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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF BELLS.

The latest part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' does not deal with any bells which are known to ringers generally, or have played any part in the history of change ringing. The story is told of one ring of six and one of eight, and the rest of the book is concerned with single bells and rings of two or three. But that does not mean that there is any lack of interesting matter in these pages. On the contrary, from the archæological point of view they are worth far more than the modest sixpence which is asked for them.

Bell archæology naturally is a subject which appeals to comparatively few people, but to those who do study it it has a strong and peculiar fascination, and even the average ringer will find his interest awakened when the matter is illustrated by such admirable photographs and drawings as in this book.

It is inevitable that the bells best known and most prized by ringers should be those which are least interesting to the archæologist. We care little about what inscriptions are on Mancroft, or Painswick, or Southwark bells, or whether the lettering and the ornamentation are artistic or not. What we value in them is their tone, and of course that is what really matters in bells. If we want interesting inscriptions, antiquity, and examples of the work of rare founders, we must seek it for the most part among the humble threes and fives in out-of-the-way village churches.

A most interesting example is illustrated by Mr. Sharpe. It is the smallest of two bells at Kingston Lisle, and weighs only about three-quarters of a hundred-weight. It is quite plain and void of inscription, but it dates from the middle of the fourteenth century, and it still hangs in its original fittings, an elm headstock with a lever morticed in, which was the usual method before the half-wheel was introduced.

For six hundred years that bell has been doing duty, week in and week out. There are, of course, many objects, in museums and elsewhere, much older than that, but they are merely relics of past ages and have long since outlived their practical usefulness. This bell is just as serviceable to-day as when it was first put up.

There are perhaps no other things which have come down to us from remote ages entirely unaltered and still serving their original purposes to be compared with church bells. The towers they hang in have preserved their identity, but in every case they have been altered and restored. The bells are absolutely the same, for a

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cracked and recast bell is a new bell, and only by courtesy can be called the same.

Here, perhaps, we may find some reason for the appeal church bells have to the people of England, an appeal which, as we lately discovered, is still strong and universal. There is nothing else which forms so subtle a link with the past, and nothing which is so able at times to stir up in men memories of events and scenes long past. Bells cannot rank very high as musical instruments, and change ringing has small claims to be called music; yet in their own sphere they hold a position which is unique and unchallengeable.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ...	5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ...	7-8

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
 Umpire—Frederick E. Collins.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
 DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS ...	3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ...	7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.'

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTE.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON ...	1-2	MRS. R. RICHARDSON ...	5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ...	3-4	S/Pilot A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN ...	7-8

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

Witness—Mrs D. L. Tomlinson.

Rung in honour of the engagement of Sergt.-Pilot A. J. BRIAN
 Waymen and Miss Enid M. Richardson.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 8050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH ...	3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' † 50th peal.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourth quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, followed by the annual meeting, took place at the Guild's headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., being in the chair.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business, the chairman referred to the loss the Guild had sustained by the death of John Jaggard and Francis E. Dawe. The former had been connected with the Midlands all his life and belonged to the St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, company at the time they made ringing history both in the tower and on handbells. Later on he came to reside in Oldbury, and for upwards of 20 years he organised a band of handbell ringers to visit the West Bromwich and District Hospital on Christmas Day to ring tunes in the various wards. He was an excellent ringer and always jolly good company, and whilst they regretted the passing of such a man, yet they could not be sad as he had led a full and useful life, having attained his 81st year.

Francis E. Dawe was well known to the older members of the Guild. He had presided at the Henry Johnson Commemoration and proposed the 'Memory' toast on several occasions. He, too, had had a full and useful life, and they ought not to be sad at his passing. Mr. Smith asked all to stand for a moment as a last tribute of respect to their memory.

Miss A. M. Rhodes, of Castle Bromwich, was elected a member of the Guild on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Fearn, seconded by Mr. A. Morris.

Mr. W. Davies, on behalf of the Aston company, invited the Guild to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston Parish Church. He could assure them of a hearty welcome and as good a tea as the circumstances would permit. This was seconded by Mr. A. Walker and carried unanimously.

The treasurer, presenting the annual accounts, stated that although he had to report a small loss on the year, which had been occasioned by their generosity in supporting a very worthy cause, he considered the Guild's finances were in a very healthy condition, and moved that the accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, giving the auditors' report, stated that he and Mr. H. H. Fearn in the absence of the official auditors had examined the books and in his opinion the accounts now presented showed the true state of the Guild's finances, and he considered the treasurer was to be congratulated on the collection of subscriptions, which had kept up remarkably well. Mr. H. H. Fearn confirmed and stated that the accounts were clear and kept in a very satisfactory manner.

