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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.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

To-day is the 306th anniversary of the founding of the Society of College Youths, and to-morrow the company will celebrate it by holding the war-time equivalent of the traditional annual feast. In itself, the event is perhaps of no great importance to others than those who will be present, but it has a symbolic value which, in these days of change when people are, for good and for ill, more and more cutting themselves adrift from the past, that should not be lost sight of. For the College Youths' annual feast is one of the most striking of the links which bind the present-day Exercise to its remote past. To say that the feast throughout the years has been maintained at the same high level would not be true. To say that there never has been a break in the regular succession would be somewhat hazardous. Yet there is good reason for thinking that not one year has gone by since 1637 without some such gathering. The Society of College Youths has had a varied and chequered career, but it has never lost its continuity. It is not merely a revival, as are many of the apparently old institutions we come across at times.

Three hundred and six years are a long time in the history of the modern world. The Society of College Youths is older than the United States of America and the Dominion of Australia. It saw the beginnings of the Kingdom of Prussia and the Empire of Austria, and their end. England and Englishmen have been vastly and profoundly altered.

Yet the society in all its essentials has not changed. It lives much the same life, is governed by much the same rules, and pursues much the same objects as it did when it was founded. But it does not survive as a museum piece. It survives because it is needed as much to-day and is as much up-to-date as it was when it was founded.

In this the Society of College Youths is merely representative of the whole Exercise. It was not by any special merit of its members that it has had an unbroken life. There are many provincial towns where, in essentials though not in form, there has been almost as long a continuity of ringing. If the Exercise as a whole had not continuity, the College Youths would have disappeared long ago.

It is our great privilege that our art of change ringing is firmly based on mathematical truth and is so hedged about that it must keep within certain strait limits. Its use in the service of the Church is also a stabilising influence. And for all its rigid boundaries, it yet has practically endless scope for development. This it is which holds out a promise of unlimited life for change ringing.

(Continued on page 482.)

'Doomed to death, though fated not to die,' it has often been despaired of by people; but to-day its vitality is as great as ever, and the very fact that the College Youths are to-morrow meeting at lunch three hundred and six years after the society's first feast is a promise and an assurance that three hundred years from now the College Youths of that day will be still holding the traditional function.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES 2	FRANCIS KIRK 5
MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT... 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
THOMAS J. LOCK... .. 3	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 7
*FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 4	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. J. H. Humphries.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF HEYWOOD'S No. 1. Tenor 14½ cwt.

L/CPL. W. FARMER, R.A.S.C. Treble	VICTOR A. JARRATT 5
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.E.... 2	ALBERT PICKLES 6
CLIFFORD ELLISON 3	WILLIAM AMBLER 7
HAROLD PEARCE 4	SAM LONGBOTTOM Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	HERBERT W. BISHOP 5
WILLIAM C. PORTER 2	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 6
WILLIAM W. T. DANIELL ... 3	NEIL ALLNATT 7
REV. KENNETH C. DAVIS ... 4	CHARLES J. GARDNER Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

Rung to celebrate the diamond jubilee of St. John's Church, of which the ringer of the 4th is priest-in-charge.

MEETING AT HADDENHAM.

A meeting, held at Haddenham on October 23rd, was attended by ringers from Willingham, Wilburton, Over, Sutton, Ely and a representative local band, all of whom rang their first course of Bob Minor.

Tea was in the Church Hall, after which Mr. L. Norfolk proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, the Rev. K. G. Sandberg, and to the ladies who had provided the tea.

The bells were kept going until 8 p.m., when coffee and refreshments were provided. The methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Woodbine, Cambridge and Norwich Surprise and Plain Bob. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Chatteris on Saturday, November 27th, at 3 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT KINGSTHORPE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Kingsthorpe on October 30th, with a good attendance of members. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. L. Couchman, after which tea was provided at the Vicarage. The business meeting followed, and thanks and appreciation of Mr. Couchman's generosity were heartily endorsed.

The bells were well used, and ringing enjoyed before the service and in the evening.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 22, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE. Arranged for Pte. A. Ballard, who was home on leave from the Forces.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET L. TUTT 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 7-8

Composed by H. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE. * First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.' A birthday compliment to the ringer of 1-2.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, October 25, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 106, GAY'S GARDENS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten callings).

