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FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 1946.

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COMMEMORATION.

At the recent Henry Johnson dinner in Birmingham one of the speakers called attention to the change which of late years has come over the commemoration. When the function was first started and for a time afterwards (he said in so many words) the people who attended it were men who had known Johnson personally and had been influenced by him directly. Many of them were paying homage to the memory of a departed friend. But inevitably that phase has gone. Even at the beginning those who were his contemporaries were but few, and as the years passed those who could say they had been in his company got fewer and fewer until there is left but a handful, most of whom have no more real connection with him than that they were youths when he was an old man. The speaker hinted that there might be something unreal in such a commemoration, and suggested that, though it is a good thing to remember a great man to whom the Exercise owes much, it would be worth while to consider whether there are not other men who have almost as much claim to remembrance as he.

The point is worth some careful thought. In the course of more than half a century the Johnson dinner has become firmly established as an important event in the life of the Birmingham Exercise and indeed in the life of the Exercise as a whole. It has certainly kept the name of Henry Johnson before ringers, and so far has served the end for which it was founded. But it may well be doubted if that has kept the dinner alive, and even if in itself it is a really sufficient reason for its continuance. Entirely apart from anything to do with Henry Johnson, the annual dinner at Birmingham is an excellent thing, and is worth preserving for its own sake, and that we doubt not is the way in which ringers generally regard it. The dinner was founded to commemorate the life and work of Henry Johnson. In the future it may easily be that the name of Henry Johnson will chiefly be known as the title of one of the principal social events in the ringer's year.

Even if this does happen the foundation of the dinner has been justified. It was first held on Johnson's eightieth birthday, when he was already a survival from the past, and to men like Arthur Heywood and Jasper Snowdon was something of a legend. The Exercise was just beginning to wake to fresh life and activities after a period of stagnation and decay, and was looking back over the recent years to the time when there were giants

(Continued on page 142.)

in the land. Johnson was representative of the best that had been in the Exercise, he was a lovable man, and it is no wonder that in his mellow old age he was regarded with universal respect and affection. His life and work did much good for Birmingham and the Exercise; perhaps the legend about him created by Heywood and others did even more good.

But much has happened to the Exercise during the last 50 years. In everything connected with the art of change ringing there has been great development. Fresh ideals and standards have been brought in. New leaders have arisen, have done their work, and gone their way. The old names have not now the importance and significance they once had. A name like Henry Johnson no longer towers above others as it once did; and inevitably the modern generation cannot and does not look on his memory with the reverence and respect as the best of their predecessors did. Johnson has to take his place with his peers in history. A great name, certainly, but still one among others.

The idea which founded the Johnson Commemoration in the past was a fine one and has done much good. The danger for the future is that it may become exhausted and be a mere formality. Perhaps the most effective means of keeping it alive would be to retain the present forms but to widen their scope. It might well be that Johnson's name and memory would remain fresher if they were associated with those of other and more recent men, who also in their own time and their own sphere have served their fellow ringers.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

CHRISTCHURCH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE PRIORY CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

MRS. F. MARSHALLSAY <i>Treble</i> ... 1	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 7
WALTER F. JUDGE ... 2	REGINALD A. REED ... 8
*MRS. ALBERT DISERENS ... 3	REGINALD W. REX ... 9
JOHN S. MASON ... 4	RICHARD A. POST ... 10
FREDK. A. H. WILKINS ... 5	NEIL I. ALLNATT ... 11
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 6	ALBERT DISERENS ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal of Cinques.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT ... <i>Treble</i> ... 1	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 6
*LEONARD STILWELL ... 2	FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7
GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 3	GEORGE W. CECIL ... 8
R. GORDON CROSS ... 4	†ALAN R. PINK ... 9
RAYMOND OVERY ... 5	PHILIP A. CORBY ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by J. RILEY. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal of Treble Ten. † 250th peal.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TRFBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*MRS. K. F. J. PARR ... <i>Treble</i> ... 1	ARTHUR B. WIFFEN ... 6
THOMAS W. TAFFENDER ... 2	†ALBERT M. HOUGHTON ... 7
MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS ... 3	†ALAN F. THIRST ... 8
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 4	†HAROLD W. ROGERS ... 9
†GEOFFREY DODDS ... 5	JAMES BULLOCK ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by YORKE GREEN. Conducted by THOS. W. TAFFENDER.

* First peal. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal.

FIGHT BELL PEALS.

BLANDFORD, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 16, 1946, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*KATHLEEN BRAYSHAW ... <i>Treble</i> ... 1	BRUCE B. ROGERS ... 5
†MARY E. DAVIS ... 2	ERNEST J. TRIMMER ... 6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY ... 3	*JOHN V. DAVIS ... 7
ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 4	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by A. V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Major. † First peal 'inside.'

SELLING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Mar. 20, 1946, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

*RICHARD J. LANCEFIELD <i>Treble</i> ... 1	WILLIAM A. OLDFIELD ... 5
MRS. T. CULLINGWORTH ... 2	THOMAS CULLINGWORTH ... 6
PERCY PAGE ... 3	HILDRED S. WICKENS ... 7
†FREDK. G. HUCKSTEPP ... 4	MARK S. LANCEFIELD ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by T. CULLINGWORTH.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Bob Major.

ELTHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Mar. 21, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT ... <i>Treble</i> ... 1	HARRY HOVERD ... 5
JAMES BENNETT ... 2	JAMES E. BAILEY ... 6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3	PHILIP A. CORBY ... 7
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 4	FREDK. J. CULLUM ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by HERBERT E. AUDSLEY.

FAIRWARP, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

THOMAS E. SONE ... <i>Treble</i> ... 1	ALFRED W. DURHAM ... 5
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 2	FRANK H. HICKS ... 6
WILLIAM ROGERS ... 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... 7
FREDERICK WHITE ... 4	STAFFORD H. GREEN ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.



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WYE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF SS. GREGORY AND MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Wye peal, including Parker's Twelve-part and various ringers like Percy Page and Mrs. T. Cullingworth.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Triples. First peal of Triples as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Three Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Leicester peal, including Ernest Morris and Walter J. Clough.

* 100th peal together. † First of Stedman. Rung for the marriage of Sidney A. Reed and Marian E. Turner.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes, AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Guildford peal, including Alfred H. Pulling and Norman V. Harding.

* 200th peal together.

PENTRE RHONDDA, GLAMORGAN.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Pentre Rhondda peal, including Clement Glenn and Albert J. Pitman.

* First peal of Stedman.

WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Whitley Bay peal, including Miss Hilda Stobbs and Richard A. Gofton.

* First peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes, AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Birmingham peal, including Parker's Twelve-part and various ringers like Francis Bird and Daniel T. Matkin.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. † First peal on eight bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LODERS, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Salisbury peal, including J. L. Glyde and Harold C. R. Vine.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

HARPFORD, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Thurs., Mar. 21, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Harpford peal, including Ronald Pitman and Miss J. Burlinson.