The accounts were unanimously adopted, and the treasurer thanked for his services.

All the officers were re-elected for the year 1943 with the exception of Mr. Fred Price as one of the auditors, circumstances preventing him from performing his duties. Mr. H. H. Fearn was elected in his stead.

On the proposition of the chairman, seconded by Mr. H. Withers, it was decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration this year on similar lines to those in the past war years, a lunch at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 6th. Mr. F. B. Yates, a highly respected member of the Guild, will be invited to take the chair. The other arrangements were left in the hands of the secretary.

Mr. F. E. Haynes and Mr. A. Walker reported on the ringing on Victory Sunday and Christmas Day. About 30 ringers mustered in the Cathedral belfry at 9 a.m. on Victory Sunday. At 10 a.m. Stedman Cinques were rung at St. Martin's, Triples at St. Chad's Cathedral and also at the Parish Church, Handsworth. On Christmas Day, owing to transport difficulties, the numbers were not so good, but Caters were rung at the Cathedral at 9 a.m. and Triples at St. Martin's and St. Chad's, whilst Caters were also rung at Aston.

Apologies were received from E. T. Allaway, James George and G. H. Williams. About 40 members attended, and during the evening some good touches were brought round on the handbells, including a fine course of Stedman Cinques.

IMPERIAL THE THIRD.

On January 13th, 1772, was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, 6,040 Imperial the Third in 3 hours and 58 minutes. Conducted by John Chamberlain.

All ye performers of this art
 Join hand in hand and bear a part.
 Praise of Imperial loudly sing,
 And these here men who did it ring.
 For Norwich sons most justly famed,
 And other ringers here hath shamed.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. George Williams' explanation of the word 'Royal' in the title of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths is ingenious, but it is to be hoped it is not the correct one. The only objection to the word lies in the fact that it might suggest that the society has or has had some connection with royalty, which is not so. YZ.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 17.)

THE LONDON SCHOLARS.

One of the regrets of the historian of London ringing is that so little can be known of the Society of London Scholars. It was founded some time towards the end of the seventeenth century, and for many years was one of the two leading companies in London, the equal of the Society of College Youths socially and, until the advent of Benjamin Annable, probably its superior in practical ringing.

These two companies were the first to practise Grandsire Caters, and in 1718 they made another big advance in the art possible by the joint gift of two bells to St. Bride's, Fleet Street, to complete the ring of twelve. This was not the first ring of twelve in England. York Minster had that number as early as 1655, but they were a very unsatisfactory lot, the tenor being 63 cwt. and the trebles only about 3 cwt. The ring at Cirencester was increased to twelve in 1722, but though, both in that town and at York, great interest was taken in bellringing, in neither was there a band sufficiently advanced to practise Cinques, and it was the ring at St. Bride's which first made change ringing on eleven and twelve bells possible.

The College Youths are said to have rung the first five thousand in 1690 at St. Sepulchre's, but no record and no tradition has survived of any similar performance during the next twenty-seven years, though such is by no means unlikely, for it was a period of great ringing activity and the possibilities of a full peal of Triples must often have been discussed among London ringers.

By ringing a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's in 1717, the London Scholars achieved what is generally recognised as the first authenticated five thousand in the Metropolis. A board was put up to record it, but when the church was repaired in 1796 it was taken down and destroyed, and the particulars of the names of the band and the conductor are lost.

When this peal was rung and for some years afterwards the London Scholars were at the height of their fame and activity. In contemporary opinion they and the College Youths were 'the only performers in Europe to whom all preference in the art must be given.' It is likely that after about 1720, while they admitted no inferiority to their rivals as practical ringers, in them the 'gentlemen' element was stronger and there had not been the abrupt change we notice in the others. A contemporary newspaper speaks of them as consisting of 'gentlemen and others.' Class distinctions were very much more marked in the eighteenth century than they are now. Men who were entitled to write 'esquire' after their name could and did mix freely with the lower orders for purposes of sport, but there was no pretence of any equality.

The Society of College Youths had for long been composed of men who ranked as gentlemen. Then came the time when such forsook the art, and the society would have lapsed if it had not been for the advent of a number of men of lower middle class headed by Annable. Perhaps the ultimate extinction of the Society of London Scholars was largely due to the fact that they tried to carry on in the old style after the conditions favourable to it had passed away, and could not, or did not, adapt

themselves to the changing social conditions of the Exercise.

The records of the society are lost, and in their absence we cannot tell what peals they rang, but it is most unlikely that the activity of their rivals did not spur them to emulation, or that they did not ring a peal on St. Bride's twelve bells, or that they had not the entrée into some bell-fries, such as St. Clement Danes', or St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, or Christ Church or St. George's, in Southwark, which was denied to their rivals.