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	JAMES BULLOCK, SEN.... .. 3-4
*FRANCIS BULLOCK 5-6	

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK, SEN.

Umpire—Thomas Bullock.

* First peal and first attempt.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, October 31, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT 106, GAY'S GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	JAMES BULLOCK, SEN. 3-4
*ERNEST W. PYE... .. 5-6	

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK, SEN.

Umpire—Thomas Bullock.

* First peal of Minor on handbells.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the last paragraph of your short article last week you say that peals rung in recent years of so-called 'Real' Superlative and Double Norwich have only occasional bobs behind. This may be true of Superlative, but not Double Norwich.

I think it fairly safe to say that in all, only seven peals of 'Real' Double Norwich have been rung.

The first was at Woolwich in 1848 and only five bobs were made when the treble was behind.

The second was 50 years later at Irthlingborough, when James Houghton, jun., called a peal by the Rev. Bankes James. In this peal all the calls were at 1 and every one a double call.

The third, in 1906, was at Erith. This peal contained 65 calls, all single ones, 40 of which were made when the treble was behind.

A year later one was rung at Lewisham. There were three calling positions in this peal, 1.2.5, and every call was a double one. I well remember this, as my father had some difficulty in composing it.

The three remaining peals were at Crayford and were the same composition as that rung at Erith in 1906.

There may have been one more. Just before the present war someone, I forget who, wrote and asked whether my father had left any compositions of 'Real' Double Norwich, as he was anxious to ring a peal of it.

10, King's Close, Crayford.
[We thank Mr. Barnett for his explanation. The Irthlingborough and Lewisham peals were Real Double according to correct usage. The others were not.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

E. BARNETT.

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 476.)

SOME OF THE MEMBERS.

Another member of the Society of Esquire Youths was Christopher Turner. He was the son and heir of Sir Christopher Turner or Turnour, of Milton Erneys, who was a prominent member of the Middle Temple and was made a judge at the Restoration. A large oil painting of him hangs to-day in the Guildhall picture gallery.

The younger Christopher was entered as a student of the Middle Temple on February 27th, 1663, and was 'called to the degree of the utter bar' on November 27th, 1663. He had two brothers, Charles and Edmund, who also were law students. The young men of the Inn rebelled against the puritanical restrictions imposed by authority, and determined to have an old-fashioned Christmas. They broke open the doors of the Hall, the Parliament Chamber, and the kitchen, and proceeded to enjoy themselves. They carried on their revelries until Twelfth-night, and then authority came down on them with a heavy hand. At a Parliament (of the Middle Temple), held on July 26th, 1671, Charles and Edmund were each fined £20 for 'setting up a gaming Christmas,' and Charles was expelled the Inn, but was afterwards reinstated on due submission.

Christopher managed to escape that time, possibly through his father's influence, but in 1674 a Parliament decreed that 'Messrs. Christopher, Edmund and Charles Turner are expelled for their scandalous and shameless behaviour late at night in several courts, unless they can show good cause to the contrary on Friday next.' A copy of the order, left at their chambers, was to be sufficient notice. No doubt they made an edifying submission and were let off, for ten years later Christopher handed in a petition relating to his and his brothers' chambers, the rent of which was in arrears.

The chief butler at the Middle Temple at the time was John Chapman. I do not know whether the office was held by a person of social standing. If so, then the John Chapman who was an Esquire Youth was pretty certainly the same man, but there was a John Chapman, an esquire of Cheine, in Surrey. After the Esquire Youths broke up, John Chapman in 1684 joined the College Youths and was successively steward (1691) and Master (1698).

John Griffiths was the son and heir of William Griffiths, of Llanwaythley, in Anglesey. He entered Gray's Inn in 1654. In June, 1661, he petitioned the King for a grant in writing of the place promised him of Clerk Comptroller. He was granted the office of Clerk of the Billets in the Court of the Marches of Wales when it should be re-established, and he petitioned the King to add another life, that of Charles Coling, to his grant. His profits, he said, were about £50 a year, and arose solely from a fee of twopence a billet paid by the subject.