* First peal of Bob Minor.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Mar. 22, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Hitcham peal, including P. D. Goldsworthy and Mary Pemberton.

* First peal of Minor.

WELLINGTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours and Four Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Wellington peal, including George Davis and Michael P. Moreton.

Conducted by Leslie Evans.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Shirley peal, including S. George Chaplin and John Pinfold.

WRENBURY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Table listing names and positions for the Wrenbury peal, including Fredk. S. Sutton and George A. Packer.

Conducted by Arthur Pritchard.

ALVERSTOKE.—On Sunday, March 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. Lawrence 1, F. W. Burnett 2, L. P. Cook 3, E. A. Jurd 4, G. Philpotts 5, H. A. Nobes 6, J. H. Hunt (conductor) 7, F. G. Barron 8. ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, March 24th, 1,344 Bob Major: H. W. Pratt 1, Ben Norman 2, L. W. Fisher 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, F. Nicholls 5, W. Bavin 6, M. Ginn 7, F. Warrington (conductor) 8.

STAGSDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Leonard,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of College Exercise, Cambridge, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob.
Tenor 10½ cwt.

MISS MARJORIE WATSON <i>Treble</i>	CYRIL A. PRINDEVILLE ... 4
ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... 2	C. HENRY HARDING ... 5
PERCY C. BONNETT ... 3	LEONARD H. BOWLER ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by LEONARD H. BOWLER.

BARROW-ON-SOAR, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 23, 1946, in Three Hours,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720's of Single Oxford and three 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*JOHN WM. LOWE ... <i>Treble</i>	RONALD G. EDWARDS ... 4
†STANLEY G. BREWIN ... 2	*FREDK. WM. LOWE ... 5
†DONALD L. WALTON ... 3	†HORACE MYATT ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by HORACE MYATT.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOCKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 17, 1946, in One Hour and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At 83, Church Street,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

REGINALD RIPPINGALE ... 1-2	THOMAS BIRD ... 3-4
RONALD SUCKLING ... 5-6	

Conducted by R. SUCKLING.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, March 24th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss S. Harris 1, G. Dodds 2, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 3, Mrs. K. Parr 4, F. D. Bishop 5, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 6, A. F. Thirst 7, H. Brooks 8. Also 1,260 Bob Minor: Miss D. Winterbourne 1, Miss S. Harris 2, Mrs. K. Parr 3, Alan F. Thirst 4, G. Dodds (conductor) 5, Capt. H. W. Rogers 6.

BOCKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Mar. 20, 1946, in Two Hours,
At 83, Church Street,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Kent and Oxford and three of Plain Bob.
OLAVE BROYD ... 1-2 | ERNEST PYE ... 3-4
RONALD SUCKLING ... 5-6

Conducted by R. SUCKLING.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Mar. 20, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At 24, Suffolk Road,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Mar. 21, 1946, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At 24, Suffolk Road,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

MISS L. M. HUBBERT ... 1-2	ERIC A. DENCH ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10	

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

WICKHAM ST. PAUL, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Mar. 22, 1946, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At Broad Road,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

REGINALD RIPPINGALE ... 1-2	THOMAS BIRD ... 3-4
*CHARLES WEAVERS ... 5-6	

Conducted by T. BIRD.

* First peal on handbells.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

BROADCAST BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Before the broadcasting of the bells from Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday evening last, the opportunity presented itself to bring to the notice of the Northern Organiser for Religious Broadcasts the contents of the various letters which have appeared recently in 'The Ringing World.' His opinion was that the ringing prior to the service appealed only to the few, while the majority of people—were the B.B.C. to allow a prelude of some duration on the bells—would tune in *only* for the service. That same point of view was shared independently by the radio engineers, whose interest in the controversy led to their going up into a belfry for the first time in their lives, and being present while the bells were rung up.

There is general agreement on both sides that the short introduction to the broadcast service does not do justice to the ringers concerned. But it is also obvious that such an occasion is not the time for long touches, and it is, therefore, as wrong for a band to refuse to ring because the ringing forms merely a brief background, as it would be for an organist to refuse to play any voluntary on the grounds that it would be faded out.

The remedy is not with the ringers coming down to the all too common mundane level and going on strike, or trying to ride the high horse with the B.B.C. authorities, but rather with an entirely new approach to the subject of broadcasting the ringing of bells.

In spite of the added interest given to ringing by the imposition and removal of the ban during the war, there is still an enormous amount of ignorance of the elementary facts of bellringing, as well as of the science and art of change ringing. Would not a series of feature programmes (such as was recorded by the band at Worcester Cathedral for transmission to America), giving explanations of the methods, with suitable short touches, go a long way both to remedy this lack of knowledge, and at the same time to give the ringers a real chance to broadcast something worth listening to? This would also stimulate interest. There are a number of keen bands who could do this excellently, and if such an offer were made to the B.B.C. it is quite likely that it would be taken up. Then the listener would tune in to hear the bells.

ARTHUR C. F. DAVIES, Precentor.

Cathedral Close, Blackburn.

Dear Sir,—Unless 'X' has conducted his own Gallup poll, his statement that many thousands of listeners would be bored stiff is purely conjecture. That the B.B.C. people know their job is also only a matter of opinion. Personally, I find much of the B.B.C. fare unpalatable, but I am not compelled to listen and can switch off, and that is what those who do not like bells could easily do.

I contend that whatever time is ostensibly allowed for the bells should be devoted to the bells only, be it only one, two or three minutes, without interruption—courtesy to the ringers demands as much. What, I wonder, would happen if the B.B.C. faded out the choir or the preacher—although some of the sermons I have heard in my time might have a better effect as a background for the bells!

Congratulations to the St. Mary's, Nottingham, band, and may others follow their lead.

R. H. DOVE.

Leeds.

Dear Sir,—Once again the bells were on the air, this time from Blackburn Cathedral, for a whole two minutes. No doubt the ringers of Blackburn will be grumbling because they weren't on longer, as other ringers who have broadcast have done. Well, it's about time ringers learnt more sense and in future refuse to ring for any broadcast unless they can get a guarantee the bells will be on the air for no less than ten minutes, otherwise it's not worth the trouble to turn out. The same applies to Sunday service ringing in general. There should be no less than an hour's ringing before service. If less than an hour, then it's not worth the trouble to climb the belfry to get the bells up.

G. S. LEE.

25, Joseph Street, Rotherham.

Sir,—With regard to this much discussed subject of broadcast bells, I am in entire agreement with 'X,' whose letter appeared in 'The Ringing World' of March 22nd. Of course, the officials of the B.B.C. know their job—one minute of the bells on the air is quite sufficient for the listeners.