It is well to remember that had it not been for the industry and great good luck of Edward John Osborn in discovering and securing the peal book now in the possession of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the manuscript now in the British Museum, we should have known no more about the early peals of the College Youths than we do about those of the London Scholars. Our only sources of information would have been peal boards and a vague tradition. There remained until recently only two boards recording performances by the College Youths in Annable's time; neither peal was conducted by him and only one gave any particulars. That one was destroyed when St. Bride's was burnt out in an air raid.

In 1728 we have a glimpse of the relations between the two leading companies. A match was arranged to take place at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where Abraham Rudhall had recently completed the ring by adding the two trebles.

Whether it was the result of a challenge or by invitation of the parish authorities we do not know, but probably it was the latter. And what the terms of the contest were we do not know, but most likely there were none, and it is certain there was no prize or stake money, though no doubt there was a dinner afterwards, provided by the parish. The London Scholars were asked to ring first, and they gave their best. The College Youths followed and tried to do better.

On Thursday, March 14th, the London Scholars accomplished 'the first compleat peal of Six Thousand Cinques.' They started at one o'clock according to the newspaper report, and finished at 6.30; which, if the times are correct, was slow ringing, nearly four hours and a half for a five thousand. Probably the timing was only approximate—the board says nothing about it.

Next day the College Youths 'held it 5 hours and a quarter.' They rang 6,314 changes of Grandsire Cinques, the longest that had been rung at the time; and as 'it was allowed to be the finest yet known of that nature,' presumably they won the match. But the others were well satisfied with themselves, and erected a large and costly frame in the belfry to commemorate the performance. They seem to have had more money for that sort of thing than their rivals.

(To be continued.)

KINGTON MAGNA.

On New Year's Eve a dance was arranged at Kington Magna by a local committee of the National Farmers' Union in aid of the Red Cross. At the request of the committee, four boys with an octave of handbells took their stand shortly before midnight in the centre of the floor, and the company present made a ring round the room, while the old year was rung out and 1943 rung in. The boys wished all a happy New Year, and, with the Rector at the piano, 'Auld Lang Syne' was sung.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that this Dorset village with a population of 312 has raised just over £100 for the Red Cross during the last two months.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The first peal of Single Oxford Bob Major was rung at Warnham in Sussex on January 10th, 1899, and on the same date in 1935 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Huntingdon Surprise Major.

What was possibly the first true peal ever rung in London, and certainly the first peal on ten bells anywhere, was one of Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on January 11th, 1717, by the London Scholars.

On January 12th, 1857, the Liversedge band rang the first peal of Rose of Eng'land and Treble Bob Major. The method is the same as Kent, but with 6th's instead of 2nd's when the treble is dodging in 7-8, and 2nd's at the lead end.

James Barham and his band rang at Leeds, in Kent, on January 13th, 1753, half the extent of Bob Major, 20,160 changes. It was, of course, performed by relays of ringers. James Barham died on January 14th, 1818, at the age of 93.

The first peal of Forward Maximus was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on January 13th, 1903.

Benjamin Annable called the first peal of Double Bob Major for a band of College Youths at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West on January 14th, 1726. The church has since been rebuilt and the bells recast. They have not been rung for many years.

Mr. H. R. Newton turned in the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to a peal of London Surprise Major on January 14th, 1910.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,720 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on January 15th, 1771.

The first peal of Crayford Little Bob Major was rung at Crayford on January 16th, 1926.

Fifty years ago yesterday the first peal at St. Albans Abbey for over a century was conducted by Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham. Mr. G. H. Cartmel rang the 5th and Mr. C. H. Martin the 7th.

A LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed letter may be of interest to the members of the Central Council who were at the meeting at Canterbury. It will be remembered that a party of New Zealanders were in the next room, and, on hearing the handbells, asked permission to join us. They were very interested, asked numerous questions and finally decided to postpone their departure the next day in order to visit the belfry of the Cathedral. The writer of the letter was the leader of that party.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

(Copy.)

New Zealand
16th November, 1942.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Richardson,—To-night our minds and thoughts are especially with you and all the folk in our beloved Homeland.

We had been notified by the B.B.C. that the bells of Old England's churches are to ring out to-night as a call to thanksgiving and in celebration of the great victory accorded to our armies in Egypt and North Africa.

And my thoughts carry me back to the kindness of the bellringers whom I was so fortunate to meet when I was in England last, meeting your company in the first place at Canterbury, where we witnessed the act of bellringing in the Cathedral and listened to music of a kind to which we have almost become strangers except for our memories, our meeting culminating in the acceptance of your hospitality at Surfleet. Memories which will never fade.

