



No. 1,758. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
transmission as a newspaper]

Price 3d.

**GILLETT  
&  
JOHNSTON Ltd.  
CROYDON**

Founders of the  
**HEAVIEST BELLS**  
Cast in England  
and Carillons of the  
**BRITISH EMPIRE**

in

**CANADA  
S. AFRICA  
NEW ZEALAND**



Telephone

Thornton Heath 3221-2-3 and 3120

**PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.**

A significant sign of the times is the steady increase in the number of peals that are being rung. In the four issues of 'The Ringing World' published in November we gave the reports of seventy-five peals. The number for November last year was thirty-four; six months ago the four issues for May contained forty reports; and the four issues for October contained fifty-three. The number of meetings held also tends to increase, and it is safe to conclude that, though the number of ringers abroad in the King's Forces is probably greater than it has been since the war began, there is at present more ringing done on Sundays and week-days than at any other time these last five years.

The reason may be found to some extent in the relaxations in the black-out regulations, in the lessening of the menace of air raids, and in the general feeling that final victory is not so far away; but these things in themselves are not a sufficient explanation. They help to show why the increase is possible; they do not explain why it has happened.

There are people who think that to ring peals when men abroad are losing their lives, and at home many hearts are being bereaved, is wrong; and there are others who look on bellringing as nothing more than an addition to the incessant noise which is destroying the peace and quiet of the country. Last week a correspondent voiced both these views and did it perhaps as well as it can be done.

What justification is there for either opinion? No one, of course, can tell what another's thoughts and feelings are, but we have never heard of a single instance where a man or woman's sense of loss, through the death of some loved one at the front, was worsened by the sound of church bells. And we have been stopped, not once nor twice, when passing a church, by persons who told us 'How nice the bells sound! I do so love to hear them!' That sort of thing did not happen before the war, at least not in our experience; the same people liked bells then as like them now, but to-day they often go out of their way to say so. Of one thing we may be certain: if the people of this country or an appreciable part of them had any objection to bellringing in these days, there would be none. If there were a minority who really believed that bellringing added to the sorrow of any particular person, they would have little difficulty in stopping ringing at any particular tower. On the other hand,

(Continued on page 490.)



anyone who comes into contact with the clergy and Church officials can have no doubt that ringing is generally welcomed and enjoyed.

There is still the problem of the noisy bells and the advisability of peal ringing in certain towers. That is no new thing. It existed before the war began, and it will exist after peace returns. It is not in any way affected by present conditions, and it should be remembered that, though ringers ought always to exercise restraint and show regard of the feelings of other people, the responsibility for deciding whether a peal attempt is advisable in any particular tower is not theirs. It belongs to the parson. If he, by giving permission, decides that it would do good, or at least do no harm, the ringers need have no scruples about making the attempt.

The increased number of peals is a good thing, for it is a pretty sure sign of the vitality of the Exercise. Many members of pre-war bands are absent from their belfries on national service at home or abroad, but those who are left are doing their duty well, and the number of recruits is gratifyingly large. Peal ringing is the natural outcome of this activity, and the increase is therefore a matter for unqualified satisfaction.

### HANDBELL PEALS.

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.  
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 16, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT 261, PETER STREET,

#### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

\*ALAN A. POTTS ... .. 1-2 | JOHN WORTH ... .. 3-4

\*LAURENCE WARD ... .. 5-6

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

\* First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

#### A PEAL OF KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

WORCESTER VARIATION.

ERIC A. DENCH ... .. 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... .. 5-6

MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 3-4 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE... .. 7-8

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... .. 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes.

AT NEW COLLEGE,

#### A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN, REVERSE, DOUBLE, HERWARD PERSHORE, DOUBLE OXFORD AND DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*MARGARET D. TELFORD... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 5-6

\*BETTY SPICE ... .. 3-4 | JEAN A. SOUTHERST... .. 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First peal in seven methods. † First peal in more than one method. The peal contains 1,008 changes of Plain Bob, 890 of Reverse, 752 of Double Norwich, 672 each of Double Bob and Pershore, 656 of Double Oxford and 448 of Hereward Bob, with 23 changes of method. The greatest number of methods yet rung to a handbell peal of Major.

### EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LECKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

#### A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 8 cwt.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND ... .. Treble	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... .. 5
WALTER C. ROSE ... .. 2	GEORGE KILMISTER ... .. 6
ARTHUR H. REED... .. 3	JOHN F. BALLINGER ... .. 7
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 4	*CYRIL H. JONES... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

\* First peal.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A'BECKET,

#### A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JAMES INGHAM ... .. Treble	FRED HODGSON ... .. 5
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT ... .. 2	ALFRED SMITH ... .. 6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3	FREDERICK SEAGER ... .. 7
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... .. 4	ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

#### A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb in . G

*MICHAEL J. FOSTER... .. Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 5
MRS. GEORGE SAYER ... .. 2	HENRY TOOKE ... .. 6
NOLAN GOLDEN ... .. 3	GEORGE SAYER ... .. 7
F. CHARLES GOODMAN ... .. 4	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

\* First peal in the method.

WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

#### A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. Treble	*H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... .. 5
GEORGE L. GROVER ... .. 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... .. 6
FRANK H. HICES ... .. 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... .. 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... .. 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

\* First peal in the method.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

#### A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN BOB AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

*MISS VALHALLA HILL ... .. Treble	WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. 5
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... .. 2	*NEIL ALLNATT ... .. 6
*HERBERT H. ALEXANDER... 3	*WILLIAM JUDGE... .. 7
*WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... .. Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

\* First peal of Spliced Major. The peal contained 3,360 changes of Bob Major and 1,824 changes of Kent Treble Bob, with 76 changes of method.

## TOWER CLOCKS

Weight Driven or Electric, by the  
WORLD'S OLDEST MAKERS  
ESTABLISHED OVER 300 YEARS  
Illustrated ART CATALOGUE on request

## J. B. JOYCE & CO. LTD.

WHITCHURCH, SALOP.

We have experts visiting all parts of the British Isles, and shall be pleased to carry out restorations or give reports regarding any make of Tower Clock



**SIX BELL PEALS.**

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

*RONALD ALDERMAN ... .. 7 <i>Treble</i>	CLAUDE TARR ... .. 4
FREDERICK ALDERMAN ... .. 2	*ROBERT J. KELLAND... .. 5
WALTER STEVENS ... .. 3	STANLEY N. BRISTOW ... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by R. J. KELLAND.

\* First peal.

MARKET DEEPING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

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

Being 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Norfolk, London, Cambridge, Primrose and Ipswich Surprise.

