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## THE NORFOLK GUILD.

The annual report of the Norfolk Guild for 1925 is hardly encouraging reading, for it chronicles a 'stationary' position, with a reduction in membership, a slight financial loss on the year, and a considerable drop in the number of peals rung. Compared with the report of 1924, there appears to be a net loss of 49 performing members resident in the county. It is true that if non-resident and other life members be included the figures show a reduction of only 30—that is serious enough—but it is disturbing to find that from one reason or another fifty ringers within the borders of the county have been lost to the Guild in 12 months. Taken in conjunction with the reduction of 25 peals, it looks as if there is a waning interest, and this is emphasised by the fact that, although the Guild is divided into about a dozen districts, only two district meetings were held during the year. It is not surprising, therefore, that the report draws the attention of district secretaries and members to this lack of activity, and commends the matter to their earnest attention.

Apparently the organisation needs overhauling. Districts are of no use unless they are made centres of activity, and secretaries who are merely officials in name are equally unnecessary. It may be that those who occupy these positions in the Norfolk Guild are awaiting a lead in the matter of bringing their members together in district meetings; if so, they have that lead in the appeal made to them in the report. There is, among ringers, far too much of that spirit which leaves things to others, and an association does not fulfil its proper functions if it neglects to provide opportunities for the meeting of its members. It is obvious that three general meetings a year for an association of the size of the Norfolk Guild can in no way be said to be adequate, and it is little wonder that the report regrets that in 1925 they were all very poorly attended. The fault may not be all with the district secretaries, and perhaps their hands would be strengthened if the rules of the Guild were made to provide for, say, two meetings in each district per annum. So far as the rules are at present framed, they do not even recognise the existence of districts, except to say that district secretaries shall be members of the general committee, and it would materially strengthen the position if periodical district meetings were also provided for by rule. It is recognised by all associations who have divided into districts that by far the best method of creating and maintaining interest is the holding of frequent district meetings, and what has proved successful elsewhere would doubtless prove of equal value in Norfolk in reviving a flagging interest and renewing that vigorous support for which the annual report makes an urgent appeal.

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## TEN BELL PEAL.

CULLOMPTON, DEVON.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

EDWIN SHEPHERD ... .. Treble	REV. EVERARD S. POWELL ... 6
WILLIAM HOWE ... .. 2	CHARLES G. GLASS ... .. 7
WILLIAM G. HISCOTT ... .. 3	ERNEST W. MARSH ... .. 8
TOM G. BARTLETT ... .. 4	ALFRED G. BETTS ... .. 9
ALFRED T. WESTCOTT ... .. 5	WILLIAM ACREMAN ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN COX.

Conducted by ERNEST W. MARSH.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 24, 1926, in Three Hours,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5010 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB AND SINGLE.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

W. GRUNDY ... .. Treble	W. JONES ... .. 5
S. HARRISON ... .. 2	F. GRUNDY ... .. 6
J. FREEMAN ... .. 3	J. POTTER ... .. 7
S. JAMES ... .. 4	A. BORTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. GRUNDY.

First peal as conductor. Rung for the wedding of Mr. Norman Allen and Miss Ethel Derbyshire, daughter of Mr. P. H. Derbyshire, chief ringer of this church. The ringers wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Derbyshire for their kind hospitality after the peal. The ringer of the 4th hails from Swinton, 7th and tenor from Walkden.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, April 26, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, WANDSWORTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THEURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

THOMAS BENNEY ... .. Treble	WILLIAM S. LANGDON ... 5
HERBERT LANGDON ... .. 2	JAMES H. RUMLEY ... .. 6
HAROLD N. PITSTOW ... .. 3	JAMES BOLLOCK ... .. 7
CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... .. 4	ALFRED JOYCE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by H. LANGDON.

This peal was rung to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Prime, and the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. William Langdon, and the anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Attwater.

ASHTED, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES

CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... Treble	JOHN T. SCOTT ... .. 5
MISS IRENE L. HASTIE ... 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 6
CHARLES N. BURDOCK ... 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... .. 7
JOHN A. COLE ... .. 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SHEPshed, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 10 lb. in F.

F. H. DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THEURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

MISS IDA B. THOMPSON ... Treble	FREDERICK S. PRICE ... .. 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	ALBERT COPPOCK ... .. 6
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 7
† PERCIVAL PRICE ... .. 4	ARTHUR GAMBLE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

The above peal was specially arranged for Miss I. B. Thompson, it being her first peal in the method, first peal on eight and first attempt. \* First peal (age 18). † 100th peal. 50th peal as conductor.

### WHITWORTH, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5154 CHANGES.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

WILLIAM CRABTREE ... .. Treble	WILLIAM HORAM ... .. 5
MRS. WILLIAM CRABTREE ... 2	JOHN P. FIDLER ... .. 6
MISS ROSE A. BELL ... .. 3	TOM WILDE ... .. 7
ALFRED BARNES ... .. 4	HERBERT DAVENPORT ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by TOM WILDE.

First peal in the method as conductor. First peal in the method on the bells.

### TETTENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE. SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5840 CHANGES.

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 lb.

HERBERT KNIGHT ... .. Treble	ROBERT PICKERING ... .. 5
JOHN PERRY ... .. 2	JOHN C. ADAMS ... .. 6
WILLIAM FISHER ... .. 3	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 7
EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... 4	BENJAMIN DALTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER WALLATER.

Rung on the Festival of SS. Philip and James.

### CHATHAM, KENT.

#### THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

CHARLES WINNER ... .. Treble	*VICTOR JARRETT, R.E. ... Treble
*PHILLIP SPRINGHAM ... .. 2	FRANK BELSEY ... .. 6
CHARLES NORRIS ... .. 3	WILLIAM HAIGH ... .. 7
*HARRY SPRINGATE ... .. 4	*EDWARD A. G. ALLEN ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by W. HAIGH.

\* First peal of Oxford Treble Bob. Rung for the silver wedding of the Rev. F. Willshire, and as a birthday compliment to P. R. Belsey and V. Jarrett. First peal of Oxford on the bells and rung at the first attempt.

### SHIPLEY, YORKS.

#### THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 1, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

*MRS. F. SEAGER ... .. Treble	JOSEPH BROADLEY ... .. 5
*THOMAS WILCOCK ... .. 2	FRED DIXON ... .. 6
THOMAS B. KENDALL ... 3	ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... 7
HERBERT HAIGH ... .. 4	*ARTHUR TROTTER ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by E. H. SIMPSON.

\* First peal. Great credit is due to these young ringers for the manner in which they rang. The peal was rung in honour of the birth of a daughter to the conductor.

### GREAT TEW, OXON.

#### THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 2, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5050 CHANGES.

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 22 cwt. 10 lb.

JACK JUDGE ... .. Treble	MADRICK SMITH ... .. 5
WILLIAM JUDGE ... .. 2	WILLIAM STONE ... .. 6
WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. 3	ALBERT A. HUGHES ... .. 7
CYRIL BENNETT ... .. 4	THOMAS IMPRY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

### CHESTER-LE-STREET, DURHAM.

#### THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 3, 1926, in Three Hours & Twenty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5085 CHANGES.

Tenor 21 cwt.

WILLIAM H. BARBER ... Treble	JAMES W. TRAPPITT, JUN. ... 5
*MISS A. DONNISON ... .. 2	BERT N. NEWSON ... .. 6
EDWARD A. HERN ... .. 3	ADAM DEAS ... .. 7
JOSEPH E. KEEN ... .. 4	FREDERICK SHERATON ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by WILLIAM H. BARBER

\* First peal in the method on an inside bell. This peal was arranged for the ringers of 5 and 6, who hail from Croydon. This composition contains the 8th the extent in all positions, being at home the last 12 course ends.

### PULHAM, NORFOLK.

#### THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 4, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

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

Tenor 14 cwt.

FREDERICK BORRETT ... Treble	*WILLIAM STEGGALL ... .. 5
*ALBERT HARRISON ... .. 2	CHARLES CLARKE ... .. 6
CHARLES BAKER ... .. 3	RUSSELL RICHES ... .. 7
CLEMENT MORE ... .. 4	ERNEST WHITING ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by F. BORRETT.

\* First peal in the method.

### EPSOM, SURREY.

#### THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 5, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb. in F sharp.

DANIEL COOPER ... .. Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. 5
FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 2	GEORGE MARRINER ... .. 6
ALFRED L. BROWN ... .. 3	*JOHN F. GALYER ... .. 7
ALBERT HARMAN ... .. 4	THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by THOMAS G. BANNISTER

\* First peal in the method. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar.

### BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

#### THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 8, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E flat.

FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... Treble	*JOHN F. GALYER ... .. 5
MISS FRED A. ORR ... .. 2	AMOS CLARK ... .. 6
ALFRED J. TRAPPITT ... .. 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
DANIEL COOPER ... .. 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

\* First peal in the method. First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on the bells.