Those folk out here who, like me, remember the church bells at home are quite excited at the prospect of sharing with you all the pleasure of hearing those peals ring out once more.

It has touched many folk on a very tender chord, and, as one lady said to me, she could not trust herself to listen in unless alone.

We have followed the events in the Old Country as closely as the B.B.C. and Press make possible to us, and are more than pleased to think that the tide of the war seems at last to have turned. The strain of the war during the last three years must have been tremendous, but the way in which you people at home have stood up to the strain has been to us an amazing example of courage and fortitude.

We shall join with you to-night in the psalm of thanksgiving which you will ring out over the air to-night. May it prove the forerunner of more and continual news until the day arrives when you will be able to resume bellringing as in the days before the war and when we shall all be able to turn our thoughts to peace.

And may you enjoy a happy Christmas is the wish of your friends out here in distant New Zealand.

With every sincere good wish from us both, Yours very truly,

DENNIS A. NEAL.

The bells of Westminster Abbey are ringing now, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Armagh Cathedral, Llandaff Cathedral, St. Mary's, Lancaster? and Coventry.

FRIZLAND.—At Christ Church, on Tuesday, December 15th, on the silent anniversary, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor and 120 Grandsire Doubles: Gunner L. Dawson, H. Nutt, Rev. F. F. Rigby, H. Barlow, W. W. Wolstencroft, J. Carter.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

RULE NOT ALTERED.

There was an excellent attendance of members of the Ancient Society of College Youths at the Bell Foundry on January 2nd, and, in addition to the Master: hon. secretary and treasurer, the following were present: Messrs. E. Barnett, J. W. Chapman, J. E. Lewis Cockey, W. H. Coles, F. E. Collins, R. F. Deal, L.-Cpl. Len Fox, E. Hartley, W. H. Hewett, H. Hoskins, E. Jennings, G. M. Kilby, C. H. Kippin, H. G. Miles, A. T. Parker, W. H. Pasmore, C. Potnecary, G. N. Price, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, R. Stannard, R. Spiers, J. A. Troilope and F. A. Young.

Two new members were elected, Mr. A. T. Parker, of Chiswick and late of Chorley, Lancashire, and Mr. E. W. Izard, of Victoria, British Columbia.

The deaths of Mr. F. E. Dawe and Mr. Stedman White were referred to, and a letter of sympathy was sent to Mr. R. White, of Appleton, on the death of his son Frank in North Africa.

Mr. F. E. Collins moved that the rule which says that handbell peals rung without umpires shall not be booked, should be deleted. He said he did so for the good of the society, for he was sure it stood in the way of performances being credited to the College Youths. He reminded members of what Mr. Albert Walker had said at the annual luncheon. The rule was a hindrance to progress.

Mr. Edwin Jennings seconded and gave some of his experiences with the Bushey handbell band.

Mr. E. Barnett thought the rule had a meaning at one time, but had outlived its usefulness.

Mr. George Price did not agree with the last speaker. If ever safeguards were necessary they are necessary now.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that whatever reasons there might be for making a change, it was not desirable to alter rules at the present time. It was not fair to those members who could not be present, either because they were in H.M. Forces or for other reasons.

Mr. H. Hoskins did not think human nature had altered since the rule was passed.

Mr. C. H. Kippin pointed out that the rule was no safeguard. False peals could still be rung, for a band could choose what umpire they liked. The rule was useless.

Mr. A. B. Peck pointed out that the society did not say un-umpired peals must not be rung. It only said that bands who wished to have their performances entered in the peal book must have an umpire.

Mr. J. A. Trollope agreed with Mr. Hughes that rules should not be altered in war time. If they went by what people did rather than by what they said, there could be no doubt that the Exercise as a whole did not consider umpires necessary. There were some peals where for their own sakes conductors would do well to have umpires, for it was quite possible to miscall a peal and not know it. There was an example in the figures given in 'The Ringing World' that week.

Mr. Roberts drew a parallel between umpires for handbell peals and umpires in football matches.

On the motion being put to the vote, nine were for and eleven against, eight not voting.

LADY RINGERS AND HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very gratifying to observe that, of the no fewer than 15 peals published in last week's 'Ringing World,' there was at least one lady member of the band in all but one. Altogether eleven different ladies' names appeared—Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Mrs. Jack Bray, Mrs. E. A. Barnett, four of the Misses Richardson and the Misses Cross, Spice, Poole and Chick. No doubt the Ancient Society of College Youths will have viewed this with especial pleasure!