Much has been talked about the 'music of methods.' I suggest that this is merely an excuse by the ringer for his fascinating hobby. Why doesn't he be honest with himself? The enjoyment he derives from ringing is not from listening to the 'music,' but from the satisfaction of completing so many 'true and complete' changes in some intricate method. The man in the street would much rather listen to some well-known hymn tune chimed on the church bells than any number of well-struck changes, and why shouldn't he? The musical qualities of the tune are certainly far greater.

It is high time ringers began to appreciate their privileges. Church bellringing is essentially an act of worship to God; ringers may think themselves lucky that they have been allowed to turn this duty into a hobby. Do they consider the feelings of some of the outside listeners when they are ringing a peal or indulging in a noisy practice? Many of the caustic remarks of these unwilling listeners

would be unprintable. Not content with inflicting their own neighbourhood with their oftentimes none too well struck changes, they now wish to sink even lower in the estimation of the general public by *demanding* more time on the air.

Get wise to yourselves, ringers. Your hobby is not, and never will be, appreciated by the uninitiated, and if you are genuinely interested in it you will not let this small fact worry you. The personal satisfaction derived from ringing should be quite enough for you as it is for me.

'ANNUTHEREX.'

BALL BEARINGS VERSUS PLAIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The recent correspondence in your columns is most interesting and gives much food for thought. The ring of bells at St. Leonard's Church, Stagsden, were restored by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1932 (by no means a simple undertaking owing to difficulties raised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the vexed question of a timber frame versus a cast iron and steel frame). However, the massive oak frame was entirely reconstructed and the bells rehung with cast iron headstocks and self-aligning ball bearings. The latter have not had to receive any attention regarding lubrication since installation.

On Saturday evening last the quickest peal on the bells in seven Minor methods was rung in 2 hours 38 minutes. At the conclusion of the peal one of the band remarked that he would have enjoyed continuing for another three 720's, and, further, all the band finished the peal as fresh as when they started, and the go of the bells was equally as good. Would these set of conditions have applied had the bells been hung on plain bearings?

As many ringers know only too well, some bell chambers are only visited when a rope breaks, and if the bells are hung in plain bearings more often than not they are neglected unless there is a keen local band with a thorough steeplekeeper. It is then that the last three-quarters of an hour during a peal tells its tale on the ringers at the back end, and usually this is when the standard of the striking deteriorates, often spoiling an otherwise good peal.

As Mr. F. E. Collins rightly says, until some system of continuous lubrication is evolved for plain bearings that really keeps the oil in the bearings, then scientifically designed ball bearings from an engineering point of view score every time.

Many ringers maintain that bells hung on ball bearings need more steadying than those on plain bearings, that the ringer tends to have the bell on his hands much more, but do we not ring too slowly in this case?

Although the peal here last Saturday was the quickest on the bells, listeners remarked on the excellent rhythm of the striking and the beauty of the bells.

PERCY C. BONNETT.

Stagsden, Bedford.

Dear Sir,—Bell hangers have not made things too easy, it was a long felt want (there are still plenty of slaughterhouses for the heavy bell bearings to use in advertising their skill). I prefer the plain bearing. I once rang a bell of 26½ cwt. to a peal of Minor in 3½ hours, but I'm afraid if the bell had been in ball bearings it would have been my master. We always say that with ball bearings we have to 'pull 'em and stop 'em.'

GEORGE GILBERT.

Burnham.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the question of the plain v. ball bearings, surely the question is answered by the fact that as a bearing the ball is more efficient. I have rung during the last two and a half years in towers from Cambridge to Southport in Lancs. I found for general go the ball bearing is easier to ring. Of course, well cared for ball bearings go very well, but in many cases should the temperature be low the lubricant will not thin under the friction while ringing, with the result that the bells will go harder than they should do.

In any case, if a man is entitled to call himself a ringer he should be able to find out how a bell handles, whether she's quick at hand or slow at back or has any other peculiarity, and to adjust his handling to suit his bell and the peal in question.

CYRIL H. KINCH.

Letchworth, Herts.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HANDSWORTH.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Handsworth, Sheffield, on March 16th, about thirty members sitting down to tea. Service in church was conducted by the Rector, who took the chair afterwards at the business meeting.

One new member was elected. The hon. district secretary, Mr. J. J. E. Gilbert, after serving over six years in H.M. Forces, was reinstated in office, and Mr. S. F. Palmer was thanked for undertaking the duties during his absence. Mr. Bernard Ditcher was elected to the committee in the place of Mr. F. C. Wilson, who had resigned owing to ill-health, and Conisborough was selected for the meeting in June. A collection for the Bell Repair Fund realised 11s.

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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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G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Nor-
folk, and not to the Editor.

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING, NORWICH.

As accommodation will be very limited at Norwich dur-
ing Whitsun, members are advised to book early. The
following are hotels which have rooms available:

Annesley Private Hotel, Norwich. Bed and break-
fast 12s.

*Bell Hotel, Norwich. Bed and breakfast 10s.
Double room and breakfast 20s.

Central Hotel, Tombland, Norwich. Bed and
breakfast 10s. Double 20s.

Royal Hotel, Norwich. Single room 9s. 6d. to
10s. 6d. Breakfast 3s. to 3s. 6d.

*Plus 10 per cent. staff gratuities.

The peal at Wellington on March 23rd was rung to celebrate the
60th anniversary of the formation of the Hereford Diocesan Guild.

The peal of Stedman Triples at Dorchester on March 16th was
rung by Ringing Masters from four branches of the Guild in honour
of Mr. G. F. White's 50 years' association as a ringer with Dorchester
tower.

The Cambridge Surprise Major at Eltham on March 21st was Mr
H. E. Audsley's 800th peal.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The handbell peal of Bob Major, rung at Enfield on
March 2nd, was for the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and not for the
Middlesex County Association as printed. W. L. B. LEFSE.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Eighty-two members were present at the annual general meeting of
the Surrey Association, held at Beddington on March 23rd. The
methods rung ranged from rounds to Surprise Major. Service was
conducted by the Rector of Beddington, and Mr. D. K. C. Birt pre-
sided at the business meeting.

In the committee's report it was stated that eleven peals had been
rung for the association in 1945, as against four in 1944.

The membership showed an encouraging increase, and mention was
made of the tea and entertainment at the Croydon Bell Foundry
which Mr. C. F. Johnston provided for the members in September.

Mr. Dan Cooper was elected Master and Mr. D. K. C. Birt treasurer.
Otherwise the existing officers were re-elected.

It was decided to continue the war-time practice of not requiring
subscriptions from members while serving in the Forces.

Fifteen new members were elected.

BELLS AND GUNS.