### BLETCHLEY,

#### THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTH BEDS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 8, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5030 CHANGES.

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*HARRY VALENTINE SEAR ... Treble	†FREDERICK J. STONTON ... 5
HARRY SEAR ... .. 2	JOSEPH MARKS ... .. 6
JOHN MEAD ... .. 3	WALTER SEAR ... .. 7
WILLIAM MEAD ... .. 4	FREDERICK WHITEHEAD ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY SEAR.

\* First peal and son of the conductor. † First peal in the method.

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BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.  
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD  
On Monday, May 10, 1926, in Three Hours & Seven Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

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

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS BEVAN ... .. Treble	HENRY E. COX ... .. 5
ROBERT E. SUMMERS ... .. 2	ARTHUR J. LLEWELLYN ... .. 6
JOHN PARK ... .. 3	WILLIAM POSTON ... .. 7
ALFRED T. POULTON ... .. 4	ROBERT SUMMERS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

\* First peal on 8 bells. † First peal of Triples on inside bell.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.  
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

OWEN H. GILES ... .. Treble	WILLIAM G. EDWARDS ... .. 5
WILLIAM T. TUCKER ... .. 2	REGINALD I. ROWN ... .. 6
GEORGE PULLINGER ... .. 3	FRANK BLONDELL ... .. 7
WALTER G. ROWE ... .. 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by G. WILLIAMS.

CRAYFORD, KENT.  
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH AND DOUBLE OXFORD MAJOR (SPLICED), 6152 CHANGES;**

Being 2,560 of Double Norwich and 2,592 of Double Oxford.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM BOND ... .. Treble	HERBERT E. ADDSLEY ... .. 5
JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... .. 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES ... .. 6
FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ... .. 3	EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... .. 7
ISAAC G. SHADE ... .. 4	EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH W. PARKER. Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

This is the first time these two methods have been rung spliced.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

**A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;**

Tenor 13½ cwt. in F.

JOHN H. B. HESSE ... .. Treble	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... .. 5
CHARLES N. BURDOCK ... .. 2	JOHN A. COLE ... .. 6
HENRY HUTTON ... .. 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... .. 7
GEORGE W. STEERE ... .. 4	ALFRED H. POLLING ... .. Tenor

Composed by JAMES CARTER. Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

F. H. DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb.

PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... .. Treble	RICHARD J. JACKSON ... .. 5
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... .. 2	WILLIAM COPE ... .. 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... .. 3	ALFRED G. GRANT ... .. 7
ERNEST W. TIPLER ... .. 4	NORMAN S. BAGWORTH ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

Rung to celebrate the coming-of-age, on May 11th, of the ringer of the 2nd, brother of the conductor; also as a compliment to N. S. Bagworth, whose 19th birthday occurred on the same date. The conductor's 100th peal on tower bells.

GUILDFORD.—At Holy Trinity Church, for Ascension Eve service, on May 12th, 1,184 Guildford Surprise Major, in 47 mins.: H. Burdock 1, C. N. Burdock 2, J. T. Scott 3, R. Philpotts 4, J. A. Cole 5, W. R. Melville 6, G. W. Steere 7, A. H. Pulling (conductor) 8.

PERRY HARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.  
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

**A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 13½ cwt.

CHARLES COITRELL ... .. Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS ... .. 5
RICHARD C. INGRAM ... .. 2	GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 6
JONATHAN PRESTON ... .. 3	WILLIAM DAVIES ... .. 7
JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON ... .. 4	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH ... .. Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells and by the Guild. Rung at the first attempt.

EARLS COLNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

**A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

SAMUEL WARNE ... .. Treble	FRANK CLAYDON ... .. 5
ARTHUR SAUNDERS ... .. 2	WALTER ARNOLD ... .. 6
GEORGE WIFFEN ... .. 3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 7
JAMES FLEUTY ... .. 4	WILLIAM KEEBLE ... .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

LONDON.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Four Hours and Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE BOW, CHEAPSIDE, CITY,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;**

Tenor 53 cwt. 22 lb. in C.

JOHN LEE ... .. Treble	*CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... .. 5
ERNEST J. TRIMMER ... .. 2	DANIEL COOPER ... .. 6
JAMES W. CHAPMAN ... .. 3	CHARLES H. CHAPMAN ... .. 7
FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... .. 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. Tenor

Composed by F. ROBINSON. Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

\* 100th peal. First peal of Treble Bob Major on the bells. The conductor (a minor) is assumed to be the youngest ringer to ring a bell of this weight to a peal.

**SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS**

TREVETHIN, PONTYPOOL, MONMOUTHSHIRE  
LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, May 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CADOC,

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

Being 42 six-scores.

Tenor 11 cwt.

A. WILLIAMS ... .. Treble	C. MORGAN ... .. 4
C. N. TEMPLE ... .. 2	T. LADE ... .. 5
W. V. COWLEY ... .. 3	A. HARRIS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by T. LADE.

First peal by all except the conductor.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

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

Being two 720's of College Exercise, two of Woodbine, one each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS ADAMS ... .. Treble	VICTOR GOATCHER ... .. 4
*FREDERICK TURRELL ... .. 2	HARRY TURRELL ... .. 5
GEORGE WARNETT ... .. 3	WILLIAM DENMAN, JUN. ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. DENMAN.

\* First peal on a bob bell.

BRINKWORTH, WILTS.—On Saturday, April 17th, on the occasion of the monthly meeting of the Swindon branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, the following rang the first 720 of Bob Minor on the recently augmented peal of 6 bells: E. Bishop 1, A. W. Bond 2, H. Wheeler 3, S. Palmer 4, H. W. Bishop 5, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 6. Tenor about 1 ton.



### HARROLD, BEDS. THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 8, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

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

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Double Court, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

WILLIAM SHARP ... .. Treble	HENRY W. GAYTON ... .. 4
JOHN R. MAIN ... .. 2	AMOS SMART ... .. 5
WILLIAM STOCK ... .. 3	CHARLES W. CLARKE ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

### MARSTON BIGOTT, SOMERSET. THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 11, 1926, in Two Hours & Forty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD.

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

Being three 720's of Oxford Bob and four 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 7 cwt.

HARRY PROUT ... .. Treble	WILLIAM ROSEWELL ... .. 4
*FREDERICK TARGETT ... .. 2	RONALD G. BECK ... .. 5
REGINALD F. BECK ... .. 3	JOSEPH T. DYKE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by R. G. BECK.

\* First peal of Minor inside. First peal on the bells.

### HOLME HALE, NORFOLK. THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 12, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

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

Being 720 each of Double Court, St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. in E.

RALPH NARBOROUGH ... Treble	JAMES H. RAPER ... .. 4
ARTHUR WIGMORE ... .. 2	*EDWARD BARKER ... .. 5
*BENJAMIN HAMMOND ... 3	TONY PRICE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

\* First peal in five methods. First peal on the bells. The conductor's 50th peal.

### BEDDINGTON, SURREY. THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 12, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

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

Tenor 8 cwt. 16 lb. in B flat.

MISS FRED A. ORR ... Treble	JOHN F. GALYER ... .. 4
MISS E. E. CHAPMAN ... 2	*THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 5
†FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

\* First peal of Surprise. † First peal of Minor. First peal of Surprise Minor by all. Cambridge Royal, Major and Minor have now been rung on these bells.

### BILLESDON, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

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

#### A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 6600 CHANGES;

Consisting of Plain Bob, Extreme and Grandsire.

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

A. NORMAN GEARY ... Treble	J. GEOFFREY GEARY ... .. 3
JOSEPH NORTON ... .. 2	ERNEST H. DYER ... .. 4
ERNEST MORRIS ... .. Tenor	

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

The longest peal on 5 bells by the M.C.A.

### YAXLEY, SUFFOLK. THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

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

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 13 cwt.

*D. LOCKWOOD ... .. Treble	G. BAILEY ... .. 4
W. STEGGALL ... .. 2	F. HAYWARD ... .. 5
†H. DAY ... .. 3	D. WHITING ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. STEGGALL.

\* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells since they were relung by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye.

### COUND, SHROPSHIRE. THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

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

Being 10 six-scores of Canterbury Pleasure and 10 six scores of Plain Bob, each called in four different ways, and 10 six-scores of Grandsire and 12 six-scores of Stedman, each called differently.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

G. LEONARD HEWITT ... Treble	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 4
WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... .. 2	THOMAS R. BUTLER ... .. 5
WILLIAM S. HIGGINSON ... 3	WILLIAM HIGGINSON, SEN. ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS R. BUTLER.

First peal in four methods by all except the ringers of the 2nd and 4th. First peal of Doubles on the bells. Arranged and rung as a bi-centenary celebration of the casting of the bells, which were cast in 1726 by Abraham Rudhall, and have recently been relung and tuned by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

### COTGRAVE, NOTTS. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION AND SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and One Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

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

In four methods, viz., 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Bob, and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 17½ cwt.

