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SUMMERTIME IN SOMERSET

THE cars sweep up to the lych-gate; the occupants scurry into church and up the stairs; the bells ring out for twenty minutes or maybe half-an-hour; the ringers scurry downstairs and out to their cars, looking at their watches, and away they go, off to the next grab, busily entering the tower in their little books or crossing it off in their Doves. The tower-grabbers have been, and if you asked them what the church was like, few of them could tell you more than the 'go' of the bells. And if you ask them to turn off for a look at the little church half-a-mile off to the right, they'll look at the map, look at Dove, and say: 'No bells there,' and there's an end of it.

Happy the man who can use his eyes, and take a little time to look at the towers he rings in and the bells he rings—and even at the bells that he can't. The tower-grabbers don't know Sutton Bingham or Brympton d'Evercy: the poorer they.

Somerset is the land of the big fives and sixes to the ringer, but to the bell-hunter it's also a land of twos and threes perched in little bell-cotes and often undocumented and undated. Nobody since Ellacombe, who collected most of his Somerset material by correspondence, has 'done' Somerset, and there are still finds to be made by people who care to fetch ladders and do a little climbing. While I was holidaying near Yeovil in 1956 two churches were marked down for further investigation: Sutton Bingham and Brympton d'Evercy; this summer good fortune brought George Elphick down to Dorset, and we went to see what we could find there.

Travellers know Sutton Bingham as a sleepy halt; fishermen know it as a new man-made lake stocked with fat trout. Not many seem to know the tiny Norman church beside the lovely manor house, and that's a pity. Very few churches have such an atmosphere of having grown up out of the soil of England for a very, very long time. The stone of the walls, the stone slabs and the hoary timbers of the roof, the ancient paintings which cover most of the walls, all seem entirely part of the life of a very simple, very old, very English community; looking about it you don't think of great building bishops or lords or wealthy merchants as you might at Winchester or Framlingham or Northleach; you think of honest countrymen with mud on their boots and their hats held humbly in big, horny hands, coming to worship their Lord in the house their fathers built for Him. It's a good place to be.

In two little arches in the west gable-end hang two little bells, only about 12 feet from the ground. On the left is one cast over the way in Closworth by Thomas Purdue; the other uninscribed and as different in shape as could be. A ringer who wants to know how the shape of bells developed could not find anywhere a better example: on my left the village maiden, stocky, buxom, firm in the shoulder and a good armful round the waist. On my right the aristocrat, tall and slim and slender-waisted. Yet for all her more delicate looks the aristocrat is the stronger of the two, for Purdue's bell, dated 1684, has been broken in the crown, and it is the other which still rings Sutton Bingham to church, as she has been doing for round about 700 years.

The shape alone makes one pretty sure that this is a very old bell; a closer look makes one certain. The lip inside is flat for about an inch-and-a-half, sloping upwards at about 30°; the cannons were moulded by the waste-wax method, and a very critical examination of the surface of the bell convinced us that it was in fact all waste-

wax moulded, and smoothed off with something very like the tool which is shown being used in the bell-founder's window at York. The bell shown in that window would be about the same size as this one, which is just over a foot in diameter. The bell once was swung, as the marks on the stonework of the niche indicate, but she has recently been rehung and is properly fitted for safe clocking.

* * * * *

The road to Brympton d'Evercy takes you through some of those Somerset lanes which have carved themselves almost a tunnel in the soft sandstone, roofed with hornbeam and hazel and inhabited by sand martins. The last lap is down a fine avenue of trees and through a wood, and then you come out to see one of the loveliest scenes in England. Beyond the gates the drive runs straight to the front door of the house between wonderful lawns; the house is gabled and gargoyle and pinnacled and finialled and emblazoned as the most ardent feudal lord could wish, and to the left of the lawns, on a terrace, is an absurd mediæval clock-house with a bell-cote on top. On the right is the 14th century priest's house, almost unaltered, and next to it the little parish church, carrying on its western gable one of those little 2-bell turrets which are a local speciality—corbelled out from a short stem like a chimney-stack, with two arched openings in each side and a pyramidal roof with a finial on each corner. No words of mine can hope to tell the beauty of Brympton d'Evercy: you must go and see it for yourself.

Only the tops of the two bells are visible from the ground, but the half-wheels looked interesting, and we were inclined to look closer, although both the vicar and the lord of the manor told us that a man from nearby who knew all about bells had been up to see them and said they were of no interest—one by Purdue and one uninscribed and undated and of no account. The lord of the manor lent us an aluminium ladder, and asked us while we were at it to look at the bell on the clock-house as well, so we went there first.

