



# THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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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.*

## STEDMAN TRIPLES.

Stedman Triples is one of the most popular methods in the ringers' repertoire, and the skill and industry of a number of able men have supplied conductors with a wide and varied range of peals to choose from. Yet it is remarkable how seldom they call anything outside Thurstans' Four-part in its original form or in one or other of the few well-known transpositions. In all these the body of the calling is the same, and the only variations are in the number and positions of the singles or the 'extras' and 'omits' which link up the four quarters. Those who call Stedman Triples include the ablest and most skilful of our conductors, men who in other methods would not think of confining themselves to only one composition, and why they in effect do so here is worth a few minutes' consideration.

There are methods (of which the most notable is Cambridge Surprise Major) in which conductors have perforce to keep to one peal because it is the only true one available unless the tenors are parted; and there are methods in which one composition is for practical purposes so superior to all the rest that it is practically without a rival. J. J. Parker's Twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples is an example of this, and owes its great and deserved popularity, not merely to its merits as a composition, but to the fact that in the most elementary of methods it is the easiest peal to call. In Stedman Triples there is no lack of first-class peals and, though Thurstans' is probably the easiest to conduct, that is hardly a consideration with a large proportion of the men who use it.

Let us admit to the full the merits of the Four-part. The first to be composed with ordinary bobs and two singles, it has never been surpassed nor is likely to be. It will always be one of the most popular compositions, but that should be no reason why other good peals are completely neglected. Conductors do not seek out one outstanding peal of Treble Bob Major, or Double Norwich, or Superlative, or Stedman Caters and, having found it, call no other. They like variety, and perhaps it is only in Stedman Triples that they deliberately ignore it.

Much of the preference shown for Thurstans' peal is due to custom and habit. For many years it was the only composition available to the Exercise. It provided the standards and tests by which men conducted the method, and it was so admirably adapted to its purposes that, when other peals appeared, they had to compete with a rival in full possession of the whole ground and entrenched

(Continued on page 318.)



in an impregnable position. Even so, it is not easy to see why a fine composition like Washbrook's No. 1 has been so much neglected.

In his article this week, Mr. J. W. Parker reminds his readers that when John Carter's Odd Bob peal first appeared, nearly half a century ago, there was quite a rush to conduct it, but since then, one hardly knows why, its popularity has much declined, although in music and other qualities it is about equal to the peals on the twin-bob plan. Possibly the chief reason is that there is an impression abroad that it is so difficult to call that the effort is hardly worth the trouble. Men are not deterred from attempting to call Holt's Original because it is difficult, but in that case they know what they have to do and are prepared to overcome the difficulty. But modern peals of Stedman Triples have to be put down on paper in such a way that the figures convey little or nothing to the man who is not prepared to do a lot of pricking and studying. If he does, he may find that what at first seems so very complex is simpler than it looks. Some time back we published a peal by Mr. B. H. Swinson which is a good example of this. We would not say that the peal is as easy to call as Thurstans', but certainly, when it is analysed and understood, the difference is not so very great. What is wanted is some means by which this and similar peals can be expressed in terms which will convey the essential facts to the minds of readers in the same way that the M, W and R convey the essential facts of a peal of Bob Major, or Superlative, or London. It will not be easy to find such a notation—perhaps it will not be possible, but the attempt is worth making, and if it were successful Stedman conductors would benefit greatly.

**TWELVE BELL PEAL.**

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, July 31, 1945, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;**

Tenor 37 cwt.

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... Treble	HERBERT C. SPENCER... .. 7
JOHN PINFOLD ... .. 2	LEONARD TUFFREY ... .. 8
WILLIAM C. DOWNING ... .. 3	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... .. 9
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ... .. 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... .. 10
REV. MALCOLM MELVILLE... .. 5	GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 11
ALBERT WALKER... .. 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HERBERT C. SPENCER.  
First peal on twelve bells as conductor.