MISS IDA B. THOMPSON ... Treble	ALFERT COPPOCK ... .. 4
FRED BLOOD ... .. 2	WALTER WHITE ... .. 5
WILLIAM E. WHITE ... .. 3	FRED W. BAILEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER WHITE.

Rung on the second anniversary of the induction of the Rector (the Rev. Alan Chaplin), who congratulated the ringers at the conclusion of the peal.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

CAMBRIDGE.

### THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Monday, May 10, 1926, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes.

IN TRINITY COLLEGE.

#### A PEAL OF ROB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

F. E. HAYNES (St. Cath.'s) 1—2	C. W. WOOLLEY (Selwyn) ... 5—6
REV. A. H. BOGHEY (Trin.) 3—4	S. H. WOOD (Magdalene) ... 7—8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by S. H. WOOD.

First peal as conductor.

### MR. P. PRICE'S CENTURY.

The one hundred peals of Mr. P. Price, of Beeston, Notts, rung in four counties and 22 towers:—

Kent Treble Bob Minor 2, Grandsire Triples 7, Stedman Triples 18, Bob Major 5, Little Bob Major (6.720) 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 18, Oxford Treble Bob Major 4, Double Norwich Major 10, Superlative Surprise Major 15, Norfolk Surprise Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 3, London Surprise Major 1 (conducted 1), Grandsire Caters 4, Spliced Grandsire and Stedman Caters 1, Stedman Caters 4, Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 4, total 100 (conducted 1).

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### THE CRITICISMS OF CRITICUS.

#### 'THE RINGING WORLD' IS MISSED.—THE CENTRAL COUNCIL AND NOMENCLATURE. — A WORD ON SIMPSON TUNING.

There were several things about the Strike that I didn't like from the selfish point of view. I didn't like walking to business instead of jumping on my customary bus; I didn't like it when my wife told me one day that she had not been able to get any butter and that I must eat margarine. And there were other minor things I didn't like, but the thing I liked least of all was the absence of my morning and evening newspapers, and when 'The Ringing World' failed to appear it was really a black Friday for me. For I don't know how many years, this faithful friend had never failed me on Friday morning. It came as regularly as breakfast that day, but twice now it has absented itself at the appointed hour, and I feel lost. But perhaps this hold-up of the ringers' own weekly may serve one good purpose—it may help to impress upon the unthinking something of the outlook for the Exercise if it had no newspaper to further its interests and keep us all in touch with the doings of the rest of the fraternity throughout the world. For instance, no one knew whether Saturday's meetings were on or off; whether any peals had been rung or not; nor even whether the Guilds had 'called out' their members at the behest of the T.U.C., or whether we were to remain 'in' when it came to a question of discharging public services. Failing official instructions, our little band stuck to their job, so that it was unnecessary to call in volunteers. In that way we may even have saved life, for volunteers might have hanged themselves had they tried to handle the ropes—thus may we consider ourselves heroes!

But, what is to happen to the Central Council? We are all waiting anxiously to know whether the august assembly is to meet at Whitsun, and, without our journal, how are we to hear? I am penning these lines in the hope that 'The Ringing World' will again see the light in a few days, and that our Parliament will be able to sit in dignified session at Ipswich. At the time of writing we have not seen the agenda, and we can only guess at a few of the things they are going to talk about. Anyhow, there are in two of the subjects more than enough to fill out the available time unless the President lays down a time limit for the speakers. Nomenclature and Simpson tuning are enough in themselves to fill the bill. But, on second thoughts, why need they waste a lot of time to the exclusion of other business? Both these subjects have been long under discussion in the Exercise. Every member has, therefore, had time to consider his views, and, one may hope, to make up his mind. Therefore, why make a lot of unnecessary speeches? Here is a hint to the members to save boring one another. If everyone has to make a speech in the hope of converting the opposition to his views, the stay in Ipswich will have to be extended to a week. This might be very nice for the members, but what would those associations say who have to pay the expenses? But don't let me say anything that will seem like putting a wet blanket on the 'show.' We may look for a lively debate on both these topics, and if we were robbed of it we, who have to be content with reading the reports, will lose a great deal of entertainment if not of enlightenment.

Nomenclature is a very thorny subject. Some people

object to the change, merely because it is change; 'What was good enough for father and grandfather is good enough for me,' is the attitude of not a few ringers. Others find a ground of legitimate objection to certain of the suggested alterations, and these are the obstacles which the committee will have to be prepared to meet. What the majority of ringers quarrel with is not the fact that curious and inappropriate names have come down to us from past generations, but that a committee of the Council should have endeavoured to extend and perpetuate them. Our forefathers had their funny little ways, just as we have ours, and if Mr. Woodcock liked to call a method his 'Delight' it is no worse than Mr. John Carter calling a method his 'Principle.' If someone rang the first 720 of a new method on Trinity Sunday, and liked to commemorate it by calling it by that name, we need not quarrel much about it, but why go round the garden looking for names which, while quite charming in their own setting, are really entirely out of place in their application to ringing matters? If the committee cannot get all their proposed changes through, they should concentrate on amending the absurd category of names which have been bestowed upon some of the methods which were unnamed until the Peals Analysis Committee got down to the job. Ringers in these days don't want more ridiculous names added to their vocabulary, but it must not be overlooked that, if the principle of permitting ringers to name the methods which they first ring is admitted, it will be difficult now to change some of those which the Analysis Committee found for those in the Minor Collection, because they have since been rung and the ringers claimed the titles. But there's going to be a fight over these names, if I read the signs aright, and I am looking forward to perusing the debates, as I am sure thousands of others are.

And then there will be the Simpson tuning debate. Those who have a liking for the old methods of tuning will doubtless fight for the principle to the last ditch, but I don't think they will really be able to stem the progress in the art of tuning—I am not sure whether it is right to use the word 'progress,' it is probably the Irishman's backward progress, for is not Simpson tuning older than change ringing itself? The Dutchmen, or whatever they were called, practised it under another name three hundred years ago. Perhaps we have not yet reached the stage of perfection in bell tuning, but this every open-minded ringer must, I think, admit, that peals of bells tuned harmonically are infinitely superior to those tuned on the old happy-go-lucky methods. We talk of some of the fine old bells which are left to us—they are usually to be found singly and seldom in complete rings—but do they not possess their fine qualities largely because by a happy chance they come very near to a harmonically-tuned bell? One thing is quite certain, however, that to get the best out of Simpson tuned bells, they need to be rung slowly. The anxiety on the part of some ringers to ring quick peals must be curbed on Simpson tuned bells if the best is to be got out of the ringing. Simpson-tuned bells rung fast are the cause of that jangle of sound, and probably the howling of which we hear so much complaint. And that being the case, why do not the founders hang the bells right out, instead of tucking them up in the stocks, and add slightly larger wheels? This would help to slow down the pace of those who are out for the quickest peal ever. But, for the Central Council to think of con-

demning modern tuning — well, it is likely to be as effective as the old lady's broom when she endeavoured to keep the sea back with it. The endeavour to preserve the fine old peal at Coventry was of course entirely another matter. The effort there was highly commendable, because here was a ring of bells of exceptional quality condemned to the melting-pot to make way for a chime, and the justification of the Council's action is to be found in the fact that the scheme was eventually amended so that ten of them can be utilised as a ringing peal if and when a suitable tower is provided. That is hardly likely in our time, but to have gained so much is all to the good, and, what is more, the Exercise owes a great deal to the efforts of Mr. C. F. Johnston in his long endeavour to have the new bells hung for ringing. Whatever views the Exercise held, they now know that the founders went to unusual lengths to secure a ringable peal for Coventry, and the compromise is something at least to be thankful for.

CRITICUS.

#### SENSATIONAL BELFRY TRAGEDY!

Simpson-tuning, writes 'I. P.,' is alone responsible for a shocking accident which happened in the bellchamber of St. Mary's, Ilkeston, recently. While a party of visitors, interested in Simpson-tuning, were inspecting this noble peal—which were in the inverted position—the sexton, unaware of anyone being above, pulled off the tenor bell. The dramatic event was followed by heartrending and terrible screams. The spectators were horrified to see the monster swing round, tearing away at one fell sweep a right arm and left leg completely from the body. The latter was in turn hurled with great violence to and fro against the solid masonry of the tower, with sickening thud.

The sexton, hearing the panic-stricken cries, with superhuman effort, brought the bell to a standstill. With alacrity the terrified visitors, trembling in every limb, struggled to the rescue, across the massive framework. Reverently, with tender care, they lifted from the bottom of the bell pit all that remained of the torn and dismembered body of the sleepkeeper's overalls!

