the district.

He rang about 166 peals and conducted four. The development of good Sunday service ringing was his main objective as well as the encouragement of the young ringer.

He was buried at Portsmouth within sound of the bells of St. Mary's, and Mr. Symons, for years foreman of St. Mary's, represented the band.

## DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 583.)

Kent has several examples of detached towers—one formerly at Bexley Heath is now demolished. Before this became a separate parish, a church was built near the communal gravel pit, and this church had a steeple. This was about 1840. As the population grew around, the church proved inadequate, and when the parish was constituted, the first Vicar decided to build a new and larger and more handsome church. This was opened about 1865. The old church was then pulled down, but the steeple left standing partly as a landmark and partly as a mortuary chapel. The steeple was thus on one side of the road and the church on the other. When, however, after the graveyard had been closed and the steeple needing repair, no funds were available and, although a public appeal was made, no enthusiasm was shown, the steeple was finally dismantled, nothing remaining save a stone to show the site of the former altar.

At Bilsington, near Ashford, there is a curious old bell bearing the inscription, 'In multis annis resonet campana Joha nis' (For many a year the bell of John shall sound). This hangs in a frame by the side of the porch—a very unusual place—having been removed some years ago from the church tower. Stahlschmidt's 'Church Bells of Kent' gives this bell, cast by Henry Jordan (1442-68), and another by Richard Phelps (1710), but says that the latter is cracked. Originally there were 'iij bells in the steple.'

At Brookland, Kent, St. Augustine's Church has a quaint belfry thus described by Mr. C. G. Harper in 'Ingoldsbury Country':—

'Imagine three old-fashioned candle extinguishers placed one upon another, and you have that odd campanile very closely imitated. It stands apart from the church, is of massive oak framing, weather-boarded, and thickly and elaborately tarred.' It contains a ring of five bells, the third being by Henry Jordan, of London (1442-68), and others by John Hodson, 1685. Brookland Church is also noted for its remarkable leaden font.

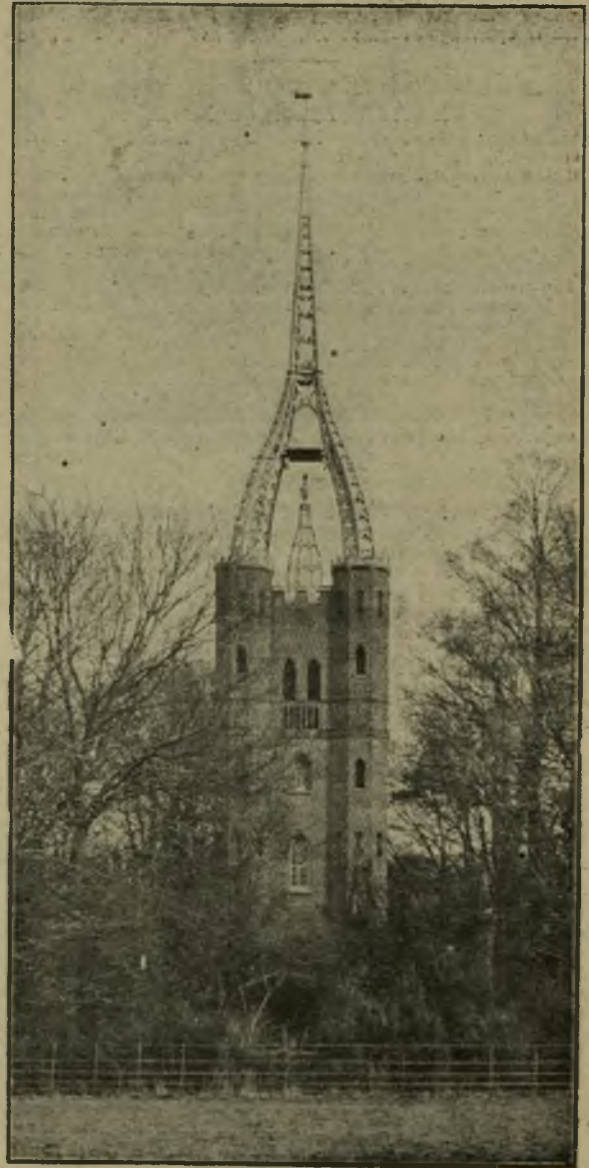
Another Kent example is at St. Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea, which was consecrated by Archbishop Benson on July 23rd, 1884. The church is generally entered by the north-west door, which leads through the tower and thence into the church. In July, 1940, during an air raid, a bomb fell not far from the east end of this church, fortunately not causing a great deal of damage to the fabric. The tower contains one bell. The other Kent detached tower is the famous Waterloo Tower in Quex Park, near Birchington. It contains the light ring of twelve bells (tenor 15 $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt.), and is set in sylvan surroundings, being built by Mr. John P. Powell, the owner of the extensive demesne.