**TEN BELL PEAL.**

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 29, 1945, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE BELL TOWER.

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5001 CHANGES;**

Tenor 31½ cwt. in D flat.

GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE ... .. 6
VALHALLA V. H. HILL ... .. 2	ALBERT LAWRENCE ... .. 7
GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... .. 3	ARTHUR H. REED ... .. 8
BETTY SPICE... .. 4	JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 9
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... .. 5	WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, July 28, 1945, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;**

Tenor 16½ cwt.

GEORGE A. FLEMING... .. Treble	FRANK L. FISHER... .. 5
HOBART E. SMITH ... .. 2	DAVID VINCENT ... .. 6
KEITH WHITTALL ... .. 3	GEORGE E. SIMMONDS... .. 7
*HERBERT G. JILLINGS ... .. 4	JOHN WORTH... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

\* First peal on eight bells.

MALVERN LINK, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 31, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS,

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

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*REV. A. C. F. DAVIES ... Treble	DENIS R. MORRIS ... .. 5
†GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... .. 2	BETTY SPICE... .. 6
WILLIAM RANFORD ... .. 3	REGINALD WOODYATT... .. 7
GEORGE E. LARGE ... .. 4	GEORGE AMBLER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by BETTY SPICE.

\* First peal on a working bell. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.  
First peal of Triples as conductor.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 31, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

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

Tenor 9½ cwt. in G. sharp.

ARTHUR J. E. SMALLS ... Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... .. 5
WILLIAM G. MAYERS ... .. 2	ARTHUR G. BASON ... .. 6
NOLAN GOLDEN... .. 3	DAVID VINCENT ... .. 7
GEORGE SAYER ... .. 4	JOHN WORTH... .. Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 3, 1945, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

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

DAVIES' TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 35 cwt.

*JENNY PYM... .. Treble	CLEMENT GLENN... .. 5
JOHN H. HUNT ... .. 2	FREDK. W. BURNETT... .. 6
WM. A. THEOBALD ... .. 3	LEONARD DERRICK ... .. 7
HERBERT W. KNIGHT ... .. 4	EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

\* First peal in the method.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 6, 1945, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

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

Tenor 23½ cwt. in D.

FREDERICK OLDROYD ... Treble	FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS 5
FRANK E. HAWTHORNE ... .. 2	HAROLD A. MAY... .. 6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. 3	ERNEST MORRIS... .. 7
*GEORGE W. STEBRE ... .. 4	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

\* 400th peal.



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**SIX BELL PEALS.**

MARCHINGTON, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 21, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

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

Being 720 each of Wells, London, Durham, York, Ipswich, Cambridge and Norwich Surprise. Tenor 10 cwt.

*E. TWIGG ... .. Treble	*J. G. CARTLIDGE... .. 4
*W. EDWARDS ... .. 2	W. P. DEANE ... .. 5
*W. CARNELL ... .. 3	A. W. HALL ... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. W. HALL.

\* First peal of Surprise Minor.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday, July 23, 1945, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

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

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*WILLIAM G. CRITCHLEY ... Treble	†HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 4
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD... .. 2	GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 5
HENRY H. FEARN ... .. 3	†FRANK E. HAYNES ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. E. HAYNES.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Cambridge Minor.

AYLESBEARE, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 24, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

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

Being four 720's of Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Bob Minor.

BRIAN PIDGEON ... .. Treble	JOHN L. GLANVILL ... .. 4
ALBERT MORLEY ... .. 2	*JOHN QUICK ... .. 5
HARRY PEARSON ... .. 3	JOHN BROWN ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN BROWN.

\* First peal of Minor.

EYE, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 25, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

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

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, three of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 11 cwt.

*MICHAEL P. MORETON ... Treble	LESLIE EVANS ... .. 4
GEORGE DAVIS ... .. 2	E. PETER ROCK ... .. 5
JOHN D. ROCK ... .. 3	WILFRID F. MORETON ... Tenor

Conducted by WILFRID F. MORETON.

