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**UNIVERSITY RINGING SOCIETIES.**

The Oxford University Society held its annual lunch on Saturday last, and the opportunity was taken to bring forward a scheme which is of great importance to ringers who are connected with the various universities, and is not without interest to the Exercise at large.

The proposal is to form a new society, to be called The Universities' Association of Change Ringers, the membership of which will be open to ringers from all the universities, and the purpose and aim of the new organisation is to provide a name under which joint university peals can be rung and joint tours arranged, and to do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change-ringing societies in the newer universities. Nothing will be done to absorb the guilds which already exist at Oxford and Cambridge, and nothing to alter their present status.

At the time of writing we are ignorant of what was said and done on Saturday, for the prior claims of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Council debarred us from first-hand information, and we must therefore hold over any comment which may seem advisable until we receive the full report. But on the general subject of ringing at the universities there is a good deal to be said.

The Exercise owes much to Oxford and Cambridge. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that change ringing is a product of those two famous seats of learning. Some time in the late sixteenth century, or early in the seventeenth, ringing, which had long been a popular athletic sport among all classes of young Englishmen, was transformed and enriched by an art based on a strict mathematical science, and thereby given a vitality which still shows no signs of abatement. Exactly how that happened we do not know; such things always occur almost unnoticed and seemingly haphazardly. But all the evidence goes to show that it began among the students at Oxford and Cambridge, who took the new art with them when they went, as was usual in those days, to London to spend a term at the Inns of Courts, and afterwards spread it among the steeples of the country.

We know little about the ringers of the seventeenth century, but among those of whom we do know something the percentage of university men is high. Richard Duckworth, the author of the 'Tintinnologia,' was an Oxford man. Samuel Scattergood, one of the earliest of composers, was a Cambridge man. The membership roll of the Society of College Youths contains the names of many university men: Fabian Stedman was not him-

(Continued on page 90.)



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self a university man, but he certainly derived help and inspiration from men who were.

Then came the time when change ringing ceased to be a university sport, and the loss to the Exercise was marked. But when, some eighty years ago, the fortunes of the Exercise, which had been declining, began to revive, the men who led the upward movement included not a few who were university men, and the formation of the two guilds at Cambridge and Oxford was both a sign and a cause of the better days to come. Many of the men who have been trusted leaders of the Exercise during these last sixty or seventy years learnt their ringing as undergraduates. One of the original band at Oxford, John Martin Routh, has just passed away at the venerable age of ninety-six, and we only need mention such names as C. D. P. Davies, Arthur B. Carpenter, Francis E. Robinson and John S. Pritchett, of Oxford, and A. F. H. Boughey, Henry Law James, C. W. O. Jenkyn, H. S. T. Richardson and B. H. T. Drake, of Cambridge, among the dead, in addition to Canon G. F. Coleridge, E. H. Lewis, W. H. J. Hooton and E. B. James, among the living, to show how much the Exercise owes to the university societies. Arthur Heywood and Henry Earle Bulwer were both Cambridge men, but their connection with ringing did not begin until after they had gone down.

So long as we can look to Oxford and Cambridge to supply us with worthy leaders, we can face the future with hope and confidence, and anything which will promote the knowledge of change ringing among the students at the other universities cannot fail to be productive of good.

## JASPER WHITFIELD SNOWDON.

### MARTIN ROUTH'S TRIBUTE.

When Jasper Snowdon died in the year 1885, the general feeling of regret and sorrow throughout the Exercise was perfectly expressed in the following verses by John Martin Routh, which appeared in 'The Bell News.' Now, 58 years later, the author, who was born a year or two before Snowdon, has himself passed away.

Let comrades muster round the old church tower  
To tell the tidings sad with bated breath;  
Then let the bells ring out in muffled power  
Their plaintive requiem for untimely death.

List to the mighty steeples of the North  
Re-echoing their distress from shore to shore,  
Mark how each tenor chants her sorrow forth,  
The master-hand that changed her is no more.

And we shall miss him sadly one and all;  
E'en those who ne'er in friendship grasped his hand  
Have each some kindly action to recall,  
Some point obscure he had them understand.

In search of truth through disconnected lore  
He traced arrangement with a ready pen,  
The veil from seeming mystery he tore  
Bequeathing knowledge to his fellow men.

Chosen as ringers' leader through the land,  
Acknowledged arbiter for common weal,  
While crowning merit with unsparing hand  
He crushed imposture with an iron heel.

What though the deeds in which he played his part  
Are not inscribed in England's roll of fame,  
So long as future ages prize our art  
So long shall reverence be for Snowdon's name.

NEWPORT, I. of W.—On Tuesday, February 9th, at the home of Mr. W. Upton, Master of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, 1,344 changes of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. A. M. Guy 1-2, Mr. F. Taylor (conductor) 3-4, Mr. W. Upton 5-6, Mr. W. Scott, sen. 7-8.



## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 81.)

### TREBLE TEN AND TREBLE TWELVE.

During the seventeen years which followed the peals of Treble Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's in 1741, no five-thousand was rung in the method on ten or twelve bells until George Meakins and his band scored their 5,040 of Maximus in 1758. Later in the same year the Cumberlands rang 5,400 of Royal at West Ham, conducted by Samuel Wood, and in 1759 the College Youths rang 5,040 at St. Magnus'. Then, so far as London is concerned, there followed another blank of seven years, dur-



ST. LEONARD'S, SHOREDITCH.

ing which, however, James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent three peals of Royal—5,040 in 1760, 5,040 in 1762, and 6,000 in 1765. The latter took its place as the longest in the method, but probably the London men knew nothing of it, for in October, 1766, the College Youths rang 6,000 changes at Shoreditch, evidently thinking they were setting up a record and beating the Cumberlands' performance at West Ham.

Three weeks later the latter retaliated and captured the record for Maximus by ringing 5,136 changes at St. Saviour's. George Partrick rang the treble and conducted the peal, his own composition, and the rest of the

company consisted of men who were among the most prominent peal ringers in England.

Probably in the whole of their history the Cumberlands never had a better band. Thomas Dunmore (3), John Purlement (7) and William Lister were with Partrick, original members of the society; Isaiah Bray (6), Francis Wood (8) and Samuel Wood (9) had been members almost as long; William Scott (11) and Samuel Muggeridge had come from the ancient Society of College Youths; while the younger generation of ringers was represented by George Gross (2), John Reeves (4), Charles Purser (5) and William Jakins (10).

Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor, but evidently it was not going very well, for he had William Lister to help him. Eight years previously he had turned it in single-handed to the London Youths' 6,336 of Bob Maximus.

Two months after the Maximus, on January 19th, 1767, the London Youths captured the record of Royal by ringing 6,200 changes at Shoreditch, conducted and probably composed by Christopher Wells. Abraham Smith rang the tenor single-handed and the band included Michael Purser, Joshua Brotherton, Robert Reynolds, James Titchbourne, and James Partrick.

Christopher Wells in many ways is one of the most attractive figures of the time. He was a clever and versatile ringer, a good conductor, and a composer of more than average ability. His signature can still be seen in one of the Cumberland Society's books. Bold and large, with plenty of swagger and flourish, it gives a good indication of the man's character. But he never quite reached the front rank, and as he got older he was overshadowed as composer and conductor by men like John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore, and as leader by men like John Povey and George Gross.

There were two men called Christopher Wells, father and son. The elder is nothing more than a name unless (which is likely) it was he who rang in two peals by the ancient Society of College Youths—Bob Royal at St. Magnus' in 1761 and 10,098 Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1762. If that was so the younger Christopher began his peal ringing career as a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, which he joined in 1763. With that company he rang four peals, two of Oxford Treble Bob Major and one of each of Plain Bob Triples and Major, and then, being an ambitious man with a desire to call peals, and finding no likelihood of satisfying his ambition, he went to the London Youths, where he speedily made his influence felt. The peal of Treble Ten was false in the composition, but that was not known at the time and the figures were entered in the peal book.

The London Youths' record only stood for three months, for on April 6th, 1767, the Cumberlands rang 7,080 changes in 5 hours and 14 minutes, also at Shoreditch. John Reeves called from the 4th, and the band included Charles Purser, Isaiah Bray, George Gross, John Povey, Francis Wood, John Purlement, Samuel Wood and Samuel Muggeridge, who rang the tenor single-handed. The peal probably was composed by Reeves, and probably was found out to be false at once, for the performance is not recorded in the society's peal book.

In October, 1776, Charles Purser called 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal for the College Youths at Fulham, and

(Continued on next page.)



## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

in November 6,200 at West Ham, which may have been the same composition Wells had called in 1767, for now someone (it may have been George Gross) discovered that all the six-thousands rung in London were false. On January 20th, 1777, Gross called 6,240 changes for the Cumberlands at Shoreditch, and they claimed it as 'the first true six-thousand and the most ever rung'; which seems to suggest that there was some error in the actual ringing of the 7,080 in 1767. Samuel Muggeridge again rang the tenor with Robert Mann, another fine big-bell ringer, on the ninth.

The peal and the claim were a challenge to the rest of the London ringers which the College Youths were not slow to take up. They were well equipped for a contest. They had a good many skilful ringers, an ambitious and enthusiastic leader, and (which was equally important) they had now a first class tenor man in Samuel Muggeridge the younger, the son of the man mentioned above.

The Muggeridges lived at Southwark, where they were persons of some local standing. The younger man joined the Cumberlands in 1771, and rang his first peal in the December of the following year at Cripplegate.

The first peal on the new bells at St. Giles', one of Grandsire Caters, had been rung on November 3rd. by the College Youths. They needed two men to the ninth and three to the tenor, but when, a month later, the Cumberlands rang 5,111 in the same method, the elder Muggeridge rang the ninth single-handed, and his son the tenor with the help of Abraham Smith.

In 1773 young Muggeridge rang the eighth at Shoreditch to 5,039 Grandsire Caters, his first peal inside; and in 1774, when George Gross called 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark, the father rang the tenth, the son the eleventh, and Abraham Smith rang the tenor with help.

The young man was now one of the Cumberlands' regular peal band, and took part during 1774 and 1775 in seven or eight peals, mostly Plain and Treble Bob Major. His first outstanding feat as a tenor man was to ring the tenor at Spitalfields to 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major. No doubt the bell went exceptionally well, for five men had already turned it in to peals—Mainwaring in 1735, Trenell in 1736, Robert Wight in 1752, and the elder Muggeridge and Joseph Monk in 1760, the last to a six-thousand. But, however well it may have gone, it was no small thing to ring a 44 cwt. bell to a peal of Major.

Both Samuel Muggeridge and his father took part in the Real Double Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in 1776, the younger ringing the ninth, and the elder the eleventh, with Robert Mann and another at the tenor. After that young Muggeridge followed Charles Purser to the College Youths.

Three weeks after the Cumberlands rang the 6,240 of Treble-ten at Shoreditch their rivals set up a new record for Maximus by scoring 5,232 changes at St. Bride's. Charles Purser called the peal, his own composition, and the band included several men whose names will always be famous in the history of ringing—Winstanley Richardson, Thomas Bennett, William Lyford, James Darquitt, Joseph Monk, Edmund Sylvester, and John Povey.

Povey, like Charles Purser, had recently been a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths. He joined

them on August 14th, 1764, and rang his first peal (5,076 Grandsire Caters) at Shoreditch on October 8th, 1769. During the following six years he rang ten peals with the company.

Nine days after the Maximus the College Youths rang 10,000 changes of Royal at Shoreditch, and so in less than a month the double record passed from one society to the other.

The band naturally were very pleased with themselves, and boasted that 'the curious composition, the great length of time, and the masterly manner in which it was rung, justly entitled it the most excellent performance ever achieved from the first invention of the ingenious art of ringing to the present time.'

The Cumberlands at once set about regaining the record, but before actually starting for a longer length they rang two peals as a preliminary, in order to test the capacity of their heavy-bell men. The first was 5,080 changes on March 12th, the other 8,120 changes on April 5th.

The elder Muggeridge was still their most experienced tenor ringer, and he had a greater reputation than any other living man except Joseph Monk; but he had now come to the age when mere physical and muscular strength began to lessen, and in those days of crude bellhanging and slower ringing, though skill counted, perhaps, as much as it does to-day, physical strength counted far more. He therefore stood out of the band, and his place was taken by Robert Mann. It would have been rather remarkable if, in the most famous of all long-peal contests, the tenor man of one company had been the father and the tenor man of the other company had been the son, and both with the same name.

