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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

Among the advantages and attractions of the ringers' art are the secondary interests which arise out of it. There are many of them and they vary greatly in their character and importance. Some, like composition and archæology, call for the highest intellectual powers a man possesses. Others are much humbler and more limited in scope, and with them we may class tune-chiming, about which a correspondence has been going on for some time in our columns.

Chiming hymn tunes is an art which does not interest many ringers. Many of them despise it as a poor and unworthy thing, and some dislike it because they think it is an enemy of change ringing.

For the last opinion there may have at one period seemed some justification. There came a time when English bell founders showed the world that they could supply carillon bells and carillon machinery superior to any produced elsewhere, and English bells and chimes were being installed not only in America, but even in the Low Countries, which hitherto had been considered supreme in this matter. Here at home one or two notable carillons were temporarily exhibited and some permanently installed, while many smaller chimes of pretty little bells were hung. It almost looked as if a taste for carillon music would be introduced into this country and the late W. W. Starmer constituted himself the prophet and preacher of a movement to that end. It was no wonder that some ringers began to fear that change ringing might suffer, and small carillons and chimes take the place of ringing peals; nor that they looked with displeasure on hymn chiming as a thing which might help on the evil day.

The fear was a groundless one. The supremacy of the English ringing peal was never seriously threatened, for though carillons are, in their own way, fine things, they need a sentimental background which is entirely lacking in this country. Except in the case of a novelty, Englishmen are never likely to spend time listening to a carillon, however fine. When they do get the opportunity of hearing tunes on a really musical set of bells, as at the Royal Exchange, they never listen.

Nevertheless, hymn tunes chimed on church bells do have an appeal to a limited number of listeners. They may be simple and humble folk, but they are not the less worthy. Therefore, though it can never take the place of proper ringing, a certain amount of hymn tune playing is a good thing and a thing to be encouraged. And if it is so, it follows that it should be done in the best and most effective way possible. The chimer should remember that he is an artist who has to render a well known

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and well loved tune in the manner which will most appeal to the listener. He can never play a tune as it should be played unless he first knows and loves it himself, and not only the tune, but the words with which in most minds it is associated. He must never allow himself to take any liberties with the air, either in the notes themselves or the time. Only those tunes which lie within the range of his bells should ever be attempted, for he only aggravates his offence if he pleads, as an excuse for tampering with an air, that he had not the necessary notes at his disposal.

Tune chiming is a subordinate branch of the ringer's art for which some men are fitted by opportunity and inclination. It is a thing worth doing if it is done properly, and if the recent correspondence leads people to study it more carefully it will be all to the good.

SOUND CONTROL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I can appreciate Mr. Sydney L. Marshall's point in reference to those towers, and they are many, containing clocks which strike and chime on the ringing peal, but I can assure him there is no need to fear the result if the blocking up is dealt with sensibly. I was careful to point out that each tower must be dealt with on its own merits, which naturally involves taking into consideration all factors of each individual case, including the clock. Bell tones are remarkably penetrating and will stand a good deal more 'shielding' than many people realise before becoming inaudible.

A striking example which comes to mind is that of Bow Church. This peal (which is, alas, now practically destroyed) was restored and rehung by Gillett and Johnston in 1933. Owing to the close proximity of blocks of business premises the main belfry windows had to be boarded up completely, after experimental trial, leaving the sound to pass out through the spire openings only, which were some 15ft. or more above the bells. This removed all complaints, but the famous Whittington clock chimes were still perfectly audible from the street below.

Mr. Marshall's suggestion of hinged shutters is excellent, but it has to be borne in mind that frequently there is not sufficient space available to allow of the swing of shutters into the belfry. I agree that in certain cases, reversing the slope of the louvres might prove sufficiently effective, but this would not be practicable, as the louvres would then simply form a sluice throwing wind driven rain water into the belfry.

Mr. C. Sharples' interesting letter refers to the frequently held notion that if the sound of bells is prevented from passing out freely the tonal vibrations will damage the fabric. This is a complete fallacy so far as the robust materials of which towers are built is concerned.