FRED BRIGHTMAN ... .. 1 <i>Treble</i>	HORACE M. DAY ... .. 4
CHARLES WOODS ... .. 2	WILLIAM OLDMAN ... .. 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... .. 3	FRANK TAYLOR ... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

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

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

T. WILLIAM NASH ... .. 1 <i>Treble</i>	HUBERT JONES ... .. 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS... .. 2	E. HARRY MEREDETH... .. 5
JAMES HUGHES ... .. 3	ARTHUR C. NASON ... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by Wm. J. BENIAMS.

Rung for the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Beniamps.

HUISH EPISCOPI, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 10 cwt.

*A. J. CALLOW ... .. 1 <i>Treble</i>	H. WESTLAKE ... .. 4
T. LOCKE ... .. 2	*S. DOBINELT ... .. 5
*P. COX... .. 3	G. JEANES... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by T. LOCKE.

\* First peal of Minor.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

GEORGE PORTER ... .. 1 <i>Treble</i>	FRANK OLLIER ... .. 4
JOHN E. B*OUGH ... .. 2	NEVILLE HOLLAND ... .. 5
*FREDERICK WILSB*AW ... .. 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

\* First peal.

TREETON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Rev. E. Bankes James' Arrangement. Tenor 11½ cwt.

WALTER ALLWOOD ... .. 1 <i>Treble</i>	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... .. 4
*JACK G. BROTHWELL ... .. 2	*J. EDWARD CAWSEY ... .. 5
TOM BROTHWELL ... .. 3	*JOHN E. TURLEY... .. <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSEY.

\* First peal in the method.

DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS.—On Friday, November 17th, 720 Double Oxford Bob: Miss B. Duffy 1, K. Duffy 2, W. Duffy 3, C. Perkins 4, F. Brightman 5, F. Taylor (conductor) 6.

**CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.**

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 477.)

The famous church of SS. Peter and Paul, Dunstable, Beds, is part of the original priory established here by Henry I. in or about the year 1131 for Black Canons, and dedicated to St. Peter. After its surrender, c. 1540, the greater part of the building was pulled down. The portion still remaining consists of part of the nave and west front of the conventional church, and now forms the parish church. It has an embattled tower with bold octagonal turret rising above it at the N.W. angle, and containing eight bells, tenor 23½ cwt. The tower was repaired in 1931. The west front consists principally of two stages flanked on the north by the staircase turret of the tower, which is supported by massive buttresses relieved by Early English niches once filled with statues, of which some remain. On the south side is a smaller embattled turret with buttresses of equal size. In the lady chapel of this church on May 23rd, 1533, Archbishop Cranmer publicly pronounced the divorcement of Queen Katherine.

The ringing chamber is approached by two separate ways. The original way is through the west door, in to the nave and turn right and proceed as far as to where nave and south aisle meet, to a doorway leading to a flight of circular stairs which takes one up to a narrow ledge about two and a half feet wide, running back along the wall of the nave to a small doorway—approached by three or four steps—opening directly into the ringing chamber. This means of entrance is rarely used now. A shorter and quicker way was made some years ago by a long, steep and slender ladder fixed at the side of the wall on the ground floor, and which reached up to a trap-door in the corner of the floor of the ringing chamber. The ground floor of the tower is entered by a separate door at the west end, and can be entered and left without going into the church proper. There is, however, a connecting door between the ground floor of the tower and nave if one wishes to enter the church that way. In 1930 the ladder mentioned above was replaced by a more substantial and wider structure in the form of a wooden staircase in two flights, with a platform halfway up. The cost of this was subscribed for by members of the Bedfordshire Association as a memorial to the late Rev. Canon Baker, who was Rector of Dunstable and President of the Association. The original way from ringing chamber to the bell chamber was: You came outside and along a gallery for about four yards and thence up a spiral stairway. Again there is a series of ladders inside the tower which are used, though somewhat dangerous. The ring of eight was originally all by Pack and Chapman, of London, 1776, but in 1896 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. recast the treble, 6, 7 and tenor. There is a priest's bell with an invocation to the Virgin.

(To be continued.)

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.—On November 18th, 720 Bob Minor: R. G. Houghton 1, T. P. Harras (first 720 on an inside bell) 2; C. H. Harding 3, A. C. Sinfield 4, Cpl. J. Stubbs 5, F. W. Budgen (conductor) 6.

OXFORD.—On November 22nd, at All Saints', 736 Spliced Surprise Major, 384 London, 160 Bristol, 96 each Cambridge and Superlative: Miss M. D. Telford 1, E. A. Barnett 2, V. J. F. Bennett 3, Miss M. R. Cross 4, H. R. Badder 5, W. C. Porter 6, G. Caudwell 7, W. F. Judge (conductor) 8.



## THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 473.)

Shipway's Court.	Lavenham Court.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857
42316587	42618375
24361857	46281357
42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351
<hr/>	
68472531	68472531
86745213	86745213
87654123	68475123
78561432	86741532
87516342	87614523
78153624	78165432
71856342	71856342
17583624	17583624
<hr/>	
15738264	15738264

If in any method the bell coursing next in front of the treble makes a place, crosses the treble's path, and immediately makes another place, the result is that those two bells change positions in Coursing order:—

0103000	or	0003010
0010300		0030100
0001300		0031000
0003100		0013000
0003010		0103000
0000301		1030000

This operation, which is called a Court Shunt, is one of the most important in method construction, and is found in a vast number of methods of all sorts—Plain, Treble Bob, Surprise and the rest. The place making entails a definite amount of dodging by other bells. The operation is found in its simplest form in Double Court Minor, hence its name.

It does not matter where the places are made. They may be at handstroke or at backstroke, and when the treble is hunting up or hunting down. The result is always the same; the treble is moved one position in Coursing Order, and if one shunt only is used in a lead the lead-end will be 3527486. When two or more shunts are used in a lead, each of them moves the treble one position in Coursing Order, and the lead-end can be had by transposing the previous lead-end by 3527486 as many times as there are shunts in the lead. When seven of these Court Shunts have been made, the treble has completed its cyclical journey through the Coursing Order of the working bells, all the bells (including the treble) are in natural Coursing Order, and if no more shunts are made the bells which started with rounds will run round when the treble leads.

We said it does not matter where the Court Shunts are made. It does not so far as the effect on Coursing Order and the lead-end is concerned; but there are one or two other considerations which in practice restricts their use. One is that the number of positions in which it is possible to make them is definite and limited. Another is that the making of a place at handstroke often, in Major methods, necessitates a bell leading or lying for four consecutive

blows—a thing not allowed by modern rules. A third is the necessity for the lead of the method to be symmetrical—a shunt made when the treble is hunting up must be balanced by one when the treble is hunting down. This being so, it is only necessary to work out the half-lead when the treble is hunting up, and from it to prick the half-lead when the treble is hunting down in due order.