\* First peal on tower bells.

BARNBY DON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 25, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

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

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

ROLAND HIRST ... .. Treble	RONALD LUNN ... .. 4
FRANK REED... .. 2	FRANK LAMB... .. 5
W. ERIC CRITCHLEY ... .. 3	ERNEST PADGETT... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. E. CRITCHLEY.

First peal of Minor as conductor.

MAULDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 27, 1945, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Seven different extents. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*MARJORIE WATSON ... .. Treble	LEONARD H. BOWLER... .. 4
PERCY C. BONNETT... .. 2	ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... .. 5
PAT GILBERT ... .. 3	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES ... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. E. JEFFRIES.

\* First peal.

APSLEY END, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 30, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Seven different extents. Tenor 14½ cwt.

EDWARD PICTON ... .. Treble	AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... .. 4
JOE HOBBS ... .. 2	HERBERT GATES ... .. 5
*ROBERT W. METCALFE ... 3	WALTER AYRE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

\* First peal.

HOLT, WILTSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 1, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. KATHARINE,

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

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

Ten callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*REGINALD DERHAM ... .. Treble	ROBERT SMITH ... .. 4
*MURIEL PINK ... .. 2	†ERNEST PARKER... .. 5
*CLARENCE DREWITT ... .. 3	*JACK LUCAS... .. Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST PARKER.

\* First peal. † First peal of Doubles.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 29, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT THE LODGE, LONDON ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 17.

FRANK CLAYDON ... .. 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFIN ... .. 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

OXHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 30, 1945, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 17, KINGSFIELD ROAD,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

LACRENCE R. TARR ... .. 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	GRAMAM C. TARR ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, July 30, 1945, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;**

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 3-4	JOHN THOMAS ... .. 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... .. 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS,

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 1, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;**

ERIC A. DENCH ... .. 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... .. 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8
PHILIP J. COWARD ... .. 9-10	

Composed by W. WILLSON. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

HEREFORD.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, August 3, 1945, in Two Hours,

AT 90, RVELAND STREET,

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

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

MICHAEL P. MORETON ... 1-2	WILFRID F. MORETON ... 3-4
*CHARLES L. SADLER ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by W. F. MORETON.

\* First peal on handbells.



**'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.

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All orders for delivery of "The Ringing World" by post and the remittance for same should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, and not to the Editor.

Correspondents are again reminded that notices and small advertisements can be published only when they are prepaid and received at the office not later than the previous Monday.

Reports of touches and quarter-peals are not charged for, and no postal orders should be sent with them.

**CENTRAL COUNCIL LIBRARY.**

The hon. librarian would be grateful if orders for C.C. publications could be delayed until the first week in September.

Widespread sympathy will be felt in the Exercise with Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lewis, whose third daughter, Frances Barbara Lewis, Third Officer, W.R.N.S., died on July 29th on active service at the Women's Combined Services Hospital, Colombo.

The meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Counties Association, to be held on August 18th, will be at Nuthall. The place was omitted from the notice last week.

**MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS.**

We are sorry to learn that Mr. George Williams had to go into Southampton Hospital on August 3rd for an operation to his ear. His condition is as well as can be expected.

**THE HIBBERT FAMILY.**

On Sunday, July 29th, at East Ilsley, Bucks, for the christening of the first grandson of Mr. William Hibbert, touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by members of the family: Miss June East (niece) 1, W. Hibbert, jun. 2, Mrs. C. J. Hibbert 3, C. J. Hibbert 4, Mrs. E. Sneller 5, W. Hibbert, sen. 6, E. Sneller 7, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 8.

**FALSE PEAL.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It has been pointed out to me that Peal No. 1,145 in the Gloucester and Bristol Report for 1821 is false (5,039 Grandsire Caters). The first lead end after the course end 65432978 being the same as the first lead end after the course end 54267589 where the 6th goes into the hunt with a Single at 1.