Meanwhile the College Youths tightened their grip on the Maximus record by ringing 6,000 changes at Southwark on April 17th. Samuel Muggeridge, the younger, rang the eleventh, and the tenor was rung double-handed by Edmund Sylvester and William Mills.

On May 10th, 1777, the Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, and regained the record, but they held it for only a week. Their rivals, 'insatiated by glory,' as they said, rang 11,080 changes on May 19th, and once more secured the double honour. The Cumberlands' band consisted of Thomas Whitaker, George Gross, John Larney, Isaiah Bray, Thomas Harrison, Francis Wood, James Barnard and Robert Mann. The following rang in the two College Youths' peals: Winstanley Richardson, James Darquitt, William Hatt, Charles Purser, John Povey, Joseph Monk, William Lyford, Joseph Holdsworth, Edmund Sylvester and Samuel Muggeridge.

The peals were composed and called by George Gross for the Cumberlands, and Charles Purser for the College Youths. The figures are all lost, and when we consider that the proof of Treble Bob was at the time but imperfectly understood, there is a strong doubt if any one of them was true. Men had just discovered that most of the peals of Treble Bob Major already rung were false, and so were the six thousands of Royal. The result was that conductors tore up their figures, lest others should come along and find faults in them, and the old and excellent custom of putting compositions in the peal books was dropped. There is nothing to lead us to suppose that Purser was a safe composer, and something the other way.

(To be continued.)

## HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 64.)

In the following quotation from his essay, Haweis becomes quite lyrical in his description of bell archæology, but it is pretty certain that he knew very little about the subject. He was a genuine lover of bells, and especially of Belgian bells, but his love was based on mere sentiment and had no solid knowledge behind it.

It is (he writes) with no ordinary emotion that the lover of bells ascends these ancient towers, not knowing what he shall find there. He may be suddenly brought into contact with some relic of the past which will revive the historical life of a people or a period in a way hardly anything else could. He hears the very sound they heard. The inscriptions on the bells in their solemn earnestness or their fresh forebodings are often like drops of blood still fresh in the veins of the past.

None but those who have experienced it can understand the thrill of joy, as of treasure trove, which strikes through the seeker upon catching sight of the peculiar elongated kind of bell which proclaims an antiquity of perhaps four hundred years. How eagerly he climbs up to it! How tenderly he removes the green bloom over the heavy rust that has settled in between the narrow Gothic letters! How he rubs away at their raised surfaces in order to induce them to yield up their precious secret! How the first thing he always looks for is a bell without a D or 500 in it—e.g. MCCCXX, and how often he is disappointed by deciphering MCCCCXX,

where MDXX might have been written, and put an end at once to his hopes of a thirteenth or fourteenth century bell.

Then the first bell he will seek on reaching a famous tower will be the bourdon or big bell, which has probably proved too large for the enemy to carry away, or which by some lucky chance has escaped the sacrilegious melting down, and been left to the town, perhaps at the intercession of its fairest women, or its most noble citizens.

Ascending into the open belfry, his eye will rest with something like awe upon the very moderate-sized bell hanging high up in the dusk by itself—the oldest in the tower, which from its awkward position and small value has escaped the spoliation and rapine of centuries.

We can hardly wonder at the reverence with which the inhabitants of Mechlin, Ghent, and Antwerp regard their ancient bells, and the intelligent enthusiasm with which they speak of them. Certain bells which we shall have to mention are renowned, not only throughout Belgium, but throughout the civilised world. Most people have heard of the Carolus bells at Antwerp, and there is not a respectable citizen in any town of Belgium who would not be proud to tell you its date and history.

(To be continued.)

### BELLS AT EASTER ?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As there seems to be a chance that we shall be allowed to ring on Easter Sunday, would it not be a good thing if someone with influence were to approach the authorities so that the permission is given early enough for us to get the bands together and make the necessary arrangements?

WILLIAM H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Street, S.E.5.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

The letter we published last week on the ban appeared in 'The Barnsley Chronicle,' and was from the Vicar of Worsborough Dale, Yorkshire, not South Wales.

Sixty years ago next Sunday, John Martin Routh rang the fourth to a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Peter's, Walworth, conducted by Henry J. Tucker.

Fifty years ago yesterday, Mr. George Williams called the first peal (Stedman Triples) on the eight bells at Henfield, Sussex.

On February 21st, 1903, the first silent peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells was rung at Leicester. The composition was by Mr. J. O. Lancashire, who rang 1-2.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first peal of Dartford Little Bob Major, at Dartford on February 21st, 1925.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three Surprise Major methods fall on February 22nd—Lessness, at St. John's, Erith, and Droitwich, at Helmingham, both in 1937; and Lavenham, at Helmingham, in 1938.

The second peal of Cambridge Surprise Major ever rung was accomplished by the ancient Society of College Youths at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on February 23rd, 1785. John Reeves conducted, but the composition was not a true one.

William Estcourt, who composed and called several long peals on Painswick bells, died on February 23rd, 1876, aged 78 years.

A peal of Sowerby Exercise Major was rung by the Yorkshire men, at Denholm Gate, on February 24th, 1877.

On the same date in 1900, Mr. H. R. Newton called the first peal of St. Stephen's Surprise Major, at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row. The method does not now rank as Surprise.

The first peal of St. Clement's Bob Triples was rung at Chester on February 24th, 1911; and the first peal of Staffordshire Surprise Major at Church Lawton, on February 24th, 1934.

The year 1777 was one of the most famous in the annals of change ringing. Some of the peals rung then are referred to on another page. On February 25th the Leicester men rang 10,080 Grandsire Caters, and on February 26th the Shrewsbury men rang 10,080 Bob Major at St. Mary's.

What is sometimes reckoned as the earliest double-handed handbell peal of Bob Royal was rung at Abingdon on February 25th, 1777. The probabilities are, however, that the bells were lapped.

At Rowley Regis, on February 25th, 1889, 10,272 changes of Grandsire Major were rung. This has not been exceeded in the method.

Two first peals of Spiced Major were rung on February 25th—Bob Major, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Sunderland in 1926; and Bob Major, and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Dartford in 1928.

The first peal of Maximus, Plain Bob, was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by the College Youths, on February 26th, 1726.