Turning to the Court Shunts made at backstroke, we can see by experiment that on six bells there is only one possible position—Fourths and Thirds. On eight bells there are two possible positions—Fourths and Thirds, and Sixths and Fifths. On ten bells, three positions—Fourths and Thirds, Sixths and Fifths, and Eighths and Sevenths. On twelve bells four positions. On fourteen five. And so on in a regular progression *ad infinitum*.

On eight bells the first of the methods in the class is the one produced by place making in 3-4 as the treble goes up and in 3-4 when it goes down. The second is the one produced by place making in 5-6 as the treble ascends and descends. The first is called in the Central Council 'Collection of Major Methods' (not very happily) Shipway's Court. The other is Lavenham Court.

Both methods will produce good music, and both are worth ringing, though neither has any outstanding quality or is among the best of the Plain Major methods. Both are quite easy. In Shipway's Court the tenor dodges in 7-8 down, 1-2 up and 5-6 up. It is turned from behind by the treble and make places in 3-4 down. After turning the treble from the lead it dodges in 7-8 down and 5-6 down. It leads full when the treble is lying behind, and from that point the work is reversed. The work of Lavenham Court is the same, except that it is done from the back instead of from the front.

In both methods at a bob Sixths place is made and the bells in 7-8 dodge.

Captain W. H. J. Hooton called the first peal of Shipway's Court in 1934 on handbells, and Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Lavenham Court, also on handbells, in 1941. The methods are very suitable for practice by a first-class handbell band.

We have said that Shipway's Court is not very happily named. Shipway was dissatisfied with both the extensions of Court Bob Minor to eight bells current in his day—those which bore the names of Norwich and London from the cities at which they were originally practised—and he printed in his book what he considered was the nearest to the six-bell method. In the first half-lead the places are made as in the modern Shipway's Court; in the second half-lead as in Lavenham Court. The method is not symmetrical, and so does not reach present-day standards. It is not 'double' either, according to the accepted definition adopted thirty or forty years ago. In this respect, however, Shipway was right and the moderns wrong, for a bell does work from the back in the same way it works from the front, and that is the essence of a double method.

When we combine Shipway's Court and Lavenham Court, we get Double Norwich Court. Of that little or nothing need be said now. Taken on the whole it is the best Major method of any kind that exists. In music it is surpassed by none and equalled by few if any. It is not in any way difficult, but the interest it supplies never fails. It has not nearly so extensive and varied a range

(Continued on next page.)

**THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

of composition as Bob Major, but there are quite sufficient good peals of it to suit all tastes and qualities of conductors. As there are four Court Shunts in every lead of Double Norwich, the first lead-end of the plain course is the same as the fourth lead-end of the plain course of Bob Major.

(To be continued.)

**MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.**

**EWELL, SURREY.**—On Saturday, November 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*J. H. G. Pycraft 1, \*Miss P. Smee 2, H. E. Good 3, E. T. Grove 4, Miss E. Harrington 5, A. G. Oliver 6, J. E. Beams (conductor) 7, \*D. Mann 8. \*First quarter-peal. First as conductor.

**KELVEDON.**—On November 25th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Herbert 1, E. Beckwith 2, D. H. Elliott (conductor) 3, J. Elliott 4, A. A. Finch 5, A. Haynes 6. Rung on the 51st anniversary of Mr. D. H. Elliott's first peal.

**PINNER.**—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*F. Robbins 1, N. Genna 2, F. Blondell 3, W. Bunce 4, A. Hunter 5, R. Colyer 6, T. Collins (conductor) 7, \*H. Stratford 8. \*First quarter-peal.

**WICKHAM, HAMPSHIRE.**—On Saturday, November 18th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Williams 1, R. Page 2, A. Leahy 3, A. Millard 4, G. E. Chappell 5, Alfred Mears (conductor) 6; 720 Kent Treble Bob: A. Leahy 1, G. Williams (conductor) 2, R. Page 3, G. E. Chappell 4, A. Millard 5, A. Mears 6; and 720 Oxford Single Bob: A. Leahy 1, G. Williams 2, R. Page 3, A. Mears 4, A. Millard 5, G. E. Chappell (conductor) 6.

**KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.**—On Sunday, November 19th, 720 Bob Minor: Rev. M. L. Couchman 1, Horace Parker 2, John Dunkley 3, Eric Nobles, R.A.F. 4, George Parker 5, Joseph W. L. Linnitt (conductor) 6.

**WINDSOR.**—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Smith 1, A. Smith 2, W. Welling 3, A. G. Wratton 4, W. W. Phipps 5, N. V. Harding (conductor) 6, A. J. Glass 7, F. Simmonds 8.

**NORTHAMPTON.**—On Sunday, November 19th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Atterbury 1, W. H. Austin 2, W. R. Parker 3, G. F. Cantrill 4, F. Hopper 5, L. Farey 6, W. J. Dove (conductor) 7, A. Monk 8.

**SERVICE TOUCHES.**

STEDMAN CATERS.

459					567				
231456789	1	5	6	16	231456789	1	5	6	16
362154978	—	—	—	—	362154978	—	—	—	—
364251	—	—	—	—	264153	—	—	—	—
461253	—	—	—	—	462351	—	—	—	—
					461253	—	—	—	—
675					677				
231456789	1	5	6	16	231456789	1	5	6	16
362154978	—	—	—	—	361452978	—	—	—	—
264153	—	—	—	—	163254	—	—	—	—
463152	—	—	—	—	164352	—	—	—	—
364251	—	—	—	—	461253	—	—	—	—
461253	—	—	—	—	463152	—	—	—	—
783					1,001				
231456789	1	5	6	16	231456789	1	5	6	16
362154978	—	—	—	—	362154978	—	—	—	—
364251	—	—	—	—	364251	—	—	—	—
361452	—	—	—	—	361452	—	—	—	—
163254	—	—	—	—	163254	—	—	—	—
164352	—	—	—	—	164352	—	—	—	—
461253	—	—	—	—	462351	—	—	—	—
					264153	—	—	—	—
					463152	—	—	—	—

All round by bobs at 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, and 22.

**BOB MAJOR.**

1,248					1,280				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
25463	—	1	—	—	52364	—	1	—	—
45362	—	—	—	—	34265	—	—	S	—
25364	—	—	S	—	23465	—	—	—	—
35462	—	—	—	—	42365	—	—	—	—
45263	—	—	—	—	53264	—	—	S	S
23564	—	—	S	—	25364	—	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	S
35264	—	—	—	—	32456	—	2	—	S
42366	—	—	—	—	43266	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	24356	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	S

# John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

# LEADING BELL FOUNDERS



# THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

## MEARS & STAINBANK

AT

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD  
LONDON

E.1

Telephone BISHopsgate 2599

Founders of the new ring  
of twelve for  
Liverpool Cathedral  
Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,  
MUFFLES,  
Etc.