FRED. C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

EWERBY AND BREDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. Borrett's letter, I beg to say that the details he gives of the Ewerby bells are correct. The peal was augmented from four to a ring of ten by John Taylor and Co. in 1928, and is in the key of D natural.

In reply to Mr. Stole's letter, the diameter of Bredon tenor is 48½ in., and as this bell was greatly reduced in thickness by Warners when they rehung the peal in a new frame in 1914, its weight is probably a good deal less than a ton.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

THE HEAVIEST FIVE.

Dear Sir,—A heavier ring of five bells than any yet mentioned is at Peterborough Cathedral, the tenor of which is the largest bell in the diocese, viz., 56½ in. diameter and approximate weight 30 cwt. In Mr. J. Oldham's reply the bell he quotes is surely Castle Ashby and not Cold Ashby, where the tenor is only a 7 cwt. bell.

ROBERT G. BLACK.

BREDON TENOR.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. William Stole re Bredon, Worcestershire, I may say I had the pleasure of inspecting this peal of five about 40 years ago. The tenor is 49 in. diameter, note D and I should say, according to thickness, weight about 20 cwt., probably less. It may be interesting for him to know I have an octave of small bells, tenor 4½ in. diameter, treble 5½ in. diameter the treble being 1 in. diameter larger than the tenor.

TOM BOND.

The Bell Foundry, Burford.

TEN BELL PEAL.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 10, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

*FREDERICK A. FORSTER 2	Treble	WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 6
JOHN WORTH 2		ANDREW THOMPSON 7
JAMES A. MILNER 3		ARTHUR W. HALL 8
EDWARD STEELE 4		ROBERT S. ANDERSON... .. 9
RICHARD T. HOLDING 5		CHARLES H. PAGE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BATLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, July 10, 1943, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALFRED SMITH 5	Treble	KENNETH SIMPSON 5
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 2		GEORGE ROBINSON 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 3		FRED HODGSON 7
JAMES F. HARVEY 4		ERNEST H. SIMPSON Tenor

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS

Sixtieth peal as conductor for the Yorkshire Association.

SIX BELL PEAL.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

WILLIAM SPICE 4	Treble	STANLEY B. DOBBIE 4
*GEORGE KENWARD 2		GEORGE H. SPICE 5
PERCY J. SPICE 3		JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal. First tower-bell peal as conductor. Rung half muffled in memory of Mr. W. J. Wood, of Queenborough, and of Mr. W. J. Jeffries, of Deptford.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, July 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in four Spliced Surprise Major methods on handbells. This peal contained 2,240 London, 1,728 Bristol and 576 each of Cambridge and Superlative with 116 changes of method.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

ABBEYS AND PARISH CHURCHES.**DISPUTES ABOUT BELL RINGING.***(Continued from page 301.)*

The quarrel at Wymondham was the culmination of disputes which had lasted for many years. When the priory was first built it absorbed the parish church, and more than two-thirds of the nave was allotted to the parishioners for their use. But the prior maintained a supremacy over the whole building and on certain festivals extended his processions round the whole church and made his offerings at the parish altar. Especially he kept control over the bells, which not only asserted his overruling rights, but allowed him to regulate the times at which the parish services were held.

Originally there seem to have been two towers at the west end of the church, built for carrying bells, but if any were ever hung there, they were removed to the central tower, which was over the monastic part of the building; and to prevent the western towers being used for bells, the staircases were built up. This probably was done as the result of some dispute in which the then prior had gained the victory, for his successor alleged it was done 'as well with the assent of the prior and convent as the parishioners.'

The opening years of the fifteenth century were a time when there was a strong movement, largely controlled by laymen, against the Church, and we may perhaps see the effects of the teaching of John Wyclif and the Lollards in these efforts of the parishes to free themselves from the control of the monks. At Wymondham the advent of a prior of autocratic temper and little tact brought matters to a climax. Headed by one William Grout, a layman, the parishioners took strong measures to assert their independence and establish their rights. They stopped up the doors and passages connecting the nave with the rest of the church, pulled down certain walls which the monks had erected to enclose parts of the building which the parishioners considered as belonging to themselves, opened the blocked staircase leading to one of the western towers and hung up three bells for the use of the parish church.