George Gross called the first and only peal of Real Double Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on February 26th, 1776; and his son, George Gross the younger, called 6,129 Stedman Caters at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on the same date in 1805.

John Briant, bellfounder and clockmaker, of Hertford, died on February 27th, 1829.

### THE BAN ON RINGING

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a small footnote to your very sound and statesmanlike leader in 'The Ringing World' of February 19th?

Before the war people were continually bursting into the newspaper columns passionately demanding, in the name of their poor nerves, that church bells should be silenced. Since the prohibition of ringing, the papers are full of equally passionate letters, angrily demanding that the bells should ring again. That is human nature: we never know how we value anything until it is taken away. (Oddly enough, I do not remember to have seen any letter or paragraph saying, 'Well, thank Hitler, that horrible noise has stopped!')

The ringers can afford to smile and bide their time. Let them meanwhile carefully collect and preserve all the published evidence that people like bells, want bells, and are indignant at the silencing of bells. Then, when the ban is lifted, and all the drearies start up once more to protest that bellringing is useless, burdensome, dangerous and ought to be abolished, there will be an answer ready for them.

DOROTHY L. SAYERS.

24, Newland Street, Witham, Essex.

### NORTHCHURCH SURPRISE.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of 'The Ringing World' for February 12th, 1943, under 'Belfry Gossip,' you state that the first peal of Northchurch Surprise Major was rung at Northchurch on February 11th, 1939.

When the figures of this method appeared it was found to be Lessness Surprise Major, which was rung for the first time at St. John the Baptist's, Erith, for the Kent County Association, on February 22nd, 1937, and I was the conductor. Trusting you will correct this.

F. J. CULLUM.

78, West Street, Erith.



## TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER, IPSWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. E. Borrett's list of peals at St. Peter Mancroft was very interesting and I am glad to see it has been followed by the Newcastle list.

His suggestion that the peals at other twelve-bell towers should be published is worth very serious consideration in view of what has happened to well-known towers and what can very easily happen to others. Yarmouth, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Giles, Cripplegate, have gone. Are lists of the peals rung at these in existence, and can we have them published? We have had bombs within a couple of hundred yards of St. Mary-le-Tower, and other well-known towers have had closer shaves.

I have been to some trouble to get a complete list of peals at St. Mary's, and perhaps a note on the church will not be out of place first.

The Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, or St. Mary at the Tower to give it its proper name, is an ancient foundation taking its name from its proximity to a tower on the town walls. Tower and walls have long since been swept away, the only remembrance being a street, 'Tower Ramparts,' nearby.

The church became dilapidated about 1860, and in the following years was almost entirely rebuilt at the cost of a parishioner. The tower was included in the rebuilding scheme, and at the same time two bells were added to the existing ten. They were reopened by a band of College Youths in 1867, who attempted a peal, but were not successful. It was not until 1878 that a local band scored the first peal on them—Grandsire Caters, conducted by Daniel Prentice, since when 264 peals have been rung.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.	
<b>LIST OF PEALS.</b>	
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	26
New Cambridge Surprise Maximus	5
Superlative Surprise Maximus	15
Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	4
Pudsey Surprise Maximus	4
Rochester Surprise Maximus	4
York Surprise Maximus	2
Double Norwich C.B. Maximus	6
Duffield Maximus	2
Forward Maximus	2
Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus	1
Oxford Treble Bob Maximus	3
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	45
Plain Bob Maximus	2
Stedman Cinques	49
Grandsire Cinques	7
On the twelve	177
Cambridge Surprise Royal	7
New Cambridge Surprise Royal	1
Rochester Surprise Royal	1
Yorkshire Surprise Royal	1
Double Norwich C.B. Royal	10
Oxford Treble Bob Royal	4
Kent Treble Bob Royal	10
Plain Bob Royal	2
Stedman Caters	23
Grandsire Caters	6
On ten	65
London Surprise Major	1
Cambridge Surprise Major	2
Superlative Surprise Major	3
Double Norwich C.B. Major	4
Oxford Treble Bob Major	2
Kent Treble Bob Major	1
Plain Bob Major	1
Stedman Triples	3
Grandsire Triples	5
On eight	22
Total	264

The following is the list of conductors:—

James Motts, 53 (12), 35 (10), 17 (8)=105.
George E. Synonds, 53 (12), 13 (10), 1 (8)=67.
Charles J. Sedgley, 29 (12), 2 (10)=31.
William L. Catchpole, 10 (12), 10 (10), 4 (8)=24.
William J. G. Brown, 7 (12), 1 (10)=8.
William Pye, 7 (12)=7.
Daniel Prentice, 1 (12), 3 (10)=4.
Sylvia R. E. Bowyer, 2 (12), 1 (10)=3.
Charles Mee, A. W. Brighton, F. G. Newman, 2 each (12)=6.
F. E. Dawe, W. Holmes, C. E. Borrett, A. R. Aldham, F. J. Tillett,
F. Dench, J. D. Matthews, W. H. Hewett, A. Walker, 1 each (12)=9.
Total 264.

Some interesting facts come to light from a perusal of these records. The following are a few of them:—

First peal on the twelve, Kent Treble Bob Maximus, March 1st, 1881, conducted by Daniel Prentice.

The peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus are the only ones in the method excepting that recorded in St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in 1817.

The first peals in all seven Surprise Maximus methods were rung here. William P. Garrett is the only man who took part in all, and is the only one who has rung 100 peals of Maximus.

Frederick J. Tillett has turned the tenor in to 44 peals, and, including 'covering,' has rung her over 50 times.

The peals of Rochester, York, Pudsey, New Cambridge and Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus are the only ones ever rung.

The only peal of 5,040 Cambridge Maximus.

### ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

Dear Sir,—I feel that Mr. C. E. Borrett's example, followed by Mr. Wallace, of Newcastle, should be copied. I think it is interesting to know how the various lesser important twelve-bell towers have used or missed their opportunities. I personally would like to know what the records are of Birmingham, Ipswich and some of the London towers, including St. Paul's. We know the latter cannot amass a very large total, owing to the long intervals that must be observed between the attempts. Why should not all the twelve-bell towers, if they are able, give their records? Of course, I must not forget your difficulties of space, etc.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphyll Road, Liverpool 17.