### 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of  
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,  
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed  
to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,  
Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

Last Monday, November 27th, Mr. James George reached his 91st birthday. His friends will be glad to hear that he is now feeling very much better.

The peal of Cambridge Minor at Treeton was rung on the 51st anniversary of the first peal by the ringer of the second.

### 'KINDRED SOCIETIES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leader of November 24th you refer to a still enforced rule of one of the oldest societies, presumably the rule of the College Youths, which excludes Cumberland Youths from its membership.

If this is the rule referred to, I, as one who joined the Cumberlands in ignorance of the fact that by doing so I should be debarred from membership of the College Youths, would be interested to learn the grounds for your assertion that the rivalry engendered promotes the interests of change ringing.

On the contrary; I submit that this objectionable rule serves no useful purpose, is an anachronism and is quite contrary to the sentiments expressed by the proposer of the toast; in fact, to my mind, so long as this rule is enforced, the toast of 'The Kindred Societies' is so much humbug.

If, as I once read in your columns, the rule had its origin in some ringers' quarrel in a bygone age, why should this be perpetuated? The majority of ringers to-day probably know nothing of the reason for the rule in question and care less, and it seems inconceivable that in these supposedly enlightened days this relic of the 'bad old days' should be even tolerated, let alone justified.

We may, as you say, derive amusement from the 'Bell News' of fifty and sixty years ago. What, I wonder, will our grandchildren in their turn think of us, say, about the year 2000 when they read that as late as the 1940's such a rule was countenanced? Will they think we have advanced as far as we would like to believe?

70, Morris Lane, Leeds.

R. H. DOVE.

[Mr. Dove has not got his facts correctly. There is no rule of the Society of College Youths which excludes Cumberland Youths from its membership.—The Editor.]

### LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HEADINGLEY.

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on November 25th, members were present from Armley, Bramley, Batley, Bradford, Guiseley, Headingley, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Selby and Woodlesford, as well as a visitor from Kent. Tea was by invitation of the St. Chad's company and was followed by the business meeting. Four new members were elected, Messrs. S. Kettlewell, W. Armstrong and H. R. Parkinson, of St. Chad's, and E. Marsh, of Woodlesford. Thanks were given to Canon Marshall and the local band. The next meeting will be at Pudsey in January.



## GABRIEL LINDOFF.

### UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TABLET.

On Sunday, November 19th, after evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Dean unveiled a brass tablet erected to the memory of Gabriel Lindoff. The inscription reads:—

'To the memory of Gabriel Lindoff. One of the founders of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, Keeper of the Belfry and Instructor to St. Patrick's Cathedral Society of Change Ringers, 1897-1941.

'O Praise God in His Holiness, Praise Him upon the Loud Cymbals. This Tablet is erected by the members of the Ringing Exercise and Friends in memory of a great Ringer.'

In the course of an address, Canon E. H. F. Campbell, president of the Irish Association, said if it had not been for Gabriel Lindoff, a good and humble-minded Christian, change ringing in the church and cathedral towers of Ireland would not hold the place it does to-day. The name of the man had an appeal of its own. It was an uncommon name seldom found, if indeed anywhere else—Gabriel Lindoff. It was a unique and a striking combination of names which suggested an unusual fascination, whether spoken or read. It conjured up something other-worldly, for the name Gabriel is borrowed from the angels who lead the praises of God in Heaven itself.

Quoting from 'The Ringing World,' Canon Campbell said, 'From boyhood Lindoff was interested in bells. While at the early age of 16 he watched the hanging of a peal of bells in his parish church in Suffolk, he determined to teach himself how to control a bell, not an easy thing as those of you who were his disciples know. And when a mere boy he took his place amongst the local team, he created amazement by his capabilities.' In early life he was an army schoolmaster, and at Aldershot he became an accomplished ringer. In 1897 he left England and was appointed instructor to the belfry of St. Patrick's. He founded the Irish Association with Lord Justice Cherry as its president. He himself was appointed hon. secretary, which position he held for 43 years. After much persuasion he accepted the position of president in 1934.

Gabriel Lindoff, continued the speaker, was a man of very quiet demeanour. Nothing ever ruffled him. To interest oneself in this strange but fascinating art one must possess infinite patience and perseverance. He overcame indifference and slackness by his wonderful example. Up and down the steep descent of the tower he went not only twice on Sundays, but for week-day practices as well. If others were sometimes casual or irregular, he was always in his place. After ringing here twice on Sunday I have seen him ringing every Sunday evening in St. George's with the team there. He was not the man to ring the bells and then go home. He always took his place in the pew and made his act of worship in the body of the church.

There was a large attendance of ringers from St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedral, St. George's, Dublin, Drogheda, Bray and Waterford. They included Messrs. F. G. Hicks, C. Sawier, R. T. Cherry, H. R. Greene, M. Hogan, R. Murphy, F. E. Dukes, W. H. Wilson, D. Gibson, W. Lynch and R. Kearney.

After the ceremony a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on the heavy eight bells by the St. Patrick's Cathedral Society.

There were 66 subscriptions from every tower affiliated to the Irish Association and from most of the English associations and individual persons, friends of Gabriel Lindoff.

### GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. William Dye, of Grundisburgh, Suffolk, celebrated their golden wedding on November 25th. During the afternoon methods ranging from Bob Major to London Surprise were rung on the church bells, and during tea Grandsire Caters was rung on hand-bells. Mr. Dye, who is 84 years old, is a regular service ringer, and in the present year has taken part in fifty 720's and quarter-peals.



GABRIEL LINDOFF.

## PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I read your correspondent 'B's' letter I rather wondered whether his and others' objection to peal ringing is entirely due to consideration for the feelings of those who have lost friends and relatives in the war. May it not be that some ringers, especially those who are not so young as they once were, are suffering from the strain of these last five years and are no longer so anxious as they once were to undertake peal ringing? I may be doing 'B' an injustice, but it is not impossible that, while six years ago he was as willing and eager to stand in a peal as anyone, now there is not quite the same enthusiasm, and he has unconsciously invented an excuse. I hope his enthusiasm will revive when the victory ringing comes, but I am not sure he is going the right way to work.

H. ROBERTSON.

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with your correspondent 'B.' Peal ringing is entirely out of place in war time, and should be left until peace comes again. People will want to hear the bells then; now in too many places they only add to the noise which is driving men to distraction. They can't be good for ringing generally, even if some few ringers get a certain amount of pleasure out of them. 'S.'