Although most of the facts have appeared in our columns, the following extract from an article in 'The Church Times' will be read with interest. The 'ordnance' taken at Genoa in 1814 and now in the steeple at Liversedge was almost certainly looted church bells and not bronze guns. Just as the two handsome guns on the Tower Wharf were made from bells looted from Cherbourg in 1758.

The association between armaments and bells is an old one. Until two centuries ago, bell-founding and gun-founding were often one business, and bell-metal and gun-metal were almost identical—about eighty-five parts copper to fifteen parts tin. Hence the law promulgated by Henry VIII. after his dissolution of the monasteries had thrown great numbers of bells on the market:—

noe pson or psons shoulde from thenceforth carrye or convey any brasse, copper, laten, bell mettall, gunmettall, ne shroffe mettall into anye part or parts beyonde the sea, upon payne of forfeiture of the saide mettall.

'After a war bells were sometimes made from the enemy's ordnance. Thus one of the peals of eight bells at Liversedge in Yorkshire carries the inscription:—

These eight bells were cast in 1814 and 1815 with brass ordnance taken at Genoa.

'The history of two famous bells illustrates the double process of guns-into-bells and bells-into-guns. The great bell of Vienna, weighing 17½ tons, was cast, in 1711, from the metal of 180 cannon taken from the Turks. During the war of 1914-1918, it was broken up for reconversion into ordnance. Cologne Cathedral's "Kaiserglocke," weighing 26½ tons, derived most of its metal from 22 cannon captured from the French during the Franco-Prussian war. During the next war this bell went back to the melting pot, to reappear as armaments.

The bells which the Germans took from South Jutland in the 1914 war were replaced by others cast from 44 old cannon provided by Copenhagen arsenal. Actual gun-barrels are now of steel, so conscripted bells have not been used in exactly the old way, but rather for other armaments, such as the mounting of weapons.

A comparable story might be told of guns and statues. When the iron-railings-for-tanks scheme was in operation, Britain decided not to commandeered statues for conversion into armaments. But that fate has befallen many Continental statues, not only in the twentieth century, but long before. Four years after its completion, Michael Angelo's 14ft. figure of Pope Julius II. was melted down to make guns.'

A MATTER OF FINANCE.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Mr. G. N. Blake's letter contains much food for thought and should set every ringer thinking. The time has come when ringers, through their bands, should contribute to the expenses of the church where they call people to worship. Money is required for new ropes and the smooth running of the bells.

I recommend Mr. C. Morss' collecting box, which has brought in nearly £20 in the last two years in the tower of St. Mary's, Woodford, Essex. This box is brought out on Sundays and Mondays and those present give what they can spare. The money is paid monthly to the church treasurer as a freewill offering. A healthy atmosphere is created and surely that is vital if ringing is to hold its own in a world of many changes. It will be a sad day when ringers take no interest in the Church and its services. Bands will become depleted and in time the bells will become silent.

Mr. Blake's comments on peal ringing cannot be overlooked. As the peal ringers enjoy their lengthy and often intricate performances, I would suggest that their gratitude for the private use of the bells and for their fitness to endure trials of mind and muscle should be shown by a generous donation to church funds, say £1 a peal, each ringer paying his share. Please don't conclude that churches would welcome peal ringing to swell their funds. However, there is no evading the fact that the Church does not receive enough financial help from those who claim to be 'C. of E.'

A Bell Restoration Fund should exist in every association, built up by collections taken at district meetings.

JAMES CHALK, Master, S.W. Essex Division.

12, Cadogan Gardens, E.18.

THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARIES

March 24th, 1740. At St. Saviour's, Southwark, the first peal of Double Bob Maximus.

1784. At St. Bride's, Fleet Street, the College Youths rang the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus.

1856. At Hyde, Lancashire, 9,600 Grandsire Major.

March 26th, 1784. At Southwark, the ancient Society of College Youths rang 6,048 Real Double Bob Maximus.

March 27th, 1784. At Shoreditch, the Cumberland Youths rang 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal.

1826. At Wakefield, the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal.

March 28th, 1750. At Shoreditch, the first peal of New Bob Triples.

1902. At Romford, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on handbells.

March 29th, 1762. At Fulham, the first ten thousand on ten bells rang single handed.

BEARINGS.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

Senex is quite right. Bells go far too easily nowadays, and half the enjoyment has gone out of ringing. The modern bell founders and bell hangers have done us an injury which is impossible to forget and hard to forgive. In my time ringers were men and heroes; now schoolgirls and (which is worse) schoolboys catch hold of bell ropes and call themselves ringers.

Many years ago I dropped into the village of South Walsham. I had never been there before, but almost the first man I came across turned out to be a ringer. He informed me that generally they did not meet in the summer and at the time the rest of the band were away harvesting. But he got together some boys and sent them into the fields with urgent messages, and not so long afterwards we had enough in the belfry to raise the five bells. They told me they rang two methods—Old Doubles and Grandsire. I did not like to show my ignorance by asking what they were, but in due course I discovered that in Old Doubles you rang the first lead of Plain Bob and came home at the lead end if you got so far. Grandsire was harder. In it you made thirds place at the go-off, and then went on plain hunting until you had had enough—which was not very long.

Well, we rang one or two peals of Old Doubles and odds and ends of Grandsire, with long and necessary intervals for rest and recuperation, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The tenor man was a big hefty chap who pulled like a rhinoceros, and sweated like a pig. (This is really a figure of speech, because, strictly speaking, I do not think I have ever seen a pig sweat, and I am certain I have never seen a rhinoceros pull. That, however, by the way.) I remarked to the tenor man that I supposed the bell wanted a bit of pulling, and he agreed that she did a bit. And then, because I had found favour in their sight by the way I rang the second, they suggested that I should have a go at her. Being a wise man then (as I still am), I thought it would be better to face the limited difficulties of Old Doubles rather than the unknown and uncertain dangers of Grandsire, and proposed the first. We started excellently and I got the bell down to the lead in fine style. But that was my limit. Up from the lead she would not go, nor, in fact, could I so much as set her again.

When we had recovered ourselves I told the tenor man that I thought the bell did not go quite as well as she ought to, and he answered modestly, as one who thought a lot of his pet, but did not want to overdo things by too much praise: 'No, perhaps she don't. But you can't expect too much. You see she's worn through the brasses and one side is swinging on the wood.' I asked him how long that had been, and he replied: 'Oh, not long. Less than a couple of years.'

They were men and heroes in my time, and now I should not be surprised to be told that schoolgirls and (which is worse) schoolboys ring the bell—that same bell—and think nothing of it.

DOUBLE NORWICH CATERS.

On March 2nd a band of the Chester Diocesan Guild rang at Christ Church, Crewe, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters, the first in the method by all. The peal, we understand, was an exceptionally good one, and a report of it was duly sent us with the figures of the composition, but unfortunately before it was published it was found to be false.