### LIVERPOOL'S RECORD.

A peal of twelve bells, cast by Dobson's, of Downham Market, and rung in June, 1814. The first peal, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung shortly after the opening. There have been altogether, as far as can be ascertained, 113 peals on the bells; 28 were rung in the period 1814 to 1881. The bells were unpealable for many years, and it was until they had been relung and the tenor recast in 1911 that further peals were rung.

A peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung on February 17th, 1912, the first of 85 that have since been rung in the tower. The old tenor of the peal weighed 41 cwt., but after recasting the weight was 39½ cwt. The following is the list:—

- Plain Bob—Major 2, Royal 2, Maximus 2.
- Grandsire—Triples 8, Major 1, Caters 8, Royal 1, Cinques 9.
- Stedman—Triples 9, Caters 17, Cinques 13.
- Oxford Treble Bob—Major 3, Royal 1, Maximus 1.
- Kent Treble Bob—Major 5, Royal 4, Maximus 6.
- Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2.
- Superlative Surprise Major 3.
- Cambridge Surprise—Minor 1, Major 6, Royal 5, Maximus 4.

Total 113.  
One peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, one peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and three peals of Stedman Triples were rung on the back eight.

### GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on February 13th, and was attended by 24 members and friends from Banstead, Glaygate, Cobham, Epsom, Ewell, West Grinstead and Pulborough, Sussex, Kensington, Newdigate, with the general secretary and members of the local band.

Silent tower bells and handbells were kept going until the service, which was conducted by the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, and in place of an address he read part of the Song of the Three in the fiery furnace upon which the Benedicite is based, because, he said, that always seemed to him to be the bells' message.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, and was presided over by the Vicar. Unfortunately he could not stay to the business meeting and left with votes of thanks to himself and to the organist.

The meeting, with Mr. A. Harman, the Master, in the chair, first stood in silence to observe the deaths of three hon. members from the district, the Rev. E. J. Austin (Ashtead), Mrs. A. E. Coombe and Mr. S. G. Welsh (Cobham), and also two of the Guild's vice-presidents, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. Walter Harrison.

Six new members were elected, the Rev. A. E. Chapman (honorary), the Rev. W. A. J. Yeend and Masters Nicholas Coleridge (younger son of the Vicar), Gordon Peters and Bernard Hawkins, all of Leatherhead, and Miss H. Mills, of Claygate.

The district report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The balance showed a slight decrease, while the report showed that the district had played its part in the ringing for the Victory and Christmas Day services.

The district officers were re-elected and the Guild officers re-nominated, and the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge proposed as a vice-president.

There was further handbell ringing until about 8.30. The methods ranged from Bob Minor to three leads of Treble Twelve, Grandsire Triples to Cinques, and a course of Stedman Triples, while the tower-bell ringing was from Grandsire Triples to an attempt for Cambridge Major.



## THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 74.)

Natural courses and other round blocks are said to be mutually exclusive when no two pricked from different natural course-ends can ever contain the same row. Two obvious conditions, however, are to be understood.

The first is that the rows chosen to be the natural course-ends must always have the half-hunt, or observation bell, in the same position, and the second is that, since some natural courses can be written out both forwards and backwards, each variation has its own natural course-end, but includes the other.

In Bob Major, so long as the tenors are not parted, there are 120 natural courses, and each of them has its proper natural course-end, which is the row when 1, 7 and 8 are all in their home positions.

When the tenors are parted there are 360 natural courses, not one of which contains a row which is also included in another natural course. They are therefore mutually exclusive, but each can appear either in its direct form or its reverse form, and for purposes of proof it is necessary to treat the natural course-end 13254768 and the natural course-end 12345678 as identical, and all the rest in similar pairs.

These are examples of natural courses which are mutually exclusive under all circumstances, but there are others which are mutually exclusive under certain conditions. Unsymmetrical Plain Major methods which are constructed with backstroke places only, have mutually exclusive natural courses so long as the tenors are not parted and singles are not used. Symmetrical Royal Methods on the Treble Bob Principle have mutually exclusive natural courses as long as the treble in its journey from front to behind never occupies the same position in two rows of like nature. In Superlative Surprise Major the natural courses are mutually exclusive so long as the tenors are not parted and the bells in 5-6 at the course-end are never reversed.

We could give a good many more examples, but they would all illustrate how important this quality of mutual exclusiveness is towards getting extents and true peals. It is hardly too much to say that the problem of producing an extent in any method is almost solved when the total number of rows is set down in a group of separate and independent mutually exclusive blocks.

We have seen that this cannot be done with the natural courses—the P Blocks—of Stedman Triples, and that therein lie the difficulties of composing a peal in the method. It can be done in a qualified and limited way when we use Hudson's course-ends, and that is why twin-bob peals are possible. We must now see how far it is possible with B Blocks.

A B Block in Stedman Triples is produced by making a bob at every six-end until the bells come round, and the effect is to produce a natural course of Stedman Doubles with two extra bells continually dodging in 6-7.

Now a natural course of Stedman Doubles is not only true in itself, but includes the full extent of the 5-bell rows of like nature. These are qualities eminently fitted to give mutually exclusive blocks, and they are qualities which are reproduced in the B Blocks of Triples, but with definite and important limitations and qualifications.

Here is the first Twelve of a B Block of Stedman Triples. The whole consists of five such Twelves, and if we prick it out we shall find it will give us the full extent of the in-course changes on 12345.

But these changes have 6-7 dodging behind, and therefore one of the 5-bell rows is closed with 6-7, the next with 7-6, and so on alternately. We get only half of the rows with 12345 in the front and 6-7 behind, and only half of the rows with 12345 in the front and 7-6 behind. We must have another B Block to give us the missing rows.

This we can produce by writing out the same block again but reversing 6-7; putting 7-6 where 6-7 comes in our first block, and 6-7 where 7-6 comes. One block would start from 1234567 and the other from 1234576. These two blocks between them contain the full extent of the rows with 12345 in the front and 6-7 or 7-6 behind. The full extent, that is, so long as the 5-bell rows are even.

The 7-bell rows, as in all pure Triples methods, are of alternate nature, those ending with 6-7 being even and those ending with 7-6 being odd.

The row 1234576 is odd and the B Block based on it cannot be had except by using singles. To get the even form of the block we write it out backwards, and the natural course-end is 1325467.

We have now four B Blocks based on four separate natural course-ends which bear a special and important relation to each other.