#### SALISBURY GUILD SECRETARY IN THE EAST

The Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards, during March, paid a visit to Jerusalem, where he had the privilege of taking an official part in a historic service. Near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is an old church long disused, and now underground, with another built over it. It is said to date from the eighth century, or earlier, and to have been used by the Knights of St. John at the time of the Crusades. On the occasion of the recent pilgrimage of that Order to the Holy City this ancient building was again furnished for divine worship, and at the invitation of the Bishop of Jerusalem, who celebrated the Holy Communion, in the presence of Lord Plumer and a large attendance of knights and ladies, Mr. Edwards took part in the first service held there for some seven centuries.

The Archbishop of the ancient Church of Cyprus, founded by St. Paul and St. Barnabas, has accepted from Mr. Edwards a short poem, 'In Praise of Cyprus,' written in classical Greek, and has caused it to be published in a Greek newspaper.

#### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Maidstone district was held at All Saints', Maidstone, on Saturday, April 17th, St. Michael's tower also being open for visiting ringers. Members attended from most of the towers in the district, also from Ashford, Canterbury, Rochester, and Tonbridge districts, no fewer than 26 towers being represented. Service was conducted by the Rev. R. Sinclair, who gave an interesting address. Mr. W. E. Pitman presided at the organ.

Tea was provided at the Palace Tea Rooms, 63 members being present.

At the business meeting, Mr. C. H. Sone was re-elected hon. district secretary, and Messrs. G. Pound and L. Head district representatives. Fifteen new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Hunton, and the half-yearly meeting at Leeds.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Wednesday, April 7th, a 720 Bob Minor: \*R. French 1, \*E. Wilkinson 2, C. Leman 3, S. Hoare 4, H. Hodgetts 5, P. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. \* First 720 in the method.

LEICESTER.—On April 9th, at St. Margaret's, 720 Bob Minor: \*J. Grant 1, \*D. Grant 2, E. Morris (conductor) 3, G. S. Morris 4, J. Morris 5, R. F. Elkington 6. \* First 720 in the method.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association should note that the Whit-Monday meeting at West Hartlepool has been postponed.

The announcement that the Central Council meeting would stand was broadcast by the B.B.C. on Monday evening.

Reports of peals rung on Whit-Monday should be posted to us the same night.

Eighty years ago last Tuesday Thurstans' famous peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time. This peal is one of the most interesting compositions in the art, and was the consummation of years of striving and rivalry between composers, particularly at Birmingham. Thurstans, Cooper, Lates, Day and Johnson, all competent to do justice to the subject, were turning their attention to this method. The rivalry was especially keen between Thurstans and Lates, both of whom previously had peals on the same plan, but with special singles to couple up the parts.

The composition was first rung at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, by St. Martin's Youths, and conducted by Henry Johnson, who had had the figures in his possession for some months before it was actually rung. The story of the evolution of this peal is really a very interesting one, and it may be read in Snowden's 'Stedman.'

On May 18th, 1883, Mr. Sam Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, called the famous peal of 16,608 Kent Treble Bob Major at Mottram-in-Longdendale.

In view of the fate of Coventry bells, now being, or shortly to be, recast, it is interesting to recall that on May 20th, 1780, a peal of 5,220 Tittom Bob Royal was rung on them by St. Martin's Youths.

To-day is the anniversary of the 13,054 Stedman Caters rung at Cheltenham in 1888.

The first peal of Stedman Triples rung outside Norwich was achieved at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London, on May 22nd, 1799.

The opening of the bells at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, New South Wales, took place on May 27th, 1862.

## NORFOLK GUILD.

### MORE LIFE WANTED.

In the annual report of the Norfolk Guild, at the completion of its 48th year of existence, it is stated that the revised list of 785 members and the small balance of £3 13s. 9d. each show a small reduction upon last year's figures. The peals in 1925 were 61, against 66 in 1924. The three general meetings were very poorly attended, and all members really interested in the welfare of the Guild are urged to a realisation of the necessity for more vigorous support and recruiting. With the large membership that support could readily be obtained if the members would only remember the claims of the Guild due from them for carrying on its objects; the recognition of church bell ringers as office holders in the Church; the promotion of scientific change ringing. In an area covering nearly the whole of Norfolk, general meetings were of little use to the districts, obviously so, on the score of expense and distance; therefore, if they were to be a live Guild, it was imperative that members in the districts should have district and combined practice meetings more frequently than hitherto. During the past year they had had only two district meetings, both of which were satisfactory in point of attendance and the quality of the ringing. This matter is particularly commended to the district secretaries and members.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held at Great Waltham on Saturday last. The bells were raised about 3 o'clock, and were kept going until 4.30, when a service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Morgan). The lesson was read by Mr. C. H. Howard, and the organist (Mr. Franklin) and the choir gave their services. Tea, served at the Beehive, was followed by the usual business meeting, presided over by Mr. G. Green (district master).

The Rev. Douglas and Mr. P. Green, of Great Baddow, were elected probationary members, and Messrs. A. Boyce, L. Day, C. Claydon and J. Franklin were elected ringing members.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Galleywood, as soon as the bells are ready.

Mr. C. H. Howard proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and his helpful address, and also thanked the organist and choir. He said it would be a great benefit to the ringers if the chiming apparatus could be removed from the ringing chamber, or the ringing chamber placed lower down in the tower.

The Vicar, responding, welcomed the association to Great Waltham, but said he was afraid no improvements could be made at present.

About 24 members attended, representing Great Baddow, Writtle, Broomfield, Reltendon, Springfield, Chelmsford, Maldon and the local company. The methods rung included Cambridge Surprise.

CRADLEY.—At the Parish Church, on Monday, April 19th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, by the local band: H. Pritchard 1, J. Holder 2, C. Horne 3, G. Fincher 4, R. Lewis 5, G. Lewis (conductor) 6. First 720 of Surprise Minor for ringers 2 and 4.



## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

### AGENDA FOR NEXT TUESDAY'S MEETING.

The Third Session of the Twelfth Council (34th annual meeting) will be held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Ipswich, on Whitsun Tuesday, May 25th, at 11 a.m. precisely.

The morning sitting will be adjourned from 1 p.m. till 2.30, from which hour the Council will sit, if necessary, until 5.30 p.m.

The Standing Committee will meet previously at 9.45 a.m. in the same room.

### AGENDA.

#### GENERAL.

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Statements of Accounts and Sale of Publications.
4. Election of Honorary Members.
5. Introduction of New Members to the President.
6. Coventry Bells; to confirm action taken by the Council.
7. To receive and discuss the Reports of the following Committees, viz. :—
  - (a) Peal Collection.
  - (b) Literature and Press.
  - (c) Methods.
  - (d) Peals' Analysis.
  - (e) Towers and Belfries.
  - (f) Records.
  - (g) Science Museum Exhibit.
  - (h) Nomenclature.\*

#### MOTIONS :—

8. That the time has arrived when the Council should consider whether Simpson-tuning is in the best interests of the Exercise.  
(Messrs. E. A. Young and W. A. Cave.)
9. For as much as the Church Towers of England contain a large number of valuable old bells, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers requests the Diocesan Advisory Committees of the various Dioceses to co-opt some members having knowledge of the archæology, tuning and proper hanging of bells, to form a special sub-committee to advise them, when necessary, on all questions relating to the tuning, recasting or rehangings of bells, in order that bells may not needlessly be recast, and that rehangings shall be carried out in a proper manner.  
(Rev. H. Law James and Mr. R. Richardson.)
10. That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association earnestly requests the Central Council to continue to press the Railway Clearing Board for cheaper travelling facilities to be granted to ringers.  
(Messrs. E. Guise and E. Bishop.)
11. That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, at their annual meeting held at Painswick on April 5th, 1926, unanimously agree that historic bells should not be tuned by the Canon Simpson principle, even though it is necessary for them to be recast; but that the Canon Simpson principle may be used on modern bells only.  
(Messrs. E. Guise and W. A. Cave.)

12. That the Council consider the question of the institution of a 'Bellringers' Sunday' by means of an annual service throughout the country, or otherwise, and make recommendations.  
(Messrs. T. H. Taffender and A. D. Barker.)
13. Other business, if any.

\* Notice of amendment to resolution to adopt report of Nomenclature Committee. 'That this Council, while urging on the Exercise the extreme importance of choosing suitable names for new methods, declines to interfere with such rights as bands and individual ringers at present enjoy of giving names to new methods. And, further, is of the opinion that no alteration should be made in the names of old and historical methods, except where urgently necessary.'

(Mr. J. A. Trollope and Rev. C. D. P. Davies.)

### SOME COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA.

The general strike finished just in time to enable the announcement to be made that the arrangements for the Central Council meeting will stand. Had the dislocation of the railway services lasted one more day the proceedings at Ipswich would have been postponed, for it would have been impossible to go on with the arrangements when there was any uncertainty about the representatives getting to their destination from distant parts of the country. Happily matters got back more or less to normal on Monday, and the programme, therefore, will be carried out as arranged. So far as our readers are concerned, the strike has robbed them of early information of the business which is to come before the Council, but above we print the full agenda, and we are sure it will be perused with interest.