A. E. REEVES, Hon. Peal Secretary,  
 Gloucester and Bristol Association.

2, Green Street, Totterdown, Bristol, 3.

**OPEN MEETING AT BRIDGNORTH.**

Twenty-five ringers and friends attended an open meeting at Bridgnorth on July 14th, organised by Mr. F. Colclough. Various methods, including Stedman Triples and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, were rung.

**MYSTERIES UNVEILED.**

By JOSEPH W. PARKER.

(Continued from page 312.)

**6. THE SEVENTH BOBBED.**

Nearly half a century ago quite a stir was caused amongst ringers when Carter's odd bob peal became known. There was quite a rush to conduct the one part on the plan. Unfortunately its popularity waned, and one hardly knows why. Compared with twin bob peals, it may be more difficult to call and ring those with odd bobs, but the musical and other qualities can be said to be about equal.

The block from which these peals are derived is one of many remarkable discoveries by the late Mr. John Carter, and it is now given below:—

The chief way of joining the separate blocks of courses is by plaining 8.9, and bobbing 4.5 to correct the falseness brought in. The joinings by singles depend upon the placing of the bobs in 4.5 and 8.9. For instance, if a single is called after 5B (at 8), 8.9 must be plained. It goes to 12B, and the reciprocal single from 6C reversed, returns to 7C, which only follows 5B if 8 is plained. 3A singles to 4C, and here 8.9 in the course entered must be plained if a four-call set is to be avoided. A single from 12B brings up 5B, and here again the course left must be plained at 8.9.

A different connection at slow forms this second block. In this the joinings of the separate blocks may be effected by omitting bobs at 10.11, and bobbing 4.5 where necessary to preserve truth.

Singles may be used to join blocks, as follows: 12C goes to 6A in a second block bobbed at 10.11, returning to 6A in the first from 3C reversed. Also 6A goes to 12C in a second block, returning to 3C from 6A reversed. When the course left is plained at 10.11, 7B will be at 10, and from it there is another joining by singles.

The first peal seen by the writer from this block was sent to him by the Rev. E. Bankes James in 1920. He asked if he had been forestalled by Mr. Carter, to which I replied that he had not, but that Mr. Carter probably knew of the blocks and preferred the odd bob plan. Apparently I was wrong, for it was many years after that it was announced that Mr. Carter had an odd and even bob peal with two singles (the same qualities as Mr. James').

(To be continued.)

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**

MEETING AT ODIHAM.

At a meeting of the Basingstoke District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, held at Odiham on July 21st, ringers were present from Bramley, Basingstoke, Bishopstoke, Kingsclere, Micheldever, Odiham, Overton, Sonning, Sherborne St. John and Wootton St. Lawrence. Tea was in the Odiham Institute, provided by the Rev. — Cole and the Odiham ringers. At the business meeting which followed five new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Bramley, Hants, on September 29th.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor and rounds.

14	—2314567	=14A
1	3426175	1A
2	—3461275	10C
3	4137652	2A
4	4175326	7A
5	1542763	8C
6	—1527463	11C
7	5716234	5B
8	—5762134	3A
9	—7251634	4C
10	—7216534	12B
11	2673145	6C
12	—2631745	13C
13	6124357	9B
	—	
	—6143257	

14	—2314567	=14A
1	3426175	1A
2	—3461275	10C
3	4137652	2A
4	4175326	7A
5	1542763	8C
6	—1527463	11C
7	—5714263	4A
8	5746132	12C
9	—7651432	6A
10	—7614532	3C
11	—6475132	5C
12	6453721	13C
13	4362517	9B
	—	
	—4325617	



## A RINGER IN THE COTSWOLDS.

By JAMES F. HARVEY.

(Continued from page 314.)