1234567 and 1325476 contain exactly the same rows, but one is the even form and the other the odd. Similarly 1234576 and 1325467 are even and odd forms of the same block.

In a peal, if either 1234567 or 1325476 is used, then either 1234576 or 1325467 must also be used.

We have taken 1234567 as the natural course when 12345 are the front bells and 6-7 the dodging bells, but any other row would, for the purposes of composition, serve as well, provided we observe the above relationship in the allied B Blocks. We could choose 3215467, and in that case 3124576 would be the alternative (and odd) block and either 3124567 or 3215476 the complementary block.

So much for the 120 rows in which 7-8 are behind and the changes on the front five bells are in-course. But they comprise only half of the rows with 7-8 behind, for there are 120 more in which the changes on the front five are out-of-course. What of them?

Well, all we need say is that they are completely independent of the first 120: 12345 is an even 5-bell row, and 21345 an odd. When 7-8 are added we get 1234567 and 2134576. Both of them are even, but no B Block can exist which will contain the two.

Here is the explanation of what has always puzzled some Stedman conductors. They successfully get 6-7 dodging behind, but sometimes, however they call bobs and singles, the bells do not come round either at handstroke or at backstroke. The reason is that the bells are in the B Blocks in which the rows on the front five bells are odd, and calling any amount of Singles on 6-7 will not alter it.

(To be continued.)



**'TELEGRAM, SIR.'**

**A HOLIDAY MEMORY.**

It was in amongst some papers, which somehow seem to collect in odd drawers. Date, August 11th, 1937, and bearing the simple message, 'One short, bring J—.' It brought back a flood of memories, very pleasant memories of the peal ringing days before the war. A hot sunny August, a fortnight's holiday, a brand new peal of bells which hadn't had a peal rung on them, a young lady who decided that comfort came before convention . . . but let us start from the beginning.

The first Saturday of the holiday was spent with the local ringers on their annual outing. They had been saving a little each week for a year, and they intended to have a good outing. Plenty of ringing at about eight or nine towers and two spreads, about which it would be unkind to go into details. It was a grand outing, with a party of ringers who liked nothing better than ringing in the tower and talking about it outside. Quite naturally proposals for peals were heard running in and out of the conversation, and in particular the possibility of scoring the first peal on a newly rehung peal at a place about a dozen or so miles from the local tower.

As it happened, two or three of the ringers from the tower with the newly-hung peal were joining in the outing, and it wasn't so long before date and time had been tentatively fixed. The method would have to be Grandsire Triples so that as many local men as possible could take part. The day of the peal drew near and then came the telegram which inspired this yarn. The person whose services were so urgently sought was a very sun-tanned young lady, who, although fond of ringing, hardly considered peals a suitable way of spending a holiday. Anyway, she was game to ring, but how was she to get there? A dozen or so miles away and the only means of transport a bicycle. The only clothes she had suitable for cycling were the shorts and blouse she had been wearing all the holiday. Well, if they want me to ring in the peal, they will have to put up with my appearance, and anyway it will be much more comfortable for cycling and ringing than a skirt.

Well, there it was, seven men and a young lady in cycling rig attempting a peal of Grandsire on a new peal of bells. Grandsire was perhaps not the best method to ring in these parts, but for one reason or another it couldn't be anything else. Somehow the peal didn't settle down very well. Little trips and silly mistakes by first one and then another—except the young lady, who seemed quite settled down. Then it happened, as it was almost bound to do. Two well-tried Surprise ringers shifted and it was all over, although the young lady was still plodding along without the suspicion of a mistake. The inquest revealed it all, where, how, when it happened, and then someone asked why.

Someone else remarked it was a wonder there hadn't been more shifts, giving the young lady in cycling garb a sly wink. Anyway we had to admit that she did look very cool, calm and collected on that hot August afternoon.

Perhaps if that telegram had not been sent to enlist her services we should have rung the peal.

There it is, we didn't ring the peal. And the telegram which revived this memory has been tucked away for five and a half years. Not a very long time, perhaps, but enough has happened in that time to make that little episode of the telegram seem like a fairy story.

**DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM E. WILSON.**

**A WELL-KNOWN LANCASHIRE RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death at the age of 78 of Mr. William E. Wilson, of Blackburn, which took place on Thursday, February 11th, at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, after a serious operation.

Mr. Wilson had been a member of the Lancashire Association for over 53 years, and had served on its committee for nine years. He was one of the representatives on the Central Council, and took a very active interest in the Blackburn Branch, of which he had been president. He was also a member of the Society of College Youths and the Yorkshire Association.

His ringing career began in 1887 at the Parish Church (now Blackburn Cathedral), and in 1907 he was appointed captain. Throughout the whole of his life his interest in ringing was unabated, and he rang as recently as Christmas Day and for the Libyan victory.

On the completion of his 40 years as a ringer, the church officers and his brother ringers presented him with a mahogany bureau, and the completion of 50 years was marked by the presentation of a gold watch by clergy and church officers. For the past 17 years he had been a sidesman.

He rang 93 peals for the Lancashire Association and one for the Yorkshire Association.

His favourite method was Stedman. He was one of the pioneers of Stedman ringing in North-East Lancashire and had conducted many peals in the method.

He was laid to rest in Samesbury Churchyard on Monday, February 15th, after service in the Cathedral, at which a large number of his fellow townsmen were present.

He is survived by a widow, one daughter and two sons, both of whom have a long connection with ringing. Mr. Thomas Wilson is the ringing secretary of the Lancashire Association, and Mr. Fred Wilson is associated with the band at Glasgow, formerly ringing at Kingsbury and at Blackburn Cathedral.

**A REMARKABLE SPLICED PEAL.**

Mr. G. E. Feun, who had already made a great name in connection with Spliced Minor, has produced a really remarkable peal of Spliced Major, which includes the whole of the methods in the Central Council Collection of Plain Major Methods as well as two others of the 'Little' class.

It is hardly likely that such a peal will be rung, at least not as 84 methods, but it would be possible for each member of a band to select one bell and learn the work of each of the 45 courses in turn. That would be no small job.

The peal can be arranged in any number of methods from two to 84. Some methods have only one lead in the peal, others have ten or more. With a smaller number of methods a more even distribution can be had.