That was a bad piece of luck for the band, but the most regrettable thing was that the composition was by the late Joseph W. Parker, and had been specially supplied by him just before his death. Our first thought was to state the facts and, out of regard to Mr. Parker's memory, to suppress his name, but Mr. Edgar C. Shepherd in a private letter has convinced us that full publicity is the right and indeed the only possible thing. Mr. Shepherd put the case so well that we reproduce his words. He writes:—

'I do not see how you can keep Parker's name out of it. From the time of Reeves onwards composers of the first rank have put out false peals. Among them are Johnson, Carter (I have a false peal of Caters of his: fancy that!) and Knights. The first peal of Double Norwich Caters with 7th place bobs, rung in Sheffield in 1911, composed by Arthur Knights, was false, and Knights naively explained that he did not know that the method would run false inside the leads!

'We do not think any the less of these men because of these lapses. I am sure that Parker would wish for the fullest publicity, and it would be a poor tribute to his splendid memory to conceal this false peal.

Moreover, the peal is extant, and is numbered in a catalogue of the composer's works. It can easily be rung again. In the interests of safety the whole matter should be made clear.'

The men who rang at Crewe were Messrs. George Packer, Harry F. Holding, Kenneth Lewis, Richard T. Holding, John E. Bibby, John Worth, Samuel Jones, jun. (conductor), Percy Swindley, Richard D. Langford and William Edge. A band like that should not have much difficulty in ringing another and more fortunate peal.

Of all well-known methods, Double Norwich Caters is the one which offers the most traps for the composer who has not made a very special study of it. There is need for a good statement on the proof of it, Mr. Edgar C. Shepherd has written one, and we hope to publish it before long for the benefit of the Exercise.

BELLS—USES AND ABUSES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 101.)

With the coming of Ash Wednesday, ushering in Lent, all signs and sounds of joy were for a time suspended, and the belfry shared the solemn feeling that prevailed. In many parishes it was the rule to chime only and not ring during these six weeks; and in view of the fact that merry peals were commonly employed to mark the great festivals of the church, it would probably be found useful, as well as reasonable, to distinguish the great annual fast in this way. As already noted, the bells at Belgrave, Leicester, were never rung—only chimed—while at Gedney Hill, Lincs, both during Advent and Lent, the second bell only was used for week-day services. At St. Botolph's, Lincoln, the same custom as at Belgrave was followed, while it is stated that at Eversholt, Beds, a bell was rung on Ash Wednesday at 8 a.m. as on Sundays, and the same on Good Fridays, as also at Westbury, Salop, and Offchurch and Shotteswell, Warwicks.

A curious relic of services once held during Lent, but now in many parishes omitted, formed one of the 'duties' of the parish clerk of Barrow-upon-Humber, drawn up in the year 1713:—

'Item. He is to ring a Bell every working day from Monday the first whole week during Lent, until Easter, except such days as there is prayers in the church.'

That 'duty' is more clearly expressed in an old survey or 'Terrar' of the parish thus:—

'The clarke Receiveth from every Cottage at Easter three pence, and from every Husbandman for every Plough Land eight pence, and for Ringing the Day Bell and Night Bell in Harvest two pecks of wheat, being also obliged to ring at Nine a Clock and Four a Clock all the time of Lent.'

We are to understand that this ringing of a bell at the hours of matins and evensong was to take place every day, although no service was said, excepting on Litany and Holy Days when divine service would be said, and that rather later in the morning. A similar custom was formerly in vogue at Cottingham, Northants, and at Caldecote, Rutland, in both of which parishes a bell was rung daily at eleven o'clock in the morning during Lent; the clerk at Cottingham collected eggs from the parishioners at Easter as his fee for this ringing.

For three days—from Maundy Thursday to Easter Eve—the bells in pre-Reformation times were silent. Burnabe Googe (1570) refers to the practice thus:—

'From Thursday then till Easter come, the fondest toyes have place,

Wherein these cathlikes think themselves great men of wondrous grace,

First three days space the belles are wilde, in silence for to lie,

When from the toppes of hawtie towres, with clappers lowd they crie.'

In many places, however, wooden clappers or rattles were substituted. St. Francis Xavier alludes to the custom when, in describing the usages of the Christians whom he found at Socotra, he says: 'They use no bells, but wooden rattles, such as we use during the Holy Week, serve to call the people together.' A wooden bell is preserved at St. Mary Magdalen, Ripon, and there are

several at Lenton. These, it has been suggested, were possibly used in place of the ordinary bells during this solemn time. In some places, as in Mexico, the people on the last days of Holy Week carry wooden clacks, which they rattle as they go about the streets, the idea probably being to scare away evil spirits which are for the time being undisturbed by the bells. The Hon. Margaret Collier (Mme. Gallietti di Cadilhac) describes the custom witnessed by her on Holy Saturday in an Italian village: 'The next morning early,' she says in her 'Home by the Adriatic,' 'men go about hammering bits of wood and crying "Come to Mass in memory of Christ's death." This is called tric-a-trac.'

Aubrey, in the Lansdowne MSS. (quoted in Brand's 'Popular Antiquities'), describes what seems to have been a survival of a similar practice in England:—

'It is the custom for boys and girls in country schools, in several parts of Oxfordshire, at their breaking-up in the week before Easter, to goe in a gang from house to house, with little clacks of wood, and when they come to any door, they fall a-beating their clacks and singing'—a doggerel ditty which he gives. The wooden clacks for church use are mentioned in some of the inventories of the churches of mediæval Lincolnshire.

The modern Roman usage is to discontinue all use of church bells of every kind, from the singing of the 'Gloria in Excelsis' at the Maundy Thursday Mass until the same place in the Mass of Holy Saturday. It is usual in many places in England to toll only for the service on Good Friday, and in not a few places the older custom of observing a solemn silence in the belfry has been revived. At Lincoln 'Great Tom' is tolled for service on this day, and in numerous instances the tenor alone is sounded. At Aisthorpe, Lincs, Easton, Herts, and elsewhere a muffled peal is rung, and the tenor tolled, at the solemn hour of 3 o'clock, being 'about the ninth hour,' and in some places thirty-three strokes are rung representing the year of our Lord's life on earth.

While on the subject of wooden rattles it will be of interest to note that one of the ponderous dimensions (matraca) is suspended in one of the lofty arches of the famous Giralda tower in Seville, one of the minarets left by the Moors upon their surrender of the city to the Christians way back in the year 1248. This rattle is composed of four elongated boxes attached equidistant to a common axle-tree in such a way that, when the apparatus is revolved by means of a crank a series of iron hammers fall successively on each box. When kept in constant revolution these boxes emit a rhythmical series of sounds not unlike the explosion of a bunch of crackers. When set in motion this instrument produces a great noise.