The long straight miles of the Cirencester-Gloucester Road (Ermine Street) come to an end at Birdlip, where the hills drop sharply down to the Severn valley. Here the road turns to the right to avoid the steep hill which the Romans took (literally) in their stride. It had been a day of scorching heat, and as it was near opening time the sight of the village pub suggested a drink. The bar was soon full of folk, mainly farm workers, and over a glass of ale I got into conversation with two of them.

'You seem to be getting on well with the harvest,' I remarked as an opener. They agreed that the weather had been good and satisfactory progress had been made.

I said that I had been interested to see that in some places they were working a machine which threshed the wheat as it was cut.

'Yes,' said one of them, 'but it isn't every farmer who can afford to have one.'

I had noticed that the straw had been dumped in great heaps by means of a sort of flat scoop driven by a tractor, and I asked them what was done with it. They said it was fired.

'Isn't that a short-sighted policy?' I asked. 'Couldn't it be used for bedding stock and so be turned into manure?' 'Well,' they said, 'it would be far better, but owing to the war there is very little stock on the land, and it wouldn't pay the farmer to rot it with chemicals, so it has to go to waste.'

Now I wonder if the war is solely responsible for this. That by the too frequent use of chemical fertilisers the land is, in many places, being starved of its humus, or organic content, is, I believe, only too true. It is not only in the U.S.A. that there is the problem of the 'dust belt' where, by constant cropping with artificials, the soil has been robbed of its natural fertility by denuding it of decayed vegetable matter.

If certain well-known writers on agriculture are to be believed, the same process has been going on in this country for some considerable time. A proper balance of pasture for the feeding of stock, with a scientific system of crop rotation; including the periodical ploughing up of pasture, is known to be necessary if the fertility of the land of England is not to be allowed to deteriorate very seriously. This question of stock on the English farm is, there is little doubt, bound up with that of the importation of cheap meat from such countries as the Argentine (the latter a country which has shown no signs of any great friendship for this country), and that question again with the low purchasing power of the majority of the English people. It seemed to me to be high time that the land of this country was brought under a scientific scheme of agriculture, which would ensure security to the competent farmer, and see that the interests of the coming generations in the land, for which we were the trustees, would be safeguarded.

I have since then, much to my satisfaction, had evidence that the necessity of retaining the humus content of the soil is recognised by some agriculturists. One day I was passing a field where threshing operations were in progress and went in to have a look. The machine was of a type new to me and was provided with a square shoot down which, after threshing and sifting, the straw

was forced. There was a device for breaking the continuity at intervals through which binding wires were threaded, and the compressed straw came out in rectangular blocks. These expanded on their release, so tightening up the wires, and were then ready for stacking or transport. They ultimately found their way back to the land as manure. The short straw and husks sifted by the machine were in due course scattered on the field and ploughed in, so that nothing was wasted.

Up one of those little valleys tributary to the Churn and almost unknown to the touring motorist lie the villages of Duntisbourne Rouse and Duntisbourne Abbots.

'Duntisbourne Rouse takes its name from a knightly family to whom for a century the property belonged, commencing with Sir Roger le Rous, who died in 1294.' The church is very small and consists of nave and chancel. Under the latter is a crypt now used as a storehouse for coal and rubbish. There is a tiny western saddle-backed tower containing two late 14th century bells. There is a narrow but well-built spiral staircase, up which I climbed, and there, supported by an ancient wooden frame, were the bells. I couldn't read the inscriptions, but Daubeny states that one bears an invocation to St. Mary and the other to 'St. Catria,' whoever she may have been. I tapped them and the tone seemed sweet. On the porch is a sundial set at an angle, as the church is not due east and west.

An old sandy cat lay on a garden wall basking in the sun as I passed on my way to Duntisford Abbots, and I must needs stop to pet him and chat with his mistress. She gave him quite an exemplary character while he purred his self-satisfaction. I like cats. The tabby we have follows me about in the garden like a dog and sits down to watch operations with great apparent interest. Doubtless she will be a great gardener when she reaches the human level. She has done her best to obey the scriptural injunction to be fruitful and multiply by having nearly 40 kittens in about two years. Which reminds me of the complaint of the parson who, having prayed for rain, was pretty well washed out by a thunderstorm. 'But this, O Lord, is ridiculous!' I wonder what the world looks like through the eyes of a cat.