5,068 Changes in 84 Methods.							
23456	M	W	H	1st part	2nd part	3rd part	
45236	—	—	—	78.43.17.44	78.43.17.40	78.43.17.44	
24536	—	—	—	52.43.17.56	52.43.17.56	52.43.17.56	
52436	—	—	—	44.37.43.17.44	44.37.59.17.44	54.37.43.17.44	
63425	—	—	—	59a.37.43.40.15	59a.37.43.40.15	59a.37.43.40.15	
46325	—	—	—	38.37.57a.40.15	38.37.57a.40.15	38.37.57a.40.15	
34625	—	—	—	12.43.46.56	12.43.46.56	12.43.40.38	
62345	—	—	—	49.37.58a.40.40	49.37.58a.46.40	15.37.58a.46.40	
53246	—	—	—	15.37.43.40.40	15.37.43.46.40	15.37.43.46.40	
25346	—	—	—	44.45.59.17.15	44.45.59.17.15	44.39.59.17.15	
32546	—	—	—	53.16.43.38.44	48.16.43.17.44	53.16.43.38.44	
65243	—	—	—	15.14.43.40.44	15.14.43.46.40	40.14.43.46.44	
26543	—	—	—	41.30	10.81	6.7	
52643	—	—	—	28.29	63.26	64.42	
36245	—	—	—	38.13.43.40.44	38.13.43.46.44	38.13.43.46.40	
23645	—	—	—	21.45.43.46.15	21.39.43.46.15	54.45.43.46.15	
Twice repeated with S for—at end gives 32456.							
32456	W	M	H	4th part	5th part	6th part	
64325	—	—	—	50.31.61.9.74.60	50.31.61.9.74.60	50.31.61.9.74.23	
36425	—	—	—	19.2.32.47.1	65.3.51.74.1	35.3.51.79.1	
42365	—	—	—	76.31.32.77.74.1	76.31.32.77.74.25	76.31.32.77.74.1	
34265	—	—	—	33.K.74	33.36	33.11	
23465	—	—	—	B.57.62a	73.B.34	73.B.K.52a	
46235	—	—	—	8.2.61.5.83.24	8.2.61.5.83.1	8.2.61.5.83.1	
24635	—	—	—	4.31.32.77.74.55	80.32.18.55	4.31.32.20.74.55	
63245	—	—	—	76.31.75.77.74.1	76.31.75.77.74.22	76.31.75.77.74.1	
26345	—	—	—	62.32.77.74.1	62.B.74	62.32.77.74.27	
32645	—	—	—	B.58.K.66	82.B.B.74	82.B.K.66	
Twice repeated with S for—at end gives 23456.							
52a, 57a, 58a, 59a and 62a are the same as the original numbers, except that 2nd's, instead of 8th's place, is made at the lead-ends.							
B=Bastow Little Court			12345678		K=Kent Little Court		12345678
			21436587				21346587
			21345678				21435678
			12436587				12436587
			14263857				14263857

**THE APPEAL OF BELLS.**

Writers and poets of many ages have written and sung of merry bells, solemn bells, joyful bells, sullen bells, sweet bells, silver bells—few things indeed have had so many and so diverse adjectives applied to them. And all the while they were the same bells rung for the most part in the same manner.

The difference has always lain in the listener, for it is the peculiar quality of bells to respond to the varying moods of men; and because that is so, they often sound almost intolerable. The sweet church bell which calls to worship does not always sound sweet. It may at times have a depressing and irritating effect. Charles Dickens in one of his books gives a vivid account of the effect of church bells on a lonely man stranded on a Sunday in the London of the early nineteenth century:—

'It was a Sunday evening in London, gloomy, close, and stale. Maddening church bells of all degrees of dissonance, sharp and flat, cracked and clear, fast and slow, made the brick-and-mortar echoes hideous.

'Mr. Arthur Clenman sat in the window of a coffee-house on Ludgate Hill, counting one of the neighbouring bells, making sentences and burdens of song out of it in spite of himself, and wondering how many sick people it might be the death of in the course of the year. As the hour approached, its changes of measure made it more and more exasperating. At the quarter, it went off into a condition of deadly-lively importunity, urging the populace in a voluble manner to Come to church, Come to church, Come to church! At the ten minutes, it became aware that the congregation would be scanty, and slowly hammered out in low spirits They won't come they won't come, they won't come. At the five minutes it abandoned hope, and shook every house in the neighbourhood for three hundred seconds with one dismal swing per second, as a groan of despair. "Thank Heaven!" said Clenman when the hour struck and the bell stopped.'



## DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 87.)

On the walls of the ringing chamber at Evesham are the following ringers' rules:—

Gentlemen Ringers, far and near,  
That are disposed to Ring here,  
Observe these Rules and note them well  
The man that overturns his Bell  
Unto the Sexton sixpence pay,  
Before he passes hence away.  
And he that rings with Spur or Hat,  
Must pay likewise fourpence for that,  
Ropes cost money: Oyl is dear  
Therefore make pay or come not here.

On the road from Shrewsbury to Welshpool is the village of Cardeston, and the Church of St. Michael has a quaint 'pepper-box' semi-detached tower not unlike Irthingborough, but on a much reduced scale. The church is a small building in Early English style, re-erected in 1749, and has an embattled west tower with pyramidal roof, which was erected in 1844. This tower is joined to the main building by a lower roofed short passage. It has one bell dated 1700.

Suffolk has two or three examples of detached towers, the best known being, of course, Beccles and Bury St. Edmunds. St. Michael's Church, Beccles, standing near the market and overlooking the meadow, is a structure of flint in the Perpendicular style, and it has a detached stone tower 92ft. high, erected about 1515 but never completed. It stands about 20ft. from the north-east corner of the church and has an illuminated clock and a ring of ten bells.

Mr. George E. Symonds, of Ipswich, sends me some interesting data in connection with this unique tower, and with his kind permission I give some extracts. He tells me the tower is the property of the Beccles Corporation, who pay for ringing days, and whilst he was there the ringers smoked. Also the late Mr. Henry Hopson, who rang till over 80 years of age, would bring five pints of ale for the ten ringers on practice nights. Mr. Hopson cut the present holes in the steeple for the clock faces, being suspended in a cradle on the outside. It was through his energy that the bells were rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in a new iron frame, and they were re-opened in November, 1909. They are a grand ring, most of them by Lester and Pack, and before being rehung the ropes fell in the following curious order: 1978026543.