The prior, in his complaint of these proceedings, represented them as an outbreak of lawless violence. He alleged that Grout and many others had violently attacked a tower of the church of the priory and hung three bells there to the disturbance of divine service and his annoyance; that they had broken strong walls of the priory, ejected him from his parlour and kept him out of it for three days, walled up and fastened the doors between the chancel of the choir and the nave of the church, so that he could not go out of, or into the church with possession or otherwise as in times past, hindered him from receiving his living and other profits of the church, and assaulted his servants.

From this ex-parte statement it has usually been assumed that the affair was a more or less spontaneous riot on the part of the townsmen, but there is every sign that it was a deliberate action, done in an orderly manner by the parish authorities in exercise of what they considered their rights.

The prior appealed to the law, and a commission was issued by the King to certain Norfolk gentlemen, Sir Thomas Morley, Sir Ralph Skelton, the Sheriff of Norfolk, and others, to make inquiry into the facts of the

case and to report. One of the commissioners was 'Thomas Erpyngham, ehivaler,' the 'good old knight' of Shakespeare's 'Henry the Fifth.'

The commission recites that the prior had alleged that he and his predecessors had held the nave of the church of the priory with all profits time out of mind, and the parishioners of the priory had been governed in their coming to church by the sound of the bells of the priory and never had bells of their own; so that the prior and his fellow monks were not disturbed in divine service as was usual in divers other abbeys and priories.

Pending the inquiry the commissioners were to 'take down the bells if then hung and keep them safely, repair the broken walls, amend other trespasses, open the walled up and fastened doors and entrances, inform the evil doers that if they do further trespass it will be at their peril, and arrest any who rebel and imprison them until they find security for desisting.'

The return made by the commissioners is in the Coram Rege Rolls of 12 Henry IV. and the finding is that the parishioners had been from time immemorial called to church by the sound of the priory bells, but that on the Thursday before St. Faith's in the eleventh year of the King, certain of the parishioners entered the church, broke into a tower standing upon the porch of the church and suspended three bells to the disturbance of the prior and convent.

When the case was called, the defendants pleaded not guilty, upon which the King granted letters patent to Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, to inquire into and settle the matter. The Archbishop's decision was, in the main, in favour of the parishioners. They were empowered to convert a tower, at the west end of the church and on the north part of the same, into a belfry for their church, and to place, find, keep, and have sufficient bells in the same, ringing them at their pleasure, but closing all apertures within the church, except the holes for the ropes, so as not to disturb the monks occupying the priory.

It was probably to save the face of the prior that the tower granted was the northern one at the west front and not the other which had been taken possession of by the parishioners.

It was not until after these things that the present lofty and massive western tower was erected, and so it is not correct (as is usually stated) that it was built as a direct result of the dispute about the bells.

The cases I have mentioned are only those which are referred to in state papers or in documents preserved in the papal archives at Rome. There must have been many more; and, indeed, the Prior of Wymondham said they were 'usual.' The interest for us lies in the fact that they show the laity were taking a great interest in ringing and gaining control of the bells. The love of Englishmen for bells, if it did not originate in the early fifteenth century, was greatly developed then. It was the time when ringing (using the word in its technical sense) may be said to have begun, and it is not too much to say that it is only because of what happened then that we have our science and art of change ringing to-day.

IPSWICH. — On Sunday, July 4th, at St. Clement's. 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Bowell (conductor) 1, Miss E. Reeve 2, W. Prime 3, A. Hardy 4, Gnr. R. Lester 5, F. Long 6.—At St. Matthew's, 720 Kent Treble Bob: E. Pizzy 1, G. Leach 2, Miss E. Reeve 3, Gnr. B. Lester 4, A. Hardy 5, C. H. Aldous (conductor) 6.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On July 8th, the bells of St. John's, Pinner, were rung muffled in memory of Lionel A. Royall, a member of the local band, who was killed on August 1st, 1941, while serving with the Royal Navy. Another member of the company, E. Ware, jun., is a prisoner of war.