The seat under the tree on the village green was a pleasant spot for lunch, but its peace was broken by the rattle of machine-gun practice and the unending drone of planes. One could not forget that just over the water, not so far away, men, some perhaps from this quiet village, were at that moment suffering all the horrors of war.

At a garden gate just over the way, three or four people were examining a rug which the old lady of the house had made and in which she evidently took great pride. I strolled over and joined them. The rug was beautifully made of narrow strips of coloured cloth, and I added my word of praise with secret reservations. For both colours and design were crude in the extreme, and all the painstaking work the maker had put into it was doomed to failure from the start. She said she had bought the design, including directions as to colour, and fortunately, or unfortunately, she seemed quite pleased with both; but it did seem to me a shame, that designs of that sort, sold probably in considerable numbers, should not have been produced in better taste. The extra cost would have been trifling on a rug which would wear for many years.

(To be continued.)



## CALLING THE BELLS ROUND.

### MINOR.

(Continued from page 292.)

The reader who is desirous of understanding the finer points of conducting would do well to study carefully what we have said about how to know whether the bells are in-course or out-of-course, though he may seldom or never ring Bob Minor; for the same rules can be adapted, more or less easily, to Major methods. We will come to that later. Meanwhile it is good practice to take at random rows of Bob Minor and work out the nature of the changes on paper by the rules we have given. For instance:—

A	145236	B	152346
	412563		513264
	421653		531624
	246135		356142
	264315		365412
	623451		634521
	632541		643251
	365214		462315
	356124		426135
	531642		241653
	513462		214563
	154326		125436
	153462		124563

In A the coursing order is 42635; 2 follows 4 and 5 follows 3. These are bells which course each other in the plain course, although the order of both pairs is reversed. There is no other pair of coursing bells the same as in the plain course. Therefore the changes are in-course.

In B the coursing order is 64253; 4 follows 6, and 2 follows 4. These are bells which course each other in the plain course and again the order in both pairs is reversed. In addition 5 and 3 are a pair of coursing bells and they course each other in the same order as they do in the plain course. Therefore the changes are out-of-course.

When the conductor has definitely ascertained that the changes are out-of-course his best plan to bring the bells home generally will be to call a single at the first opportunity, so as to put them in-course, and then to produce rounds by the rules already given. If, however, he wishes to use only the minimum number of calls, he need have no more than one single except when the bells are in one particular natural course.

There are 360 changes in Bob Minor with the bells out-of-course, and these are grouped together into six natural courses, any one of which can be rung, wholly or in part, in its direct or in its reverse form. The course-ends of these natural courses and their reverses are as follows:—

24356	42536
23546	32456
34526	43256
53426	35246
52346	25436
54236	45326

If from each of the six course-ends in the first column an independent course is pricked in the same way that the plain course is pricked from rounds, we shall have all the out-of-course changes possible. The courses pricked from the rows in the second table will give us the same natural courses, but in reverse form. Any and every out-of-course

change in Bob Minor must come at backstroke in one or other of these twelve natural courses.

When the bells are in the natural course 54236 (or its reverse 45236) it is not possible to bring round with one call; but a bob called anywhere will put the bells into one of the other ten natural courses, and rounds can be produced from any one of them by means of one single only. Here are the calls necessary in the various courses, the sixth being the observation:—

24356 Right.	42536 Wrong.
23546 Seconds Place.	32546 Seconds Place.
34526 Thirds Place.	43256 Fourths Place.
53426 Wrong.	35246 Right.
52346 Fourth Place.	25436 Thirds Place.