The notebook of Parnell gives the following interesting account:—

'John Powell Powell, Esquire, a gentleman worth £20,000 per annum in landed estates, at the village of Birchington, 13 miles beyond Canterbury, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles on this side Margate in the Isle of Thanet, county of Kent, has built a large brick tower in his park 60 to 63ft. high and 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft. within the walls of the belfry, and hung a ringing peal of 12 bells in it: cast by Thomas Mears of London in the years 1818 and 1819. Hung by Mr.

Charles Oliver in Feby. March & April 1819, they are in the key of F, the tenor weighing 16 cwt., and the opening is to take place on August 4th, 1819. The College Youths and Cumberland Youths of London are invited to the opening. This copy given at Sheffield on Rainey July 20th 1819 by John Alfred Parnell.

'N.B.—Mr. Powell will have a lofty spire on his tower two-thirds of cast iron, and to be sprung with four quarter-circle arches: then it will be a noble sea mark being only one mile from that briny fluid.'



THE BELL TOWER, QUEX PARK.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

There is no complete record of all the peals that have been rung here, but details of the first performance have been preserved. The report reads: 'Wednesday the 4. inst. (August 1819) was the day announced for the Public Opening of the Bells, which were cast and hung by

(Continued on next page.)



## QUEX PARK BELL TOWER.

(Continued from previous page.)

Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel, London and, as might be fairly expected from the novelty of the ring, attracted a considerable concourse of fashionables (it being in the vicinity of Margate) and the interest of the scene was considerably enhanced by its having no parallel, that of a gentleman erecting in his park a tower, with spire, in front of his noble mansion, and placing therein a peal of twelve bells solely for his amusement and to attain the art of change-ringing, having an eminent tutor for the purpose, who, in patronising this manly art, has evinced a considerable ability in this very abstruse science. Two societies of twelve bell ringers of London (the Cumberland and College Youths) were invited to this festive scene, where booths were erected and the park and pleasure grounds were opened to the assembled auditors. The onset commenced by each company giving a specimen in a touch of 900 Cinques, after which the Cumberland Society rang a fine peal comprising 5,213 Grandsire Cinques, in three hours and 19 minutes, this was the opening peal. The other society did not attempt a peal, but contributed alternately to give touches of about an hour's performance on that and the following day, which closed the never-to-be-forgotten treat to the amateurs of the manly art of ringing.

Squire Powell did much to encourage the art, not only by building this tower, but in other ways. He was a good ringer himself, and the following note in Parnell's MS. states:—

'John Powell Powell Esqr.'s band of change ringers performed John Holt's 5,040 ten-course peal in 1820 on the last 8 of his peal of twelve in Waterloo Gothic Tower in his park and village of Birchington near the Briny sea by Margate in the Isle of Thanet and County of Kent. Esquire Powell rang the tenor and Mr. William Shipway conducted the peal.'

As may be expected, a great many peals in all methods have been rung in this tower.

(To be continued.)

## THE EXERCISE.

AS SEEN BY A JOURNALIST.

