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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1938.

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THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Southern District of the London County Association on Saturday, reference was made to the printed report, in which a 'List of Towers' is included, and the question was asked whether all the towers belonged to the Association. The reply forthcoming was that no towers belonged to any association and the list was intended for the information of ringers as to where ringing could be obtained. The first part of the reply was obvious 'side stepping.' When reference is made, in connection with ringing, to towers 'belonging' to an association there is only one meaning. It refers to the ringers attached to the tower, and not to the structure. However, many societies include in their reports the full list of towers in their own area, and it is a helpful addition to the other information, but it is not usual to include the towers in other associations' areas, unless there is some kind of real affiliation.

The point raised directs attention to the London County Association's curious position. If its published list is intended to be a directory of towers in its area, it will be found on the one hand to be markedly deficient and, on the other, to stretch beyond its territorial boundaries. If, however, all the towers included can be claimed to be within the limits of the Association, then its title is a misnomer. The administrative County of London is a well defined area, within which the Association was supposed to operate when it first staked a claim to territorial recognition. Then, ignoring its title, it enlarged its area to the London Postal District, a policy of doubtful wisdom, in that it encroached upon other active organisations. It has also made further claim to a vague area by adding to its title 'the North Southwark Diocesan Guild.' Now, presumably, the Association reaches out even beyond, and takes in such places as Kingston, in Surrey, in the South-Western corner of the diocese of Southwark, Barking in Essex, Isleworth in Middlesex, and others.

This expansion may suit the immediate purpose of the Association, but we cannot think it adds to its real strength, when so much remains to be done in the County of London. Would it not strengthen its position if, having set itself up to be a territorial association, it modelled itself entirely on territorial lines, instead of persisting in wrapping the skeleton of the old St. James' Society in a territorial cloak. For example, the association follows the practice of the St. James' Society, from which it emanated, and, like the older London Societies, admits members on a 'life' subscription. It thus deprives itself of a regular source of revenue and becomes dependent largely for its income upon the influx of new members. There is also another anomaly

(Continued on page 822.)

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arising from this position. As a territorial association its representation on the Central Council should be based upon its resident membership, but hitherto it has not been possible to enumerate with accuracy the number of members who come into this category. Thus the association cannot conform to the rules which govern all the other territorial societies affiliated to the Council. The Association has in its ranks some energetic young men capable of doing good work in the organisation of ringing in London. We believe they would give their association a much more solid foundation if they reorganised it on the real basis of what its title purports it to be.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 54 cwt.

CHARLES E. LAWSON 1 Treble	FRANK E. PERVIN 7
ALBERT WALKER 2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 8
SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY 3	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 9
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 4	RAYMOND G. COUSINS 10
FRANK W. PERRINS 5	RICHARD F. DEAL 11
GEORGE E. FEARN 6	JACK A. WAUGH Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

CROYDON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. in C sharp.

DANIEL D. COOPER 1 Treble	DUDLEY H. P. BUXTON 7
WILLIAM H. HEWETT 2	GEORGE H. HUMPHRIES 8
HAROLD N. PITSTOW 3	AMOS W. CLARK 9
EDWIN F. PIKE 4	REUBEN SANDERS 10
FRANK E. MITCHELL 5	FRANK E. DARBY 11
*THOMAS G. BANNISTER 6	FREDERICK E. COLLINS Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by D. D. COOPER.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. Rung to commemorate the second anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt. in C sharp.

*PETER G. W. NEWSTEAD 1 Treble	ARTHUR G. KING 6
EDWIN R. GOATE 2	WILLIAM J. LEE 7
JOHN G. W. HARWOOD 3	C. FREDERICK SAYER 8
GEORGE MAYERS 4	WILLIAM CLOVER 9
HENRY TOOKE 5	R. WILLIAM BARBER Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by E. R. GOATE.

* First peal. Arranged and rung as a 70th birthday compliment to Mr. W. J. Lee, the chairman of the East Norfolk Branch. It was also a birthday peal for his daughter.

HERTFORD, HERTS.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

STANLEY A. CARTER 1 Treble	ERIC B. HARTLEY 6
FRANK B. LUFKIN 2	*HENRY S. WILSON 7
ALBERT E. NORTH 3	REGINALD W. DARVILL 8
WILLIAM CHALK 4	ALFRED J. HOUSE 9
HORACE J. MANSFIELD 5	HENRY T. WILSON Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by F. B. LUFKIN.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, THAMES STREET,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*GEORGE A. PARSONS 1	Treble	ERNEST E. HOLMAN 6
CHARLES T. COLES 2		JAMES BENNETT 7
GEORGE R. PYE 3		GEORGE W. STEERE 8
ERIC B. HARTLEY 4		MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 9
WILLIAM J. NUDDS 5		JAMES C. E. SIMPSON Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

* First peal on ten bells.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ALBERT M. TYLER 1	Treble	WILLIAM KNIGHT 6
ALFRED E. REEVES 2		WILLIAM H. THOMAS 7
MRS. R. J. WILKINS 3		WILLIAM H. PARKER 8
ANDREW J. CORRIGAN 4		JOHN A. BURFORD 9
RICHARD CLARK 5		F. CECIL MOGFORD Tenor

Composed by J. A. BURFORD. Conducted by ALFRED E. REEVES.

A birthday peal for the composer and the conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

YATELEY, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 1, 1938, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

SYDNEY J. RIDDELL 1	Treble	GEORGE C. IVES 5
*CHARLES BUTLER 2		BERT GOODALL 6
STANLEY BUNCH 3		GEORGE BUTLER 7
CYRIL BUNCH 4		*FRANK BUNCH Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE BUTLER.

* First peal. First peal of Stedman by all except the ringer of the treble. All are Sunday service ringers at Yateley Church.

HAWKHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1938, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 19 lb.

*LESLIE M. JARVIS 1	Treble	*JAMES G. POWELL 5
REGINALD E. LAMBERT 2		STAFFORD GREEN 6
ROBERT T. LAMBERT 3		FREDERICK WHITE 7
*WILLIAM GORRINGE 4		OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by OLIVER SIPPETTS.

* First peal in the method. In affectionate memory of the late Canon F. J. O. Helmore and as a last tribute also to the late Lawrence Porter, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the peal was rung muffled.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, December 8, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' ONE-PART. Tenor 4½ cwt.

GEORGE HORWOOD 1	Treble	FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 5
CHARLES COLES 2		WILLIAM G. E. COLLETT 6
*GEORGE AYRES 3		RICHARD A. POST 7
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT 4		WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS Tenor

Conducted by F. E. TAYLOR.

* First peal of Stedman.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 20½ cwt.

*PHILIP C. BICKNELL 1	Treble	ALDERMAN LING 5
FRANK L. FISHER 2		JAMES G. RUMSEY 6
ERNEST S. BAILEY 3		CHARLES E. FISHER 7
FREDERICK C. NICHOLS 4		JAMES M. BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by FRANK L. FISHER.

* First peal with a hunting bell.

PENARTH, SOUTH WALES.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK J. HANNINGTON Treble	FREDERICK LASBURY 5
ALFRED W. HEATH 2	*ROBERT E. COLES 6
JOHN W. JONES 3	JOHN PHILLIPS 7
REV. IVOR J. RICHARDS 4	GEORGE POPNELL Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PHILLIPS.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. † First peal of Stedman. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

TIDESWELL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION AND
THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN FLINT 1	Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 5
WALTER ALLWOOD 2		JOHN R. BREARLEY 6
F. BERNARD DITCHER 3		JOHN A. BREARLEY 7
HAROLD KENT 4		JESSE J. MOSS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

First peal of Surprise on the bells.

KINGHAM, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

REGINALD H. JARVIS 1	Treble	ALFRED H. WEBB 5
WILLIAM J. DIXON 2		FRANCIS E. TAYLOR 6
THOMAS TIMMS 3		BERNARD S. NICHOLS 7
*FRANK SODEN 4		†GEORGE HOLTON Tenor

Conducted by BERNARD S. NICHOLS.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal. First peal as conductor and first attempt.

TILEHURST, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

*PERCY JARVIS 1	Treble	JAMES F. SMITH 5
HARRY W. HUNT 2		RICHARD N. RUNHAM 6
*THOMAS W. PALMER 3		PERCY DYKE 7
HARRY GOODGER 4		*DAVID SELLAR Tenor

Conducted by RICHARD N. RUNHAM.

* First peal and first attempt. A birthday compliment to Alderman T. Mason, the Rector's warden.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and One Minute,
At the Church of SS. Philip and James,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.		Tenor 21½ cwt.	
REGINALD WOODYATT Treble		WILLIAM RANFORD 5	
GEORGE E. LARGE 2		WILLIAM LEWIS 6	
JAMES WOODYATT 3		THOMAS W. LEWIS 7	
RALPH W. SAYERS 4		GEORGE COLLEY Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

A birthday compliment to the tenor ringer.