Leicester ringers rang Knighton bells on July 8th, when Mr. Frank Poole, son of Mr. Frank Poole of the Knighton band and nephew of Mr. Harold Poole, was married to Miss Grave Flavell.

Last Monday, Mr. Alfred Lawrence, of Swindon, reached his 88th birthday. He still takes part in the ringing.

Mr. W. H. Barber called the first peal of Erin Caters at North Shields on July 12th, 1909; and on the same date in 1919 the first peal of Victoria Little Court Major was rung at Gillingham, near Chatham.

Jeremiah Miller, at one time a leading member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, died on July 13th, 1877.

The first peal of Newbury Surprise Major was rung on July 14th, 1938, at Bushey, and the first peal of Tring Surprise Major on July 15th, 1935, at Tring. Both were conducted by Mr. Harold Cashmore.

The first peal of Caversham Major was rung at Caversham on July 15th, 1913; and the first peal of Hinton Surprise Major at Hinton-on-the-Green on the same date in 1933.

Mr. C. W. Woolley called on handbells the first peal of Avalon Court Major at Bushey on July 15th, 1941. Two days later, with nearly the same band, Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Lavenham Court Major.

Mr. E. A. Barnett called the first peal of Painswick Court Major on July 16th, 1937. Derek M. Sharp rang the sixth.

Fifty years ago yesterday, at Seaford, John S. Goldsmith rang his first peal of Major. Mr. George Williams called from the second, and Mr. Keith Hart rang the third.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just received a letter from Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, dated January 20th, 1943, from a prisoner of war camp in Italy. He says that while on a lorry, after capture he met another ringer, Christopher Hetherington, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who at that time was quite safe and well. He thought the news might be of interest to 'The Ringing World.'

Dennis Brock had suffered a slight leg wound, but had recovered, and wrote in his usual cheerful style.

R. DARVILL.

THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We shall all agree with what you say about the local ringers in the Guildford Diocese wishing to provide a sanctus bell in their new cathedral. Would it not be possible for those outside the diocese to be associated in this? Thus the diocesan ringers might collect funds for the bell itself, and we others for the fittings. Or if they provide for these as well, there is still the place for the bell to be found.

You suggest that this would be in the tower. Is this settled? The tower seems the wrong place for a sanctus bell. It is true that in the careless ages many sanctus bells were relegated to towers. But the right place for them is not far from the high altar, where someone assisting at the service could ring it without a long journey to the tower. Thus we often find them hung in turrets or in small arches over the gable at the east end of church or chancel. In the Sainte Chapelle, in Paris, there is a well-known and very beautiful flèche for such a bell. In the new cathedral in Liverpool, the bell is hung out of sight from the ground, in a corner of the roof. This seems a poor arrangement. Perhaps something between these two would be suitable for Guildford. If the authorities would agree to this, the work could be put in very much sooner, and the bell be available for use for any services that may be held before the tower is built.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

[Where the sanctus bell will be hung in the new cathedral at Guildford is obviously a matter for the cathedral authorities to decide and no doubt has already been settled. In London, in pre-Reformation times, it was almost invariably hung in the steeple, and generally speaking, the same was the rule throughout England.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOLVERCOTE.

A half-yearly meeting of the Oxford City and District Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held on June 26th at Wolvercote. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was served in the Parish Hall. At the business meeting Mr. W. Collett took the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. T. Hibbert, Mr. Godfrey, of Garsington, and Mr. Bond, of Eynsham.

The Chairman referred to the deaths of Mr. George Ayres, of St. Ebbe's, and Mr. F. Young, of Garsington. Both were killed in North Africa.

It was proposed by Mr. Walter Judge and seconded by Mr. B. Badder that if possible a joint meeting should be held with the North Berks Branch at Abingdon in September. This was carried and Mr. A. E. Lock said that he would do what he could to arrange it.