Mr. Symonds possesses three picture frames made from the timbers of the old bell frame. He continues: 'Work was scarce in Beccles at times in the building trade, so Mr. Hopson obtained a job at Lowestoft, nine miles distant, and he had to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. There being no petrol in those days, he had to walk, starting out at 4 a.m. and arriving back home at 8 p.m.—18 miles' walk and a long day's work! This would frighten most people to-day, but it did not hurt him.'

There are no parapets to Beccles campanile, and it looks very dangerous to see persons walking on the roof when one is standing in the market place. Another unique feature is its four stairways, one in each corner—one to the belfry, another to the clock, a third to the bell chamber, and a fourth to the top.

It will be remembered that in my series on 'Ringers' Jugs' I gave a description of the Beccles example. This was kept in a cupboard standing on the west wall in the large window of the ringing room. This is about 2½ft. to 3ft. each way, the top acting as a table was cut with straight lines for use as a shove-ha'penny board, the only one I have heard of in any belfry, but Mr. Symonds says he never saw a game played on it in his time.

At Bramfield, St. Andrew's Church has a detached round tower, about 20ft. away from the main building. It contains a ring of five bells in a minor key. i.e., the first five of a ring of six. The first two are dated 1621, but the other three are mediæval, probably by Henry Jordan, of London. They were rehung in 1890 by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye.

Bury St. Edmunds, the capital of West Suffolk, had two civil parishes of St. James and St. Mary, which now have been amalgamated and constituted into the single parish of St. James. In 1914 this church was constituted the Cathedral of the Bishopric of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It was originally built during the 12th century by Abbot Anselm. At the end of the 13th century and during the 14th, the church was reconstructed but not completed until the 15th century. It has been restored and enlarged several times since that time. The gateway tower of the abbey cemetery serves as the belfry, and contains a fine ring of ten bells, all dated 1785.

It has been asserted that this tower, which was built by Anselm, is the finest original example of Norman architecture in the kingdom, and one of the most perfect specimens in Europe. Its walls are nearly 8ft. thick. It is 86ft. high and 36ft. square, the work being executed with the axe and not the chisel. There are four stages and several sub-stages. The archway at base goes right through the tower, but is not now used as a thoroughfare. The tower now stands in a pit or excavation some 5 or 6ft. deep below the pavement level, an iron fence surrounding it. This was done to show the original ground level.

In 1553, Bury possessed 'great bells v.' In 1785, a complete ring of ten was provided, cast by T. Osborn, with a tenor 27 cwt. approximately. Previously there was a ring of eight bells, and on these the local ringers rang a peal of 5,040 Bob Major on March 5th, 1779, in 3 hours 5 minutes, called by William Digby. The ring of ten was opened on August 12th, 1785, by a band of 'Cambridge Youths.' On September 18th, 1791, another local peal of 5,040 Bob Major was rung, and a similar one in 1798. Since those days a number of peals in various methods have been accomplished.

The Church of SS. Andrew and Patrick, Elvedon, Suffolk, has been nearly rebuilt in an elaborate manner, an entirely new nave and chancel having been built north of the old church. The old tower—15th century—is surmounted by full-size statues at the four corners, placed on small pedestals, in lieu of pinnacles. According to local tradition, these statues represent four shepherds who are said to have built the tower.

This tower has one bell, 'John Darbie made me 1664,' and a set of ten tubes. The old church was St. Andrew's, and St. Patrick's was added in 1904-6. In 1922 a new tower containing eight bells was built, and is connected to the church by a long cloister, this addition being erected to the memory of Viscountess Iveagh.

(Continued on next page.)



**DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.**

(Continued from previous page.)

East Bergholt, St. Mary's, is noted for its curious detached 'bell-house.' A local tradition here is that Cardinal Wolsey, while engaged in the work of the building, fell into disgrace, and so the tower was never finished. Certainly the whole work was not dependent upon him only, if we may judge from the will of Robert Cole, of Stratford, Suffolk, clothmaker, 1527, who writes:—

'I will that my executors, after my departure, at times convenient, do deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the use and building of the church of East Bergholt, as much free stone as shall make up the work there, that is to say the body of the church, with north aisle, according to such promise I have made.'

This bequest was not consistent with Wolsey's idea of building a tower. He was then well up in dignity and wealth, holding the See of Durham with the Archbishopric of York. The bell-cage still contains one bell by Henry Jordan, who died in 1468.

But another legend says of the curious bell-cage:—

'As far back as the fifteenth century, it was erected in another corner of the churchyard, but the squire was so annoyed at the sound of the chimes, that he had the curious building removed, so that the intervening church might deaden the sound.'

The bell-house is only a brick foundation about a foot above the ground, and the bells are hung from the stock without wheels or ropes. They are a heavy ring of five, largest 25 cwt., and each ringer stands on a shelf, two feet from the ground by the side, and swings his bell by hand, by the stock on which the bell is hung, and so, like a pendulum and by centrifugal force, they are rung up in the usual way.

For chiming purposes, small lines are led from the bell clappers over pulleys above, which fall down and are handled by the ringers, who stand on a platform level with the top of the bell frame. On account of the church tower never being finished, this bell-cage was prepared for the bells, and so they remain to this day. Even under these difficult conditions, it is recorded that on Monday, April 23rd, 1821, 120 changes of Single were rung on these bells by making the tenor quick hunt and the treble half-hunt by the following: Samuel Orris, sen., 1, William Bird 2, T. Stoley 3, Thomas Orris 4, Samuel Orris, jun., 5. Samuel Orris, sen., conducted the peal. This would be a unique performance when one considers the weight of the bells, viz.: (1) 12½ cwt., (2) 12½ cwt., (3) 14½ cwt. (4), 19½ cwt., (5) 25 cwt.

(To be continued.)

**MR. G. L. GROVER'S AWARD.**

AN EXPLANATION.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your reference to my award is a little misleading, and in order that no one shall be under any misapprehension, I beg to point out that my award was made for good service, and no question of gallantry (in any sense of the word) arises. G. L. GROVER.

East Clendon, near Guildford, Surrey.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

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

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st, certain? All welcome. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Sneyd, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, March 6th, at 3.30. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify the Rev. Hugh Benson, Sneyd Vicarage, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, not later than March 2nd.

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