Judging from the business down for discussion, there is a full day before the Council on Whitsun Tuesday, and it will be well if the more routine matters which come in the early portion of the agenda are expeditiously dealt with. The usual reports are to come from the committees, but the most contentious of these will be found to be the last, viz., that of the Nomenclature Committee. This subject of method names has come before the Council every year since 1921, and it is full time that the Council made up its mind upon general principles at least. In this respect the Committee, in its report published in our issue of April 2nd last, has endeavoured to lay down lines upon which method naming should proceed in future, as well as proposing wholesale alterations to names which are already in existence. Whether the Council will consider they have gone too far in this respect, and whether all the alterations are looked upon as improvements remains to be seen, but it is quite certain there is going to be a full dress debate on the subject.

Already there is an amendment tabled, which would just leave the matter where it is—in a most chaotic and unsatisfactory condition. A pious resolution urging the importance of choosing suitable names will be forgotten in a week, and, as it is suggested that ringers are to be left to enjoy their present rights of naming new methods, this amendment will carry the matter no further. Even the Analysis Committee, whose action in allocating floral names to Treble Bob Minor methods was the real starting point of the present controversy, stated in their report, presented to the Council in 1922, that they felt

strongly that some central authority should be appointed to control nomenclature in the future, and so prevent difficulties arising which may extend beyond Minor methods. And with the confusion which undoubtedly has been created through irresponsible individuals giving to methods any names they fancied, it does seem reasonable that something should be done to straighten out the tangle and lay down defined lines for the future. Men like Mr. J. A. Trollope and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in whose names the amendment appears, could be trusted to use good sense and good taste in selecting method names, but left as proposed by the amendment, there is



One of the central attractions for Ringers at Ipswich—St. Mary-le-Tower Belfry.

nothing to exclude the most freakish of titles if it pleased the fancy of some eccentric individual to apply it to a method of which he claimed authorship. Nomenclature is going to provide an interesting feature in next Tuesday's proceedings, and our readers will, we are sure, look forward with interest to the report of the debate.

There are no fewer than five motions on the agenda, and the first is on 'Simpson tuning.' To carry the resolution as it stands would, it seems to us, be perfectly innocuous and non-committal. If the Council like to say that the time has arrived when they should consider

whether Simpson tuning is in the best interests of the Exercise, it will not commit anyone to approval or otherwise of Simpson tuning itself. Doubtless the President will allow a full expression of views on the merits and demerits of this modern method of tuning bells, although it seems to us he would be well within his rights if he kept speakers strictly to the terms of the motion. In any case, the carrying or rejection of the motion as it stands will not put on record what the Council thinks of Simpson tuning, and one could have wished that the hon. secretary's resolution had been a little more concrete in form. But probably an amendment would bring the subject to a direct issue.

The motion of which the Rev. H. Law James has given notice bears upon an important question, which has, in somewhat different form, already been before the Council. Representations have been made by the Council to the various Diocesan Advisory Committees that each committee should include at least one member having expert knowledge of bells, bell hanging and change ringing. The resolution before the Council next Tuesday carries this a step further, and is sure to meet with the approval of the Council, for the suggestion, if it can be given effect to, is a most valuable one. The difficulty will be to get the Advisory Committees to see it in the same light, for even the former resolution has not yet been successful, we believe, in placing a practical man on every committee. This is such an important matter, however, that the Council must keep pegging away at the Advisory Committees, and at those who have an influence in the appointments thereto. Mr. James's motion will bring the matter again under their notice with a still more impressive note, and will help Advisory Committees to realise that the question of bell restoration is as important as any other that can come under their consideration.

Two resolutions from the Gloucester and Bristol Association will be moved by Mr. Edgar Guise, the hon. secretary of that organisation. The effort to get cheaper railway travelling facilities is one which will appeal to all ringers, and it might be well if the Council appointed a committee, not only to investigate the best way to approach the railway authorities, but to properly organise the matter. When, last year, the railways were asked for the facilities, it was rather hurriedly done, and associations were left to take individual action. Some did their part, others did nothing, and the result was an uncoordinated effort, which failed to impress the railway companies sufficiently. The endeavour to obtain the cheaper facilities is well worth making, and, if obtained, would be a great gain to ringing, but the campaign does want to be effectively organised.

The second of the Gloucester and Bristol motions may meet, in part, with approval, but to suggest that old bells when recast should not be Simpson-tuned is, we imagine, more than the Council is likely to endorse. Probably by the time this is reached the Council will have heard enough of Simpson-tuning for one day.

The proposal that there should be an annual 'Bell Ringers' Sunday' throughout the country is an interesting one. Here again, to make it a success, careful organisation would be required, but if it could be effectually carried out it would help to impress the public with the importance of the ringers' service to the Church. There are likely to be many difficulties in the way of getting uniform action, but if the Council approve of the

idea in principle a committee might be able to draw up a scheme which, with the approval of Bishops and clergy, might be given effect to, even though it is not possible to make the 'day' universal.

On the social side, the visit to Ipswich promises to be a very pleasant one. In recent years much more attention has been paid to the entertainment of the members, and the Suffolk Guild have made preparations which will enable anyone who can spare the time to spend a full and enjoyable holiday in East Anglia.

#### THE SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The following are the arrangements by the Reception Committee:—  
Hotels: 'Great White Horse,' bed and breakfast, 9s. 6d. (Saturday dinner to Wednesday breakfast, inclusive terms, £2). 'Crown and Anchor' (headquarters), bed and breakfast, 9s. 'Grand,' bed and breakfast, 7s. 6d. 'Queen's,' ditto, 7s. 6d. 'Victoria' Temperance, ditto, 5s. 6d. A room will be reserved for the use of members on Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings, at the 'Crown and Anchor.' The manager of the 'Great White Horse' is reserving a separate dining-room for members, if they will ask for it (without extra charge). This is the hotel immortalised by Dickens. Mr. Pickwick's room is still shown to visitors, and also that of the Lady in Curl-papers.

Peals are being arranged on the Saturday afternoon, and later. Will any who would like to be included please send word as soon as possible to Mr. C. J. Sedgely, 14, Suffolk Road, Ipswich, mentioning day and methods preferred?

A peal of Stedman Cinquos is being arranged at St. Mary-le-Tower on Saturday, at 5.30 p.m., and a peal at Debenham (8 bells) on Sunday at 12 noon or 1 p.m.

It is suggested that members may like to visit Felixstowe or Norwich on the Sunday.

An excursion has been arranged for Monday, leaving the 'Red' Eastern Counties Office, in the Old Cattle Market, at 10 a.m., for Stowmarket and Bury St. Edmunds. The motor coach will hold 30, and it will be open, as long as seats are available in it, to all members who send their names to Mr. G. E. Symonds, 28, Chevalier Street, Ipswich, to whom other inquiries should be addressed.

A good lunch will be provided at the Angel for 3s. 6d., for those who desire it, before leaving Bury. Archdeacon Farmiloe invites the whole party to have tea with him at the Abbey House, at 3.30. On the return journey the bells of Lavenham and Hadleigh will be visited.

The Suffolk Guild invite the members of the Council and their friends to meet them at tea at the Co-operative Hall at 5 p.m., after the Council meeting: and, after tea, Mr. Chas. J. Sedgely will conduct members round some of the interesting antiquities of Ipswich.

At 8 p.m. there will be a social meeting for members of the Council, and of the Suffolk Guild, in the large room at the 'Crown and Anchor.'

Visitors from the South by road are advised to explore Gainsborough country just over the county boundary at Flatford and Dedham: they will beware of the dangerous Dedham Gun Hill, leading to the bridge by which one leaves Essex. On the other journey, they may like to go through Polstead and Stoke-by-Nayland, with their beautiful country and fine churches.

Those from the North, by a half-mile detour from the Yarmouth Road, may see Ufford Church, with its unique font-cover, and the Vale of Ufford. Sudbury is supposed to be 'Eatonswill'; though some say Ipswich and others Bury.

Members are also recommended to visit 'Christchurch Mansion' (admission free) in the park adjoining St. Margaret's Church. The bells of St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8) and St. Clement's (6) will be available on Monday.

There will be a service of the Holy Communion at St. Mary-le-Tower Church on Tuesday at 8 a.m.; also at St. Mary-at-Elms (near H.Q.) on Sunday at 8, Monday at 9, Tuesday at 8, Wednesday at 7.15.

#### ESSEX ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

If representatives of associations travelling to the Central Council meeting at Ipswich on Whit-Tuesday would care to call on their way at Chelmsford on Whit-Monday, and pay a visit to the Essex Association annual meeting, they would receive a hearty welcome.

CHAS. H. HOWARD.

Master.