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'B' seems to have an even larger bee in his bonnet about peals in war time than his fellow advocates of hibernation. If he associates the sound of church bells with the many and various aural accompaniments of a world war, of which, incidentally, his district, wherever it may be, has by no means the monopoly, it is surely high time that he gave up ringing and joined the ranks of the introspective 'Lt.-Colonels Retd.' who maintain a constant barrage of correspondence to the national and local Press on the diverse and numerous grievances by which they seem to be afflicted more heavily than other members of the community.

Forgive my cynicism, but I am of the opinion that this anti-peal complex is no 'war-baby,' but a lusty child of much maturer years. Friend 'B' rather gives his own attitude away in that he has undertaken to criticise peal ringing in war time, and in the same letter talks about the future, which suggests that these two separate subjects are closely associated in his own mind, and that possibly he means not 'peal ringing at the present time,' but 'peal ringing at any time.'

And what of the criticisms which other correspondents have made of war-time peals? I would have liked to see some comment from the 'anti-pealers' on the excellent point Mr. Pulling made recently in your columns; you will, I hope, forgive me for reiterating it in the form of a question. What is the difference to the ears of the public between three hours of well-struck changes and the clattering and banging at intervals throughout a Saturday afternoon and evening which is the usual indication of a ringing meeting? I find it significant that I have not seen in your columns any objection to the holding of meetings where circumstances permit.

For my part, I realise that meetings are an indispensable adjunct to ringing, and I, for one, derive great pleasure and benefit from them. They perform an eminently desirable function, no less in war time than at other times. But if some of your correspondents have such a tender conscience in the matter of peals why do they not extend it to the realm of meetings?

As to the reactions to the sound of bells of those on whom the war has placed a heavy burden of sorrow, you have dealt most adequately with the matter in your editorial of October 27th. May I just add that, if peal ringing at the present is out of place on those grounds it will most certainly be equally out of place on the day that final victory is celebrated, and, moreover, the argument must essentially apply to all ringing and not merely to peals. It is as illogical to condemn the sound of bells for being cheerful as it would be to condemn the Prime Minister for publicly paying tribute to some success of arms in which, inevitably, a great price has been paid in lives.

P. A. CORBY.

79, Beckwith Road, Herne Hill.

## AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir—It was kind of Mr. Oldham to respond to my suggestion as to the weights and notes of bells, but this is not, to my mind, the end of the story, for it is old bells we are talking about, not modern ones.

I believe, subject to correction, that many of these are a good deal lighter than Mr. Oldham's scale. Take Kidlington tenor as an example: by Mr. Oldham's scale she should be just on 27 cwt., but when she was weighed about 40 years ago in the tower she was found to be 23½ cwt. Allowing for some slight inaccuracy in the apparatus, she might be 24 cwt. True, she has no cannons.

If the three big firms would care to send me a scale made up from their experience of weighing old bells (which they themselves did not cast) without cannons, and if they will add their idea of the weight of the cannons, I will prepare an average scale. I am aware that the views of founders on this matter vary considerably, but a result obtained in the manner I suggest will be of use and interest to the Exercise.

J. H. R. FREEBORN.

Little Chalfont.



## HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 477.)

The rules Ellacombe drew up for his own belfry at Bitton are instructive, for they show at what he aimed in his urge for belfry reform. In form they were a voluntary agreement by the band, but in reality they were the strict conditions under which the ringers were allowed to ring. One of the chief evils had been, in Ellacombe's opinion, the independence and lack of discipline among ringers, and that he took steps to alter. If the rules were kept in spirit and letter, the ringers would be a very docile lot of men who carried out their duties very much under authority. The Vicar would have complete control, but his authority would normally be exercised through the foreman, who would be responsible for the conduct of the company in the belfry and have to report to him. Ellacombe seems to have thought that payment for ringing was one of the chief inducements which led men to the belfry. He accepted it as the natural thing, but he framed his rules so it should provide the great hold the Vicar would have over his band.

The first of the rules reads thus: 'We resolve to be a respectable body of men, as well as good ringers, and to give no occasion by our conduct to any person to speak against us, nor to bring disgrace on the Church in which we are connected officials. Neither will we desire to take into our company any who are of low life and character—idle, drunken fellows, and sabbath breakers; for we acknowledge that the belfry is part of the church, and that the ringers being officers of the church should bear a good character.'

This is said to be the 'chief of all' the rules, and it is significant. For notice that the leading qualities called for in the ringers were that they should be 'respectable' and should 'bear a good character'; in other words that they should in outward appearance seem to be good men. Here Ellacombe did (though not quite as he intended) put his finger on the reason why the ringers of his day were criticised; they were not respectable. In the mid-nineteenth century the one virtue which in practice was more valued than any other was respectability. It is rather difficult nowadays to understand first what was meant by the word a century ago. The virtue (or at any rate the recognition of it) was a product of the social changes which followed on the industrial revolution. It belonged entirely to the lower middle classes and the best of the labouring classes; people like Ellacombe would not have been flattered if it had been applied to them. It included a number of things: a capacity for saving money, keeping out of debt, avoidance of public-houses, strict observance of the 'sabbath' (which definitely included the wearing of best clothes), regular attendance at church or chapel, and the like. Men might be selfish, hard and mean, without in any way losing respectability, but no respectable person would have been seen drunk in the street, or wearing other than his best clothes on a Sunday.

Emphatically the ringers as a class were not then 'respectable.' They got drunk far too often and too publicly, and some of them wore dirty clothes on Sundays. A writer in 'The Ecclesiologist' talks about the ringers 'in their every-day dirty working dress retreating like those who feel ashamed of being seen by their more decently attired neighbours'; and Ellacombe himself speaks of ringers in London 'who belong to no society,

who prowl about the towers in the hope of getting a job that they may spend the more at some public-house in the neighbourhood, where many such are often to be met with amusing the customers with handbells. These may sometimes be seen coming out of the churches immediately after the bells have ceased—dirty-looking youths and men, smoking short pipes it may be.'

We shall not be very far wrong, and not too uncharitable, if we say that one of the chief aims of Ellacombe and his fellow-reformers was to make ringers 'respectable.' It was only natural and right at a time when so much was being done to improve and raise the standards of divine service that clergymen should have objected to the close association with their churches of such a kind of men as the ringers generally were. It was, we must remember, the time when the Exercise had reached its lowest ebb. Ringing had been abandoned to the lowest classes of society, which were entirely outside the influence of the Church and generally of religion. There is no reason to suppose that the ringers were any worse or any different from their fellows, but the fact that they were ringers brought them into the limelight. They were judged not by the standards of their own class but by the standards of those who judged them, and, of course, they fell short. It is not easy to see how, with the wages they received, the ringers of the agricultural villages could have been habitual drunkards, but now and again ringing did bring a little extra money, and then was the opportunity and the temptation to make a night of it.