In real life bells obviously give a great deal of pleasure to a great many people—especially to those who ring them. Do not think that, because you do not enjoy listening to the bells from the church tower, they are giving nobody enjoyment. To pull a bell-rope is apparently a form of blissful self-indulgence comparable to drinking a vintage wine or playing cricket. Such are the pleasures of bell-ringing that John Bunyan came to the conclusion that bell-ringing must be a sin, and he repented of his youthful passion as though it had been an outrage on the Ten Commandments. All over England you will find that bell-ringing has survived through the centuries as the secret vice of a small community—as freemasonry like that of poets and oboe-players. If you go up into the belfry of a church that takes pride in its bells you will find the names of the ringers recorded in brass as enduringly as the names of great batsmen and bowlers are recorded in 'Wisden's.' Their triumphs are unknown to the general crowd; and I doubt whether the world rewards them. They are content to have their names written up in the secret places of the church to which the vulgar seldom penetrate. They are content to have been members of a village team that once beat another village team in ringing the changes. They ask no better epitaph than that, and, unlike some epitaphs, this epitaph happens to be true. They have acquitted themselves honourably in what someone once described as 'the oldest of true English pastimes,' and under the belfry they should, in the end, sleep well. Think of all the headings one has seen in the newspapers about bell-ringers. 'Bell-ringer for fifty-six years.' 'Sixty-six years a ringer,' and 'Bell-ringer at seventy-eight: sixty years in one church.' Is there any other national pastime that can boast of so many examples of a life-long love as this?—Y.Y. in 'The New Statesman and Nation.'

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TERM.

The Oxford University Society entered the current academic year with excellent prospects, no less than eight old members, six of whom had rung peals, remaining. The main preoccupation was to secure a good number of recruits, so there has been less opportunity than usual for practice in more advanced methods and for peal attempts. Nevertheless, touches of Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich and Grandsire Caters have been brought round, and Stedman has received more attention than hitherto.

Five peals were rung, comprising three of Bob Major and one each of Grandsire Triples and Bob Royal, these being the first of such peals for the society. Miss M. Telford rang her first peal, and W. F. Moreton his first in hand. Also, two peals of Minor, in three and seven methods respectively, were scored during the long vacation.

New members have been plentiful; about 25 have come at various times, and of these some 15 remain keen. By good fortune, two competent tower-bell ringers—W. F. Moreton from Hereford and D. P. Jones from Hitchin, Herts—have come up this year. Both could ring handbells a little, and have been quick to learn more. The usual system of tower-bell practices on Wednesdays and handbells on Saturday evenings has been adhered to, and here the thanks of the society must be extended to Mr. W. C. Porter, who has come regularly on Wednesdays to give his valuable help in the teaching of beginners. Progress in handbell ringing has again been good, most of those who came at the beginning of the term can now ring 1-2 to Bob Major. Now that numbers are so large, however, there is a very real danger that individuals will have inadequate practice. Next term, therefore, the holding of additional small practices will be encouraged and extended.

The society again rang for evensong every Sunday at St. Mary's, and also rang handbells as part of the sound effects in an undergraduate production of the mediæval mystery play, 'Everyman,' also at St. Mary's. This elicited very favourable comments in the Press, and gained the society two recruits. The St. Hilda's contingent rang for their carol service at the end of term, and members from Somerville rang before evensong in the College Chapel on November 15th.

The highlight of the term was, of course, the victory ringing. It was decided that New College bells must not be silent, so a few members spent part of the previous Friday afternoon and the whole of the Saturday afternoon in replacing the clappers—a joyful but very dirty task. Then the next week came the corresponding job—much less joyful but just as dirty—of removing them again. The O.U.S.C.R. can be proud of the fact that no fewer than ten of its members, past and present, assisted in the ringing. In addition, several lady members, all learners since the ban, rang some very creditable rounds, showing that practice on silent tower bells is by no means valueless. Almost all of the remainder of the society spent the morning walking round Oxford and climbing up into the various towers, as did many other undergraduates. Because of this arousal of enthusiasm, a fresh recruiting drive was instituted, with gratifying results.

The amount of keenness there is in Oxford at the moment may be gauged from the attendance at the last practice of the term, which was made into an informal party. Twenty members, together with eleven city ringers and friends, were present.

To conclude, a few words on future prospects in view of the new call-up scheme will be opportune. The society is so largely female at the moment that the Government's decision to abolish arts courses as such at universities may have very little effect. On the other hand, it seems quite possible that the calling-up age for women may also be lowered to eighteen, in which case the immediate future of the O.U.S.C.R. would, indeed, be uncertain.

## NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER.

There was a successful gathering when the members of the North Staffordshire Association held their fifth annual dinner on Saturday, December 19th, at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the inauguration of the association.