GORTON, MANCHESTER.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
At Brookfield Church,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.	
JOHN WORTH Treble	ALAN J. BROWN 5
EDWARD F. MAWBY 2	FRANK REYNOLDS 6
JAMES A. MILNER 3	JOSEPH WHITTAKER 7
ALFRED W. FROST 4	C. KENNETH LEWIS Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

Rung for the 235th anniversary of the old Gorton Chapel. First peal in the method by all.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter, Halliwell,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART.		Tenor 16½ cwt.	
EDWARD B. WEBSTER Treble		GEORGE T. JENKS 5	
JAMES FIELDING 2		JOHN F. WOOD 6	
* LESLIE OWEN 3		PETER CROOK, SEN. 7	
SYDNEY FORSHAW 4		CHARLES ARNOLD MOSS Tenor	

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung to celebrate the wedding of the Rev. E. A. Pitt, B.A., curate at the above church, to Miss Stocker, of Nottingham.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At the Church of SS. Peter and Mary,

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

Tenor 24 cwt.	
KEITH W. WHITTELL Treble	GEORGE W. ABLITT 5
SHELFORD SPARROW 2	ARTHUR GRIMWOOD 6
EDWIN A. CRACKNELL 3	ARTHUR R. WOODARD 7
HARRY D. LISTER 4	GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL Tenor

Composed by J. HUNT.

Conducted by H. D. LISTER.

ASHOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(PEAK DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 10 lb.	
* WALTER HOPKINSON Treble	H. HOPKINSON 5
V. TAYLOR 2	J. DENT 6
J. REVILL 3	E. HOPKINSON 7
H. E. TAYLOR 4	A. W. H. BOWLER Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by A. W. H. BOWLER.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. First peal on the bells since they were rehung.

SANDBACH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

HARRY OVERTON Treble	GEORGE A. PACKER 5
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY 2	RICHARD D. LANGFORD 6
HARRY F. HOLDING 3	J. WILLIAM EDGE 7
R. THOMAS HOLDING 4	JAMES H. RIDING Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

First peal on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co.

GREAT STANMORE, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).		Tenor 12 cwt.	
* GRACE E. ALLEWAY Treble		EDWARD ASHBY 5	
FRED HAZEL 2		GEORGE A. HUGHES 6	
JOHN E. ROOTES 3		EDWARD J. LEVERSUCH 7	
FRED W. ALLEWAY 4		GEORGE HART Tenor	

Conducted by E. J. LEVERSUCH.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

HARTLEBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 11, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART, No. 13.		Tenor 20 cwt.	
* FREDERICK FLUCK Treble		ALFRED W. GLAZZARD 5	
ERNEST WILSON 2		RALPH W. SAYERS 6	
† WILLIAM H. A. COMPTON 3		GEORGE E. LARGE 7	
RAYMOND C. SAYERS 4		FREDERICK G. YATES Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal of Triples 'inside.'

MARSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 11, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN BOB, DOUBLE BOB, HERWARD BOB,
AND DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 7½ cwt. in A flat.

MISS G. E. M. TUNNADINE Treble	HENRY TOOKE 5
GEORGE SAYER 2	CECIL V. EBBERSON 6
GEORGE MAYERS 3	GEORGE BAILEY 7
NOLAN GOLDEN 4	RUSSELL W. CURSON Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in four Major methods for the association and by all the band.

PONTYPRIDD, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Catherine,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).		Tenor 12¼ cwt.	
FRED J. THYER Treble		GEORGE KERLEY 5	
JOHN DARCH 2		WILLIAM L. LAMBERT 6	
WILLIAM PAGE 3		FRANK ROWSELL 7	
JOHN EVANS 4		CHARLIE WILLIAMS Tenor	

Conducted by F. ROWSELL.

Rung in honour of the silver jubilee of the bells.

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pleased to carry out restorations or give reports regarding
any make of Tower Clock

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-A-BECKET,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb. in E.

WILLIAM WOODHEAD ... Treble	HERBERT DAVENPORT ... 5
MISS MARY WHITE ... 2	GEORGE ROBINSON ... 6
KENNETH SIMPSON ... 3	FREDERICK SEAGER ... 7
*JAMES F. HARVEY ... 4	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal of Surprise. Specially arranged and rung to commemorate the completion of 63 years' service as a bellringer by J. Robertshaw, 61 years by T. Robertshaw, and 50 years by F. Robertshaw, all at this church.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 15, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF NEWBURY SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HENRY HODGETTS ... Treble	FRANCIS KIRK ... 5
STEPHEN H. HOARE ... 2	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... 6
EDWIN JENNINGS ... 3	WALTER AYRE ... 7
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

The first true peal in the method. Rung for Mr. F. A. Smith's 74th birthday.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 15, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

RONALD W. SWANN ... Treble	COLIN HARRISON ... 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	WILLIAM BOTTRILL ... 6
*WILLIAM J. R. OT ... 3	RALPH NARBOROUGH ... 7
†W. ARTHUR R. DINGTON ... 4	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD

* First peal with a 'Treble Bob' bell. † First peal of Surprise.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

RUSHALL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, November 24, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 7 cwt. 10 lb.

RONALD STOCKALL ... Treble	ARTHUR J. ALLEN ... 4
*JOHN H. D. RADCLIFFE ... 2	BARNABAS G. KEY ... 5
HARRY V. PARROW ... 3	†LOUIS A. H. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Conducted by B. G. KEY.

* First peal 'inside.' † First attempt for a peal. All except the conductor are Sunday service ringers at Rushall.

COLMWORTH, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Twenty-one extents each of Plain Bob and Grandsire.

Tenor 10 cwt. in A flat.

*STANLEY STAPLETON ... Treble	ERNEST A. QUE ... 3
HAROLD SWEPSTON ... 2	BRIAN F. SIMS ... 4

DONALD L. COCKINGS ... Tenor

Conducted by D. L. COCKINGS.

* First peal.

BECCLES.—At St. Michael's Church on Armistice Sunday, with bells half-muffled for a British Legion memorial service, 1,024 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Constance 1, E. R. Goate 2, E. Warman 3, E. Long 4, S. Fenn 5, G. Walpole 6, J. Spalding 7, C. F. Sayer 8. Longest touch in the method by ringers of treble, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th.

PRISTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 3, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT ... Treble	THOMAS F. KING ... 4
*MRS. A. EVANS ... 2	S. S. WOODBURN ... 5
A. E. BAVERSTOCK ... 3	G. DREW ... Tenor

Conducted by S. S. WOODBURN.

* First peal of Grandsire. A birthday compliment to A. E. Baverstock.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, York, Durham, Wells and London Surprise.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

ROBERT JEFF ... Treble	GEORGE W. PARK ... 4
ROBERT T. SIMPSON ... 2	W. NORMAN PARK ... 5
RICHARD BUSBY ... 3	ROLAND PARK ... Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung to commemorate the centenary of Holy Trinity Church, which was consecrated on December 6th, 1838.

APSLEY END, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One extent each of Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Double Court, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

BRIAN MCKAY ... Treble	WILLIAM J. PODDIFOOT ... 4
*JOE HOBBS ... 2	HORACE L. WAITE ... 5
WALTER AYRE ... 3	WILLIAM J. RANDALL ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in seven methods and first attempt.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

The extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

C. EDWARD JEFFRIES ... Treble	*BRIAN F. SIMS ... 4
REGINALD J. HOUGHTON ... 2	C. HENRY HARDING ... 5
ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... 3	WILLIAM STAPLETON ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM STAPLETON.

* First peal in seven methods 'inside.'

SHOTWICK, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury, Oxford and Kent.

Tenor 8½ cwt. in F sharp.

ALBERT E. RICHARDS ... Treble	*CHARLES DRYLAND ... 4
ROBERT SPERRING ... 2	JAMES MORGAN ... 5
*JOHN HUGHES ... 3	J. WILLIAM CLARKE ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES MORGAN.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal on the bells.

HANLEY CASTLE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 8, 1938, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, College Single, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14 cwt.

REGINALD WOODYATT ... Treble	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... 4
ROBERT G. KNOWLES ... 2	THOMAS W. LEWIS ... 5
WILLIAM RANFORD ... 3	CHARLES CAMM ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES CAMM.

Rung on the 50th anniversary of Mr. R. G. Knowles' first peal, which was accomplished at this church on December 8th, 1888.

SCOTTOW, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 8, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

(1) Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob; (2) Plain Bob, Double Bob, Hereward and Double Oxford; (3) College Bob and London Bob; (4) Double and Single Court; (5) Childwall and Thelwall; (6) St. Clement's and Oxford Bob; (7) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

GEORGE SAYER Treble	HERBERT C. READ 4
GEORGE MAYERS 2	CECIL V. EBBERSON 5
NOLAN GOLDEN 3	GEORGE BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in 18 methods by the association and by all the band.

BIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 8, 1938, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of London, Beverley and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford and St. Clement's. Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb.

RONALD H. DOVE Treble	FRED JEFFERY 4
GEORGE E. FEIRN 2	ERNEST BRITTAIN 5
HAROLD JUDD 3	JACK BRAY Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, Canterbury, Newcastle, York and London Surprise. Tenor 7½ cwt.

RICHARD RUSBY Treble	GEORGE W. PARK 4
JAMES T. TITT 2	ROLAND PARK 5
WILLIAM OLIVER 3	W. NORMAN PARK Tenor

Conducted by W. NORMAN PARK.

Rung in connection with the centenary celebrations of Holy Trinity Church.