The name of the clericus of the society is not given, but it probably was William James. The son of Henry James, he was born at Mahone, in Monmouthshire. He was educated by his uncle, and, says Anthony Wood, 'being extra ordinary rath-ripe and of a prodigious memory, was entered into his accedence at five years of age.' In 1646 he was elected a King's Scholar of Westminster, where he became the favourite pupil of the famous Dr. Busby. He was elected a student of Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1650, and returned to Westmin-

ster, first as usher, and then as second to his old master. He died on July 3rd, 1663, greatly regretted by all who knew him, and was buried in the Abbey. A brilliant scholar, he probably was responsible for the Latin and Greek in the society's rules. I have traced three or four others of the members. They are all of the same class, sons of country gentlemen and members of the Inns of Courts.

How long the Society of Esquire Youths was in existence we do not know. Probably it disappeared after a comparatively short time, leaving scarce a memory behind it. In the 'Tintinnaloga' is given a method called the Twelve Score Long Hunts, or the Esquires' Twelve Score, which was, no doubt, the composition of one of the members, and a favourite peal. It is practically an extension to six bells of the older Eight and Forty on five bells. The sixth and fifth are in turn the whole hunt. First the sixth hunts from back to front and then up again, the fifth meanwhile acting as cover. Then the fifth hunts down and up, the sixth acting as cover. When either is leading full, the other four bells ring one change of the twenty-four Plain Changes, or (in a variation of the method) one of the changes of Plain Box Minimus.

(Concluded.)

ST. PAULINUS', CRAYFORD.

QUICK PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Barnett, in his interesting letter on the bells of St. Paulinus', Crayford, states that Stedman Triples in 2 hours 14 minutes and Bob Major in 2 hours 47 minutes are the two quickest peals on eight church bells. As the tenor is about 12½ cwt., surely there must be a mistake in these times. I make the average time for Stedman Triples on these bells about 2 hours 48 minutes.

In the year 1902 several quick peals were rung in London, and to quote one, viz., Stedman Triples at Walworth in 2 hours 37 minutes with a 15 cwt. tenor is a fair specimen of quick ringing.

Perhaps Mr. Barnett will enlighten me on the difference of 33 minutes between the two peals.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

A CORRECTION.

Dear Sir,—I would like to congratulate 'Teddie' Barnett on his account of Crayford, also to correct what I imagine to be a printer's error. The peal of Bob Major in 1930 was rung in 2 hours 17 minutes, not 2 hours 47 minutes as published. Even your article of last week does not prevent me pointing this out, as on this occasion we set out to see just how they would go if we really got in a hurry.

I agree with most of your article. I have had equal enjoyment out of a peal of Stedman Triples in 2 hours 14 minutes, my quickest, and one in 3 hours 27 minutes, my slowest, but there is one point you overlooked, I think, that is that on many of the old peals which are still with us, a slowing up exposes the imperfections and short windedness which is often hidden when a good pace is maintained.

I well recollect a peal I took part in 20 years ago. The locals used to reckon about 3 hours 20 minutes for seven 720's. We visitors pulled one off in 2 hours 50 minutes, and heard the question asked when we adjourned, 'Why can't our ringers make our bells talk like that?'

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

SPEED IN RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your reference to the speed of ringing brings to my mind a physiological experiment I have tried several times on bands ringing a peal.

They were good and reliable bands, and, without warning them of my intentions I began to make the calls in a soft and drawn out tone, and continued so for the first part. The second part much louder and snappy and so on alternately for the six parts. The effect was that the first, third and fifth parts were rung slower than the others. I have known it vary as much as two minutes between two parts, and without any apparent effect on the rhythm.

I remember one particular peal I called with a mixed band in London. It was a six-part peal, and all the slow parts were rung in exactly the same time, so were the quick ones, only in 1½ minutes shorter time each.

This effect may be one of the reasons for the difference in times taken to ring peals on the same bells.

PETER CROOK.

203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Wednesday, Canon G. F. Coleridge will reach his 86th birthday. The whole Exercise will join us in offering him congratulations and good wishes.

Members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association should note that the meeting arranged at Christ Church, Swindon, for to-morrow is cancelled.

The latest news of Mr. Audsley, received from Mr. Edwin Barnett, is that he is making excellent progress. The operation was a far more serious one than it was at first thought to be.

Congratulations to Mr. W. H. Barber, who reached his 67th birthday yesterday.