Six new members were elected.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, to Mr. E. J. B. Morton for playing the organ, and to Mrs. White and her friends for providing the tea.

Ringings ranged from rounds and Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise. Twenty-four people were present, including several in H.M. Forces.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ARKSEY.

The Doncaster and Districts Society held a meeting at Arksey on June 26th, at which ringers were present from Doncaster, Selby, Felkirk, Campsall, Sprotborough and the local company.

The Rev. J. P. Price, of Arksey, took the chair, and in the course of his speech he asked the ringers to make their ringing as pleasing as possible to outside listeners and to refrain from too many 'crashing blows.' Otherwise there would be complaints and the bells would have to be silenced again.

The meeting was a great success and there were so many learners that a special practice was arranged for July 16th.

JOINT MEETING AT SHIPLEY.

On June 26th a joint meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society was held at Shipley, and was attended by members from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Birstall, Denholme, Earlsheaton, Haworth, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Liversedge, Pudsey, Queensbury, Skipton, Silsden, Sherburn and the local company.

After tea in the schools the Leeds Society held a business meeting, presided over by Mr. J. F. Harvey, who urged that whenever possible assistance should be given to bands for Sunday ringing. An invitation from the Eastern District to hold a joint meeting at Sherburn on July 31st was accepted.

At the business meeting of the Yorkshire Association Mr. P. J. Johnson took the chair. Mr. W. Ambler was elected hon. secretary in the place of Mr. Rayment, who had been called to H.M. Forces. Mr. Rayment was thanked for his services.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local company.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EWELL.

At a meeting of the North-Western Division of the Surrey Association, held at Ewell on July 3rd, about 40 members and friends attended from Ewell, Croydon, Leatherhead, Clendon, Mitcham, Isleworth, Kilburn, Goring-on-Thames, Beddington, Streatham, Carshalton, Epsom, Wimbledon, Wembley and Kingsbury. A short service, conducted by the Rev. R. R. Willmott, was followed by tea in the Parish Hall and the meeting, at which the Rev. R. R. Willmott presided, supported by the two churchwardens of Ewell.

Seven new members were elected, and the election of another was ratified.

The secretary gave notice that the next meeting would be held on August Bank Holiday at Leatherhead jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild.

A vote of thanks to those who made the meeting a success was passed, especially to Mrs. J. Beams and her lady helpers for providing the tea.

The methods ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

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TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 292.)

The Church of SS. Andrew and Patrick, Elvedon, Suffolk, now possesses two towers. The old church has been nearly rebuilt in an elaborate manner, an entirely new nave and chancel having been added north of the old building. The old tower has one bell, 'John Darbie made me 1664,' and a set of ten tubes. It is of the 15th century, and said to have been built by four shepherds, who are commemorated by four lifesize statues placed at the four corners in lieu of pinnacles. The old church was dedicated to St. Andrew, and the new to St. Patrick, being 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 Countess Iveagh.

At Fingest, Bucks, the ancient Church of St. Bartholomew has a single Norman tower, but with a double gabled roof which is unique. It only contains one bell, however, and a poor one at that, cast by a local iron-founder. Its inscription is incised and reads, 'I. Hobbs Lane End 1830.' It is hung with wheel and stay, but has no slider. There is a tradition that the bells in the tower were removed to Hambleton, the most generally accepted version being that Fingest parish was involved in debt, and that Hambleton parish paid off the debt on condition that the bells should be transferred to that tower. All round the bell chamber of Fingest's fine Early Norman tower are to be seen marks in the wall which seem clearly to indicate where the frame of a ring of bells was fixed. The existing frame is older than the bell, and consists of two cages, and the empty one has been in use. Unfortunately, in the indenture of 1552, the bells are not mentioned.

Of the cathedrals, the only one with but two towers is that of Exeter. Several have three towers and many have single towers, of which I will give details later. The history of the heavy ring of bells at Exeter is well known and has been already given in these columns, therefore I will reiterate very briefly.