HALLATON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes;

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 1,440 of St. Clement's, 2,160 of Oxford Bob and 1,440 of Plain Bob.

*J. HUNT Treble	P. D. BALDOCK 4
*W. P. HEGGS 2	†F. R. SHELTON 5
R. RUSSELL 3	J. H. BLUFF Tenor

Conducted by J. H. BLUFF.

* First peal in more than one method. † First peal.

HEATHFIELD, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. John the Baptist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*ERNEST L CK Treble	CYRIL STEVENS 3
ALBERT TOUT 2	*TOM HANCOCK 4
CLAUDE TARR Tenor	

Conducted by CLAUDE TARR.

* First peal. First peal on five bells by all. First peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LINCOLN

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHARLES MCGUINNESS 1-2	FREDERICK W. STOKES 5-6
JOHN FREEMAN 3-4	JOHN A. FREEMAN 7-8

Conducted by JOHN A. FREEMAN.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1938, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At 9, PRMB-ORKE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS L. KATHLEEN BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
MRS. JAMES COTTERELL 3-4	GEORGE AMBLER 7-8

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

BRASTED, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At M. ORGOCKS,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*FREDERICK W. BUDGEN 1-2	EDWIN H. LEWIS 5-6
DEREK M. SHARP 3-4	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY 7-8

*JOHN O. WELLER 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by EDWIN H. LEWIS.

* First peal of Royal.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At 19, MIDDLE LANE SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 10 in A.

T. COLIN RYDER 1-2	HAROLD CHANT 5-6
ALBERT NASH 3-4	SIDNEY F. PALMER 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by ALBERT NASH.

* First peal on handbells.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Friday, December 16, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At 81, BAKER STREET, SPARKHILL

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	FRANK E. HAYNES 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
ALBERT WALKER 5-6	MORRIS J. MORRIS 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over).

LADIES' GUILD.

A WELCOME TO STAPLETON.

The Western District of the Ladies' Guild held a quarterly meeting at Stapleton, Bristol, on December 12th, there being an excellent attendance, 22 ladies being present. Ringing started very punctually, and Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent and Cambridge were rung during the afternoon and evening. The Guild service was held, very cosily, in the choir stalls, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. E. Staley), who also accompanied the singing.

Mrs. Staley very kindly provided the visitors with tea at the Memorial Hall, at the conclusion of which a collection was made, on the proposal of Miss Orchard, for the non-Aryan German refugees, and a hearty vote of thanks passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and taking the service, and to Mrs. Staley for her kind hospitality.

The Rector, replying, said that it gave him great pleasure to welcome the Guild on the occasion of their first visit to Stapleton, and he very much hoped they would come again, but that when they did the Bath members would not think it necessary to bring their river with them, as they had a perfectly good stream of their own in Stapleton!

At the business meeting which followed, one new member was elected, Miss Olive Willmott, of Frome.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Saviour's, Bath, if permission could be obtained.

The members then returned to the tower, and ringing continued until 8 o'clock.

A GIFT BOOK for a Ringing Friend

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD' 15 LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**THE CONDITION OF OLD HILL BELLS.**

The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill, Staffs, on Saturday, December 3rd. After ringing during the afternoon, the usual service was held and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. L. Wilson), who also gave a very interesting address. A pleasing feature of the service was the hymns chosen by the Vicar to take the place of those in the service form, which made a welcome change.

A bounteous tea had been provided in the Schoolroom, but it was very discouraging that there were not many more to take advantage of Old Hill's hospitality.

The business meeting was attended by upwards of 70 members and friends. The Vicar occupied the chair, supported by Mr. T. Baker and Mr. G. F. Shaw (churchwardens), Mr. A. Davies (Ringing Master), Mr. John Goodman (treasurer) and the secretary (Mr. H. Sheppard).

The chairman extended a hearty welcome to the members to the church and parish. Several new members were added to the roll, including the Vicar as a vice-president, and the churchwardens as honorary members.

It was proposed that the quarterly peal be attempted at Old Hill, subject to the consent of the Vicar, which was readily given, the arrangements being left with Messrs. W. Fendall and J. Goodman.

The next meeting, which is the annual meeting, will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 5th, 1939. Members are asked to note the date and to make it a record gathering.

It was proposed by Mr. Churchwarden Baker that the appreciation of the Guild be recorded on the minutes of a peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Old Hill on Saturday, November 26th, by the young service ringers attached to Holy Trinity Church.—Mr. S. J. Hughes, in seconding, said it was a great credit to the band to ring a peal on those bells, which were a heavy peal and badly required the services of a bellfounder.—Mr. W. Fendall suitably replied on behalf of the band.

On the proposition of Mr. Herbert Sheppard, seconded by Mr. S. J. Hughes, the best thanks of the Guild were given to the Vicar of Old Hill, to the churchwardens for their presence and support, to the organist, to the donor of the tea, and especially to the ladies for preparing and serving the meal. Thanks were also given to Mr. Eric Fletcher for the work he had done in making the necessary arrangements and to all who had assisted in any way to make the meeting a happy and successful one.—The Vicar replied on behalf of all concerned and closed the meeting with prayer.

Further ringing afterwards took place.

A CHICAGO BELLS DEDICATION.**ENGLISH RINGER AT IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—On Sunday afternoon, December 4th, it was my privilege to be present at the dedication service in connection with four bells, at the Holy Roman Church of St. Edmund, at Oak Park, Illinois, a village of 60,000 people and a suburb of Chicago. This ceremony took the ancient form of naming, washing, blessing and sanctifying the bells.

These bells are a fine example of the founder's art, and they are a product of the Neneely foundry of Troy, in New York State, who have been engaged in the casting of bells for over 100 years. The bells are highly polished, and it is the writer's first observation of tower bells being polished.

They are intended to be used to sound the Angelus three times daily by electrical power, and they will be the crowning glory of a fine parish church; and Chicago is a city of beautiful churches.

As the ritual was performed on each bell separately, I was for the moment kind of glad it was for only four bells and not a great carillon such as the English founders from time to time ship to America.

The authorities of St. Edmund's are to be congratulated on selecting bells and not tubes, as some of the churches in Chicago have done.

The Pastor of the parish, in his sermon on this occasion, gave one of the best discourses on bells and the ancient ritual of bell dedication in use by his Church that it has ever been my pleasure to listen to, and I felt amply repaid for the 20-mile journey from this address to the fair village of Oak Park.

There is, however, one disturbing thought that comes to my mind when I see the worship of the Most High taking a mechanical form. Whither are we drifting? We can reproduce better music than the average church choir; we can broadcast a better sermon than the average preacher can deliver; are the inventions of this modern age to supplant public worship?

If this mechanical worship is to continue, will a great bishop say Mass into a microphone and a learned divine preach from his study?

It is my humble opinion that praise and worship of the great Creator should be performed by the creatures of his creation and not by intricate machines devised by man. I would rather have children ring rounds and call changes than have someone push a button and let her go.

As the church has always made use of all the arts, architecture, carving, tapestry, music, let us use our bells in the way they can best be used and ring them in changes.

F. J. RUMENS.

11366. Hermosa Avenue, Chicago, U.S.A.

APPRECIATION

Corffe,

Barnstaple,

North Devon.

13th December, 1938.

Dear Sirs,

I enclose cheque in payment of your account.

I should like to say that I consider you have carried out your work exceedingly well, and I, and the Ringers, are greatly pleased with the hanging and 'go' of the bells—it is a thoroughly good job.

Yours faithfully,

(The Rev. Sir) A. BOURCHIER WREY,

Rector of Tawstock.

MESSRS. JOHN TAYLOR & CO.

Tawstock Church bells are a ring of eight, tenor 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 20 lbs., augmented from six and rehung by John Taylor & Co., with new fittings in new framework, in 1938.

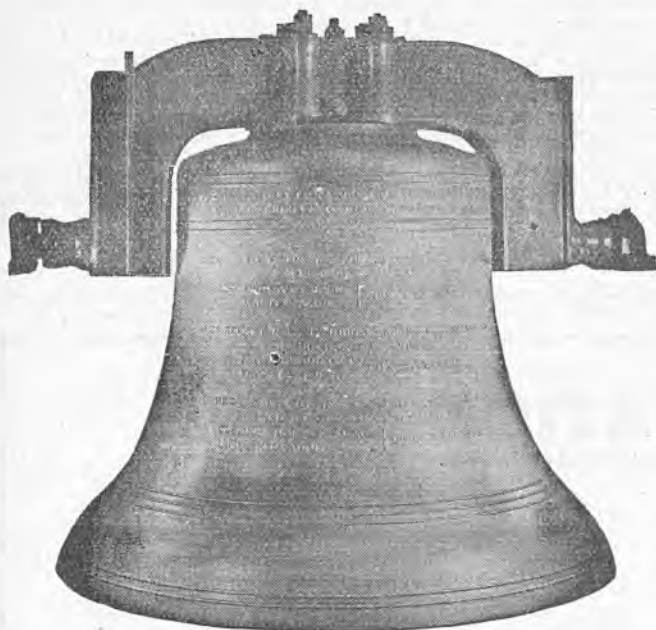
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BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

'A Merry Christmas' to all our readers.