We can hardly blame them. Of all jobs the agricultural labourers must have been then the dullest and most monotonous. From early morning till evening he might be at work on hedging and ditching, never the whole time seeing or speaking to a soul, except his master, who would come and look and maybe make a few complaints and pass on his way. When evening came there was nothing to do and nowhere to go except home, which usually was little better than a hovel where a whole family lived in a couple of rooms. Can we wonder that the man went when he could to the public house where at least there was warmth and company, and when there spent the money he had earned as a ringer? It was not 'respectable,' but it was very natural. Men in richer circumstances when they took too much wine would have servants to help them to bed, but the ringer who had exceeded his proper quantity when he was turned out of the lighted taproom had to face, it may be, a long walk through rough and miry lanes, and if he stumbled and fell there he might remain till someone found him or he became more sober. You may be sure the tale did not fail to get about the village and to reach the Vicar's ears.

(To be continued.)

## BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT STAGSDON.

A meeting of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Stagson on November 11th, when 34 members and friends were present from Bedford (St. Peter's), Biddenham, Bromham, Blunham, Great Barford, Kempston, Maulden, Northampton (St. Andrew's and St. Giles'), Stevington, Silsoe, Tempsford, Turvey, Wootton and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. N. A. Bonavia-Hunt), who gave an address. Tea, at the invitation of Mr. P. Bonnett, was in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Bedford on December 9th. One new non-resident member, Mr. W. R. Hammons, of Northampton, was elected. Votes of thanks to the Vicar and to Miss Gilbert, Mrs. Bonnett and their helpers were passed.



## THOMAS DAY.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1895.)

Mr. Day was about middle height, 5ft. 7in. or so, pleasant looking and stoutly built. By trade he was a tool maker, a skilful workman, who by his industry had acquired a sufficient competency, so that the last years of his life were passed in well-earned leisure. He was an excellent ringer all round, and although he seldom had any practice, could always be depended on as safe in a peal. He was a good conductor, and at short notice called the Lates-Thurstans peal of Stedman Triples in 1842, and previously several peals of Grandsire Triples, including the first peals rung by Elijah Roberts and H. Johnson.

He was never very anxious about ringing a number of peals, and used to say a peal of a sort and that a good one was enough for him, also that a good touch of about an hour or so was better than a bad peal. I think he conducted two, or perhaps three, peals of Treble Bob Major, one of which composed by Thurstans was false.

I think the following would be a fairly correct summary of the peals in which he took part—five or six peals of Grandsire Triples, two of Grandsire Caters, two of Stedman Triples, two of Treble Bob Royal-one of Treble Bob Maximus, and a half-peal of Stedman Cinques.

This half-peal of Cinques was rung on a Sunday afternoon, on the 70th birthday of Alexander Sanders, the sexton of St. Martin's, who rang the fifth in the touch (Sanders was one of the 1820 band). This was in 1830 and I took part in the next half-peal rung on the bells in 1846. From the foregoing it will be seen that from sixteen to eighteen peals at most would be Mr. Day's complement.

### EARLY LIFE.

He obtained his first instructions from a Mr. Bissell at St. John's, Deritend, when quite a lad, and later on with Hopkins, T. Bingham, my father and another brother Samuel. He used to receive instructions from old Ben Pugh, Harborne being a favourite place with them on a Sunday morning.

As he made progress he found his way to Aston, and became a great favourite with Mr. Joshua Short, and Mr. Robert Roberts, the parish clerk. Most of his leisure time as a young man was spent at Short's farm at Witton, and to the very last he was fond of talking about the pleasant times he used to spend there. Short in his later years became very stout, so much so that he could not get up into the tower to ring and amused himself by getting the young ringers to his house to ring handbells. Bob Major was his speciality, and the bells were lapped, a style of ringing commonly practised in those days. Johnson, Thomas Cottem and George Rogers, men I knew well, were among Short's lads, and there were several others.

Mr. Day joined the St. Martin's Youths in 1827, and stood in a peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the same year, but left them in 1830 through the conduct of Cooper. About this date I first remember him, and among my early recollections of him in connection with bells was the delivery of a new peal of 16 handbells by Symondson, of London. It was on a Sunday morning and I well remember the interest with which I watched the unpacking, and how annoyed my grandmother was at the mess he made. These bells he mounted in a frame and I used to listen by the hour while he tapped changes. He also taught me when I was very young to tap tunes. The bells, however, did not please him and after a while he sold them.

### HIS WORK AS COMPOSER.

A good part of my childhood, up till I was ten years of age, was spent at my grandparents' house, and my uncle, being unmarried, lived with them. I used to wonder why he was always doing sums, since every scrap of suitable paper—the backs of merchants' orders or anything else that came in his way—were quickly covered with figures, and such figures! He used the stump of a quill pen which did not leave the paper from the beginning of a row to the end, the figures running into each other so that they took a lot of making out by anyone but himself. This would be the time that he was working at his first long peal of Treble Bob, which—so I have heard him say—he finished proving on December 17th, 1852.

Later on when I had left school and expressed a desire to learn something of the art of which he was so fond, he did not exactly try to dissuade me, but certainly gave me no encouragement, and always evaded any questions I might ask him relative to getting information on the subject. When I enquired if there were any books to be had, he showed me his, and locked them up again, so I left off saying anything to him about it. Afterwards when he found that I had made a start and was getting on, he was quite the reverse and helped me in many ways.

This peal of 15,648, which had cost him so much time and labour, was composed in 1832, and, so far as I know, up to 1852 no one save himself had ever seen it. Of course, it was well known on his own word, which no one who knew him ever doubted, that he had such a peal, but I believe there was only his word as evidence. I do not quite remember how it came about, but one night I dropped in at the St. Martin's Youths' meeting house, and after some little time had passed amicably, R. Yates became somewhat offensive in his manner to me and said unpleasant things about my uncle and his work, extolling Hugh Wright, of Leeds, whose peal of 15,168 had been rung at Elland in Yorkshire, and ending by saying that he did

not believe my uncle had a longer peal and that certainly no ringer in Yorkshire believed it. I felt annoyed at having been drawn into this bother, so took an early opportunity of telling my uncle all about it, and advised him as a matter of duty to himself to publish his peal. This he did without further delay by circular. After this Thurstans began to compose Treble Bob with the tenors parted with the result I have already related.

My uncle kept quietly working on his own way, and presently produced his peal of 16,608, which still remains (1895) the premier peal. While engaged in proving this peal he gave strict orders to his housekeeper not to disturb him on any account, and she assured me that he sat out the fire in his room three times in one day. To the last he worked on trying to extend the peal, and within a short time of his death showed me his last work in that direction. Twelve leads he described as all new material, 'but,' said he, 'the job is how to dovetail it in. I can't quite see, but perhaps someone else may.' I suppose I was the only person who ever saw this, for after his death nothing could be found.