BAGSHOT, SURREY. — At St. Anne's Church, on May 1st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins.: E. Hunt 1, Miss M. Nye 2, J. Corbett 3, H. Hunt 4, F. Nye (conductor) 5, B. Hawkins 6, S. Armstrong 7, C. Hunt 8. Rung to celebrate the birthday of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

#### NOTES BY THE WAY.

##### MORE COMMENTS ON NOMENCLATURE.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

But the Nomenclature Committee (so it seems) intend to withdraw the report presented at Chester and to substitute thirteen separate resolutions. The change is one of form and not of substance, and it has some undoubted advantages and some undoubted disadvantages. The committee think it will save time. That is at least doubtful; for if the Council is to debate and vote separately on thirteen propositions, every one of which will excite some opposition, there will not be much time left to deal with other matters. These resolutions do, however, state the committee's intentions quite clearly, and members of the Council would do well to study them thoroughly beforehand. The chief objection to dealing with the matter thus piecemeal is that, on the face of it, there would be no opportunity for expressing an opinion on the report as a whole. As I have already said, many of us are not interested in the details. We feel that the whole of this attempt to alter the naming of methods is on wrong and mistaken lines. We want to be able to say 'No' definitely to the whole. We do not want the bother of having to say 'No' thirteen times over.

But, if we must discuss the details, we have to say that the more we see of these proposals the less we like them. They are either unnecessary or noxious.

The first resolution declares that no method shall have more than one name. That can be put down as unnecessary. It is the present custom of the Exercise to have only one name for each method. Where any method has been named twice it is either because its name has been changed for some reason, or because the people who named it the second time did not know that it already had one. The resolution would not touch these cases. The committee themselves have attempted a wholesale renaming, and unless they can absolutely blot out the old names (a most unlikely thing) they would actually be doing what they declare should not be done.

The second resolution says that no name shall belong to more than one method. The Exercise is accustomed to the use of names for two and sometimes more methods. Thus we have Oxford Treble Bob and Oxford Bob, Cambridge Surprise and Cambridge Court, London Surprise and London Court, and so on. In theory, no doubt, this is all very wrong; but, as a matter of fact, has any inconvenience resulted? I do not think so. Certainly not sufficient to warrant any rigid prohibition. And here, too, the committee propose to do the thing they forbid. One of their names for the six-bell methods is Dartford, and a peal of Dartford Little Bob Major, a totally different method, was rung last year.

Resolution No. 3 says that no name shall contain more than one word. And pray why not? Names have various uses besides the simple and obvious one of being means of identification. They are sometimes descriptive and sometimes ornamental. If you want to be brief you can talk about Double Norwich, or even Norwich, if you choose, but that is no reason why you should want to deprive Double Norwich Court Bob Major of its full style and title. But the committee (or perhaps Mr. Burton) does use words when they are quite unnecessary. Copying the jargon employed by some business men, he signs his letter 'for and on behalf of' the Nomenclature Committee. Five words, and four of them are redundant.

Resolution 4 says that 'Class designations, when added to a name, should always have some reference to the thing designated. Thus the word "bob" in this connection shall always, as originally, have reference to dodging.' Precisely what that means I do not profess to know. I do know (though it is possible the committee do not) that what are here called class designations have been very carefully defined, and have definite meanings. If the reference to 'bob' methods is an allusion to the theory lately put forward by a member of the Nomenclature Committee, it must be said clearly that there are no grounds for that theory either in history or in probability.

Then come the alternatives proposed to the floral names. I cannot say I like these floral names, but when I see what is proposed to put in their place I wonder whether it is worth while, after all, to make any change. Is Hyde any better than Hyacinth, or anything like as good? or Marlow than Marigold; Preston than Primrose; Blundell than Bluebell; Shadwell than Shamrock?

Or, again, what gain shall we have if we do away with the long list of old names and adopt the proposed new ones? Evening Star and Morning Star are fine poetical names. College Bob and London Scholars' Pleasure are old historical names, connecting the methods with the two great London Societies who first rang them. What object can there be in altering them to Borking and Fulham?

And, finally, there is the proposal that the Council should try and forbid the use of any name or the alteration of any name unless it has been allowed by its committee. That, I think, is the worst of all the recommendations of this report. It is not workable, and, if it were, it is mischievous and clean against the best interests of the Exercise.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—On Thursday, May 13th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 44 mins.: P. Lane 1, F. Jennings 2, G. Jennings 3, A. J. Trappitt 4, T. G. Bannister 5, C. H. Kippin 6, J. F. Galzer (conductor) 7, J. Avery 8.

## SPIRE RESTORATION AT ALMONDSBURY, GLOS.

## INTERESTING BELL HISTORY.

The restoration has recently been completed of the unusual lead spire at Almondsbury, Glos. There are only four or five lead spires of this type in England, the most famous being the ones at Chesterfield, Godalming and Barnstaple. The work has thus been nearly unique, and very interesting.

The entire covering of lead, a matter of some 14 tons, has been taken off, recast and refixed in the most up-to-date fashion, consistent with not altering its original appearance. It should therefore be many years before this work has to be considered again. When the lead covering had been removed, and it was consequently possible to see inside more clearly, it was found that some of the main beams had rotted to a greater extent than previously imagined; the spire was indeed in a dangerous condition, and the work had not been taken in hand a day too soon. The whole structure of the spire has now been greatly reinforced by the addition of several new beams (some of them 10 inches square and 30 feet long) and the strengthening of some of the old ones.

The work has taken over a year to complete, and the total cost is nearly £1,700. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Vicar (Canon G. R. Wood) and to the generous response of the parishioners and friends of the parish, over £1,500 of this has already been collected, and it is hoped that the remainder will soon follow.

On Friday, April 16th, a service of thanksgiving was held in the church, conducted by the Bishop of Bristol, followed by a social gathering and concert in the Schools, at which about 280 people were present, including the Bishop, the Archdeacon, the Vicar (Canon Wood), the diocesan architect (Mr. P. Harland Thomas) and the contractors, Mr. Dowling, who did the interior work and the scaffolding, and Mr. Shull, who was responsible for the lead work, and some of the workmen, all of whom combined to do a difficult and interesting piece of work thoroughly and well.

Almondsbury is fortunate to possess a peal of bells in every way worthy of its beautiful spire. For sheer tone they are second to few in the country, and some of them are 300 years old. Their history is best given by the inscriptions on them, which are as follows:—

Tenor (23 cwt.). 'Come at my call to serve the Lord all.' W.P., R.P., 1601.

7. These bells were recast into six by Abel Rudhall, Anno Domini 1743, out of the rents of the Church Lands in the hands of Thomas Chester Esq., Treasurer thereof.

6. David Cooper, Vicar.  
Sholto Vere Hare | Churchwardens. Recast A.D. 1881  
George Luton | by Llewellyn & James;  
Almondsbury, Gloucestershire. Bristol.

5. Wm. Hollister, Thos. Grasman, Charles Prowse, Churchwardens.  
'Richard Purdue & Wm. Purdue first cast mg.' 1652, A.R.

4. Thos. Bilby Vicarius, 1676, Thos. Stephens, Ino. Seager, Churchwardens.

'Roger Purdue and Wm. Covant first cast me.' A.R.

3. 'Floreat Almondsbury.' A.R. 1743.

2. 'Prosperity to our benefactors.' A.R. 1751.

Treble. 'Peace and Good Neighbourhood.' A.R. 1751.

The initials W.P., R.P., on the tenor presumably belong to the same family as the Richard and William Purdue mentioned on the 5th. They were, it is believed, a firm of Bristol bell founders. Great Peter, the 5-ton clock bell in Exeter Cathedral, was cast in 1676 by a Thomas Purdue, probably a descendant of either William or Richard. He also cast the 9th and 11th of the present ring of twelve in the same year, and No. 8 in 1693. The original dates of 6 and 7 are unfortunately lost, but the 5th was cast in 1652, a date of great interest, as at that time England was in a state of ecclesiastical anarchy. It was no common thing to procure a new bell in the midst of that chaos, but Almondsbury seems to have procured three, as it is believed that 6 and 7 were added at the same time as 5.

In 1743 Almondsbury possessed five bells, and wanted more. They therefore had four of them melted down and recast into five, leaving the tenor as it was. This work was done, as is seen by the inscription on the 7th, by Abel Rudhall, of Gloucester, a descendant of the famous Abraham Rudhall. He also cast the two trebles, which were added in 1751.

About 1875 the 6th was struck and cracked by the clapper of the 7th, which broke during ringing. It was recast in 1881 by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol. The inscription on it before this was 'William Moseley, Vicar; John Bartlett and Thomas Cox, Churchwardens. A.R.'

The bells were quarter-turned and rehung in a new frame in 1903, by John Sully, of Stogumber, Somerset.

As far as is known five peals have been rung on the bells, the first being Grandsire Triples in 1836 by 'the Society of Union Youths.' A peal has not yet been rung on them by an entirely local band, the only attempt, as far as we know, being on April 17th of this year, the day after the rededication service. This was thought a very suitable time for the first local peal, and, accordingly, the attempt was made, but unfortunately it broke down after 2½ hours' ringing.