Mr. Reg. Fuller, late of Reigate and Aldershot, is sailing for the United States. The good wishes of his friends will accompany him to the land of his adoption. Communications after January 7th may be sent to him at 34, Risedale Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, and will be forwarded.

An old member of the Godalming Parish Church company of ringers, and a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, Mr. Robert Henry Pamment died on December 14th at the age of 64 years. In his younger days he served in Godalming Fire Brigade and helped in the formation of Godalming Temperance Band.

The band who rang the bachelors' peal for the Hereford Guild, as reported last week, have resolved to repeat the performance each year. We wonder! At least one of the company is, we hear, already showing signs of 'falling' for a member of the fair sex. He departs from ringing in a hurry on the pretext that he has to 'see a man about a dog.'

About a fortnight ago Geoffrey Harrison, the promising son of Mr. Colin Harrison, fell down in the playing ground of Loughborough College and fractured his wrist. Plaster of Paris now encircles his right arm and wrist, and we are afraid Geoffrey's name will be missing from our peal columns for some time to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson were the third married couple to reach 200 peals together, and not the second, as we stated last week. We mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. H. Baker, of Frittenden, Kent, had rung a large number of peals together. They actually reached their 200th on February 3rd, 1934, having rung their first together on October 21st, 1922, and their 100th on December 8th, 1928.

Several members of the Chester Diocesan Guild have recently completed a task which, under the leadership of the late Mr. Harry Wilde, they began some years ago. They set out to ring at least one 720 in each of the methods in the Central Council's Minor Collection. Mr. James Morgan has been the 'father' of the band and has called at least one extent of each method. Others who have taken part in all the methods are Messrs. R. Sperring, W. Thomas, A. E. Richards, J. Swindley and J. W. Clarke.

We regret to say that Mr. Tom Maude, of Pudsey, is ill and confined to bed. As a result, he will not be able to write to his many ringing friends this Christmas, and he asks them to accept his good wishes.

Mr. Maude has for years been a popular figure among Yorkshire ringers, in whom he has always taken the greatest interest, although not a ringer himself. He was always at their meetings, visited many parts of the country with those who attended the Central Council meetings, and was never seen without a flower in his buttonhole. Everyone will wish Mr. Maude a speedy return to health.

We are asked to state for the information of probable visitors that there will be no ringing at Manchester Cathedral on Christmas Day for the 3.30 and 7.30 p.m. services.

A RINGER IN INDIA.

WHERE BROADCAST RINGING IS WELCOMED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of my family and myself, I send 'greetings and good wishes' to you and all ringers for Christmas and the New Year.

I have been very interested in the correspondence in your columns re broadcasting, and I only wish the time could be extended beyond the usual five minutes. After all, what would a singer feel like if half of his song was cut out every time? All the same, I feel very thankful to the B.B.C. for small mercies. For instance, I can tune in to London Regional and get St. Martin-in-the-Fields and hear what my old friends are putting over, or to St. Paul's on the short waves on the second Sunday of the month at 1.25 a.m. I.S.T. The striking is good, as also is that of our Croydon friends on what sounds a lovely peal of bells. A few months ago I heard some Minor being put over from a certain tower, and from start to finish there was not a single hand-stroke open lead. This is against all our teachings, and, therefore, ruined decent change ringing.

On Tuesday, December 6th, I gave a lecture on 'Campanology' to the Kashmir Science Club, at the invitation of Lt.-Col. G. S. Skinner, its hon. treasurer. By the aid of the epidiascope, a blackboard and handbells, I set before the audience, to the best of my ability, our art. It gave me much pleasure to see how great an interest was shown by them. I have to thank Mr. G. W. Steere for so kindly sending me a fine selection of photos, as also my wife and daughters for assisting me with handbells. Demonstrations, including Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor, were greatly appreciated.

On the 13th inst., I am giving another lecture, and I propose to conclude it thus: 'On behalf of "The Ringing World" that ringers are proud of, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths that I am proud of, and the ringers of the British Isles we all should be proud of, I wish all members of the Kashmir Science Club a merry Christmas and continued prosperity.'

L. H. BAYBUTT.

Srinagar, Kashmir State, North India.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—50.

JOHN FLINT.

Ringers for more than a generation have been familiar with the name of John Flint, of Bolsover. He has been a tower of strength to ringing in that part of the country. Although living in Derbyshire, he is one of the most valued members of the Yorkshire Association and has been a vice-president of the Sheffield and District Society for a number of years.

Mr. Flint was born at Woolley Moor, near Ashover, in Derbyshire, on August 29th, 1871, and has lived in Bolsover since 1892. He learned to ring there, and has always been attached to this tower. In 1897

the church and bells were destroyed by fire, but when the new peal was installed in 1898 he was made Ringing Master of the tower, and has held borough Surprise Major the post ever since. He has rung no fewer than 167 peals at Bolsover and conducted 105 of them.

His first peal was in two plain Minor methods on October 6th, 1900, and on January 26th, 1901, he rang his first peal as conductor, when he called seven 720's of Plain Bob Minor, with the bells fully muffled for the death of Queen Victoria, the first peal by a local band at Bolsover. He has put in a life's work in training young ringers at this tower and elsewhere, and at Bolsover they now have a band of 14, nearly all young men.

Mr. Flint has taken part in several interesting first performances. He conducted first peals of Pudsey, Rutland and Whitminster Surprise Major ever rung, and took part in the first peals of Peter-

and Yorkshire Surprise Royal. He conducted the first peals of Pudsey, Rutland, Hinton, Belgrave, Whitminster and Norfolk Surprise for the Yorkshire Association, and took part in the first peals of Bristol and New Cambridge Major, Cambridge and Double Norwich Royal, and Double Norwich Caters for the association, as well as in the first peals of Bristol and Cambridge Surprise in Ireland. His peals on all numbers of bells from six to twelve now number 511, of which he has conducted 180, and they have been rung in 152 towers, in 35 counties, with 348 different ringers. Mr. Flint is a member of 19 different associations.



MR. JOHN FLINT.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION MEETS AT SIX-BELL TOWER.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Goring, a six-bell tower, on Saturday, December 10th, when the attendance was again good, 35 members being present from twelve towers.

Owing to the illness of the Vicar, the service was conducted by the Rev. S. W. Balmier, who gave the ringers an interesting address and a cordial welcome.

Afterwards he presided over the tea and business meeting. One new member, Mr. A. C. Bryder, of Goring, was elected, and a letter of thanks was read from the Vicar of Arundel for the collection which was made for the bells at the last meeting.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of Goring for the use of the bells, also to the Rev. T. W. Balmier.

In the evening some members went to Heene Church to ring on the eight bells, the others remaining at Goring, where the ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

At Croydon, Surrey, in honour of the birthday of His Majesty the King, on Wednesday, December 14th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Croydon Parish Church: E. Acock 1, Miss D. Williams (first quarter-peal on an 'inside' bell) 2, H. J. Skelt 3, D. L. P. Buxton 4, F. E. Mitchell 5, A. W. Clark 6, D. D. Cooper (conductor) 7, F. E. Collins 8.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

THE LIST OF TOWERS.

A meeting of the Southern District of the London County Association and North Southwark Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, ringing taking place at St. George's, Camberwell, in the afternoon, and at St. John's, Kennington, in the evening. Some 30 members and friends attended and took part in ringing Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major.

A substantial tea was served in St. John's Parish Hall and was followed by the business meeting, with the District Master (Mr. P. A. Corby) in the chair. In announcing that the annual general meeting would be held at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on Saturday, January 21st, the Master urged all members to be present and to bring their friends.

Two names were put forward for the office of auditor, and, on a show of hands, Mr. F. D. Bishop was elected.

Some discussion took place regarding the list of towers given in the association's report, and it was suggested that some of the towers did not belong to the association. The Master said that no tower belonged to any association. The list that was printed included towers in the association's territory for the benefit of those people who wished to visit them for practice and service ringing. In order to keep the list up to date and correct, he asked members to advise him of any alterations or corrections.

The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks for those responsible for making the arrangements.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT AT EWELL.

Speaking in terms of numbers and methods rung, the meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Ewell on December 10th was a good one, but the drawback was the fact that only five district towers were represented, and nine ringers were from Leatherhead.

The Vicar (the Rev. C. G. Holland) conducted the Guild's service, after which he presided over tea in the Church Room, when 27 sat down, and took the chair at the business meeting.

The elections, as compounding members, of Messrs. D. H. P. Buxton and T. J. Lock, previous to peals, were duly ratified, and the following officers were nominated for 1939: Ringing Master, Mr. A. Harman; district secretary, Mr. A. H. Smith; while for the three district representatives on the general committee the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge and Messrs. A. J. Adams, W. James and G. Marriner were nominated.

The General Secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover) reminded members of the Guild's annual dinner on January 14th, and Major J. H. B. Hesse (Master) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, and Mr. C. E. Read, who made the arrangements.

This concluded the business and the members again made full use of the bells, the early goers' places being taken by late comers. Altogether 39 ringers had a 'pull' in the course of the afternoon in a wide range of methods from rounds and Triples to no less than seven Surprise methods.