As early as the 13th century there were ten bells here, but it is extremely unlikely they formed a peal in any way, but most probably were odd bells used for the various services in pre-Reformation days. In the inventory of 1552 it is noted there were eight bells in one tower and five in the other. Later we find agreements for recasting various bells, but how the eight became augmented to ten is a mystery and was certainly not done by adding two trebles in the usual way. In 1678, Mr. Warren, bell-hanger, was paid £60 for hanging the bells, 'to be rung upon the sally,' i.e., to be hung for ringing as we understand it to-day. Before that date they were probably rung by half-wheels.

Before 1902, no peal was ever attempted here; in fact, it would have been well nigh impossible, not only from the bad 'go' of the bells, but from the position in which the ropes descended. The bells were hung in a timber frame, all swinging the same way, and the ropes fell in ranks thus, counting from left to right: First row, 1, 2, 3, 4; second row, 6, 5, 4 flat; third row, 7, 8; fourth row, 10, 9.

In 1902 they were all rehung in a new iron frame by J. Taylor and Co., who also recast the 5th and tenor, add-

ing 10 cwt. more metal to the latter, which now is the heaviest tenor to any 'ringing' peal. (Liverpool will be heavier when completed.)

The first peal on the ten was 5,021 Grandsire Caters on October 6th, 1902, conducted by Geo. Williams; and on September 14th, 1903, a peal of 5,041 Stedman Caters was called by John Austin. In the latter peal the tenor, 72 cwt. 2qr. 2 lb., was rung by the late Wm. Pye for 4 hours 1 minute, the only time it was ever rung single-handed. In 1922, two trebles were added, making a grand ring of twelve, and on these the first peal was 5,017 Stedman Cinques, called by Albert Walker, on July 5th, 1924. The only time the great tenor was 'turned in' was on October 15th, 1932, when 5,280 Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung in 4 hours 25 minutes. It was rung double-handed by the late Wm. Pye and Edward P. Duffield, the 11th bell being rung by Reuben Sanders.

Exeter Cathedral suffered grievous damage in the terrible air raids on that city, but it is a relief to ringers to know that the bells are safe, and at the recent 'Victory in Egypt' ringing, the eight heavy bells were rung. Although Exeter has the largest tenor bell, the total weight of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, bells is heavier than those of Exeter, being 271 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb., as against 260 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lb.

Although not yet possessing dual towers, the new Cathedral of St. Mary, Blackburn, Lancs, will have them when the complete scheme of extension is finally carried out. At present it has its old west tower, which contains a ring of ten bells, tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. When the complete design for the extension of the Cathedral eastwards is done, there will be a much higher octagonal tower erected in the centre at the crossing of new transepts. Whether this will eventually carry bells remains to be seen. The present ring consists of a complete set of six by Abel Rudhall (1737, tenor recast 1747), to which four trebles were added by C. and G. Mears in 1851.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT HEREFORD.

After a lapse of three years, the annual meeting of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Hereford on Saturday, July 3rd, and was reasonably representative of the districts and well attended considering the times and travelling difficulties.

Following the Guild service at St. Nicholas', the meeting was held in the College Hall, and was honoured by the presence of the Bishop of Hereford.

The business of the meeting, under the chairmanship of the Master, Mr. W. Saunders, was principally that necessary to the resumption of active operations. The Master, the hon. secretary (the Rev. E. G. Benson) and the assistant secretary (Mr. J. P. Hyett) were re-elected.

An encouraging feature was the number of young members admitted (19 altogether) from Burghill, Coalbrookdale, Eardisland and Hereford. An item of interest was the enrolment of the members of the Hereford Cathedral School Society, which has been formed with the active encouragement of the headmaster, Mr. C. F. Scott. The members are already helping with service ringing in the city churches and joined the Guild as members of the Cathedral band.

The bells of the Cathedral, All Saints' and St. Nicholas' were available during the afternoon and evening and were well used.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on July 3rd, two new members were elected, Mr. V. J. Benning, of Belvedere, and Mr. J. C. Read, of Wanstead.

The books and photographs left by the late Francis E. Dawe to the society were on view.