Francis Bullock, who rang the tenors to the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Dagenham on October 25th, is the fourth son of Mr. James Bullock to score a peal. Francis was successful at the first attempt and on his twelfth birthday.

The ancient peal book of the Bromley Youths, which was badly damaged by exposure after the church was destroyed in an air raid, has been carefully restored by Mr. Percy Spice, the secretary of the local company. Mr. E. A. Young recently inspected the book and has suggested further precautions, and it is hoped the records will be preserved for posterity.

For reasons connected with the war, the band at Lamberhurst in Kent was reduced to two members. Since the ban was lifted recruits have been obtained from the girls' club, and after careful training they rang the bells for the first time for harvest festival on Oct. 10th.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,

Onslow Street,

Guildford, Surrey.

DEATH OF MR. FRANK M. BUTLER.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank M. Butler, which occurred at Mitcham on October 25th. The funeral was on the following Friday, and was attended by Mr. A. Miller, who represented the Ancient Society of College Youths and arranged for the bell to be tolled at Christ Church, Mitcham, where the first part of the service was held. The bells were rung half-muffled last Sunday.

Mr Butler joined the College Youths in 1892 and rang a number of peals with the society, 16 of them with the late W. T. Cockerill. Early in the present century he moved to Stanstead and afterwards lived at Clacton-on-Sea. He was a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral band and rang there until the ban was imposed on ringing. He had been ill for about 2½ years.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The Mastership of the Society of College Youths in 1643 and 1644 was held by two brothers, Henry and Robert Mackworth, the sons of Sir Henry Mackworth, Baronet, of Normanton in Rutland.

The Mackworths were a Derbyshire family living at the village of Mackworth. George Mackworth settled at Empingham, in Rutland, in the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and his wife and son Thomas gave the tenor to the ring of five at that church in 1611. It was inscribed, 'Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei. Ann Mackworth and Thomas Mackworth, Armiger, 1611.'

Ann died in 1612. Thomas, her son, was sheriff of the county, and was created a baronet by James the First in 1619. He died in 1626 and was succeeded by his son Henry, who matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1615, was admitted to Gray's Inn 1618, was sheriff of Rutland 1627, and died and was buried at Empingham in 1640.

His third son Henry was born in 1627, and so was only a boy when he presided over the College Youths. The Civil War had just begun, and the older men like Lord Brereton and Clifford Clifton were either with the King at Oxford or in the country on their fathers' estates. Henry Mackworth was the youngest Master in the long history of the College Youths. He died in 1681.

His brother Robert, two years older, was baptised at North Luffenham on April 10th, 1625. He was admitted a student of the Inner Temple in November, 1640, and died on February 1st, 1717, at the good old age of 97. He was buried at Empingham. He probably retained his love of bells and ringing throughout his long life, for his son Thomas, who was born in 1662, joined the College Youths in 1684, and was steward in 1693.

SQUIRE PROCTOR AND HIS BAND.

VISITS TO SUFFOLK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The remarks that have been made from time to time concerning the Squire and his men are interesting. May I be allowed to add some more notes concerning them.

The Squire and his men first visited the South-Suffolk area in June, 1874, but as the Lavenham anniversary fell on a Sunday, they postponed their visit until the Monday. On arriving at Lavenham they were met by F. T. Bardway, M.D. (a great friend of the Squire's), and other friends, and at once ascended the tower and rang some touches of Stedman, Double Norwich and Superlative on the bells there.

The following day they visited Long Melford and they were ignored, and not allowed to enter the tower, so had to content themselves with viewing the church. Then they went to Foxearth, where they were met and entertained by the Rector, the Rev. John Foster, and rang some 120's each of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and 720 of Kent Treble Bob, being the first that was rung there.

After that they visited Clare and rang 504 Stedman Triples. Their visit to Clare was broadcast and a large concourse of people assembled in the market place to hear the bells rung, which were then in very bad order. On coming out of the tower, the master of the Clare Town Brass Band, whose name was Glazier, ran and got hold of the Squire and said, 'You have done well. You can go and have a gallon of the best beer at the Bear.'

On a visit another year, after ringing at Lavenham, the Squire and his men visited Bury St. Edmunds, and after ringing at St. Mary's, rang 1,122 Stedman Caters at the Norman Tower.