It was a breezy climb, and as I went up the fully extended ladder I used every trick of eloquence to prove to myself that aluminium ladders were immensely strong and that their flexibility was just another proof of it. I arrived at the top quite unconvinced and very glad to get on something that kept still, even if it was very small and very high and very full of bell.

The bell proved to be a nice one, bearing the name of the lord of the manor in 1723, when it was cast, and his arms on the waist. There was no founder's name or initials, but the decoration made us think that it was a Closworth bell, and at that date the founder would have been William Knight. The cannons were neatly cabled.

The ladder was moved to the church and had to be extended even further to reach the sill of the turret. It behaved if anything even worse, but I forgot about that when I brought my eyes level with the sill. In front was the Purdue bell, the larger of the two, and like all his work very neatly cast: but the other was plainly even older than the Sutton Bingham bell. Like it, it was very long in the waist—longer in fact—and the soundbow was less flared, and the inside of the lip was flat as at Sutton Bingham, but this time it was horizontal, so that if you'd put the bell mouth-downwards on the ground the whole of this 2" flap would have touched it. The bell seemed to have been moulded in the normal mediæval manner from a clay false-bell, but the cannons were a puzzle. They showed no sign of piece-moulds, and at the sharpest part of the curve they were flattened, as a tube is flattened

when you bend it. George made very careful casts of the cannons and argent, and when he got home experimented with all kinds of materials to see if he could reproduce the flattening. Wax was no good, but one thing did produce just the same effect—straw smoothed over with clay. The use of straw for moulding the cannons and argent tallied with the surface of part of the argent, where there were marks which might well have been the impression of straw imperfectly covered with the clay in a place which was difficult to smooth over. We estimate the date of this bell at about 1200.

The bells aren't ringable, for the frame is badly rotted and infested, and the old bell is resting on the sill one side where the frame-head has collapsed. The half-wheels are not old; they seem to have been copied from old ones by someone who was a good joiner but didn't know how to curve the sole of the wheel: he'd made saw-cuts halfway through the inner face of the sole about 2" apart all round.

It was a good day: two 13th century bells never previously identified so far as we know, and two lovely churches visited—for Brympton Church is outstandingly beautiful and contains some exceptionally fine mediæval tomb-figures, one of a priest who died while administering the Last Sacrament in the Black Death.

But what of the knowledgeable local ringer who pronounced the Brympton bell 'of no interest'? Could he be the man who, with his companion, immortalised his visit by chalking their names inside the bell-turret? I know that name, and its owner, and so does George, I think. But we won't tell.

J. G. M. S.

TWELVE BELL PEAL

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Dec. 9, 1957, in 3 Hours and 28 Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN.

A PEAL OF 5280 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

DOREEN D. DUTTON .. Treble	RICHARD E. PRIME 7
*AVRIL THACKRAY 2	J. FREDERICK MILNER 8
HERRICK B. BOWLEY 3	JOHN A. ACRES 9
PHYLLIS POOLE 4	S. ANTHONY JESSON 10
ERNEST RAWSON 5	PETER J. STANFORTH 11
SHIRLEY BURTON 6	WILLIAM J. ROOT Tenor

Conducted by HERRICK B. BOWLEY.

* First peal in 12 bells and first peal of Surprise.

TEN BELL PEALS

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5180 PLAIN BOB ROYAL

Tenor 42 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lb. in C.

*KENNETH BALLINGTON (13) Treble	†IRVIN SLACK 6
†ALFRED SMITH 2	VIVIENNE M. HORTON 7
J. MARTIN THORLEY 3	FREDERICK SEAGER 8
ARNOLD COLE 4	†C. MICHAEL ORME 9
RONALD H. DOVE 5	DEREK P. JONES Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN.

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

* First peal on more than six bells. † First peal of Plain Bob Royal.

SOUTHAMPTON.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 16½ cwt. in F.

NELIA M. LEAHY .. Treble	ADRIAN J. TUMBER 6
R. ROGER SAVORY 2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 7
JESSIE M. KIPPIN 3	*GWILYM SALMON 8
JEAN POWELL 4	*ERIC NAYLOR 9
ROBERT C. KIPPIN 5	*DAVID HOARE Tenor

Composed by F. E. DARBY.

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

* First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

HENRY H. FEARN .. Treble	NORMAN J. GOODMAN .. 6
MURIEL REAY 2	ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 7
RUTH M. JACKSON 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 8
IAN M. HOLLAND 4	RALPH G. EDWARDS 9
H. DAVID HOLLAND 5	PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by JOHN A. BURFORD.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 3 Hours and 9 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5007 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D flat.