I made a rule of visiting him once a fortnight, whether I saw him in the interim or not; and I believe it was within a fortnight of his death that I last saw him alive. I had been requested by Mr. Johnson to ask him for two touches of Treble Bob Triples, one by himself and one by Cooper, as Mr. J. Snowdon had expressed a wish to see them. He got out his book and copied them for me, and then I asked him the date of his composing the 5,088 of Treble Bob Major, of which Haley, of London, had composed a variation. This information was also for Mr. Snowdon, who was then at work on the second volume of his 'Treatise on Treble Bob.' He was rather short-tempered over this, and said he supposed we wanted to stir something up, and no doubt Haley had as much trouble to get the peal as he had. However, I noticed the date, 1827.

That night he was unwell and in a despondent mood; spoke of the work in his book as labour in vain and thrown away. But as I had before heard him speak in the same strain I did not take much notice. This was on the Saturday, and on the next Thursday I was met on my way to business with news of his death. For some time he had been living entirely alone, some friends in the next house attending to his wants. About seven o'clock in the morning, when the woman went to see to his fire, she found him lying dead at the foot of the stairs. This was on April 10th, 1879, in his 76th year. The interment took place at the Church of England Cemetery where a sister had been buried.

### HIS BOOKS AND PAPERS.

After the funeral one of the first things I thought about was the collection of his books and papers. Those relating to his private affairs I found without trouble, but of his own ringing books and papers absolutely nothing. There was a copy each of Sottanstell's, Hubbard's and Thackrah's works, and a MS. book in brown paper covers by J. A. Parnell, of little interest. His own book and the copy of Snowdon's book were gone. These books were lying on his table when I left him for the last time. This loss of his books and papers I look upon as a loss to the Exercise at large.

He had Shipway's work as it was published in three separate volumes, and when they were bound up he had a quantity of blank paper bound up with them, so that it was a bulky and clumsy looking book. On this paper he had written particulars of the peals in which he had taken part, many of his own compositions, and a number by other composers, including Fieldhouse, Short, Cooper, Thurstans, Stokes, and Edwards, of Stourbridge, with other matters which had interested him during his ringing career. Besides this he had a fair-sized book of foolscap in paper covers, made by himself, which was full of his own work—proof scales and other matters. I never had the opportunity for a good look over the latter. Whenever he had occasion to refer to it in my presence he would put it away, hinting that I should not understand it. Both these books I can imagine would have been of very great interest, but in some way or other they disappeared, and how will always remain a mystery.

My uncle was always most genial and kind, and I don't know that he ever made a single enemy. He possessed a wonderful memory, and it was a treat to hear Johnson and him talking of the doings in their early days. Among his friends as a young man were Elijah Roberts, whom he looked upon as in a great measure his own pupil, Emanuel Stokes, and more particularly Henry Woodbridge.

Roberts must have been very young when he commenced ringing because—so my uncle told me—when he first attempted to stand in a peal he was unable to reach the sally of the rope. The difficulty was met by bringing up into the belfry part of a footstone which lay handy in the churchyard, and placing on the top a mat on which young Roberts stood to ring the treble to Grandsire Triples. His strength, however, was unequal to the task and the peal was abandoned for a time. Two years later, when in his fifteenth year, he had improved and grown so as to be able to ring the second through a peal. He obtained his first idea of tapping handbells from my uncle. The piece of stone just mentioned remained in the belfry until long after I came on the scene.

Thomas Day was born on October 30th, 1803, and died in the same house in which he was born on April 10th, 1879. The house had become his own property and I do not think he ever slept out of it half a dozen times in his lifetime. He was never inside a

(Continued on next page.)



**THOMAS DAY.**

(Continued from previous page.)

theatre and only once in a music hall, and yet no man enjoyed a good song or reading better than he did.

When Mr. Sottanstill came to Birmingham in 1865, hoping to get his book published there, he, of course, brought the MS. with him and I was one of the few who saw it. My uncle, Johnson, Chattel and a few others looked it over, and it was arranged that he should take it to my uncle's house so they could look it over quietly together. He had already formed a rather unfavourable opinion of it and criticised it very freely. When they came to Holt's one-part peal of Grandsire Triples and Sottanstill's variation of it, he fairly lost his temper, and, looking Sottanstill in the face, said, 'So you could not let that alone, eh! I'd be ashamed of myself if I were you.' After that outburst he took very little notice of the book or what was in it. When the book was published Sottanstill sent him a copy.

Speaking of contemporary composers, he always expressed an admiration for Harrison, of Mottram, and Thorp, of Ashton. When the former's 8,896 was rung and published, in a conversation with Johnson, he told the latter he had thoroughly looked through it, and, replying to a query, said, 'Oh ah! it's all right and what is more he has got every change possible.'

When the bells at Christ Church, West Bromwich, were increased to twelve, he, as a subscriber, was invited to be in the first peal of Maximus. 'No,' said he, 'I think not. I've rung a good peal of Treble Twelve on a good peal of bells, and should not like to spoil it by—perhaps a middling peal on a bad peal of bells. No. I think not.'

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****MEETING AT WOKING.**

A meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Old Woking on Saturday, November 11th. In spite of a dull and not very pleasant day, 25 members were present at the service, which was conducted by the Vicar (Canon Askwith), who gave an address.

Tea, prepared and served by the Woking ringers and their wives, was in the school and was followed by the business meeting, at which there was a discussion concerning the replacement of the Guild's lost peal book. Two members of the sub-committee appointed with power to act reported progress. A loose leaf book had been provided, the case presented by the Master, Mr. A. Harman, and the internal loose leaves at the cost of the Guild. General approval was given to a plan, by which the cost would be shared by the districts in proportion to the size of their bank balance.

**THE THEORETICAL SIDE OF RINGING.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As regards the theoretical side of ringing, especially such matters as composition, proof and the like, I feel that many men would welcome the opportunity when happier times return of being able to attend a summer school on this side of ringing. There must be some ringers who would be capable of delivering some really good lectures on the theoretical aspects and also the more complex practical aspects. If such a scheme has not been considered before, which is not very likely, I think that it would be well worthy of consideration by the Central Council. It could be of considerable help in fitting men for task for examining the peal compositions for each association, and could greatly benefit ringing in general.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT TOTTERNHOE.**

Fifteen members from Biddenham, Bromham, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Tilsworth and the local tower were present at a meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Totternhoe on November 18th. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Double Oxford, Cambridge, London and York Surprise Minor.

Tea was followed by a business meeting, at which it was proposed to hold the next meeting on December 16th at Houghton Regis.