Suspended above the nine great bells in the beautiful steeple of Toledo Cathedral is another massive rattle, worked by a curious mechanism, which it is the custom to sound continuously for forty-eight hours before the 'Gloria in Excelsis' of the Saturday before Easter. Ella-combe records that in the Fiji Islands bells are made by hollowing out the trunk of certain trees and then cutting into sections three or feet in length with bevelled edges. These are called 'Lali.' When placed upon a resonant of elastic body and struck with a mallet, a roaring sound is produced. Explorers state that these gongs can be heard many miles away. Similar contrivances are in use in South America and Africa.

From ancient times it has been customary to welcome the Archbishop or Bishop with a joyous peal. Fox relates in amusing terms a visit of Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury (1396-1413) to London — 'who, passing by the high street, did not only look and wait for the ringing of the bells, for a triumph of his coming, but took great snuff, and did suspend all churches in London (not only with the steeple and bells, but also with organs) so many as did not receive his coming with the noise of bells.' [Acts and Monuments, III, p. 313.] The churchwardens of St. John the Baptist, Peterborough, charge in their accounts:—

'1473 Itm paid for ryngyng yense (against) my Lord of Lynckoln at his vysytacyon . . . ija.'

Chester Cathedral has this entry in 1544:—

'To the Ryngers at the recevyng of my Lord to the Visitacon viijd.'

The churchwardens of Melton Mowbray, Leics, charge:—

'1557-8 Itm pd for a galland of ale to ye Reyngers when ye bycchype was here . . . iijd.'

At Ludlow:—

'1554 Itm for shottyng of iij ropes when the ronge bishop Samson in . . . vjd.'

At Rotherham:—

'1611 Item paid for ringing at the Byshopps being at Rotherham . . . 13d.'

Latimer tells a quaint story of a visitation in a sermon preached before King Edward VI. on April 12th, 1549. He says:—'I heard of a bishop of England that went on a visitation, and as it was the custom, when the bishop should come, and be rung into the town, the great bell's clapper was fallen down, the tyall was broken, so that the bishop could not be rung into the town. There was a great matter made of this, and the chief of the parish were much blamed for it in the visitation. The bishop was somewhat quick with them, and signified that he was much offended. They made their answers and excused themselves as well as they could: "It was a chance," said they, "that the clapper brake and we could not get it mended by and by: we must tarry till we can have it done: it shall be mended as shortly as maybe." Among the others there was one wiser than the rest, and he comes to the bishop, saying, "Why, my Lord, doth your Lordship make so great a matter of a bell that lacketh his clapper? Here is a bell," saith he, and pointed to the pulpit, "that hath lacked a clapper this twenty years. We have a parson that fetcheth out of his benefice fifty pound every year, but we never see him."'

In this connection we may also quote one of the regulations promulgated by Bishop Alnewick, of Lincoln, in 1444, to the effect that 'not to Ring the bells on the arrival of a bishop is a manifest mark of contempt, for which the Vicar may be summoned to give account.' This same bishop in the same year (1444) issued a proclamation for a tax to be levied on all the hearths in Leicester, called 'smoke farthings,' to erect a campanile or bell tower at St. Margaret's, Leicester.

The church accounts of St. Giles', Northampton, show:—

'1638 Item to the Ringers when the Bishop was in towne. . . .'

After the presentee to a benefice has been inducted by the bishop or his delegate, he is passed through the open

door into the church: he then tolls a bell which is supposed to be a means of making his induction known to the parishioners. There is a popular belief that the number of strokes given on the occasion will correspond with the years the incumbent is to hold the living. 'Our clerical friends,' wrote Dr. Gatty, 'ought to remember this on being presented to a valuable piece of preferment!' The custom is an ancient one, and is not confined to parish churches, for at St. Albans the new Abbot touched the bell ropes to signify his power, then all the bells were rung. [Walcott, Soc. Arch., p. 327.] An amusing tale is told of a Vicar who, before deciding on taking a new living, went to view the church. After looking around, he came across an old man, to whom he put the question, 'Are you the caretaker?' The old fellow replied, 'I dunno rightly, sir, the first parson I served under called me a beetle [beadle], then we has another who called me a sextant [sexton], and the last one called me a virgin [verger].' 'Well, my good man,' says the Vicar designate, 'You must have served here a long time?' 'Aye, sir, I've rung yon tenor bell for five dead parsons, I'd like to make it half-a-dozen afore I retire.'

(To be continued.)

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MACCLESFIELD.

Twenty members and friends were present at the annual general meeting of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, held at St. Michael's, Macclesfield, on March 23rd.

Service was conducted by the Rev. J. D. Devereaux, chairman of the branch, and the address was given by the Rev. J. Kingdon.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected: Chairman, the Rev. J. D. Devereaux; Ringing Master, Mr. J. Worth; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. Tipper; representative on General Committee of the Guild, the Rev. A. Clarke and Mrs. C. W. Lawton; representative from the branch on the General Committee, Mr. J. Worth.

The statement of accounts was adopted and five new members were elected from Gawsorth. The Rev. F. T. Lever, of St. Peter's, was elected an hon. member and Mr. Horsfield a ringing member.

It was proposed to hold meetings at Alderley, Gawsorth and Bollington during the year. The Ringing Master mentioned the bell funds at St. Peter's and Christ Church. Both funds are doing well; the former is in the region of £800, although the bell founders are not hopeful of doing the work until 1948. It is hoped that the re-hanging of Christ Church bells will be completed this year.

The methods rung during the day consisted of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DISS.

Over 40 ringers attended the annual meeting of the South Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association at Diss on March 16th. They came from Attleborough, Bressingham, Bergh Apton, Coston, Dickleburgh, Diss, Fornsett, Garboldisham, Hardwick, Ipswich, Long Stratton, Loddon, Mulbarton, Mendlesham, Norwich, New Buckenham, Palgrave, Paston, Redenhall, Winfarthing, Wymondham and Yaxley.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. A. Appleton, assisted by Canon T. A. Nock, and Mr. W. L. Duffield presided over the business meeting, supported by the Rev. J. A. Appleton, Canon Nock, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, and Messrs. Nolan Golden, A. G. Harrison, E. G. Bennett, C. E. G. Banham and R. H. Drane. All the officers of the branch were reappointed and six new members were elected. Redenhall and Starston were selected for the next meeting on May 18th.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES STEER

Mr. James Steer, a member of the band at Winsford, near Minehead, Somerset, and the oldest member of the Dunster branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Guild, has died at the age of 91. A few weeks before his death he was ringing for a local wedding.

A carpenter and joiner by trade, he was a skilled craftsman of the old type, and the re-roofing of Exford Church will serve as a memorial to him.

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.