ARTHUR W. GRAVETT .. Treble	LEONARD STILWELL 6
RAYMOND OVERY 2	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON .. 7
E. WINIFRED KEYS 3	*ARTHUR J. HART 8
ALBERT W. BOND 4	FRANK H. HICKS 9
WILLIAM ROGERS 5	WILLIAM T. BEESON Tenor

Composed by H. W. HALEY. Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

* First peal of Stedman Caters away from tenor. First as conductor in the method. Ringers of 2 and 5 have now 'completed the circle.'
A compliment to W. A. Riddington on the birth of a first grandchild.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5079 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 20½ cwt.

HOWARD HOWELL .. Treble	ALBERT D. COLLINS 6
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER .. 2	R. ARTHUR PEAKMAN 7
*C. FREDERICK JUKES 3	*WILLIAM H. COOPER 8
WILLIAM DAVIES 4	FREDERICK G. HANDLEY 9
ERNEST STITCH 5	CHARLES F. W. EYRE .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

The annual peal for the Guild, and a golden wedding anniversary compliment to the parents of the ringer of the third.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

CRICH, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Nov. 28, 1957, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COUNTY BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lb. in F sharp.

*BRIAN R. MANNING .. Treble	HERBERT E. TAYLOR 5
RONALD H. BULLEN 2	GORDON A. HALLS 6
*PATRICIA A. M. FORSTER .. 3	VIVIENNE M. HORTON 7
*GEORGE H. PAULSON 4	DEREK P. JONES Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD.

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1957, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. in G.

*BRIDGET FORDER .. Treble	DAVID J. FORDER 5
REGINALD A. REED 2	E. KEITH JORDAN 6
NORMAN HAYES 3	FREDERICK W. BURNETT 7
CEDRIC MURPHY 4	HAROLD P. REED Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by REGINALD A. REED.

* First peal.

Rung to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the town of Eastleigh receiving the Royal Charter of Incorporation as a borough.



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ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Dec. 3, 1957, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael-the-Archangel,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part.

*VALERIE CLIST .. Treble	WILLIAM H. VIGGERS .. 5
TOM PAGE .. 2	DUGALD MACPHERSON .. 6
*STELLA TAIT-MITCHELL .. 3	CHARLES W. DENYER .. 7
†ROSEMARIE HIDE .. 4	EDWARD J. BRAGG .. Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. DENYER.

* First peal at first attempt. † First of Triples.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Dec. 5, 1957, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 28 lb.

HARRY HALL .. Treble	JACK BRAY .. 5
RONALD CHAFER .. 2	*JOHN HALL .. 6
ARTHUR TOMLINSON .. 3	MICHAEL CROWDER .. 7
C. AUBREY HARRISON .. 4	GEORGE W. MOODY .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

* First peal in the method.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Thurs., Dec. 5, 1957, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E flat.

C. JACK GIBSON .. Treble	FRANK RUFFLES .. 5
EDWIN T. CHAPMAN .. 2	WALTER W. MILLER .. 6
PATRICIA M. CLARKE .. 3	WALTER RUFFLES .. 7
LESLIE G. BRETT .. 4	JOHN W. BLYTHE .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. BLYTHE.

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF 5016 TIVERTON LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 7 lb.

ERIC J. BRUNGER .. Treble	GEORGE FRY .. 5
KATHLEEN M. YEO .. 2	BERNARD V. COLLISON .. 6
*STANLEY G. PONTING .. 3	STANLEY JENNER .. 7
EDWARD J. JENNER .. 4	CHARLES A. BASSETT .. Tenor

Conducted by STANLEY JENNER.

Composed by H. JOHNSON.

* 75th peal. First peal of Major as conductor. First peal in the method by all the band, and for the Association.

LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5024 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE R. G. BUTLER .. Treble	STANLEY E. BENNETT .. 5
*MISS F. OLDERSHAW .. 2	*THOMAS H. CHARLTON .. 6
JOHN E. ALLEN .. 3	BRIAN AUSTIN .. 7
JOHN G. AMES .. 4	RONALD C. NOON .. Tenor

Conducted by RONALD C. NOON.

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

* First peal in the method.

NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicolas,

A PEAL OF 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 22 cwt. 2 qr. 1 lb. in D.

*GEORGE WIGGINS .. Treble	†CEDRIC MURPHY .. 5
*REGINALD A. REED .. 2	†HENRY LAWRENSON .. 6
REGINALD W. REX .. 3	WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM .. 7
*FREDERICK W. SCOTT .. 4	*HAROLD P. REED .. Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD A. REED.

Composed by J. COX.

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

Arranged and rung for the Patronal Festival of this church.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours.