It has also been pleasant for an 'exile' from that county to see the revival which has taken place in Kent during the last year or two. Before that, apart from an odd peal or two of Bob Major and several in the Gravesend area about ten years ago, there had been no handbell peals in the county outside the Lewisham District, and great credit is due to John Spice and the Misses Richardson for the enthusiasm they have displayed in their respective neighbourhoods. As Mr. William Spice did not ring his first handbell peal until over 80 years of age, perhaps other Kentish ringers who have yet to break their duck will be encouraged by his example.

ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne, was held at the Cathedral on Wednesday, July 22nd. The Precentor, the Rev. O. Hole, was in the chair and the following members were present: J. Spencer, J. Murray, E. Knott, F. Boughton, A. Reeder, H. Ross, G. Wheeler, W. Wagborn and B. Zelius. The meeting took the form of a send-off to the Precentor, who has resigned and is to be inducted as Vicar of St. Peter's, Box Hill, on August 12th. The society made him a presentation of a pipe during the evening and wished him success in his new parish.

The news of the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was received with great regret. He was one of the English members of the society and a muffled peal would have been rung, but owing to war conditions this was impracticable.

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY-TWO.

A CURSORY SURVEY.

For ringers the most outstanding event of the past year was the temporary lifting of the ban, and the victory ringing for the battle of Egypt. Although there was very short notice given, ringers everywhere mustered in full force in the bellfries, and, on the whole, the ringing was reasonably good in quality. The interest taken by the Press and the general public was surprising, and was a good augury for the future.

At one time it seemed likely that the ban would be permanently lifted or modified, and much pressure was brought to bear on the authorities to that end. It did not succeed, however, further than securing permission for ringing during a limited period on Christmas morning. We may not have heard the last of the matter.

The victory ringing stirred up a great deal of enthusiasm, and, apart from that, interest has generally been well maintained among those to whom we shall have to look for leadership in the days of reconstruction. The two principal luncheons of the year—the Henry Johnson Commemoration at Birmingham and the College Youths annual feast—were both well attended and highly successful.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

A number of well-known members of the Exercise passed away during the year. Of many of them—perhaps the majority—it can be said that they had completed their work and left their influence behind them, but most of them will be greatly missed.

The most prominent and best known was John S. Goldsmith, the founder, and for so many years the editor, of this journal. He had rendered service to the Exercise the value of which it is impossible to estimate. The esteem and affection with which he was generally held was shown by the fact that a fund of over £500 for his benefit was raised during the three or four months before he died.

The Rev. William Carter Pearson died on January 13th. He was 82 years of age and had been Rector of Henley, near Ipswich, for 47 years. He was the founder of the Cambridge University Guild, and was a prominent peal ringer in the days when East Suffolk formed part of the Norwich Diocese. He devoted much time and patience towards forming a collection of old and rare books on ringing, and this fortunately has been preserved and is now in the Cambridge University Library.

Charles W. Clarke, who died on January 9th at the age of 77, was for many years the mainstay of the art at Bedford, and Charles Mee, who died on January 20th, at the same age, was known all over the country and at the Central Council, as well as at Sproughton, where he lived, and at Ipswich, where he did a lot of his ringing.

Cornelius Charge had lived for many years in New Zealand before his return to England, but forty or fifty years ago he was one of the most active of London ringers. He also had considerable success as a composer of peals of Stedman Caters.

The Midland Counties lost an old and valued servant by the death of William E. White, of Cotgrave. He was 77 years of age and died on June 17th.

William Crickmer, of Earl Soham, was a fine example of the East Suffolk ringers with their devotion to Major ringing and high standard of striking. Albert Nash had done sterling work for the Exercise in the Rotherham district of Yorkshire.

A man who was universally esteemed and held in affection was William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley. He died on August 29th at the age of 86.

The talented band at Helmingham sustained a severe loss by the death of their captain, George Whiting, who passed away on September 4th at the age of 57.

Almost the last of the famous Burton-on-Trent band, who were making ringing history sixty years ago, was John Jagger. He died on October 30th at the age of 81. He had the distinction of introducing James W. Washbrook to the belfry.

LOSS BY ENEMY ACTION.

Another well-known Burton ringer (though of a later date) was John H. Swinfield. He was 79 when he died on November 18th.

Charles R. Lilley had been an active ringer in several parts of England, notably in Bedford and Shrewsbury. In his last years he did good work among the ringers of Devon.

Francis E. Dawe was the first hon. secretary of the Central Council and a past master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He had taken part in several notable 12-bell peals and had conducted peals in a large number of cathedrals. He was 80 years old.

John Flint was a first-class ringer and formed a band of outstanding ability at Bolsover, where he lived.

Others besides these have passed away during the year, and though they may not have been equally well known generally, in their own districts they leave gaps which will have to be filled up if the life of the Exercise is to be maintained.