The president, the Ven. P. Hartill, was present, and the Rev. Hugh Benson (chairman) presided, supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary), Miss Evelyn Thompson, and the Rev. S. F. Linsley (clerical secretary). Others present were the Rev. and Mrs. F. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. G. Jones and Messrs. E. Steele (assistant hon. secretary), G. Hobbrook, A. D. Steel, H. Bloor and Corpl. W. Perkins, R.A.F.

The toast of 'The Church' was proposed by Mr. G. Jones, and the Rev. F. Forrest responded.

The Chairman then toasted 'The King.'

A touch of 168 of Grandsire Triples was rung by A. W. Lloyd 1-2, A. Thompson 3-4, the Rev. Hugh Benson 5-6, G. Jones 7-8.

The Rev. S. F. Linsley proposed the toast of 'The North Staffordshire Association,' and Mr. C. H. Page responded. A course of Bob Major was then rung by A. W. Lloyd 1-2, C. H. Page 3, G. Jones 4, the Rev. Hugh Benson 5-6, A. Thompson 7-8.

The toast of 'Absent Friends' was proposed by the Rev. Hugh Benson, and the toast of 'The Ringing World' was proposed by Mr. Edward Steele.

Handbell ringing then brought the evening to a close.

## CHRISTMAS BELLS.

We have received reports of the ringing on Christmas Day from various parts of the country.

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.**—Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and plenty of good rounds and Queens were rung by Mrs. B. Walls, Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft, Messrs. W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor), J. Herod, R. Wimpenny, J. Clayton, W. Hawke, A.C. Eric Shaw, R.A.F., P. Hadfield, H. Ellis and W. Turner. Among the visitors were Mr. and Miss Joan Houldsworth, of St. Anns, Blackpool, Mr. J. Shaw, of Oswaldtwistle, Pte. C. Banham, of Attleborough, and Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hawkins, of Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—At St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples by T. Kelly, W. E. Box and F. Morgan (St. Chad's local band), G. E. and H. H. Fearn (Birmingham Cathedral), J. N. Lindon (Yardley), E. Cole (Edgbaston) and G. Chaplin (Birmingham Cathedral).

**BROMLEY, KENT.**—At St. Luke's, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major by G. Huxley, I. Emery and James, of the Bromley Parish Church band, W. Lyddiard, J. Lyddiard, Cullen, Purdom, Whitehead, Oakshett and Miss Oakshett, of St. Luke's. Mr. George Huxley will be 78 years of age next April. Previously the band rang touches of Minor at Hayes.

**BROXBORNE.**—Set changes for a short time, followed by 504 and 168 of Grandsire Triples by Miss N. Radley, Miss O. Gladden, Miss M. Long, C. Gouldsmith, F. Gouldsmith, G. Radley, A. Radley, D. Hemmond, F. Perrin and J. Luxom.

**BRIDGEND, GLAM.**—Touches of Grandsire Triples. Included in the band was an old member, who had not turned up for nearly 20 years.

**CLIFTON, BEDS.**—Grandsire Doubles by T. Dibley, E. Dibley, E. Earl, C. Sharp, F. Washington and a ringer in the R.A.F. from Gloucester.

**CROMPTON, LANCASHIRE.**—720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor by B. Whitehead, S. Wareham, J. R. Buckley, H. Oates, R. H. Byrom and J. Butterworth (conductor); 36 Plain Bob, 720 Kent Treble Bob and 504 Oxford Treble Bob: W. Oates 1, S. Wareham 2, J. R. Buckley 3, Harry Oates 4, R. H. Byrom 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) tenor.

**EALING.**—At St. Stephen's and St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire Triples: J. E. L. Cockley, E. C. S. Turner, P. E. Clark, E. J. Walsom, J. A. Trollope, F. Miller, A. Harding, A. H. Harding, M. Stacey, W. Coulson and J. E. Churchill.

**FARNHAM.**—The following men took part in the ringing: W. H. Barry, S. R. Churcher, H. Cummings, W. Linter, A. H. Poole, T. H. Read, A. G. Tull, Capt. C. A. Vessey (Sutton-on-Trent), T. Worsford and L. R. Walker.

**PELKIRK, YORKS.**—Rounds, Queens and touches of Plain and Treble Bob Minor by K. Bryant, R. Ford, J. T. White, R. Hill, W. Tibble, P. Woodward, D. Smith, J. Smith (Friezland), A. Dunn Birch (South Kirkby) and W. Hemmings (Rovston).

**GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.**—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. E. Ashcroft 1, C. Raddon 2, S. Horsfall 3, S. N. Harrison 4, F. Taylor 5, G. Taylor (conductor) 6. The ringer of the 3rd is 79 years of age and has been a ringer at the above church for well over 50 years.

**HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK.**—Three 336's of Bob Major: J. Nunn 1, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 2, Mrs. G. Money 3, J. Thurlow 4, H. Jillings 5, C. C. Goodwin 6, J. O'Neill 7, A. H. Took 8. Also 252 Bob Triples, Queens and Whittingtons, in which W. Kemp, S. Ekins and A. Foster took part.

**HEMINGFORD ABBOTTS, HUNTS.**—720 Bob Minor: C. Favell 1, G. L. Perkins 2, H. Saunders (aged 80) 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, H. Lovender 5, J. Perkins (aged 77) tenor. It is, perhaps, worthy of note Mr. Saunders and Mr. J. Perkins have been ringing together for nearly 60 years.

**HUNLOW, BEDS.**—720 Grandsire Doubles and 720 Bob Minor: A. Gentle, K. Wilton, A. Dille, L. Bywaters, P. Tompkins, P. Thompson and J. Church.

**HENBURY, GLOS.**—All the local ringers, nine in number, were present. The bells were raised in peal. Rounds, Queens, firing and Grandsire Triples were rung.

**HESTON.**—Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major by C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler, H. Conner, E. R. Gladman, W. T. Godfrey, F. Humphreys, A. Jones, M. W. Norman, Miss P. Norman, W. H. Stevens, W. W. Webb and three visitors.

**IPSWICH.**—At St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Double Norwich Court Bob Major Stedman Caters and Kent Treble Bob Maxims by W. J. G. Brown, C. Curson (Norwich, R.A.F.), G. A. Fleming, W. P. Garrett, P. May, H. R. Roper, C. J. Sedolev, G. E. Symonds, Phyllis Tillett, J. F. Tiltott, F. J. Tiltott and W. Tiltott.

**LEICESTER.**—At the Cathedral, two courses of Stedman Cinques: Samuel Cotton treble, Lou's Allen 2, Mrs. H. J. Poole 3, Herbert W. Perrins 4, Harry Wayne 5, Alfred Ballard 6, Harold G. Jenney 7, Shirley Burton 8, Sidney Cheney 9, James A. Harris 10, Harold J. Poole 11, John Grant tenor. Other members of the band who attended were Jill Poole, Frederick E. Wilson, George Straw and Thomas Taylor.

**LEWISHAM.**—Grandsire Triples by H. Warnett, sen., H. Warnett, jun., J. Bennett, C. H. Walker, W. J. Dav, G. R. Simmonds, R. W. Boyes, Rifleman R. Barley, S. W. Ball, P. J. Spice, F. E. Pitman and A. E. James.

**LIVERPOOL.**—At St. Francis Xavier (R.C.) Church, Stedman Triples by T. W. Hammond, P. W. Cave, T. Butler, sen., T. R. Butler, T. W. Gilmour, G. R. Newton (conductor), E. C. Birkett, T. Williams and T. W. Hammond.

**LYME REGIS, DORSET.**—Being one short for Triples, Grandsire Doubles were rung with other bells covering; also some good rounds in which the younger members performed most creditably. The following took part: Mrs. L. Powell, F. Blackmore, J. E. Philbrick, S. Philbrick (his first ring after five years in the Middle East), E. Tett, W. Sartin, the Mayor (W. Emmett), the Rev. C. Carew Cox and, among the recruits, Joan Burlinson, John Burlinson, Clifford Travis and Neil Adams. At 4.15 p.m. the handbell ringers visited the hospital and entertained patients, staff and friends present with a course of Grandsire Triples double-handed, some Bob Major (apped) and a number of carols played with harmonies. Tea was provided afterwards at the kind invitation of the matron. The ringers were Mrs. L. Powell, the Vicar, Joan Burlinson, John Burlinson, Neil Adams and Brian Wellman.