Visitors were present from Clandon, Guildford, Haslemere, Kingston, Putney, Stepney and Sutton, the district towers represented being Ashted, Banstead, Epsom (Christ Church), Ewell and Leatherhead.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

DISAPPOINTING ATTENDANCE AT ECCLESFIELD.

The Barnsley and District Society held their December meeting at Ecclesfield, near Sheffield. Members were present from Felkirk, Sandal, Wath, Wortley and the local company. Ringing took place in the afternoon and tea was served in the Church Hall. At the business meeting which followed, Mr. Nisbitt (churchwarden) presided. He hoped all would enjoy their visit and offered them a hearty welcome to the tower at any time.

One new member was elected, and Mr. Moxon (Sandal) moved, Mr. Panther (Wath) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Vicar and chairman and to the local company for providing teas and arranging for the meeting. The only thing to regret was that there were not more present to enjoy the excellent tea that had been prepared. It was not very encouraging to the caterers to find the attendance below the average.

Further ringing followed in Minor methods and one or two touches of Major until about 8.30 p.m.

The bells at Ecclesfield are a peal of eight with a tenor of approximately 19 cwt. Although the 'go' is not bad, they need 'ringing.'

The next meeting will be the annual general meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, January 14th.

FIRST IN LIVING MEMORY.

A band of local Sunday service ringers at St. Peter's Church, Ightham, Kent, on December 6th, rang, for the first time in living memory in the parish, a 720 of Bob Minor. It is the reward of much perseverance. The ringers were *W. Smart 1, *H. Woolley 2, R. Rayfield 3, *F. Smart 4, F. Woolway (first 720 as conductor) 5, F. Paige 6. *First 720.

THE BIRTH OF CHANGE RINGING. DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIÆVAL PRACTICE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

We ringers take our art very much as a matter of course. It has existed for some hundreds of years, it is deeply rooted in the traditions of the English people, and we do not see why it should not be so. And yet the whole thing is altogether illogical. The bells are hung in the steeples of churches, they are cast and used for the purposes of religion, but change ringing and especially peal ringing, is a sport, and one of the oldest and most characteristic of English sports, frankly and openly recognised as such in bygone days. How did it all come about?

Bells in mediæval times were very important things, with very important uses. Some of these uses were secular and some religious. The bells were regarded as the 'trumpets of the heavenly King,' and were rung in the processions which were held before high mass 'for to fraye the devylls away.' The care and use of them were entrusted to the clerks, who had to ring before services, at the Sanctus, for knells and for curfew. Most of this they could do themselves, for, when a bell had to be rung during service, they used a small bell, called a saunce bell, which could be rung from the floor of the church. But the ringing at the processions they could not do themselves; then they had other duties to discharge, so what they did was to pick out some strong, lusty young fellows from the parish and send them up into the belfry to do the work for them. As an old French proverb says (it may date from this time), 'You cannot ring the bells and walk in the procession.'

The healthy young Englishman has never been a particularly religious person. No doubt the ringing at the processions was a part (and supposed to be a very important part) of divine service, but since the bells were swung, and swung as high as the crude fittings of the time allowed, they found it good sport and so presently they were ringing the bells because they liked doing it and for no other reason. Thus was introduced what was called 'pleasure' ringing.

Exactly when this happened is not clear, but I think the following may throw some light on it. About the beginning of the sixteenth century the monks in abbeys all over England were complaining of bell ringing at night time and many petitions were sent to the Pope to stop the nuisance. Sometimes the monks said it hindered the saying of the night offices in the church. Sometimes they were more honest and said that they did not like their sleep being disturbed. The papal archives at Rome contain several instances of injunctions forbidding ringing at places after curfew and before prime.

But what was this night ringing done for? There were occasions, and notably on All Hallows' Eve, when the bells were rung all night long, but that was 'for all Christian souls.' It was a Catholic custom and to it the monks could not reasonably object. The ringing they objected to was done 'without any evident necessity,' and the only conclusion we can come to is that this was the beginnings of pleasure ringing.

The monks were important people whose wishes were not likely to be disregarded, and so evidently the ringers had the backing of the principal men of the parish, and very shortly afterwards we find that parishes were draw-

ing up rules regulating 'pleasure' ringing and making special concessions in favour of gentlemen and worshipful persons.

Meanwhile, the changes at the time of the Reformation had curtailed and very largely abolished ringing for religious purposes, so that what was left was ringing done for national, civic and social purposes, and this 'pleasure' ringing. It was out of this that the Exercise and our modern change ringing were born.

The amount of 'pleasure' ringing was extraordinary. In many places the bells were rung practically every evening and I have come across several cases where it was necessary to regulate and to limit it. At St. Margaret's, Westminster, no ringing for pleasure was allowed before eight in the morning or after eight at night. At Ashby-de-la-Zouch no single person was allowed to ring on more than two evenings a week; at Stepney a fee of 2s. 6d. was charged; at Twickenham there was to be no ringing when the Rector was in residence, after nine at night and on not more than two evenings a week. At Preston only worshipful persons were allowed to ring for pleasure, and so on.

All this was raising and ceasing and round ringing. There was a lot of ringing at the two Universities and the Inns of Court, and it was among the people there that change ringing was first invented and developed. As change ringing became more advanced and complicated the number of ringers became restricted to those who seriously practised the art. In the older times any strong young fellow who could pull a rope and had a sense of rhythm thought himself qualified to be a ringer.

MR. I. SIDEBOTHAM'S LONG SERVICE. PRESENTATION AT MOTTRAM.

A presentation has been made to Mr. Isaac Sidebotham, of Mottram-in-Longderdale, in recognition of his completion of 50 years' service as a ringer at St. Michael's Parish Church. The gift was a gold watch and guard, and was handed to him at a parochial gathering, which began with a potato pie supper and resolved itself into a concert and dance, the proceeds of which went to the ringers' fund.

Mr. J. Heap, who has been ringing under Mr. Sidebotham for about 20 years, described Mr. Sidebotham as one of the finest ringers in the world. The ringers appreciated all that Mr. Sidebotham had done for them, and they hoped he would ring for a long time yet; they could not afford to lose ringers like Mr. Sidebotham.

Mr. Sidebotham, he said, walked to and fro from Broadbottom twice each Sunday, and Mr. Heap estimated that he walked five miles. 'And,' he added, 'he is never late.'

Mr. Percy Birch, churchwarden, said Mottram had been very fortunate in its bells; they had some very good friends who had never hesitated to come forward and put the bells in sound condition. If anything had gone wrong, they had no need to ask twice for assistance.

Referring directly to ringers, Mr. Birch described them as modest people and said Mr. Sidebotham had always been very helpful.

'If you want to know anything about the bells, he will tell you,' said Mr. Birch. 'His heart and soul are in Mottram bells, and it is fitting that, after all these years, we should make him some recognition of the splendid services he has given in good report and ill report, year in, year out, and I am happy to take a part in this historic occasion in the annals of our church.'

Paying his tribute to Mr. Sidebotham, Canon Power said he was not modern; he despised motor-cars and buses. He added that he could set his clock by Mr. Sidebotham passing along Broadbottom Road, every Sunday morning and evening, on his way to the church. Canon Power declared that Mottram's bells were the sweetest he had heard. They all hoped, he said, Mr. Sidebotham, who had a wonderful interest and a wonderful knowledge of the bells, would be spared many years to carry on his good work. Their gift, said the Canon, was a token of the affection and esteem in which Mr. Sidebotham was held by all associated with the Mottram church.

'For he's a jolly good fellow,' was lustily sung, and three cheers were given for Mr. Sidebotham.

The inscription on the watch read: 'Presented to Isaac Sidebotham by past and present members of Mottram Parish Church to commemorate 50 years as a ringer, 1888-1938.'

Mr. Sidebotham was much affected by the occasion, and found difficulty in expressing his thanks. He gave a brief history of the bells and showed that, with a little addition to the metal, the bells had been there for nearly 400 years.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SUGGESTED BELFRY REPAIRS FUND.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a very successful meeting at Calverley on Saturday, December 10th, when upwards of sixty members attended. The bells were raised in peal early in the afternoon, and, excepting for brief intervals for the service and tea, were kept moving in a variety of methods.

A well-attended service was held, at which the Vicar (the Rev. J. Calderbank) gave a most interesting and helpful address, in the course of which he reminded his hearers of the importance of the work which they were doing for the Church, and hoped that they would carry out their calling to the fullest degree by attending the services whenever possible. He assured them that their presence was all the more appreciated when it was remembered that they had many a time to carry out their duties almost an hour previous to the service.

A sumptuous tea was provided by the local company in the schools, and although the ringers did 'full justice,' only a slight impression could be made on the well-laden tables.

At the business meeting which followed, the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson) was in the chair, supported by the association's president (Canon Marshall, M.A.). One new member, Mr. Frank Midgley, of Keighley, was elected.

The Chairman briefly outlined a suggestion which had been brought forward by a member of the association concerning the forming of a Bell Repairs Fund by means of taking collections at all meetings of the association.