There seems to be no effective general rule by which the conductor can see where to call these singles, and this way of calling the bells round is of little practical use (except in the case of the courses 24356, 53426 and 52346).

### DEATH OF MR. CHARLES WILKINS.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Wilkins, which took place at Shrewsbury on July 29th. Mr. Wilkins was a native of Crayford, where he learned to ring under the late Edwin Barnett, sen. He lived at Erith for 40 years and went to Shrewsbury after the death of his wife two years ago.

He was a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths and with George Newson took part at St. James', Clerkenwell, in the first peal of London Surprise Major by that society, and the 13,440 of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Romford in 1894. Later with the brothers Pyle he took part in their first peal of London Surprise, a 10,464 of Treble Bob Major at Erith in 1898 and the 15,072 of Double Norwich in 1899. He was the last surviving member of those bands. He also rang in the first twelve-bell peal (Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Cornhill) for the Middlesex County Association. Mr. Wilkins' peal total is not known, but it would be between 500 and 600, of which he probably conducted 30. For the Middlesex Association he rang 62. Nearly 40 years ago he had rung 100 peals at Erith Parish Church and about half that number at Crayford. He was 78 years old when he died and was buried at Shrewsbury. He was looked upon as a safe ringer and a first-class striker.

### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

About 200 members were present at the annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which was held at Oxford on July 21st. The service in the Cathedral was conducted by the Dean and Canon G. F. Coleridge, Master of the Guild, the address being given by the Bishop of Buckingham. The business meeting was in the Chapter House.

All the officers were re-elected, and although the Master and the general secretary, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, pleaded age and the need for younger men as an excuse for retirement, the members could not afford to dispense with their services. The sum collected for the bell restoration fund amounted to £7 10s., and £10 10s. was provisionally voted for the rehanging of the bells at St. Peter's-in-the-East, which have been out of order for about 50 years.

At the lunch in Christ Church Hall 174 persons sat down. Mrs. R. F. Deal gave the toast of 'The Guild,' and the Bishop of Dorchester addressed the meeting.

Through the exertions of Miss M. Cross and the Oxford Society, ten belfries were open during the day.

### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING AT DOWNE.

Forty members of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association attended a meeting at Downe on July 28th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address and afterwards presided at the tea and business meeting at the Queen's Head. He was elected an honorary member, and eleven ringing members, including five of the local band, were also elected. Dartford was chosen as the place of the annual district meeting, to be held on October 27th. Among those present were Messrs. P. Murphy and W. J. Rawlings, it being the first meeting they had been able to attend since the outbreak of war.

**GREAT TEW, OXON.**—On Sunday, July 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*H. Pratt 1, H. H. Morley 2, A. L. Lerner 3, G. E. Large (conductor) 4, I. Harris 5, L. Clifton 6, R. P. Taplin 7, \*W. H. Cleaver 8. \* First quarter-peal.

**SOMERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.**—On July 29th, 720 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles: F. Harley 1, P. Armstrong 2, A. Stimson (conductor) 3, C. Tyler 4, F. Stimson 5.



**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.

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

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Next business meeting, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, August 11th, 3 p.m. Ringing at All Saints', Poplar.—A. B. Peck.

**COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Nuneaton District.—Arley (6), Saturday, August 11th, at 3 o'clock.—Leonard Trevor, 32, King Edward Road, Nuneaton.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**—Edgbaston Parish Church, Saturday, August 11th, 3.30.—T. H. Reeves.

**HERTS ASSN.**—Northern District.—Knebworth, Saturday, August 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., Lytton Hall.—A. E. Symonds.

**SUSSEX ASSN (Northern Division) and EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.**—Hartfield (6), August 11th, 3 p.m.—A. E. Laker and C. Bassett, Hon. Secs.