After the bells in Sudbury had all been made into octaves, the Squire and his men visited Sudbury and rang some touches on all the three octaves. Finding it difficult to ring Major on the heavy and bad going peal at All Saints', they tried Stedman Triples, and Nathan Warner did not set the tenor soon enough for the Squire, so he told the Squire to try it a blow, and the Squire gathered up the tail rope and pulled it off, and Warner and Thomas Page had to set it up for him. During their visit to Sudbury they were entertained to dinner at the Bear, then the headquarters of the Sudbury ringers. During dinner they had to have the Sudbury ringers' favourite dish, leg of mutton, mint sauce and green peas.

The Squire was a great lover of Lavenham bells, and at the time of the funeral a band met there and attempted to ring a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5,088 changes, but the attempt failed after three hours and seven minutes. On the following Easter Monday the band met again and rang a long peal of this method.

The things I have written I have heard the old ringers, now passed away, speak of many a time. I have no account of the Squire and his men ever ringing at Long Melford, for after the affair in 1874 the Squire would say, 'We are not wanted there, so please don't go.'

At the time the Squire and his men visited Clare the ringers stood on a floor to ring level with the sill of the west window. This was not replaced when the tower was restored and the bells rehung by the late Mr. F. Day, of Eye. While Clare bells were being rehung there was much doubt as to where the men should stand to ring, and Mr. Day said if they stood on the ground floor there would be the same length of rope as at St. Peter Mancroft Norwich. When the Vicar knew of this, he said no other ringing floor was needed and none was put in.

T. E. SLATER.

24, Hunts Hill, Glemsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Counties Association at Eastwood on October 16th was attended by about 40 members, and the ringing was very successful despite the fact that the treble stay had been broken half an hour earlier during ringing, for a wedding. It ranged from call changes to Cambridge.

In the Parish Hall the visitors were entertained to tea, provided by the ladies of the Parochial Church Council. The Rector gave a welcome, and thanks were expressed by Mr. Thomas Groombridge (the hon. secretary), Miss I. D. Thompson and Mr. J. Hobbs.

Four new members were elected. Handbells were rung to Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman and some tune playing.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT PENISTONE.

At a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Penistone on October 9th, the following towers were represented: Almondbury, Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Silkstone, Shelley, Sprotborough, Worsley and the local company.

The Vicar, the Rev. F. Buchanan, welcomed the visitors and presided at the business meeting at which Mr. G. Gordon Graham, of Eckington, was elected an honorary life member. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, November 13th. Good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 477.)

The grand old central tower and spire of All Saints', Rotherham, Yorks, has a somewhat curious approach to the ringing chamber. This church was originally a Saxon building, portions of which and of the succeeding Norman fabric are incorporated in the present church. It is a cruciform structure, mainly in the Perpendicular style, and about the middle of the 15th century the greater part was rebuilt and enlarged. In 1845, and again in 1875, further restorations were carried out.

The tower and spire are carried through on four huge pillars, the one at the north-east crossing being more or less a shell, and has a spiral stairway inside. At some time, possibly to 1820 (when the bells were made to 10), the opening at the bottom was inside the church. One can see quite plainly where the doorway has been built up. At about this time the stairway inside the pillar was continued downward towards the foundations, the last 12ft. being finished off with a perpendicular iron ladder. This brought the actual bottom to some 8ft. below the church floor level, and into what appears to be a coffin-shaped passage, 2ft. or so in width and about six yards long, and leading out into the churchyard on the north side. The land level falls away considerably to the north and east, and this, of course, allowed such a curious alteration of route being made.

The earliest mention of bells at Rotherham is in the will of William Greybern, first Provost of Rotherham College, who in 1501 left 6s. 8d. to the bells. In 1704 the great bell was recast by Samuel Smith, of York, at a cost, including various expenses, of £49 16s. 3½d. In 1752 a tenor weighing 24 cwt. and treble were cast by Hilton, of Watts. In 1821 a new ring of ten bells was provided; all except the 8th (which was blank) bore the founder's name, 'T. Mears, of London, fecit 1821.' These bells were first rung on December 20th, 1821, and formally opened on the Easter Monday following. In 1925 the whole were recast and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The old oak frame was removed and a new steel and iron frame with pits for twelve erected. The old tenor weighed 31 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb., but the new one now weighs 34½ cwt. The work was done 'in memory of Robert Dyson.'