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

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT ASSN.—Canterbury District.—Ash, March 30th, 3. Service 4.—B. J. Luck.

KENT ASSN.—Maidstone District.—Aylesford (8), Saturday, March 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual, Boston (10), Saturday, March 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Farnham District.—Farnborough (6), Saturday, March 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, Tumble-down Dick Hotel, 4.45. — C. W. Denyer, 11, Newhouses, Holly Road, Aldershot.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Market Harborough District.—Kibworth, Sat., March 30th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m., Village Hall.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Thorne, March 30th, 2.30 p.m.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Saturday, March 30th. Tea 4.45. Business 6 p.m.

KENT ASSN.—Rochester District.—Practice at Rainham, Saturday, March 30th, 6.30 p.m.

DEVON GUILD.—South-West Branch.—Tavistock (8), Saturday, March 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m.

SALISBURY GUILD.—Amesbury (8), Saturday, March 30th. Service 3. Tea and meeting to follow.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Dunster Deanery.—Annual, Old Cleeve (8), Saturday, March 30th. Service 4.15. Tea and business at the Village Hall 5.—Geo. Stacey, 6, Park Street, Minehead.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Taunton Branch.—West Monkton (6), Saturday, March 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Loughborough District.—Kegworth (8), Saturday, March 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Practice, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Wednesday, April 3rd, 6.30 p.m.—G. W. Steere.

SHEFFIELD SOCIETY.—Whiston (8), April 6th, 3 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 6d.) to N. Chaddock, 33, Brecklands, Broom, Rotherham.—H. Chaddock.

KENT ASSN.—Tonbridge District.—Brenchley (8), Saturday, April 6th. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names by April 3rd to T. Saunders, East Peckham, Tonbridge. Practice, Tonbridge, Friday, April 5th, 7.30 p.m.—T. Saunders.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Aston (12), Birmingham, Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea follows. Notify Mr. F. Price, 174, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham 23. Phone ERD.—0554. T. H. Reeves.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Western Division.—Horbury, near Wakefield (8), Saturday, April 6th; also Ossett (10) available. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5. Names to Mr. H. Pickles, 9, Co-operative Street, Horbury, by April 3rd.—Wm. Ambler, 40, Littlemoor, Queensbury.

OXFORD GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice, Wargrave (8), Saturday, April 6th, 6 p.m. till 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Northern Division.—Practice, Lower Beeding, Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Tea. Names for tea to G. T. Jennings, 5, Malthouse Road, Crawley.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Wigan Branch.—Coppull, Saturday, April 6th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

SALISBURY GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Trowbridge (12), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m.—W. C. West, 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Biggleswade District.—Clifton (6), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Grimsby District.—Thornton Curtis (6), Saturday, April 6th, 2.15 p.m. Service 4.15. Towers will be notified about tea.—H. I. Mingay, 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Syston District.—Birstall, Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to H. Humphreys, Wyndale, Barkby Lane, Syston, by April 3rd.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Long Buckby, Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Tea provided.—T. H. Loakes.

ELY ASSN.—Ely District.—Sutton-in-the-Isle (6), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock.—R. H. Bullen.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Draycott (8), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. For tea notify Mr. F. Shelley, Cresswell Farm, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, by April 2nd.—Andrew Thompson.

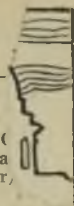
BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Crewkerne Deanery.—Curry Rivel (8), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Notify by Tuesday, April 2nd. Good bus services.—J. T. Locke, School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Alresford (8), Saturday, April 6th, 2.30 p.m. Also available Old Alresford (6) and Bishops Sutton (5). Service 4.30. Tea and business, British Legion Hut, Alresford, 5 p.m. Names by April 3rd to W. G. Goodchild, 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Desford (6), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Tea and business at 5 p.m. Names by April 3rd to Mr. J. W. Bennett, 4, Manor Road, Desford, nr. Leicester.—W. A. Wood.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—St. David's, Brecon (6), Saturday, April 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names by April 2nd to D. H. Bennett, 2, Council Houses, Bronllys, Talgarth, Brecon.

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Market Weighton (6), Saturday, April 6th. Tea 1s. 6d. Names to Mr. J. W. Kneeshaw, Hillcroft, Londesborough Road, Market Weighton, by April 4th.—T. H. Foster.



LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Lancaster Branch.—Cockerham, April 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Bring food. For transport from Bay Horse Corner write to Mr. J. Woods, 44, Blades Street, Lancaster.

DERBYS AND DISTRICT ASSN.—Chesterfield Branch.—Old Whittington (6), April 13th. Names for tea to G. J. Newman, 54, Brearley Avenue, New Whittington, by Wednesday, April 10th.—Sam Scattergood.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—North and East District.—St. James', Clerkenwell, Saturday, April 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloway's Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, April 20th, 3 p.m. New rule books now available to members; price 3s. 6d.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Annual, Bedford, Easter Monday, St. Paul's (10), 10.30 a.m. Own arrangements for lunch. St. Peter's (6), 2 p.m. Service at St. Paul's 4 p.m. Meat tea, 3s. per head, 4.30 p.m., in the Trades Club, followed by business. Names for tea to Mr. F. J. Plummer, Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, by April 13th.

NORWICH ASSN.—Annual General, Norwich, Easter Monday, April 22nd. Bells, Mancroft, St. Giles', St. Miles', St. John de Sepulchre, 10 to 11.45 and after 3. Service, Mancroft, 12 noon. Lunch, Samson and Hercules, 1 p.m., 4s. each. Business, S. and H., after lunch. Names for lunch must be sent to me by April 12th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ST. LUKE'S, BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—Major Methods practice first Monday in each month, 7.30.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—Any ringer visiting, or resident in Slough, is invited to St. Mary's Parish Church (ringing: Sundays 5.30; Thursdays 7.30), or to communicate with W. Birmingham, 6, Cranbourne Road, Slough.

SITUATION WANTED.

WANTED, situation as groundsman; experienced in all sports; Surprise ringer; wife also ringer; must have living accommodation.—Box 10, 'The Ringing World,' Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford.

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'SLOVENLY RINGING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Slovenly ringing (and there is more of it about than ever) is the fault of the tutor and not the pupil. It is also due to many conductors tolerating anything in order to report one more peal. If the pupil is given just enough rope at rope's end that he or she can only set the bell by going on their toes in the first place, much will be done to avoid slovenly and sloppy ringing, also every ringer should be reminded of every clipped blow. Don't try to teach Cambridge before the pupil can ring and strike rounds.

Regarding 'schoolgirl' tenors, I have at least eight of them in my tower, where we have a 16 cwt. tenor. It is not fair to sate the youngsters for sloppy ringing, the sloppiness is usually amongst the older hands. We shall have many towers closed to peal ringing unless more heed is paid to striking and more consideration given to the outside public.