**NORWICH ASSN.**—West Norfolk Branch.—Swaffham, Saturday, August 11th, 3 o'clock.

**BARNSLEY SOCIETY.**—Wortley, near Sheffield, 3 p.m., August 11th. Bring food.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.**—Derby District.—West Hallam (8), Saturday, August 11th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—William Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**SALISBURY GUILD.**—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting on August 11th cancelled. Next meeting Frampton, Sept. 29th. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30. Numbers by September 22nd to M. M. Godley, Stratton, Dorchester, Dorset.

**YORKSHIRE ASSN.**—Eastern District.—Goole (8), Saturday, August 18th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock for all who notify Mrs. Taylor, 165, Dunhill Road, Goole, by August 15th.—H. S. Morley, 45, Green Lane, Selby.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSN.**—Cound (6), Saturday, August 18th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. C. Edwards, 62, Cound Village, Cressage, near Shrewsbury, by August 15th.—E. D. Pook, Hon. Sec.

**DEVON GUILD.**—Clyst St. George, August 18th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea by invitation 4 p.m. Ringing at Topsham 5 p.m. Names by August 13th to B. Pidgeon, East Budleigh.

**MIDDLESEX ASSN.**—General meeting, Acton, August 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea in Rectory garden 5.15 p.m.; bring food.—E. C. S. Turner.

**SHEFFIELD SOCIETY.**—Bolsterstone (8), Saturday, August 18th, Names by August 15th to Mr. J. B. Brearley, Frank Hillock Field, Deepcar, Sheffield. Stocksbridge bus, alight Deepcar.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec.

**ELY ASSN.**—Hunts District.—St. Neots (8), Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at Plum's Cafe, 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Great Staughton, St. Neots.

**HERTFORD ASSN.**—Western District.—Flamstead (6), Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Names to W. Hayes, Flamstead, St. Albans, by Aug. 15th.—W. Ayre.

**HERTS ASSN.**—Watford District.—Langleybury, Aug. 18th, 3.30. Tea 5. Names by 14th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

**NORTH STAFFS ASSN.**—Cheddleton (6), Saturday, Aug. 18th. Names to Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, before Aug. 14th.

**HERTFORD ASSN.**—St. Albans District.—Northaw (6), Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.; bring food.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

**CHESTER GUILD.**—Crewe Branch.—Tarporey (8), Aug. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Names by August 14th to Richard D. Langford, 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**LANCASHIRE ASSN.**—Preston Branch.—Hoghton, Saturday, Aug. 18th, 2.30. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Fred Rigby, 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**LANCASHIRE ASSN.**—Manchester Branch.—St. Thomas', Pendleton, Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m.—Frank Reynolds.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.**—Loughborough District.—Barrow-on-Soar, Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea 5 p.m. Hoping Quorn bells as well.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**COVENTRY GUILD.**—Coventry District.—Brinklow (6), Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mrs. O. Walker, Elm House, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Rugby, by Aug. 15th.—W. A. Stote.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSN.**—Sutton-in-Ashfield, Saturday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Garden party and whist in Vicarage grounds in aid of bell fund. Whist and tea 2s. Tea only 1s. Names for tea to Mr. Piggott, School House, Sutton-in-Ashfield, by Wednesday, Aug. 15th.

**PETERBOROUGH GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—Newnham (6), Saturday, Aug. 18th. Names to W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**COVENTRY GUILD.**—Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District.—Kineton (6), Aug. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. Collett.

**ESSEX ASSN.**—South-Western Division.—Loughton, Saturday, Aug. 18th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by Aug. 25th to Mrs. J. H. Crampton, 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.**—Cheltenham Branch.—Alderton, Saturday, Aug. 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Toddington, evening. Names by 22nd.—W. Yeend, Millford, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

**SURREY ASSN.**—Croydon Bell Foundry, Saturday, Sept. 8th, by invitation of Mr. C. F. Johnston. Tea 5.30. Ringing at St. John's and St. Peter's 4.30. Names must be sent before Aug. 29th to C. de Ste Croix Parks, 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

**ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE.**—All Sunday ringing during August is cancelled.

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