A very similar arrangement of ascent to that originally applying at Rotherham, i.e., a spiral stairway up one of the pillars supporting the central tower, also occurs at Halesowen, Worcestershire. This entrance is rather hidden away and somewhat difficult for a stranger to find. The same applies at the central tower of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester. Both towers contain a ring of eight, that at Halesowen having been augmented from six in 1753. The treble was recast by J. Warner and Sons in 1864, the 2nd is by Lester and Pack, 1753, while the old six are by Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, 1707, the present 5th 'declaring'—

'Bee it knone to all that doth me see,
that Joseph Smith in Edgbaston made all wee, 1707.'

The tenor says:—

'When sovdn of bell doth pearce yovr eare
Come to the chvrch, God's Word to heare.
My movrnfvll sovdn doth warning give
That heare men cannot all wayes live.'

The bells of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, are by the Rudhall family of that place, and date variously from 1710 to 1769. At this church a company of ringers was formed from an early date, and a chandelier in the ringing room bears the inscription, 'God preserve the Crypt Youths.' A number of peals rung by these 'youths' are recorded on tablets in the belfry, mainly Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and New Treble Bob.

(To be continued.)

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT GATESHEAD.

At a meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association held at St. Mary's, Gateshead, on October 23rd, 26 members were present from Newcastle (Cathedral), Whickham, Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland (St. Ignatius' and St. Michael's), Morpeth Watch Tower and the home belfry.

Tea was provided by the local ladies in The Anchorage, and the ringers were welcomed by Canon Stephenson. Mr. Thomas H. D. Horne, of Morpeth Watch Tower, was elected a member. A vote of thanks for the use of the bells and to the ladies was proposed by Mr. Frank Ainsley.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on November 13th at Houghton-le-Spring.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

Members of the Warwickshire Guild turned up in good numbers on October 16th to witness the induction of the Rev. F. W. Moyle, president of the Guild, to the living of Allesley, near Coventry. The bells were rung for an hour before the service and an hour after. Then an adjournment was made to the Rainbow Inn, where tea was waiting, prepared by Mrs. Taylor and helpers.

Speeches were made welcoming the president as Rector of Allesley, and the Rector expressed his thanks and his desire to serve the Guild to the best of his ability. He asked his friends from Chilvers Coton (his former parish) to drink with him to the continued success of the Guild.

The Rector was then toasted by all, after which Mrs. Moyle entered the room for a fleeting visit and was presented to the local ringers.

WILTON.

A practice meeting, arranged by the local band, was held at Wilton, near Salisbury, on October 9th. Visitors came from Calne, Devizes and the Salisbury towers of St. Martin's, St. Thomas', St. Edmund's and St. Paul's. There were also ringers from Cirencester, Glos., and Westerham, Kent. The Rector of Wilton, the Rev. W. E. Drury, conducted a short service with address, and tea was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Haines of the Dalston Cafe.

The bells were kept going throughout the afternoon and evening to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor, and there were also cell changes.

WEDDING AT BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS.

On Saturday, October 23rd, at All Saints' Church, Barnby-in-the-Willows the wedding took place of Kathleen M. Vessey, member of the local band, to Percy Holmes, of St. Botolph's band, Lincoln. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. — Walton. Several ringing friends were present at the reception.

Later a quarter-peal of Minor, containing 720 of Kent Treble Bob and 540 of Bob Minor, was rung on All Saints' bells by L.-Cpl. S. G. Vessey treble, Mrs. K. W. Mayers 2, R. Thomas Vessey 3, Jack C. Vessey 4, Kenneth W. Mayer 5, Leading Seaman Jack L. Millhouse (conductor) tenor. All ringers but the ringer of the tenor are members of the bride's family.

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STAPLETON PARISH CHURCH. BELL REPAIRING BY VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several weeks ago during a practice for learners, strange movements were noticed in our third bell (of a ring of six). Investigations disclosed that the bell was hanging from the headstock by one bolt only instead of the usual four bolts and clapper bolt. The portion of the crown surrounding the clapper bolt had broken away to a radius of four or five inches, the break extending (in the form of a band about nine inches wide) over the shoulder and about four inches down the bell.