**MARHAM, NORFOLK.**—Several touches of Plain Bob Minor by E. Barker, V. Bowen, F. Matthews, jun., F. Matthews, sen., A. Mason, J. Buckenham and W. Buckenham, as well as three members of H.M. Forces.

**MORRISTON, SWANSEA.**—Grandsire Doubles and call changes by E. Rees 1, B. Williams 2, J. T. Williams 3, L. Pelzer 4, G. Lewis 5, D. G. Williams 6.

**NORTON, STAFFS.**—Touches of Cambridge Surprise and Oxford Treble Bob by W. C. Lawrence, C. S. Ryles, J. Walley, J. Ryles, W. Corfield, J. E. Wheelton, A. J. Jack, S. B. Bailey and F. Triner.

**RINGWOOD, SUSSEX.**—Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and call changes, as well as some rounds for six learners who have been practising on clapperless bells during recent weeks. In all 20 ringers were present.

**RUISLIP.**—Stedman and Grandsire Triples by Cpl. K. Arthur, W. Bunce, sen., A. Hunter, Cpl. E. Coward, P. Thrift, W. S. Beaumont, T. Collins, H. Ive, Miss Joan Braybrooke and Mr. A. Smithson, of Sheffield.

**SITTINGBOURNE and District.**—A combined band rang Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major at Borden, Sittingbourne and Lunstall. Fourteen ringers took part.

**SOUTHWELL.**—At the Minster, touches of Grandsire Triples, Queens, Tittums and Whittingtons: The Very Rev. the Provost, W. J. Conybeare, G. E. Padgett, E. Ross, R. Fowkes, A. Chilton, G. E. Foster, W. D. Shorthose, F. Pickard, A. J. Chamberlain, J. F. Milner and J. P. Beeson.

**STEPNEY.**—At St. Dunstan's, three courses of Grandsire Caters: E. G. Fenn treble, W. S. Langdon 2, C. W. Roberts 3, J. A. Waugh 4, H. Langdon (conductor) 5, F. Digby 6, Sergt. N. Chaddock 7, J. G. A. Prior 8, R. F. Deal 9, A. B. Peck tenor.

**SURFLEET, Lincs.**—Ringing took place on all the 12 bells before and after morning service, 15 ringers taking part. Rounds on the 12 and Bob Major with four bells covering was rung. Amongst the ringers were the Rev. E. Bankes James and three members of H.M. Forces.

**TACKLEY.**—The following took part in the ringing: V. Broom, W. Evetts (conductor), J. Cadd, J. Loughton, E. Bloomfield and J. Broom.

**WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.**—Some well-struck touches of Oxford Bob Minor by W. Weaver, V. Turrell, G. Warnett, F. Turrell, C. Longhurst and W. Denman.

## STANDARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am surprised to find that my first copy of 'The Ringing World' received overseas (August 21st) contains in the editorial a plea for all ringers to deliberately concentrate on lowering their standards when ringing is permitted to function as before. The majority of ringers throughout the land will echo your remarks on good striking, but do not encourage the lowering of one standard to elevate another.

I am convinced that generally a band who have the knowledge and enthusiasm to ring a large number of the higher methods are also enthusiasts over perfecting their striking. Some bands do let the latter take the second place to method ringing, but to them the ringing of Surprise methods, etc., is as simple as the ever popular Grandsire and Plain Bob is to others. Therefore, in order to elevate the standard of striking, extra concentration in that direction is what is required and not any lowering of method ringing standards. If post-war reconstruction in the field of change ringing is to be as hard going as your article suggests, and with which I agree, then the continual practice of the higher methods and variety of methods should be given encouragement to the full.

We are all striving to attain higher levels in all walks of life, and the lowering of any vital standards will only hinder, not help.

R. I. SHEPHERD, Sgt., R.E.

Per Airgraph.

**CHIMES AND RINGERS' JUGS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I greatly enjoyed the recent articles of Mr. Morris on 'Chimes and Ringers' Jugs.' He brought a lot of new facts to light and I am sure that we are all indebted to him.

In his article on chimes I noticed that he does not mention the chimes at Cirencester, Glos, which used to play the 103rd Psa.m at the canonical hours of 3, 6 and 9, also those of Bath Abbey are omitted. This carillon was installed in 1890, and three times a day, at 1, 5 and 9 p.m., plays a tune varying with the day.