The denorable destruction of churches and bells through enemy action, which characterised the earlier years of the war, has fortunately been very much lessened. York, however, lost a ring of eight, and the twelve at Great Yarmouth were totally destroyed. This brought up the number of twelve-bell rings ruined to four, the other three being in London. The total number of rings of five and upwards destroyed since the war started is about 36; but it may turn out that others have been damaged or will no longer be able to be rung on account of damage to the towers.

One tower bell peal was accomplished, but, of course, not in England. The Arklow band rang Grandsire Doubles on their eight bells with 7-6-8 covering.

Interest in handbell ringing was well maintained. There was no individual performance the equal of the Spliced Surprise Major by the Bushey band of a few years ago, no long lengths, and no peals in fresh methods as there were in 1941; but in most other respects last year surpassed previous records. In all, 225 peals were rung, in a great variety of methods ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Stedman Cinques and Spliced Surprise Major. The details are as follows:—

MANY HANDBELL PEALS.

Grandsire Doubles 17; Triples 35; Caters 6. Plain Bob Minor 22; Major 50; Royal 15; Maximus 6. Stedman Triples 3; Caters 13; Cinques 10. Little Bob Major 5. Kent Treble Bob Minor 1; Major 6; Royal 5. Oxford Treble Bob Major 4. Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major 2. Plain and Gainsborough Bob Major 5. Six Spliced Plain and Little Methods 2. Double Bob Major 1. Double Norwich Court Bob Major 8. Superlative Surprise Major 1. Cambridge Surprise Major 2. New Cambridge Surprise Major 1. Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major 1. Doubles (2 and 3 methods) 2. Minor (2 to 13 methods) 7.

At Birmingham and at Leicester peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques were rung; and at both places the standard of striking is a high one. One of the Birmingham peals of Cinques was rung non-conducted, and one was the 100th handbell peal for the Guild since it assumed its present status as the diocesan organisation.

In Derbyshire, at Eckington, a young band scored two peals of Bob Maximus, a very fine performance, and the continued activity by the Oxford University Society is one of the best signs of future life and prosperity in the Exercise.

One or two good performances were accomplished at Bushey, notably peals of Cambridge, New Cambridge, Superlative, and Spliced Cambridge and Superlative.

At Bournemouth, Mrs. Marshallsay and Mr. A. V. Davis continued their activity and have many peals of Grandsire Doubles and Triples to their credit. Other bands, too, which we have not mentioned are not less worthy of praise.

THE TOP SCORERS.

The top scorer for the year was Mr. John E. Spice. He rang 47 peals and called 30 of them. The list is a very varied one, ranging from Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples to Bob Maximus and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner was second in numbers. He rang 38 and called 25. His list includes Cambridge, Superlative, and Spliced Surprise, Stedman Caters, Treble Ten, Double Norwich, and a lot of lesser methods. During the year he reached his hundredth handbell peal and his fiftieth on handbells as conductor.

Mr. W. L. B. Leese was third. He rang 37 peals and called 10. His, too, was a fine and varied list.

There were others who distinguished themselves, though they did not ring so many peals as these three. Mr. Harold Cashmore, Mr. Harold Poole and Mr. John Thomas each called several five-thousands. Miss Jill Poole accomplished the really remarkable feat of ringing peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques at the age of 13.

SPLICED CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is so long since I composed the first peal in these two methods that I have forgotten how it was done. What is remembered is that it seemed very difficult, at the time, to find. However, on examining the excellent peal by Mr. H. G. Cashmore, just published, the obstacles in the way seemed not so great.

Mr. Cashmore is to be congratulated on his production, with its excellent musical qualities, but the idea came to me that there might be a peal in simpler form. This led to Middleton's peal, true to both methods, and only the falseness between the two, one against the other, to guard against.

Trial proved that both methods could be included in this, and the resulting peal is here given, with its reverse variation:—

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

5,600							
23456	M	W	H	Methods	Methods reversed		
43652	—	—	—	C S S C S S C	C S O C C S S		
56234	—	—	—	C S C C S S C	C S S C C S C		
23564	—	—	—	S S C C S S C	O S S C S S C		
52364	—	—	—	C S S C C S C	S C C S S C S		
35264	—	—	—	S C S S C C S	C S C C S S C		

Four times repeated.

Giving 2.880 of Cambridge and 2.720 of Superlative. If two of the fourth leads are rung as Superlative instead of Cambridge, the numbers will be equalised as near as possible.

Any one part may be called B and 3H, reducing the number to 5,056. In both forms the first course will be CSSC, the two following being the same as the fourth and fifth courses of whichever is being rung. If, then, two of the fourth leads are changed to Superlative, the numbers will be equal.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—Several 120's of Bob Doubles by C. J. Chawin, E. C. Ayres, W. E. Redrup (conductor), L. Haddon, W. Edwards and E. W. Redrup. Mr. E. W. Redrup, who rang the tenor, was having his first 'pull' for approximately 22 years.