The bell weighs about 7 cwt. and is inscribed, 'Richard Phillips 1669 R.P. W.P. Miles Hobson.' The canons have been removed, and to the knowledge of the steeplekeeper the bell has been cracked in the crown for the last fifty years or so.

A description of the damage was submitted to one of the well-known bellfounders, who informed us that the only thing to be done was to recast the bell and that this could not be attempted until after the war. There was no temporary repair which could possibly be effective.

Although some of us were convinced that the majority of the local inhabitants would not even notice the loss of one bell, the thought of ringing or chiming 12456 till after the war was too much for our captain to contemplate. He, therefore, suggested that a temporary repair could be effected in the shape of a giant steel 'washer' made to fit under the crown of the bell with a lip where the broken piece extended over the shoulder. The whole bell could then be pulled up to the stock by its usual five bolts, which would first pass through the washer. The idea was acclaimed as worth trying, and the village blacksmith was, therefore, approached to see if he would tackle it. He probably had more idea than we had as to the difficulties ahead, but agreed to 'try anything once' and unearthed a suitable plate of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. steel which would meet the case.

What turned out to be three weeks' hard work by two of us and the blacksmith then commenced. We made templates from the bell and started work at the village forge. We couldn't take the bell to the workshop, so after each successive two or three hours' work forge-blowing and sledge-hammering, the steel patch and broken piece of bell, each weighing about a quarter of a hundredweight, had to be taken to the church about half a mile away, up the 46 tower steps and up ladders to the bell chamber. There we would find that it didn't fit by a mile, so down we had to go to the smithy for alterations. Steel plate $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick doesn't adapt itself like sheet lead, and even minor adjustments meant a morning's work. After five or six journeys between the forge and the bell chamber and the hard slog-ging on the job, our enthusiasm for the enterprise began to wane considerably. However, the steel plate was eventually manhandled into a shape which fitted snugly up under the crown of the bell and thus provided the maximum support.

The final job was drilling holes, and even this took two days, with journeys to and fro, so that the blacksmith's drilling machine could be used where possible and so avoid too much laborious hand drilling in the bell chamber.

At last, however, the job was finished and the bell rehung on Saturday afternoon ready for trial at Sunday morning's service. It went all right and during the course of the following week a few extra turns of the spanner were given to all the nuts in case there had been any settlement during its first ringing. The bell was then voted as good as new and was considered ready for ringing at our harvest festival service the next Sunday, when we hoped to have the pleasure of assistance from a neighbouring tower. The general opinion was that although when rung on its own the tone of the bell was a little less resonant, nothing amiss could be detected when it was rung in peal.

Our technical advisers were probably quite justified in saying that they were not prepared to recommend a temporary repair, and although we are all naturally very pleased with ourselves and our amateur 'bell-founding,' we are the first to admit that what we have done may be a foolhardy thing to have risked. Such a risk could not have been taken by a firm of bell founders who value their reputation, and if ever the bell falls to pieces over our heads, we will accept their 'We told you so.' What we may say if such an occasion should ever arise may have to be recorded as 'Famous Last Words.'

Meanwhile we have made the best of a bad job and have shown what really can be done if ringers are keen enough to keep their bells going.

'NIL DESPERANDUM.'

HOUNSLOW.—On Sunday, October 17th, at St. Paul's, 720 Bob Minor: Miss K. Brooks 1, A. Thirst (first 720 of Minor) 2, G. Dodds 3, S. Croft 4, F. Bishop (conductor) 5, H. Rogers 6.

IRISH ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT BELFAST.

The annual general meeting of the Northern Branch of the Irish Association was held in St. Thomas' Parochial Hall, Lisborn Road, Belfast, on October 23rd, when the following towers were represented: Bangor, Ballylesson, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Dublin (St. George's), Enniskillen, Holywood and Lurgan. Mr. Roy Faithful, a ringer from Southampton, also attended.

The chair was taken by Mr. F. E. Dukes, Dublin, in the absence of the branch president.

A message of good wishes was read from the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, president of the Irish Association.