On Sunday the chosen air is 'The Easter Hymn,' and on Monday, 'Stella.' On Tuesday, 'The harp that once through Tara's hall' reminds hearers of Ancient Ireland. On Wednesday the ears of the faithful (and unfaithful) are beguiled by the strains of 'All Saints'; but on Thursday the air is 'Ye banks and braes o' Bonnie Doon,' Friday is signified by 'Come, all ye faithful,' while on Saturday the chimes send out, of all the airs in the world, 'Tom Bowling.' Certainly no one can accuse the selectors of the seven airs of lack of catholicity. I have not heard all the airs, but I have very fragrant memories of 'Tom Bowling.'

Regarding Mr. Morris' explanations in his ringers' jug series, I thought his explanation about the beer drinking habits of the people, because of the high price of tea, very good. It brought to my mind that in the 17th century in Wales it was the custom of maids to ask their prospective mistress if she drank tea. It was an added inducement to them, because they were always sure of the 'bottoms' of the teapot, and to them was a 'feast.'

I am afraid that sometimes ringers are thought to be a 'boozy' lot, because of our treasures in the various ringers' jugs throughout the country, but some of the registers of Cardiganshire churches in the 17th and 18th century make interesting reading. At Llangranog, near New Quay, we find in the entry at Easter, 1760: 1s. 6d. for killing a fox, 2s. 6d. for drinks. In 1764 appears the following item: 'No ale shall be used or drank in any vestry henceforth on the parish expense, under ye penalty of 20s. on every offender and offenders after this date.' Evidently somebody went too far.

Near Aberporth is the ancient church of the parish of Mount. This old church needs some finding and well repays a visit. In 1828 the parish brewed its own beer, for its registers record: 'Pd Hops, Malt and Brewing, £1 5s.' And history records that it was consumed at a vestry meeting. In 1831 is a record of churchwardens' wages, £4 14s. 6d.

At Llanilar were some thirsty people: 1797, 'Pd cash for ale consumed at several vestries, £1 3s.' In 1801 the amount was more. 'Pd ale at vestries, £1 12s. 6d.' By 1805 the thirst was still greater, though there is no record that the numbers present were more than in former years: 'Pd for ye ale, £2 15s.' At Llangelilo on March 12th, A.D. 1781: 'In a vestry meeting kept in the Parish Church about the Malasia (Millitia) we have a quart apiece of ale.' At Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn appears the following: 1817, 'That a table of degrees be procured in the Welsh language. Allow'd for Ale at Jas. Evans 5s.'

Pity the singers, no more ale for them, only for the vestry of this parish. 1824. Agreed not to give any allowance for ale to the singers in future. Ale at Jas. Hughes, 5s.' These ale entries seem to be the marrow and essence of most of our old vestries up and down the country, and to-day, alas, are no more. There is also evidences that the vestry meetings adjourned to licensed premises. Note the registers of the small hamlet, Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn, five miles distant from Aberystwyth: 'The Easter Vestry in 1782 was adjourned to the house of Jane Rees, widow.' In the vestry in January, 1786, 'drank 21 quarts of ale at David John Rees, 7s.' Two months later at the Easter vestry we read that the meeting drank 42 quarts of ale at the house of David Thomas, 15s.

I will now conclude with the stealing of the church bell of the parish of Gwnnws, near Llanilar, by a disappointed litigant in a legal case at Cardigan. This happened in the 18th century, and the reason it was stolen was that the victorious party in the action intended to ring the church bell immediately on his return to the parish. But, alas, the loser reached the parish first, and took the bell away and hid it in a bog field. In the year 1875, two men cutting peat or bog on land belonging to the farm, called Berth-Lwyd, found the bell embedded in this bog field, and to-day it hangs in the turret of the Parish Church, with a newer companion, which is, however, cracked. This bog bell, as the natives term it, is very sweet toned, and duly sounded his praise of thanksgiving a few Sundays ago.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

**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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ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held at headquarters, Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 2nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. A proposal to delete or amend the rule relating to umpires at handbell peals will come before the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who notify me not later than January 14th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Town Hall. Handbells only, from 3.45 p.m. Admission only with identity cards. Reports to hand.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th. Service at 4 p.m. Handbells available from 2 p.m. Please bring own eatables, cups of tea will be provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

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