Several members expressed their views briefly, but as it was evident that no concrete proposals were forthcoming, the chairman decided that it would be advisable to discuss this at greater length at the next meeting, when everyone had had time to think more about it.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for kindly granting the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. J. W. T. Holgate, and seconded by Canon Marshall, who spoke appreciatively of the services rendered. He thanked the Vicar for his very helpful address during the service, and also spoke very enviously of a remarkable font cover which he had noticed in the church.—The Chairman, in putting this vote to the meeting, coupled with it thanks to the organist who so kindly officiated during the service.

The Rev. J. Calderbank, in replying, expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome the association to Calverley, and hoped that he would be able to do the same again on future occasions. He greatly appreciated the services which ringers were doing for the Church, and he hoped that when the association came to Calverley again it would be in the summer time, when they would be able to enjoy the beauty of the district and the gardens, etc.

A vote of thanks to the local company for their splendid arrangements was moved by Mr. J. Benten, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood, and, in putting this to the meeting, the chairman spoke of the hearty welcome which was always found. He mentioned a few humorous incidents connected with his early visits, and commented on the state of the belfry steps, which are now becoming quite notorious.

Mr. Pratt, in replying for the local company, thought that the meetings at the present day were not attended so well as in the past, in spite of the greatly improved travelling facilities. He urged all ringers to get about to the various meetings and make a host of friends as he had done.

As no new invitation for the next quarterly meeting had been received, the chairman mentioned that it was proposed to hold this at Elland as a joint meeting with the Huddersfield and District Association.

The motion was carried and the date provisionally fixed for March 11th. This meeting will be the annual divisional meeting, when election of various officers is confirmed. Members are, therefore, asked to keep this date in mind and look out for the circulars which will be issued early in February.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Holgate, seconded by Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Johnson, in replying, expressed his pleasure at being able to officiate, even though they sometimes did not see eve to eve together.

This concluded the business and numerous touches were rung on the handbells, whilst the tower bells were also enjoyed until a late hour. A noticeable feature was the number of older ringers present—young men of 70 or so were quite common, and the evergreen Bradford veteran was there, as usual, looking as fit as ever.

The towers represented were as follows: Armley, Batley, Birstall, Bolton (Bradford), Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Calverley, Denholme, Guiselev Halifax (All Son's), Haworth, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Huddersfield, Idle, Keighley, Pudsey, Rothwell and Silsden.

THE GREAT NESS 'STRIKE'

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION'S ACTION.

The Shropshire Association visited Worthen on December 10th. This is an outpost, geographically, but the satisfactory attendance of 25 resulted. It was essentially a practice for six-bell ringers, and Grandsire Doubles, Stedman and Bob Minor were the order of the day.

A report upon the position at Great Ness was received, and authority given to the committee to arrange a meeting with the Great Ness band, with a view to composing differences and starting the ringing once again.

FIFTY YEARS OF PEAL RINGING.

MR. R. G. KNOWLES' RECORD.

West Worcestershire's G.O.M., Mr. Robert G. Knowles, of Madresfield, Malvern, has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first peal by taking part in a seven-method peal of Minor at the Church of St. Mary, Hanley Castle (recorded elsewhere), on December 8th. It was at this same church, on December 8th, 1888, that Mr. Knowles' first peal was rung, Grandsire Doubles with extremes, which he conducted, and was the first peal on the bells and by all the band. During the next ten years he rang only six peals, and some of the difficulties which had to be overcome in those days may be realised from the fact that he had no means of getting to towers with bells higher than six except by walking to Worcester ten miles away, and this he sometimes did.

When he returned to his native village of Madresfield, in 1899, better opportunities occurred for ringing, for in the next year a new peal of eight was installed at Malvern Link and a progressive band formed. By this time he had also learned to ride a bicycle, though in those days, what with solid tyres and bad roads, cycling was not so easy as it is to-day.

On December 8th, 1913, the 25th anniversary of his first peal, 'Bob' called a peal of Minor in seven methods at St. Mary's, Hanley Castle, it being his 50th peal. Thus it had taken him 25 years to ring 50 peals. Then came the war years, during which time he rang only five peals.

It was after the Great War that he got into his stride, and his peals began to mount. There were several factors contributing to this, among them being the advent of buses to almost anywhere, and the rise of some of the younger generation, notably Messrs. Charles Camm and Sidney T. Holt. First, under the conductorship of the former, and later Mr. Holt, his total of peals in one decade amounted to 148, while to-day it stands at 333, of which he has conducted 38. He has rung peals from Doubles to Cinques and Minor to Maximus, as well as most of the standard Surprise Major methods. A glance through his records reveals many interesting and unique features.

It has not, however, been 'Bob's' ambition to pile up a large total of peals. He has always valued most highly the social side of the art and has made many friends over a wide area. He has ably served the Worcestershire Association in a number of ways, first as Western Branch secretary for 15 years and later as its representative to the Central Council for nine years. From 1928 to 1932 he was Master of the association, and his services have been recognised by his being elected a freeman and vice-president, while he has been retained on the Central Committee.

Mr. Knowles, who is 72 years of age, retired from work some two years ago and still retains much of his vigour and good health. Though peal ringing has of late been quiet in West Worcestershire, 'Bob' still gives a hand in helping others, dividing his time between the towers of Madresfield, Malvern Link and Upton-on-Severn, while every fortnight he goes to Worcester to attend the All Saints' practice.

If advancing age slows down 'Bob's' activities in the future, the wisdom of the years will still be available to those of the younger generation who have contact with him. One could not, perhaps, describe Mr. Robert G. Knowles better than 'Grand old man; guide, philosopher and friend.'

A CHURCH CENTENARY.

BELL LEGACY IN CHANCERY.

The ringers of Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, marked the centenary of the consecration of the church by ringing two peals of Surprise Minor. The church was consecrated on December 6th, 1838, and old prints depict it standing in the fields, in a quiet country lane with a stream flowing leisurely by. Holy Trinity Church is now situated in a residential area on the main road leading from the town to the north-west, and the vast difference between modern conditions and those shown on prints of former years can well be imagined. Although the history of Darlington can be traced back for several centuries, Holy Trinity is the second oldest church in the town, the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert, dating from the twelfth century, being the oldest.

The church possesses a ring of six bells, with a 7½ cwt. tenor, which were cast by Messrs. John Warner and Sons in 1891, and ever since their installation have been rung regularly, with the exception of the war years. A legacy was bequeathed to the church to provide a ring of bells, but there was considerable opposition by influential people living in the neighbourhood, and eventually the money got into Chancery. A number of years elapsed before a movement was again started to obtain a ring of bells, but it was then found that only half the money was available, and instead of a ring of eight with a 12 cwt. tenor, which would have been possible had the legacy been intact, the church had to be content with the present ring of six. It is hoped, however, that in due course a ring of eight may be an accomplished fact.

Mr. G. W. Park is the only original member now taking an active part in ringing, and for well over 30 years has been captain of the belfry. Since the earliest days Surprise methods have been practised and rung regularly for service, and it is in no small measure due to the efforts of Mr. Park that Holy Trinity has, for a good many years now, been one of the leading towers in the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

PEAL NOTES.

RINGERS' EXTRAORDINARY RECORDS.

An extraordinary record has been made by three ringers at Heptonstall, Yorkshire, who between them have an aggregate of 174 years' service in the tower. Mr. J. Robertshaw has completed 63 years, Mr. T. Robertshaw 61 years and Mr. F. Robertshaw 50 years. On December 10th a peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung at Heptonstall to commemorate their long service.

Mr. James Harvey, one of the ringers, rang his first peal of Superlative and his first peal for 18 years.

The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Penarth on December 10th was arranged in honour of Mr. David Thomas, who has been a ringer in this tower for 65 years and a chorister in the church for nearly 70 years. Mr. Thomas is now 79 years of age and still rings for Sunday services.

The peal was also rung as a compliment to Mr. John W. Jones, who has just celebrated his 73rd birthday, and as a birthday compliment to Mr. Bert Weaver, one of the local ringers, who kindly gave up his rope to a visitor.

The eight bells at Sandbach, Cheshire, have recently been rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and on December 10th the first peal was rung on them since the rededication.

At Tideswell Church, in Derbyshire, known as the 'Cathedral of the Peak,' the first peal in a Surprise method on the bells was rung on December 10th, when the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield District Society shared the honours of a peal of Superlative Surprise Major.

A 'BOGEY' LAID.

Hartlebury had been a 'bogey' tower to two of the ringers in a peal rung there on December 11th. During the past five years the conductor (Mr. G. E. Large) and tenor man (Mr. F. G. Yates) have been in seven abortive attempts. On Sunday, December 11th (the eighth attempt), the 'bogey' was laid and a peal of Oxford Bob Triples accomplished. It was a near thing, however, as the two ringers mentioned missed their bus and walked four miles before getting a lift in a private car. (N.B.: Can one get 'pinched' for begging a lift?) Some useful work was done in this peal, which included a 'first' on eight, a 'first' of Triples 'inside' and a 'first' in the method. Hartlebury bells are a grand peal, but their 'go' leaves much to be desired.

At Leiston, Suffolk, at one time famous for the wonderful peal ringing performances of the Bailey brothers, who had a family Surprise band, and then some left over, Holt's Original was rung on December 10th. The same composition was rung on these bells nearly 50 years ago. It was called there by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff on January 5th, 1889.