The meeting on July 31st will be at Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard, by invitation of Mr. E. H. Lewis. Trains leave Euston at 1.45 and 1.55 for Tring. If possible ringing will be arranged at Ivinghoe. Names should be sent to the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck.

COOKHAM.—On Saturday, July 10th, a 720 Bob Minor: Miss D. Fletcher 1, G. Martin 2, T. J. Fowler 3, — Judd 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingham (conductor) 6.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.**PUBLIC APPRECIATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have done a good bit of this chiming for about forty years now, and to make it look easy for others who wished to try, but did not understand the usual notation, I arranged several tunes, about fifty, for eight bells, by using figures for the bell to be struck and dots to show the time.

I had come to know from listeners that it helped them to refresh their thoughts when they heard a tune rendered to one of their favourite hymns. This gave me the impression that it was something worth doing.

I received a letter quite recently from one who appreciated this tune chiming when living here, although I did not know of this before, and after a lapse of so many years I was agreeably surprised, but such things 'move in a mysterious way.'

To be appreciated by those within hearing it seems necessary to make sure that the bells are suitable from a musical point of view, because we know that some bells are not cast for this purpose. Peals of eight, where it is only possible to render tunes within the octave, although not always quite perfect, give pleasure to a good many, but tunes attempted on the higher numbers, and not quite in tune with the octave, cause the critics to make remarks that are not very complimentary. So I do not think it is very wise to attempt it. I have in mind one church where tunes were very popular with the public, but when tunes above the octave were rendered the letters and complaints the Vicar received from listeners gave him a troubled mind, and it was a great relief to him when the ringers arranged to ring the bells instead of the tunes.

Henfield.

C. TYLER.

SIX BELL TUNES.

Dear Sir,—Anent the recent letters re chiming, it may be of interest to note that in Hymns A. and M. there are only four tunes suitable for six bells, and they are as follows: 'The sun is sinking fast,' 'Now the day is over,' 'Christian! Seek not yet repose,' 'We love the place, O God.'

Kirk Ella, East Yorks.

A. H. FOX.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. WOOD.

The death of Mr. W. J. Wood, of Queenborough, Kent, at the age of 65 years, is announced. At the funeral on July 5th the Rochester District of the Kent County Association was represented by Mr. W. Spice and a wreath was sent by the ringers.

Tunstall bells were rung half-muffled on July 6th, and at the same time the ringers had in mind W. Haigh, F. Beloy and others of the association who passed away during the ban.

JOINT MEETING AT HAGLEY.

A joint meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association and the Dudley and District Guild, held at Hagley Park by permission of Viscount Cobham on June 19th, was attended by 67 ringers.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. Burns, who welcomed the visitors. Tea was served in picnic fashion under the trees.

At the business meeting of the Worcestershire Association three new members were elected, and it was decided to hold meetings at Kinver and Halesowen in July and August, and the next quarterly meeting at Clent in September. Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector, the local leader, Mr. F. Molyneux, Mr. E. M. Ashford and his Boy Scouts and Mrs. Parkes for their excellent arrangements.

Ringings ranged from rounds to London Surprise.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT ADDERBURY.**

A meeting of the Banbury Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Adderbury on July 3rd, when some 30 ringers attended from the local towers, and there were several visitors, including the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master. The service in church was conducted by the Vicar of Adderbury, the Rev. T. H. South. He spoke of the many lessons ringers could learn from the various churches they visited. Other men had laboured and we of our generation had entered into their labour; it was up to us not only to maintain that heritage, but to enrich it before we passed it on.

After service, tea was followed by the business meeting, at which all the officers were re-elected, and a meeting at Banbury was provisionally arranged for October. Ringing on the fine peal of eight consisted of touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

ZEALS, WILTS.—On July 5th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. J. Paul, R.A.F. 1, Jack Gray, R.D. 2, H. S. Parsons, F.G. 3, F. A. Coward, Sp. Con. 4, Louis Perrett, H.G. 5, F. G. Coward, R.A.F. (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by ringers of 1, 2, 4 and 5. Rung to celebrate the meeting of five old pals home on leave.