BARKING, ESSEX.—336 and 280 Grandsire Triples and call changes by C. Faulkner, G. Cottis, W. Robins, E. Lucas, E. Stannard, S. Holgate, Pilot A. Weston, R.A.F., Sgt. Ridyard. M.P., Pte. J. Janis (Somerset), and C. Fenn.

BUCKLAND, SURREY.—120's of Grandsire Doubles by F. J. Sanders, W. R. Humphrey, J. W. Powell, C. Wallis, T. Parker, F. A. Skovell, E. Holman and H. R. Thorpe (conductor).

DOVER.—At St. Mary's, the following took part in the ringing: G. Eagles, C. George, C. Hardeman and C. Turner, conductor (St. Mary's), H. W. Young, F. G. Young and C. A. Richards (St. James'), H. Bond (Rugby), Gunner Woods (Plymouth), Bernard Smith (Christ Church Pendlebury, Manchester), E. G. Stevens (Chalfont St. Peter's), L. E. Moon (Beckington, Somerset) and J. R. Baylis (St. Stephen's, Clapton Park, London). Owing to damage, the bells of St. James' were not rung.

EARLS COLNE.—672 and 240 Bob Major: G. Bishop, O. Laver, F. Claydon, W. Scillitoe, F. Ridgwell, C. Saywood, W. Arnold (conductor) and E. Bowhill.

FEERING, ESSEX.—720 Bob Minor and two touches by S. Pye, S. Fisher, J. C. Newman, H. Nicholls, E. W. Beckwith (Coggeshall) and F. Fludder.

GRESSENHALL, NORFOLK.—Touches of Bob Minor by G. Chambers, B. Hammond, F. Rullison, J. Godfrey, R. Freezer and G. Bunning.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES.—Good rounds, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles by Messrs. Goodman, Maxwell, Nash, Howes, Seabrook, Cording, Eaton, Duffell and Hayward.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—At SS. Peter and Paul's, courses of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Court; S. H., M. T. and D. A. Symonds, W. R. J. Poulson, W. Fayes, F. Boreham, F. F. Mortlock, W. Jarvis, B. Cornell (Little Wadingfield) and a soldier from Lancashire.

LINCOLN.—At the Cathedral, a good course of Grandsire Cinques, followed by two touches of Stedman Caters, each containing 514 changes, and a course of Grandsire Caters. Among those present were two very welcome visitors in Leading Seaman Jack Millhouse, who was on leave, and Mr. C. B. Chester, of Scunthorpe. Afterwards the six bells at St. Peter-at-Gowts were rung.

PRITTFWELL.—Queens, Tittums and firing; courses of Grandsire Triples, 448 Bob Major and a course of each Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal. The Vicar, the Archdeacon of Southend, joined in the rounds. Mr. Harris, from Bristol, and Mr. Price, from Shropshire, were in the band.

PLYMOUTH.—Rounds on eight and ten, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and an attempt for seven bobbed leads of Bob Royal, which came to grief in the fifth lead. The ringing ended with a splendid lower in peal of the back eight. Eighteen ringers were present, including one from Helston, Cornwall, another from the Cathedral company of Worcester, and Messrs. G. H., T. G., A. W. and H. F. Myers, A. Mitchelmore, J. Gluyas, S. O'Shaughnessy, A. S. Weatherly, G. R. Marshall, C. Holmes, C. Pearce, W. S. Hornbrook, W. Richards, F. Lurse, W. Membrey and W. Dutton.

RUARDFAN, GLOS.—Grandsire Doubles and Triples by George Willis, Joe Harper, Len Melmes, Howard Meek, R. Pawhall, William Beard, W. Penn, John Harper, William Scott and William Bishop (conductor).

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.—At the Church of St. Peter, touches of Bob Major, Treble Bob and Grandsire by G. Dixon, G. Gridley, H. Herbert, H. Felton, C. Clark, A. Fitch, L. Johnson, A. Haynes, G. Howell and D. H. Elliott.

TEDBURN ST. MARY, DEVON.—Owing to the bells having been unringable for many years, the Ellacombe chiming apparatus only could be used. On the following Sunday afternoon carols (with harmonies) were rung on the handbells at the west end of the church before the service by Miss Hockey, Miss Pook, Miss Bishop, R. J. Bulley and the Rector (Prebendary E. V. Cox).

WANSTEAD.—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor by Mrs. F. H. Crampion, J. Petty, A. Petty, C. J. Petty, J. Chalk, J. H. Crampion. A. Petty and J. H. Crampion were home on leave.