Those who took part in the attempt were as follows: V. Wills treble, W. H. Brown 2, H. Robbins 3, S. H. Wood 4, S. Rosser 5, T. Fowler 6, G. E. Capewell (conductor) 7, H. Kington tenor. Six of these have yet to score their first peal. The band expect to make another, and they hope successful, attempt in the near future.

## PORTISHEAD NOTES.

On Tuesday, May 4th, the ringers of St. Peter's, Portishead, with their President and the Rev. H. S. Briggs (curate), met with a special object.—The Captain asked Rev. H. W. Jukes (President) to present Mr. E. J. Goldstone with a fumed oak clock, on behalf of his fellow-ringers, on the occasion of his approaching marriage with Miss Elizabeth Jutsan (Exmouth). The clock had a silver plate, with the following inscription: 'Presented to Mr. E. J. Goldstone, on the occasion of his marriage, May 10th, 1926.'

The President remarked on the many years (26) Mr. Goldstone had been a ringer. For several years also he had held the office of hon. treasurer.—Mr. Goldstone, who was almost overwhelmed, acknowledged the gift.

As soon as the news came through, calling off the General Strike, a band of willing ringers gathered in the belfry to ring for so important an occasion. For evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung: Miss B. Stadden 1, Mrs. N. Edwards 2, Mrs. M. Briggs 3, Miss G. Broad 4, Miss G. Dobbs 5, J. Nisbet 6, W. Gillingham (conductor) 7, A. E. Colburn 8. This was also a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 2nd.

May 13th being Ascension Day, the bells were rung at St. Peter's Church. On that day also a confirmation service was held by the Bishop of Taunton, when no less than five ringers from the local band were confirmed. For this service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, and celebrated these ringers' confirmation: Miss V. Crocker 1, Mrs. N. Edwards 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, Miss D. Willett 4, Mrs. M. Briggs 5, Miss H. Orchard 6, W. Gillingham (conductor) 7, J. Thomas 8.

## THE TURNER'S HILL PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have seen the report of the Central Divisional meeting of the Sussex County Association, held at Cuckfield on April 17th, and note the remarks made in connection with the Turner's Hill peal. If the last four courses formed the best part of the peal, as Mr. Hart has stated, I shudder to think of what the first part of the peal must have been like.

As pointed out in my letter published in 'The Ringing World' on April 9th, I shall be quite willing to publish my name in connection herewith, but before doing so perhaps Mr. Hart will apologise in the columns of this paper to the gentleman he has already accused of writing the anonymous letters. Surely one should make quite sure of one's information before writing such a letter as I know he has done to a member of the association.—Yours truly, 'LISTENER.'

## SPLICED DOUBLE NORWICH &amp; DOUBLE OXFORD MAJOR

5152, BY JOSEPH W. PARKER.

Start Double Norwich.

23456 1 4 6

32654 — —

25634 — —

53624 — —

26354 — —

63254 — —

52364 — —

42563 — —

24365 — —

43265 — —

32465 — —

23564 — —

followed by bob at 1, changing to Double Oxford from the third lead end (4583762), and calling a bob 'Before' at the next lead produces:—

62345 M W H

53246 — —

24536 — —

52436 — —

45236 — —

34256 — —

25346 — —

42356 — —

35426 — —

43526 — —

54326 — —

23546 — S

Repeated.

The peal contains 2560 of Double Norwich and 2592 of Double Oxford. First rung at Crayford on May 15th, 1926. Conducted by E. Barnett, sen.



## SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

**CHELMSFORD.**—For morning service, at the Cathedral, on Sunday, May 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters was rung by: F. Polworthy 1, C. Gentry 2, W. Lincoln 3, A. Saltmarsh 4, R. Clark 5, J. Clark 6, J. Wood 7, E. Kemp 8, P. Timson (conductor) 9, G. Cooper 10.

**STONY STRATFORD.**—On Sunday, May 9th, for evening service, at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Pedley 1, H. Tompkins 2, T. Tompkins 3, E. Yates 4, H. Edwards 5, W. Burham 6, E. C. Lambert (conductor) 7, W. Clarke 8.

**STREATHAM.**—On Sunday, May 9th, at the Church of St. Leonard, Streatham, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples, by: Miss E. E. Chapman 1, Miss E. E. Hurcastle 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, E. E. Bish 4, J. W. Chapman 5, F. E. Collins 6, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 7, S. Gardner 8.

**FARNHAM, SURREY.**—On Sunday, May 2nd, at St. Andrew's Church, for morning service, 1,302 Grandsire Triples: H. Prior 1, J. Read 2, C. Wells 3, S. Meadows 4, G. Upshall 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted (conductor) 7, A. E. King 8.—For evening service, 504 in the same method.

**EAST RETFORD, NOTTS.**—On Sunday, May 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1,259 changes, in 50 mins.: B. Thompson 1, J. Segar 2, G. Swanack 3, F. Hind 4, F. Hourchin 5, L. Barlow 6, H. Haigh (conductor) 7, P. Woodward 8, H. Blagg 9, F. Brackenhury 10. In this and 1,277 changes on the previous Thursday nine members of the tower scored their first quarter of Caters. Messrs. J. Hurst, A. Clarke and H. Warburton were included on Thursday instead of 4, 5, 6.

**HALSE.**—At St. James' Church, on Sunday, May 2nd, for morning service, 720 of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins., each 120 called differently: \*G. Lang 1, \*A. Pole 2, W. Clapp 3, F. Pole 4, W. A. J. Knight, Milverton (conductor) 5, L. Pole 6. \*1st 720.

**GREAT BADDOW.**—For evening service, on May 2nd, a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung in 45 mins., by the following: R. Thrift 1, L. Thrift 2, H. Warner 3, E. Runter 4, H. Allen 5, Dr. Spencer Phillips 6, A. Richell 7, G. Green (conductor) 8.

**LYTHAM, LANCASHIRE.**—At St. John's Church, for evening service, on May 2nd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: A. E. Wilson 1, Miss E. Gillet (conductor) 2, H. Willacy 3, C. H. Kerr 4, D. McLellan 5, J. Hardman 6.

**WITHAM, ESSEX.**—On Sunday, May 2nd, at the Parish Church, for evening service, 720 Double Court: W. S. Butler 1, W. Mellin 2, V. Glass 3, A. Evers 4, E. Bright (conductor) 5, P. Ashcroft 6.

**NORTHLEACH, GLOS.**—On Sunday, May 2nd, at the Parish Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: R. Westmacott 1, J. Mustoe 2, J. C. Cock 3, W. Clayton 4, J. Sly 5, D. Hills 6, C. Westmacott (conductor) 7, J. Cook 8.

**DORE, SHEFFIELD.**—On Sunday, April 25th, for Matins, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 45 mins.: E. Davenport 1, R. Johnson 2, W. Bingham 3, Miss Molly Davenport 4, N. Short 5, J. Sykes 6, A. Robinson 7, J. E. Lewis Cockey (conductor) 8.—For evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 44 mins.: R. Johnson 1, W. Bingham 2, J. Sykes 3, Miss Molly Davenport 4, A. Robinson 5, N. Fisher 6, N. Short (conductor) 7, M. Fisher 8. Rung as a welcome to the Bishop of Derby, and in honour of the confirmation of Ronald E. Johnson and Mark Fisher, which took place during the afternoon.

## COVENTRY CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Ringers will agree with most of Mr. Cyril Johnston's letter, and will be grateful to him for his hard work in trying to save this peal to ring on. Where most of us will disagree with him is in his remark that the bells were cast in one of the worst periods of bell founding; implying that that was a reason for destroying them. On the contrary, if, in spite of it being a bad period, the bells were good ones, this very fact makes them so much more valuable, and especially a ring which should be preserved.

But most of all do we disagree with his statement that the bells were not old enough for their destruction to be vandalism. Old is a comparative term, and 150 years is certainly old enough to make the destruction of a musical instrument of that age vandalism. Moreover, the value of this peal did not lie in the individual bells, but in the fact that they were as they had been tuned 150 years ago, and this cannot be said of any other ring.

But has age really anything to do with vandalism? A few years ago, a certain peer cut out the face of a portrait which an eminent artist had just painted of him, and returned him the rest of the canvas. This was vandalism, although the work was only just finished. However, in this case, he was certainly entitled to commit the act of vandalism, for he had paid for the painting, and he may have been justified also.

In the case of these bells, the question is whether the destruction was justified. We who say that it was not, can point to the many who considered the ring a thing of beauty and a joy (not now, alas!) for ever.