LAVENHAM.—On Sunday, July 4th, 1,264 Bob Major: M. T. Symonds (conductor) 1, A. F. Turner 2, S. Smith 3, W. R. J. Poulson 4, W. Faires 5, L. Offord 6, J. Dearlove 7, W. Jarvis 8.

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 0.1 2/-.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney, Sunday, July 18th, at 9.30 a.m.

—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting, Cathedral bells (12) at 2 p.m. Further ringing announced at the meeting.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Goldhanger, Saturday, July 17th. Buses leave Maldon 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., and Goldhanger 7.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Bexley, on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th. Service 4.15 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Twickenham, July 17th, 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Tel. Perivale 5320.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting in the Singing Men's Vestry at Durham Cathedral on July 17th. The Dean invites those attending to evensong at 3 p.m. and the meeting will follow immediately. A purely business meeting, no ringing. No catering arrangements.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lurry, July 17th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Flamstead on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Buses from Dunstable and St. Albans—route 369. Get off at Flamstead Turning.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry, Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) from 3.30. Service in church 4.30. Tea, 5.15, in St. Andrew's

Hall, Binley Road. Business meeting to follow. Keresley bells (5) from 2.30-4 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bolton, Saturday, July 17th. Bells 2 p.m. Business 7 p.m. for nominations.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 17th. Service, Great St. Mary's Church, 4 o'clock, followed by business. Great St. Mary's bells 3-4 p.m. and one hour during evening. St. Benet's 2.30-3.50 p.m. — K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.—Meeting on Saturday, July 17th, St. Paul's, Bath Road, Hounslow (8 bells), 2.30 p.m. Three minutes from Hounslow West Tube Station. All Saints', Isleworth (10 bells) after tea. Tea at Blue School, North Street, Isleworth, 4.30.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Stockport and Bowden Branch. — Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch. —Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea, only for those who notify Mr. A. Holmes, Edenham, Bourne, by July 19th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Names to Mr. R. Elkington, 24, High Street, Anstey, before July 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Willoughby (6), Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Burbage on Saturday, July 24th.—Bells 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Meeting at Chequers Inn 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45. Service 6 p.m. Names for tea by July 21st.—L. Stilwell, Hon. Sec., Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, July 24th. St. Stephen's bells (6) 3-4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Institute, with St. Peter's bells (10) to follow. Numbers for tea to R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Practice meeting at Banwell, Saturday, July 24th, 6 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Pool Farm, Sandford, Bristol.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Meeting, Measham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea at 4.45. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Debenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 2.30. Tea can be obtained in the village.—W. C. Rumsey.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Pytchley (5 bells), Saturday, July 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., only for those who notify me previously. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Stratton, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea in Schoolroom.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 31st, 3 p.m. Tea provided. No food.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ringing meeting at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, July 31st, at 3 p.m. No other arrangements will be made.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of the Eastern District and the Leeds and District Society at Sherburn-in-Elmet on Saturday, July 31st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 2s. each, for all who notify Miss D. M. Hawley, East View, Sherburn-in-Elmet, not later than Tuesday, July 27th. Buses leave Selby at 1.30 and 3.30, and leave Leeds Bus Station hourly at 23 minutes past the hour, and trains leave Leeds at 1.5, 2.26 and 5.13 p.m.—H. S. Morley and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION, N.W. District, and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Leatherhead on Monday, August 2nd. Bells during afternoon and evening. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—D. Cooper and A. H. Smith, Hon. Secs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Monday, August 2nd. Business meeting in the College Hall at 2.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided 5 p.m. Bring food. Bells available at 5.30 p.m.: Cathedral (12), also handbells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6).—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgemoor, Evesham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Maidstone, Bank Holiday, August 2nd. Committee meeting 11.30. Service at 3 p.m. Tea in the Old Palace 4, followed by business meeting. Names before July 26th. During morning bells available at Maidstone (10), Leeds (10), Linton (8), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8).—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5. Names before August 3rd to J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

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