Apologies were received from the Rev. — Deane, Rector of St. Thomas', Messrs. V. C. Patterson, Ballymena, and J. B. Tough, Bray, and from the Rostrevor band.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Branch president, the Rev. W. Gransden, M.A., Rector of Lurgan; branch vice-president, Mr. C. W. Neill, Lurgan; Branch Ringing Master, Mr. John Irwin; branch secretary, Mr. W. Pratt, Galston, Belfast Road, Holywood, Co. Down; branch treasurer and assistant secretary, Mr. Ian Gilmour, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim.

Lurgan was selected as the place of the next meeting, to be held next May.

It was decided that all ringers in the Allied Forces stationed in Northern Ireland may be elected members of the Northern Branch free of subscription and to encourage them to ring peals for the association. The secretaries and Ringing Master will be pleased to hear of any, and arrangements will be made for practice ringing at various towers and, if possible, peal ringing.

It is hoped to arrange inter-change of ringers so that every ringable tower will have its bells rung regularly.

The annual subscription was raised to 2s.

The Chairman stated that the authorities of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, had agreed to the erection of a memorial tablet to Gabriel Lindoff in the body of the Cathedral, but had not yet decided on the most suitable position. A grant was voted to the fund.

A discussion took place on the ringing of church bells on Victory Sundays and Christmas Day, when the carillon of Armagh Cathedral was chimed as representing the bells of Northern Ireland. The meeting felt hurt that the ringers had been overlooked on these occasions and suggested that representation should be sent to the B.B.C. and a record made of some ringing for future occasions. The bells of some churches had been broadcast on previous occasions. It was decided not to take any action until the committee had completed their plans for practice and inter-change ringing, to see what conditions existed at the various towers before making any recommendation.

Mr. Webb, on behalf of St. Thomas' Society, welcomed the association to Belfast, to which Mr. Pratt replied.

After the meeting some touches of Grandsire were rung silent on the bells of St. Thomas' Parish Church.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT DERBY.

At a meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Derby Cathedral on October 23rd, members were present from Sheffield, Nuneaton, Leicester, Ashby, Burton district, Rotherham, Sawley, Ilkeston and Duffield, and all the local towers were represented.

Unfortunately new ropes which were on order failed to arrive in time and before long two ropes broke, the interval being used for handbell ringing. At a short service at 4 p.m. the Provost, the Rev. P. A. Micklem, welcomed the ringers and stressed the importance of their art. He said it was appreciated by both clergy and public after the enforced ban.

Forty-six members sat down to tea in the Diocesan House, and at the business meeting which followed the Provost presided.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Peter's, Derby, on November 13th. One new member, Mr. Walter S. Keen was elected. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. W. Lancaster and seconded by Mr. J. Cotton.

A course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. J. Pagett, J. Bailey, W. Buxton, W. Parsons and F. Gobey.

The methods rung included Cambridge Surprise Major, Double Norwich, Spiced Treble Bob, Duffield, Grandsire Caters and Triples, and Stedman, with rounds and 'Queens' for the learners.

A collection for the bellrope fund amounted to £2 4s. 4d.

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

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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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd. Business meeting afterwards. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, Nov. 7th, 10.15 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Swineshead, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.45 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting arranged for Christ Church, Swindon, on November 6th, is cancelled owing to tenor being temporarily out of order.—W. B. Kynaston.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by November 10th.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at numerous cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Long Eaton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Tea (3s. each) and business 5 p.m. Names to Mr. C. Geary, 194, Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Notts, by Wednesday, November 10th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at East Grinstead, November 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. till black-out. Tea and handbells after. Postcard to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lower Beeding, November 13th, 3 p.m.; blacked out. Names for tea by November 9th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must inform Mr. J. Hobbs, 84, High Street, Redbourn, St. Albans, by November 10th. Buses from Dunstable, St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Meeting at Towcester, Saturday, November 13th. Service 3.30. Names for tea by Tuesday, November 9th, to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring own refreshments.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, November 13th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Tempsford, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Cawthorne, Saturday, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by November 10th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby, St. Peter's, Saturday, November 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall, 5 p.m. Names to Mr. A. Sherwood, 27, Upper Boundary Road, Derby, by Thursday the 11th.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool, November 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL RURAL.—Meeting at Bitton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., The Bungalow, Stanshawes Avenue, Yate.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kirkby-in-Ashfield on Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Tea for those who notify me by Wednesday previous.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec., 49, The Common, South Normanton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

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