Four plain methods were spliced into a peal at Marsham, Norfolk, on December 11th, the first time that four Major methods have been rung in a peal by the Norwich Diocesan Association and by all the band. The peal was composed and conducted by Mr. Nolan Golden, and Mr. George Sayer had never before rung a touch in three of the methods—Double Bob, Hereford and Double Oxford.

Five of the same band, on December 8th, rang the first peal in 18 Minor methods by the association.

Another who rang three methods in a peal without having previously tried them is Mr. Joe Hobbs, who took part in a peal in seven Minor methods at Apsley End, Herts, on December 5th. The tenor was rung by Mr. W. J. Randall, who is the first to 'circle' this tower.

When Mr. Frank Luffin, of Prittlewell, Essex, called a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal at Hertford on December 10th, he rang his 50th peal and his 25th as conductor.

A band of Cheshire and Lancashire men rang their first peal of Little Bob Major at Brookfield Church, Gorton, Manchester, on December 10th, for the 235th anniversary of the Old Gorton Chapel. The composition, arranged by the conductor, Mr. C. Kenneth Lewis, contains the 4th, 5th and 6th their extent in 6th's place.

Mr. Syd. Riddell, whose heart and soul is in his beloved bells at Yateley, Hants, has recently had one of the happiest moments of his life; that was when, on December 1st, he heard 'this is all' at the end of a peal of Stedman Triples rung by a band, all of whom he had taught to ring. It was also called by one of his pupils, and the band included Mr. Cyril Bunch, one of Bisley's finest rifle shots, who this year won the Grand Aggregate prize.

Yateley has a wooden tower, said, we believe, to have been built of old ship's timbers. Time was when the structure permitted the frame to 'walk about,' but Mr. Riddell, with his own hands, braced and cross-braced the tower with iron plates, so that to-day it stands rigid.

By a happy coincidence the peal, as it was afterwards discovered, was rung 50 years to the very day on which Mr. Riddell started ringing in Yateley belfry.

A half-muffled peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at Hawkhurst, Kent, on December 3rd, in memory of Canon F. J. O. Helmore, former hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, and the late Mr. L. B. Porter, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Our note recently about the 'William' peal at Debenham was not quite accurate. It was the first name peal by the four Suffolk men, but the others had already rung a William peal at North Lopham.

Miss Grace Alloway, whose age is only 16, scored her first peal on December 10th, when she rang the treble to Grandsire Triples at Great Stanmore, Middlesex. In this peal also, Edward Leversuch rang his first as conductor.

The handbell peal of Bob Royal at Brasted on December 10th was rung by five members of a band who met for a tower-bell peal to be rung for the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Budgen. Owing to a death in the village a tower-bell peal was not possible. The band were afterwards entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Budgen. F. W. Budgen has now rung peals of Plain Bob 'in hand' from Minor to Maximus.

Mr. Ernest Lock, who has been a ringer at Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset, for 40 years, having started there when the bells were rehung in 1898, rang his first peal on December 10th, when the second peal on the bells was rung, the first having been soon after the bells were restored. We understand, however, it was never recorded.

The bells of St. Catherine's Church, Pontypidd, were opened in the year 1913, and a peal of Grandsire Triples to celebrate their silver jubilee was rung on December 13th.

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT WALKER'S 40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, of Birmingham, has been a 'spread over.' It began with a peal of Stedman Cinques rung at Bow Church, Cheap-side, London, on December 10th, became a family affair on the 12th, concentrated at Baker Street, Sparkhill, with a peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells on Friday, and was to have been completed in the Bull Ring on Tuesday with another peal of Stedman Cinques.

As to the success of the latter we do not know, but the peal at Bow and the peal on handbells are recorded in this issue. At the festivities after the peals the ringers enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Walker, to whom cordial congratulations were extended.

The peal at Hallow, Worcestershire, on December 10th, was arranged as a birthday compliment to Mr. George Colley and to mark his retirement, at the age of 65, from service as engine driver on the L.M. and S. Railway. Mr. Colley is a member of the Worcester Cathedral band.

A birthday peal for the Rector's warden at Tilehurst, Berks (Alderman T. Mason), was rung on December 10th, when the local band scored a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The first peal on the bells at Ashover, Derbyshire, since they were rehung in 1937 was rung on December 10th. The members of the Midland Counties Association, who rang the peal, which was Bob Major, were also members of the Peak District Society, and Mr. A. W. H. Bowler called a peal for the first time and at the first attempt.

FIRST PEAL BEFORE HIS THIRD BIRTHDAY!

The peal of Stedman Caters at St. Magnus', Thames Street, London, on December 17th, was rung on the 35th anniversary of Mr. Maurice Hibbert's first peal. Mr. Hibbert's first peal was rung before he celebrated his third birthday! His birthday falls on February 29th and in the year 1900 leap year did not occur. Surely no other ringer can claim to have rung a peal before his third birthday?

It is not often that the composer of a peal and the conductor (when they are different individuals) celebrate their birthday together, but Mr. John Burford, as the former, and Mr. Alfred Reeves, as the latter, did so in a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on December 17th.

A peal of Newbury Surprise Major, to replace the false one rung on July 14th at the same church, was rung on December 15th at Bushey, Herts, by the same band. The peal was rung for Mr. F. A. Smith's 74th birthday, and was the one hundredth which Messrs. Harold Cashmore and Maurice Hibbert have rung together.

The first peal on the bells at Shotwick, which were recently augmented, was rung on December 6th, and was the first peal in seven Treble Bob methods by the Chester Branch of the Diocesan Guild. The peal was a compliment to Mr. W. Thomas, one of the oldest ringing members of the Guild.

A peal of Grandsire Caters at Great Yarmouth, on December 10th, celebrated the 70th birthday of Mr. William J. Lee, chairman of the East Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association. It was also a birthday peal for his daughter. Mr. Lee took part in the peal and afterwards the ringers enjoyed his kind hospitality.

A handbell peal of Bob Major was rung at Rotherham, Yorks, on December 15th. It was called by Mr. Albert Nash, of Rotherham, and Mr. S. F. Palmer, of Sheffield, rang the tenors. The last handbell peal these two rang together was at Gainsborough, Lincs, in October, 1909.

The second anniversary of the dedication of the ring of twelve bells at Croydon Parish Church was commemorated on December 17th with a peal of Stedman Cinques.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, December 10th, with a good attendance of members and visitors. A short service was conducted by the Vicar (Canon J. Gilbert).

At the business meeting all the officers of the branch were re-elected, and a 'whip round' in aid of Brondbys (Breconshire) Bell Fund realised 7s.

Places of next meetings were provisionally fixed as Stratton St. Margaret, Blunsdon and Rodbourne Cheney.

Good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening, the ringing ranging from Grandsire Triples to Kent Treble Bob Royal. Local towers were well represented, with visitors from Aldbourne, Cirencester, Melksham, Oxford, Maisey Hampton, Sunderland, Calne, Wootton Bassett, etc.

THE WEIGHTS OF TENORS.

SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS.

To the Editor.

Sir.—The matter about which Mr. Tony Price writes to your columns is but another of those interesting sides to our art, and one to which, like Mr. Price, I have given a fair amount of study. Mr. Price is certainly correct in saying that if the diameter of a bell is increased, but not the thickness, it will sound a lower note (as happens in the case of tuning); but when he speaks of 50 cwt. being required for B bells, this does not always follow. Thus it will be seen that one cannot always judge the weight by the *key or pitch* of the bell. To ascertain the weight, the two principal guides are the diameter and the *quality* of note. If a bell has a dull note, it is usually a thick bell and fairly heavy for the key in which it is pitched. But if a bell sounds a bright note and the over tones are easily heard, it can generally be taken for granted that it is normal or light according to the key. For instance, if I remember rightly, the note of the new tenor at Winchester Cathedral was stated in 'The Ringing World' after the dedication to be in key B, the same as Southwark and Bow. Yet there is nearly a ton difference in the weights—Winchester being 35 cwt., Southwark 50 cwt. and Bow 54 cwt. 12 lb.

Here are a few more examples, which might interest Mr. Price, which go to prove that the key cannot always be a guide to the weight. Tenor bells in key E flat: King's Norton, Leicestershire, 21 cwt. (8 bells); All Saints', Northampton, 23 cwt. (8 bells); St. Saviour's, Leicester, 25½ cwt. (8 bells, tenor measures 4ft. 3in.). Against this we come to Claybrook, Leicestershire, 13 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. (8 bells, tenor E flat measures 3ft. 10in.). Many might think this a 'tinny' bell, but, having rung three peals there, I can testify, as can anyone else who has heard them, that they are one of the finest octaves in the country. Wootton, Northants, where there are five bells, also has a tenor 13½ cwt. in E flat, measuring 3ft. 10in. diameter. Bells in key F sharp: St. Sepulchre's, Northampton (8, tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.); Hazelbeech, Northants (8, tenor 15 cwt. 12 lb.); Empingham, Rutland (6, tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb.); Burton Latimer, Northants (8, tenor 10½ cwt.); Sharnbrook, Beds (6, tenor 9½ cwt.). Bells in key G: Belton, Rutland (6, tenor 10 cwt. 24 lb.); Isham, Northants (6, tenor 9½ cwt.); Mears Ashby, Northants (6, tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb.); Whaddon, Bucks (6, tenor 14½ cwt.); Hitcham, Bucks (6, tenor 6 cwt. 11 lb.). Another comparison is the treble of St. Sepulchre's, Northampton, and the sixth at the Foundry Campanile, Loughborough. Both of these are the same note, yet one is 3 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb., and the other 2 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb.