**ASSOCIATION OFFICERS***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There is, you say in your leading article, a large amount of apathy and indifference as to how a society's affairs are managed. This is only too true and is, I am sure, due to the election en bloc, year after year, of the officers. I don't see how this can breed anything but apathy. The Hawkhurst and District Guild, which, unhappily, has not yet awakened from the slumbers it entered into during the ban, has a rule that no member of the committee is eligible for re-election for (I believe) three years. This rule might well be adopted by other societies to get new blood into the management. This hanging on to office is a disease affecting a lot too many committee members.

C. A. LEVETT.

Bath Road, Taplow.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION** of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

**NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Penhurst, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service 4.15, Tea 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—Meeting at Tenterden, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at All Saints', Poplar, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Battle, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Half rail fares up to 1s. 6d. Names to John Downing, 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—Annual meeting, Royston, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

**HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS (12 bells).**—Open practice on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 6.15 to 8.30 p.m.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Pinchbeck on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts District.—Meeting at Godmanchester, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Names to C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkull.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting at Christchurch, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in the Warren Cafe. Business follows.—G. Preston, Hon. Sec., Christchurch.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Greyhound 5 p.m. Beddington bells available 7-9 p.m. Names by Dec. 6th to Mr. L. Reece, 9, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Horsham St. Faith, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Tea at Vicarage, 4.30. Business meeting to discuss future policy, including holding of branch meetings. Buses leave Norwich 1.35, 2.15, 3.40. Leave St. Faith 5.53 and 6.6.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.



**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Long Crendon, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea to follow; names by Dec. 6th.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., Winslow, Bucks.

**BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.**—Taunton Branch.—St. James', Taunton. Dedication of the James Hunt memorial, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Ringing 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton Association.—Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Tea 1s., and meeting 4.30 p.m. Names by Thursday, Dec. 7th.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Spingfield on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 6th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Grappenhall Branch.—Meeting at Grappenhall, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Names by Dec. 6th.—John E. Ashcroft, Hon. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—Western District.—Meeting at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by November 5th.

**BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Meeting Penistone, Dec. 9th, 2.30. Names for tea to Mr. R. Crossland, Hillside, Thurlstone, Penistone, near Sheffield, before Dec. 6th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Meeting at St. James', Barrow-in-Furness (8 bells), Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2.30 p.m.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, near Preston, on Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—Meeting at Heene, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business.—I. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bedford District.—Annual meeting at Bedford, Saturday, December 9th. Ringing at St. Peter's (6 bells), 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.—Frank C. Tysoe, Bromham, Bedford.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Dec. 9th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Meeting at Coleman's Hatch, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 6th to E. J. Oliver, Upper Hartfield P.O.—C. A. Bessett, Hon. Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—Meeting at King's Langley, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 6th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**—Practice meeting at New Alresford on Saturday, Dec. 16th, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. No tea.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names to Capt E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11, by Dec. 13th.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale and Rosendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea in Co-op Cafe 5 p.m., 2s. 6d. Names to secretaries before Dec. 12th.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

**MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL.**—Sunday service ringing 9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m., and 2.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. Practice Wednesdays, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—Arthur Ridyrd, 7, Sedgley Avenue, Sedgley Park, Prestwich, Lancs.

#### HANDBELLS WANTED

WANTED.—Set of 12 to 16 handbells, in good condition.—Gummer, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts.

#### FOR SALE.

TEN VOLUMES of 'Church Bells,' from 1873 to 1884; very good condition. Price 35s.—Knight, Perrett, Broomleaf Road, Farnham, Surrey.

#### WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD MEETING AT DEANE.

A meeting of the Basingstoke District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Deane on November 11th, was attended by 45 members and friends.

Service in the church was conducted by the Rev. F. S. H. Maule, who gave an address. Tea was at the Deane Gate and was followed by the business, Mr. Maule presiding. The methods rung on the bells of Deane and Oakley ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

#### BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY MEETING AT KIRKBURTON.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, on November 11th, was attended by ringers from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Liversedge, Meltham, Ripponden, Sandal, Rotherham, Wakefield, Wath and the local belfry. Mr. W. Moxton presided at the business meeting in the belfry and tea was in the Schoolroom. The next meeting will be at Penistone on December 9th.

**CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS - NEW INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS MAINTENANCE**

by **SMITH of DERBY** Estimates and Advice Free

**JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd., QUEEN STREET, DERBY**



## The CENTRAL COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

TO BE OBTAINED POST FREE

from

CAPT. W. H. J. HOOTON,  
NEWTON BANK,  
NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS,  
BEDALE, YORKS.

*For the present no Central Council Publications  
can be supplied, and no orders should be sent  
until further notice is given*

## The Jasper Snowdon Series

REVISED PRICES.

- 'ROPESIGHT,' 4/-; tenth edition; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob commencing on three bells.
- 'GRANDSIRE,' 2s. 10d.; second edition; 204 pages; commencing on five bells, complete with the Thompson Charts, etc.
- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; Letterpress, 2/-; Diagrams, 2/-.
- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

All post free, on receipt of postal order, from

Miss MARGARET E. SNOWDON  
Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancs

### THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK EIGHT-BELL EDITION TEMPORARILY OUT OF PRINT

New edition (enlarged to include Bob Minimus and Bob Doubles) is in the Press, and will be announced when ready.

Six-bell issue available (second edition) at 1/2 post free from

Rev. E. S. Powell, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry

## 'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPES'

*Noted for Easy Handling and Non-Stretching*

Est. 1820

Tel. 2400

## JOHN PRITCHARD (ROPES) Ltd. LOUGHBOROUGH

CLOCK AND CHIMING ROPES, SPLICING  
AND REPAIRS. BELL MUFFLERS

Price List on Application

ESTABLISHED 1760

## JOHN NICOLL,

*Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope  
Manufacturer,*

64, LEWISHAM PARK, LONDON, S.E.13

Late of BERMONDSEY and PECKHAM.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Mattings, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

## We can now accept new orders

for

## 'The Ringing World'

TO BE DELIVERED BY POST

PUBLICATIONS.

'BOB MINOR AND MAJOR, Simply Explained,' 3rd thousand, 7d. each, or 7s. dozen post free. By I. Roe and M. Broome, Orchards, Womersley, Surrey.

ESTABLISHED 1833

## WM. POTTS & SONS, LTD.

Bankfield Terrace,  
LEEDS, 4

Cathedral, Church and Tower Clocks | Clock Repairs and Dial Restorations

*Recently Repaired — The Clock at St. Margaret's, Westminster*

Apd 9, Adelphi Chambers, Shakespeare Street, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, and 96, Carver Street, SHEPFIELD, 1