But as to whether those through whose hands these bells have passed were entitled to destroy them, there can, I think, be no question at all. These instruments (for which, by the way, America would have put up thousands of pounds, before they were recast, but nothing now), were a legacy from past generations. No man living today was entitled to lift a finger to injure them. And all who have helped in any way to do so are undoubtedly the worst of vandals.

Vandalism does not consist in destroying what is old but in destroying what some one else values, merely because you do not value it. Mr. Cyril Johnston is entitled to say that he does not value these beautiful old bells, but he cannot say that we do not. When the offer was made to buy them out, what was formerly bad enough became wanton.

HERBERT DRAKE.

## ISLE OF WIGHT RINGER'S DEATH.

We regret to record the death, which occurred at Ryde on Saturday, May 1st, of Mr. Philip S. Parker, following a seizure. Deceased, who was 47 years of age, was a member of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, and had been an active ringer at All Saints' Church, Ryde, for over twenty years, and his services as a regular service ringer will be greatly missed, while the I.W. District deplore his demise. By his death the district has lost its first ringing member since its formation over five years ago.

The bells at the Parish Church were rung half-muffled prior to the funeral, which took place at Ryde on the following Tuesday afternoon. The Rev. D. E. Hunter (in the absence of the Vicar) officiated, and, in addition to the family mourners, eight of the local ringers, including Mr. E. Hatcher (foreman) and Mr. R. J. Snow (hon. district secretary), were present, also Mr. W. Upton (late district secretary). Several members of the British Legion also followed the coffin, to pay their last tribute of respect to their assistant secretary, and members of the local Foresters, of which Court deceased was a P.C.R., also attended. The floral tributes included one from 'his brother ringers' and one in the shape of a bell from the members of the I.W. District. The Rev. H. E. H. Coombes, R.D., of West Wight, President, and Mr. H. Barton, of Ventnor, Ringing Master of the district, were both prevented from attending the funeral. During the evening half-muffled ringing again took place at the Ryde tower, Mr. A. R. Ward conducting.

## DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Western District was held at Consett, and was well attended by members from Newcastle, Chester-le-Street, Blackhill and Tanfield, while the local ringers also turned up in good numbers. A hearty invitation was received from the Vicar (the Rev. — Feddan) and his curate (the Rev. — Beadlehole). Ringing commenced with Grandsire, and some good touches were brought round in this method, also in Kent, Bob Major, Stedman Triples and Bob Triples. A splendid tea was partaken of at the Commercial Hotel, and a short meeting was held, when a vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells.—In responding, the Vicar said it would be sixty years on November 15th next when the church was opened, and he asked for the association's co-operation with him in making the celebration a success.—The meeting promised to give him all the help possible.

Afterwards ringing went on till 8 o'clock, and brought an enjoyable day to a close.

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and  
Tower  
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## NOTICES.

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 8d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, **COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — Established 1637.—Meetings for practice will be held at 'St. Magnus', Lower Thames Street, on the 27th; Southwark Cathedral on the 25th; both at 7.30 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.** — A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at Shelley. Bells ready 1 p.m. Service of reopening of Church after alterations at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d. A short business meeting to be held in Schoolroom. A hearty invitation is offered to all ringers.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—A ringing practice has been arranged at Cookham (6 bells) for Saturday, May 22nd, at 6 p.m. This will be the only notification.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec., 'Cambridge,' Wexham, Slough.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit-Monday, May 24th. Committee meeting in All Saints' Vestry at 11 a.m., service at All Saints' Church at 12 noon. Luncheon and business meeting at the Plough Hotel, Bridge Street, at 1 p.m. Application for lunch tickets, with remittance (2/6) must be made to Mr. T. Tebbutt, 53, Louise Road, Northampton. Towers available: Kingsthorpe (6) from 10 to 11.30 a.m., St. Peter's (8) from 10 to 11.45 a.m., All Saints' (8), St. Giles' (10) and St. Edmund's (8) throughout the day.—R. G. Black, Gen. Sec. (pro tem.) Geddington, near Kettering.

**THE NORFOLK GUILD.** — The general meeting, fixed at the annual meeting April 5th last, to be held at Aylsham on Whit-Monday, May 24th, has been cancelled.—Arthur L. Coleman, Secretary.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Isle of Wight District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Ryde on Whit-Monday, May 24th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at 5 p.m., in the Welby Institute.—B. J. Snow, Hon. Dis. Sec., 2, 'Collingwood,' Daniel Street, Ryde, I.W.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The 47th annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit-Monday, May 24th, 1926. 11.30 a.m., service at the Cathedral, with address by the Bishop of Colchester. 12.15 p.m., meeting in Cathedral Hall. 1.30 p.m., lunch at Hicks' Restaurant, High Street; members 2/- each. Towers open for ringing during day:—Cathedral (12), Writtle (8), Widford (8), Great Baddow (8), Great Waltham (8), Springfield (6), Broomfield (6), Boreham (8). No ringing permitted during service and meeting.—F. J. Pitstow, 45, High Street, Saffron Walden, General Secretary and Treasurer.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Conisborough on Saturday, May 29th. Bells (8), ready early. Tea only provided for those who notify me before the 26th.—Harold Walker, Hon. Sec., 3, Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, May 29th. Bells ready 3 p.m., meeting 6.30 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Elstree, Saturday, May 29th. Bells open 4 p.m. Tea, 1/2 each at 5.30 p.m. Business meeting after. Buses from Watford every hour. Cheap tickets from St. Pancras, London. Number for tea by Wednesday, May 26th.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

**LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK.**—Holy Trinity Church.—The annual ringing day will be held on Saturday, May 29th. Bells (8) available all day. Tea will be arranged, and it is hoped that there will be a good muster.—G. C. Bixley, Hall Street, Long Melford, Suffolk.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the districts will be held at Castle Donnington on Saturday, May 29th. Bells (6) will be available from 3 o'clock. Business meeting 4.30. An hearty invitation to all ringers.—J. Saddington, Hon. District Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.** — The united monthly practice will be continued at Chelmsford for 10 and 12 bell ringing on and after May 29th. Will all ringers interested please note?—P. Timson, District Secretary, S.E. Division.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Nottingham District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at East Bridgford on Saturday, May 29th. Tower open afternoon and evening. Those requiring tea, please advise Mrs. S. Carnell, Kneeton Road, East Bridgford, Notts, by May 28th.—F. Blood, Hon. Local Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Branch.—A combined practice will be held at Twyford on May 29th, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—W. J. Brooks.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Mildenhall District.—A meeting will be held at Newmarket on Saturday, May 29th. Bells, St. Mary's (6), All Saints' (8), available from 2 p.m. for afternoon and evening. All ringers made welcome.—L. Moon, Assistant District Sec., 5, Falmouth Street, Newmarket.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Portsmouth District. — A quarterly meeting will be held at West Meon on Saturday, May 29th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at the Red Lion 5 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly inform me by the 25th? All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Sec., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Olveston on Saturday, May 29th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea 5. All ringers welcome.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 10, Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.

**ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.**—The next meeting will be held at Aldington on Saturday, May 29th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea, provided by the Rector, 5 p.m.—C. W. Franklin, Hon. Sec., 18, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A quarterly meeting of this Guild will be held at Wombourn on Saturday, June 5th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service in Church 4.30 o'clock. Tea will be provided for those who let me know not later than June 1st. A small charge may be made.—Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Sunbury-on-Thames on Saturday, June 5th. Ringing from 3.15. Will arrange tea as usual. Ringers and friends welcome.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

**HOYLANDSWAINE CUP CONTEST** to be held on Saturday, June 12th. Members are earnestly invited to join at once.—Apply to Mr. L. Wilkinson, Jackson Terrace, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The re-cast bells of St. John's, Newcastle, will be dedicated on Trinity Sunday at 3 p.m., and will be open to the members of the Association on Saturday, June 5th, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Probably the cathedral bells will also be open.) Tea at a moderate charge will be provided for those who notify me of their intention of being present by June 2nd. The Whit-Monday meeting arranged for at West Hartlepool is postponed owing to the General Strike.—E. Ferry, 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

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**LONDON, W.**—On Sunday, May 2nd, at the Church of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, for evensong, 1,270 Stedman Caters: W. E. Garrard 1, H. G. Miles (conductor) 2, P. L. Miles 3, E. G. Locke 4, C. H. Dobbie 5, R. C. Sadler (longest length of Caters) 6, J. L. Hayward 7, S. C. R. Flaxman 8, C. W. Roberts 9, S. R. Tompsett 10.

**KENNINGTON, S.E.**—Recently, at the Church of St. John-the-Divine, Vassall Road, Kennington, for a special service in connection with the Patronal Festival, 1,260 Stedman Triples, by: Miss F. E. Orr 1, Miss E. E. Hardcastle 2, Miss E. E. Chapman 3, E. E. Bish 4, J. W. Chapman 5, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 6, F. E. Collins 7, J. Lee 8.—Also 288 Kent Treble Bob Major, with T. Welbourne and G. W. Wild standing in.

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