All of these with the exception of Hitcham (which is always reported in the peal columns as stated) I have inspected personally, as well as had verified to me by the various founders.

Another weight which I would like to correct is the tenor at Oakham. There is an impression among ringers that this bell is 28 cwt.—she is nothing of the sort. I have a letter in my possession from the founders, written two years ago, determining the weight of the *present* tenor as 22 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.

Village bells are notorious for 'growing' in weight and for nearly always weighing '19 cwt.' Why 19 seems a favourite figure I can never understand! Here are three more interesting stories. Several years ago, Piddington, Northants, tenor was stated by local men to me to be 19 cwt. This bell was in key G. Several days after its weight was verified to me by the founders as 11 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb. It has since been reduced by tuning to 10 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. At Arthingworth, Northants, an aged ringer, who, according to his story, 'helped get the bells up in the tower in 1878,' swore that the weight of the tenor was 19 cwt. This, too, is a G bell, and its weight verified to me by the founders is 11 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. At Brafield, Northants, local tradition always had it that the tenor was 17 cwt. Three years ago I measured it and informed one of the ringers that judging from the class of note, the thickness and the diameter, it could not possibly weigh more than 13 cwt. It has since turned out to be only just over 12 cwt., the bells having been rehung. Another comparison is St. Peter's, Northampton, and St. Edmund's, Northampton. Both these tenors are in F. St. Peter's is 12½ cwt. and St. Edmund's 18 cwt. Northampton. P. AMOS.

BRAY TENOR.

Dear Sir.—Mr. F. J. Russell wishes me to apologise on his behalf regarding the key of the tenor at Bray, which he passed on as B. Below is a copy of weights and key supplied by Messrs. Warner in 1914 when the Bray bells were at the foundry:—

- Treble.—B. 7 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. Date 1678.
 2nd.—A. 8 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. 1612.
 3rd.—G. 9 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb. 1613.
 4th.—F sharp. 13 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. Recast 1914.
 5th.—E. 16 cwt. 2 qr. 6 lb. 1777.
 Tenor.—D. 26 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. 1656.

I am very grateful to Mr. Price for technical description, for I could hardly believe that Bray tenor was actually in B. All the same, I should like to know if I am right in stating that the tenor of the old ring at St. John's, Croydon, was 31 cwt. 21 lb. in E flat, for if such was the case it might in some way account for the difference in 'measure' and 'foundry' weight of Bray tenor.

(Continued in next column.)

TWO SURPRISE METHODS.

'TILEHURST' AND 'VERULAM.'

Two new Surprise methods rung by the Hertfordshire band are given below.

TILEHURST.

12345678
 21436587
 12346578
 21435687

24136578
 42315687
 24135867
 42318576

43281567
 34825176
 38421567
 83245176

38425716
 83247561
 82374516
 28735461

82375641
 28736514
 27863541
 72685314

27865134
 72681543
 76285134
 67821543

68712534
 86175243
 68715423
 86174532

81675423
 18764532
 81674523
 18765432

18674523

Bob 17864523

5,024 by H. G. Cashmore.

23456 B W M H

52436 — — 3
 43526 — — —
 54326 — — —
 54263 — — —
 25463 — — 3
 42563 — — —
 35264 — — —
 56342 — — —
 23564 — — —
 52364 — — 3
 32465 — — —
 32654 — — —
 25346 — — 3
 35642 — — —
 35426 — — —
 23456 — — 3

VERULAM.

12345678
 21354687
 12536478
 21356487

23154678
 32514768
 23157486
 32517846

23571864
 32758146
 37251864
 73528146

37258416
 32754861
 23578416
 25374861

52347681
 53246718
 35427681
 34526718

43256178
 34521687
 35426178
 53241687

35214678
 53124768
 35217486
 53127846

51328764
 15238746
 51327864
 15372846

15738264

Bob 13578264

5,056 by A. Knights.

23456 B M W H

52436 — — 3
 42635 — — 3
 36524 — — —
 62345 — — 3
 46325 — — —
 23564 — — 3
 62534 — — 3
 35426 — — 3
 23456 — — 3

Verulam Surprise was rung for the first time at Bushey, Herts, on November 5th, 1938.

Tilehurst Surprise was first rung at Tilehurst, Berks, on Nov. 12th, 1938.

THE WEIGHT OF BRAY TENOR.

(Continued from previous column.)

Regarding the ingenious 'silencer' that was used, Mr. Price himself agrees that the bell is a fine tenor and a good peal was just wasted, and I am of the same opinion. As a member of the Central Council, I should not like to see more peals wasted, and I only hope that Mr. Sharpe will soon let us say what we like about his device, for I still have some 'misgiving' about using them for *peals*. In a locality where practice is practically forbidden, they would be the very thing. Bray was a fine test and the 'silencer' came through 'smiling.'

The reason for my 'misgiving' must remain (at the present) like the silencer, a secret shared by a very few. If my reason is stated, it would at once give the whole idea away (which idea, I believe, has not before been tried out). The peal at Bray was a fine performance, in which a Central Council member rang the tenor.

GEORGE GILBERT.

Maidenhead.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meeting at St. Andrew's, Holborn, 8 p.m., December 29th. The sum of 1/8, which enables members who have not attended 20 times during the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 37, Broad Street, Newcastle, Staffs, not later than January 4th.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will take place on Saturday, January 7th, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, at 6 p.m. prompt. The bells at St. Martin's Church will be available from 4.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Lydney on Saturday, Dec. 31st. Bells (8) open 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Church Room. Business meeting to follow. Ringers who require tea must let me know by Wednesday, December 28th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec., 11, Victoria Road, Lydney, Glos.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—The branch will meet at Elm on Saturday, December 31st. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ross District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Ross on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea at Central Cafe 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea to Mr. W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, January 7th. The Abbey Church bells (10) available from 2. Service in the Abbey at 4.30. Tea (1/3 each) in Hawdon Institute at 5 p.m. Please inform Mr. E. Storr, 65, Green Lane, Selby.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely Branch.—Annual district meeting will be held in Cambridge on Saturday, January 7th. St. Bene't's available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at the King's Parade Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Great St. Mary's bells available in the evening. Please make this a good meeting, and as I must have the number for tea let me know on the Christmas or New Year card you are sending me.—C. W. Cook, Dis. Sec., Newton, Cambridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on Saturday, January 14th. Bells (10) available at 3. Business meeting at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested. North Staffs and Derby District members cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The seventh annual supper will be held at the Village Hall, Heston, on Saturday, January 14th, at 6 p.m. prompt. Tickets 3/6 from the undersigned or from any Tower Secretary. Heston bells available from 3 to 5.40 p.m. It is hoped that all members of this Association, whether of the South and West District or otherwise, will support this supper, and help to make it a success. Friends from other Associations also will be very welcome.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, West Ealing, W.13.

GREETINGS.

ST. PETER'S COMPANY, BOURNEMOUTH, sends the Season's Greetings to all old and new friends and hopes to welcome many of them to the tower during the coming year.—Arthur Davis, Tower Captain.

FRANCIS E. DAWE heartily wishes each and every of his many Ringing Friends, both at home and in the Dominions beyond the Seas, 'All the Best of the Very Best' for Christmas and the New Year, together with Good Health—the Greatest Blessing of All!

Woking, 1938.

Once again, through the medium of 'The Ringing World,' I wish all my ringing friends 'A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.'—A. B. PECK, Hon. Secretary, Ancient Society of College Youths.

DEVON GUILD.

BRANCH MEETING AT TOPSHAM.

The annual meeting of the Aylesbeare Deanery Branch of the Devonshire Guild was held at Topsham, near Exeter, on Saturday week, with an attendance of about 40 members, including members from adjacent branches. A service in St. Margaret's Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. W. Guy Halliday), included an address by the Rev. J. D. F. Woodhouse, Rector of Clyst St. George. After tea in the Salutation Hotel Assembly Room, the Rev. E. C. Grimaldi presided over the business meeting.

The secretary (Mr. R. Brook) reported that four branch meetings had been held during the year, with an average attendance of 40 members, and the total membership of the branch was now 102, practically the same as in 1938.

The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £10 17s.

The chairman (the Rev. E. C. Grimaldi) and secretary (Mr. R. Brook) were re-elected, as also were the three representatives on the General Committee and the Ringing Master, Mr. J. Brealy.

Five new members of Colaton Raleigh band were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting on February 4th, 1939, at Whimble. A collection taken at the meeting in aid of the Bells Restoration Fund amounted to 10s. 1d.

A comprehensive vote of thanks, moved by the chairman, to the Vicar of Topsham, the Rev. J. D. F. Woodhouse, the organist and choir, and lady helpers in providing the tea, was carried with acclamation.

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