WILLENHALL.—At St. Giles', rounds and Queens on the ten bells and Grandsire and Stedman Triples, with 9.8.10 covering, by I. Evans, W. Edge, A. Evans, J. Luck, J. T. Davies, A. Davies, B. Munday, S. H. Cole, Rev. A. F. Sargent, R. Sidebotham and C. Wallater.

YARDLEY-HASTINGS, NORTHANTS.—Touches of Plain Bob Minor, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Grandsire and Stedman Doubles. The striking was fairly good, considering the lack of practice. Those taking part were R. Minnev, K. Minnev, H. Minnev, W. Leach, W. Whitney, H. Wooding, L.-Cpl. Elliott (home on leave) and K. Burge.

YATTON, SOMERSET.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples by Messrs. A. E. Price (capt.), H. Parsons (vice-captain), H. Drissell, L. Hale, T. Hamlin, J. Knowles, A. Leaker, H. Marshall, G. Miles, H. Price, L. W. Pullin, H. Smith and G. Westlake.

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/-.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—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.—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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at St. Nicholas'. Handbells in the vestry 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting Stourbridge, St. Thomas' (D.V.), Saturday, January 16th, 3 p.m. Bells available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Road, Stourbridge.

LADIES' GUILD and BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Long Ashton on January 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Tea 4.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. Yeo, Long Ashton, near Bristol.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Bath.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushev, Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Bells (silent apparatus) from 2.30 p.m., Guild Office at 4, conducted by the chairman. Tea and business meeting to follow at Major's Cafe (opposite the church). Kindly notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be at Leicester on Jan. 23rd. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. on the Cathedral bells. Tea in the Cathedral Church House for those who notify me by Jan. 20th. The meeting will follow. Please make an effort to attend. The moon will be at full. — H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held in the Old Rectory, Poole, on Saturday, January 23rd. Handbells from 2.30. Tea at 5.0, followed by short business meeting and more handbells. Evening service in Parish Church at 7.0.—C. A. Phillips.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 23rd. Service at 4.0. Tea in the Co-op. Hall, Queen Street. Handbells available. Notify me by Wednesday, January 20th.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting will be at St. John's, Leytonstone, on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells available. Service at 4 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. All welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Ringing at St. John's, City (silent), 2.30 p.m.- 4 p.m. Meeting and tea in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.15 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m. Tea at Armitage and Baxendale Cafe at 4 p.m. sharp for all who notify Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, by first post on Thursday, Jan. 28th, returning to the Park Hotel for the usual evening arrangements: business meeting and handbell ringing. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Upper Armley, Leeds, 12.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 30th. Meeting in belfry at 4 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea afterwards. Will those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, Jan. 27th?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 30th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be at the disposal of ringers from 3 p.m. Service, also in the Rectory Room, will be at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. For tea notify Miss L. Aldridge, 49, Escreet Grove, Woolwich, S.E.18, before Wednesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions for 1943 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Peter's, Croydon. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to me not later than Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

'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.

ENGAGEMENT.

WAYMAN—RICHARDSON.—The engagement is announced between Sgt./Pilot A. J. Brian Wayman, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, Hazelwood, 55, Blackmores Grove, Teddington, Middlesex, and Enid M. Richardson, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Lincs.

A SERVICE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Jarrett's request for information concerning other members of the band who rang in the first Service men's peal, Percy Gibbs was the first member of the Kent County Association to lose his life in the last war. He was killed at Mons on August 23rd, 1914.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

A SPLENDID RINGER.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the first Services peal rung at Gillingham, Kent, by members of the regular forces, Mr. V. A. Jarrett asks for information in your recent issue of three ringers who took part. I can give the following of one, Private Percy Gibbs, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. After a number of years in India he came home and was stationed at Dover. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he left for France with the 12th Infantry Brigade and was killed in August at Mons. He was a splendid ringer and while at Dover seldom missed ringing for the two services on Sunday. He was well known in the Worcestershire Association previous to going to India. His joy at taking part in the peal I cannot forget.

CHARLES TURNER, Captain, St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

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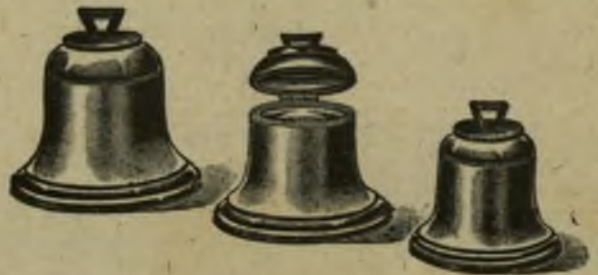
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