Burnham, Bucks.

GEORGE GILBERT.

QUARTER PEALS.

TAUNTON.—On March 10th, at St. Mary's, 1,257 Stedman (F. Chedzey 1, G. Coles 2, W. Millard 3, D. Sheldon 4, A. Wa F. Morris 6, W. Tarr 7, H. Mockridge 8, W. Gigg (conductor), Thomas 10.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, March 10th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: Miss D. R. Fletcher 1, J. Howard 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, M. Routh 4, J. Pryor 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, S. Hatfield 8.

BARRINGTON, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, March 10th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: F. Gummer 1, A. Drayton 2, R. Beale (conductor) 3, A. Rowsell 4, H. Rowsell 5, A. Pond 6.

CHILVERS COTON, WARWICKSHIRE.—On March 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Margaret Beamish 1, J. Draycott 2, J. F. Clarke 3, Mrs. D. E. Beamish 4, J. Gibbons 5, H. Harris 6, L. Trevor (conductor) 7, J. Lloyd 8. Half-muffled.

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, March 17th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: B. Cornelius 1, J. Best 2, B. Drayton 3, R. Welch 4, F. Welch 5, R. Beale (conductor) 6, K. Welch 7, W. Marks 8. With 2-1-8 covering.

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, March 17th, 1,280 Oxford Treble Bob Major: Mrs. V. Lathbury 1, Miss N. Shorter 2, C. W. R. Grimwood 3, R. Lathbury 4, H. Colcombe 5, G. Curtis 6, J. Gill 7, W. Simmonds (conductor) 8.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, March 17th, at St. Michael's, 1,260 Bob Minor: C. T. Payne 1, A. B. Halsey 2, S. Farmer 3, A. E. Halsey 4, R. Bedford 5, F. Kirk (conductor) 6.

THURLBY.—On Sunday, March 17th, 1,260 Doubles (240 each of St. Simon's, St. Dunstan's and Plain Bob, 120 each of April Day and Canterbury Pleasure, 300 of Grandshire): R. Wade 1, A. Wade 2, N. Horton 3, B. Wade 4, C. Wade (conductor) 5.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, March 17th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. Padgett 1, T. Groombridge 2, H. R. Cobbin 3, V. Jennison 4, F. Brown 5, F. Bradley 6, J. A. Barrett (conductor) 7, K. Wagstaff 8.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, March 17th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: Miss Mavis Allen 1, R. Allsop 2, Miss Jean Dunn 3, H. W. Gregory 4, G. H. Paulson 5, B. Allsop 6, H. E. Taylor (conductor) 7, J. Roberts 8.

BARWELL, LEICESTER.—On March 17th, 1,450 Bob Major: T. C. Belton 1, W. J. Whitehead (conductor) 2, H. Knight 3, R. Hodgetts 4, E. R. Whitehead 5, C. R. Belton 6, F. Deacon 7, T. K. Deacon 8. Half-muffled.

CANTERBURY.—On Sunday, March 17th, at St. Dunstan's, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: V. Wilsden 1, Derek Wilsden 2, Jean Bartter 3, C. Dilnot 4, Brenda Philpott (conductor) 5, Derek Chatfield 6.

OXENHOPE, YORKSHIRE.—On Sunday, March 17th, 1,320 Treble Bob Minor: W. Greenwood 1, J. Robertshaw 2, S. Whitehead 3, H. Hellwell 4, A. Rushworth 5, A. Bairstow (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for J. W. Nicholson.

CIRENCESTER.—On Monday, March 18th, 1,259 Grandshire Caters: C. W. Price 1, W. A. Godwin 2, F. J. Lewis, sen. (conductor) 3, Rev. T. P. Hearn 4, A. Law 5, F. J. Lewis, jun. 6, H. L. Cooke 7, H. R. Acock 8, W. H. Hayward 9, R. R. Wallis 10.

GLOUCESTER.—On March 18th at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: H. Austin 1, T. Newman (conductor) 2, J. Hodson 3, H. Barnett 4, H. Daniels 5, W. Cox 6, H. Newman 7, F. T. Waite 8.

LEIGH, KENT.—On March 18th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: Mrs. B. W. Pankhurst 1, W. Card 2, D. J. Pankhurst 3, A. Stubbings 4, B. W. Pankhurst (conductor) 5, C. V. Ingram 6. Half-muffled for R. Gardener.

BALDERTON, NOTTS.—On March 19th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: Francis Hunt 1, Frederick G. Hooper (conductor) 2, Peter N. White 3, David A. Carpenter 4, Frederick Dixon 5.

WOODCHESTER, GLOS.—On Wednesday, March 20th, 1,260 Grandshire and St. Dunstan's Doubles: W. Brunt 1, F. Garland 2, G. Latham (conductor) 3, S. C. Than 4, R. J. Thain 5, A. Howell 6.

IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On March 21st, 1,440 Minor, being 720 Single Court and 720 Oxford Bob: Miss Ivy M. Jordan 1, C. Verey 2, Miss E. Iris Rowley 3, A. R. Tonks 4, H. Turner 5, A. E. Rowley (conductor) 6.

AMESBURY.—On March 22nd, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: C. L. Wenham 1, H. H. Abrahams 2, J. E. Figgures 3, L. Harris 4, F. Smith 5, W. A. Theobald 6, P. D. Wenham (conductor) 7, W. Abrahams 8.

GAMSTON, NOTTS.—On March 23rd, 1,260 Minor (720 Single Oxford and 540 Plain Bob): H. Barnes 1, Miss G. Burchall 2, Miss J. Sa't 3, Miss K. Burchall 4, J. Newbert 5, H. Denman (conductor) 6.

FAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—On March 23rd, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: E. Sawyer 1, H. Bishop 2, R. Bond 3, K. White 4, E. Robey 5, B. Brown 6, A. Webb (conductor) 7, J. Napper 8.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On March 23rd, 1,299 Stedman Caters: F. Haves (conductor) 1, G. F. Hinton 2, E. Markham 3, J. W. Wilkins 4, F. D. Boreham 5, W. H. Plumridge 6, C. A. Smith 7, S. T. Goodchild 8, R. Coles 9, A. D. Strathead 10.

AUGHTON, LANCs.—On March 23rd, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: J. Marsh 1, J. R. Lunham 2, A. Tomlinson 3, W. Core 4, T. Horridge 5, T. Hammond 6, A. Maudesley 7, J. Riddard (conductor) 8.

PRITTEWELL, ESSEX.—On Sunday, March 24th, 1,259 Grandshire Caters: Peter King 1, Richard Dixon 2, William James 3, Philip Sadler 4, William Perry 5, Roy Brown 6, John Fowler 7, Fred Souter 8, Frank Lufkin (conductor) 9, Charles Chambers 10.

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