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST WHITING .. Treble	*PAUL D. T. CATTERMOLLE .. 5
BETTY SYRETT .. 2	ROBERT PLUMMER .. 6
E. AUSTIN HEAD .. 3	*GEORGE FILBY .. 7
*LEONARD H. MINNS .. 4	L. EDWARD ETHERIDGE .. Tenor

Composed by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

* First peal in the method.

A birthday compliment to Miss M. Kennington, aunt of the fifth ringer.

SHORE, LITTLEBOROUGH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours,

At the Church of St. Barnabas,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's One-part.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*WILLIAM G. WILSON .. Treble	FRED PRITCHARD .. 5
ROGER MAHER .. 2	DAVID YOUNG .. 6
GILLIAN BRIDGFORD .. 3	LAWRENCE WALMSLEY .. 7
PETER SCHOLFIELD .. 4	COLIN S. TAYLOR .. Tenor

Conducted by FRED PRITCHARD.

* First peal of Grandsire.

SILEBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's variation.

Tenor 23 cwt.

MRS. P. J. STANFORTH .. Treble	J. FREDERICK MILNER .. 5
*JEAN A. KIRKMAN .. 2	†ERNEST J. JELLEY .. 6
ERNEST W. RAWSON .. 3	PETER J. STANFORTH .. 7
*DEREK M. SAWYER .. 4	PETER MINCHEN .. Tenor

Conducted by PETER J. STANFORTH.

* First peal of Stedman. † 250th peal.

SOUTHAMPTON.

THE SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

At the Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lb.

JOHN L. QUEEN .. Treble	J. HENRY GILBERT .. 5
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH .. 2	DAVID J. FORDER .. 6
DEREK C. JACKSON .. 3	RAYMOND E. FINCH .. 7
DON C. EXELL .. 4	MICHAEL V. WHITE .. Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH.

First peal on the bells. First peal of Major for the Guild.

WARWICK.

THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb. in F.

FRANK W. PERRENS .. Treble	L. MICHAEL CALLOW .. 5
ARTHUR H. BEAMISH .. 2	WILLIAM H. MALE .. 6
DAVID A. CARPENTER .. 3	HUBERT E. ASHLEY .. 7
WILLIAM COLLETT .. 4	JAMES L. GARNER-HAYWARD .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by J. L. GARNER-HAYWARD.

The first peal on the bells to commemorate their dedication by the Lord Bishop of Coventry on Thursday, December 5th, after recasting and rehanging in a new frame.

WITTON, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Helen,

A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

*CYNTHIA MOORE .. Treble	CECIL RADDON .. 5
ERIC HORNBY .. 2	JOSEPH THORNLEY .. 6
JOHN SCOTT .. 3	HENRY PARKER .. 7
VICTOR NEAL .. 4	HARRY W. HOWARD .. Tenor

Composed by E. JENKINS.

Conducted by HARRY W. HOWARD.

* First peal of Little Bob.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Moore, and a silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. S. Cragg. Mr. Cragg is a local ringer.

WROTHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 3 Hours and 14 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE.

A PEAL OF 5024 GAINSBOROUGH SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 20 cwt. 10 lb. in E.

THOMAS E. SONE Treble	*LEONARD STILWELL 5
*REGINALD L. SILLS 2	*ERNEST J. LADD 6
COLIN A. TESTER 3	*WILLIAM ROGERS 7
*DORIS E. COLGATE 4	*W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN (No. 2). Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS.

*First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. The ringers of treble and second have now 'completed the circle' at this tower.

This composition is now rung for the first time.

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Dec. 9, 1957, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part (seventh observation). Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr.

NORMAN BELL Treble	ARTHUR CROWDER 5
JACK BRAY 2	MICHAEL CROWDER 6
C. AUBREY HARRISON .. 3	PHILIP BARNES 7
RONALD CHAFER 4	SEPTIMUS NEAVE Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

Rung half-muffled in memoriam H. Hallam, a life-long church worker and 50 years lay reader at this church.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Mon., Dec. 9, 1957, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5184 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. in F sharp.

RUTH M. JACKSON .. Treble	PETER BORDER 5
DIANA J. PERRINS .. 2	FRANK E. HAYNES .. 6
RALPH G. EDWARDS .. 3	GEORGE E. FEARN .. 7
ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 4	STEPHEN J. IVIN .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by STEPHEN J. IVIN.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Dec. 10, 1957, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. in F sharp.

STEPHEN IVIN Treble	ALFRED E. RUSHTON .. 5
*ROBERT L. PIRON 2	*C. MICHAEL ORME 6
ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 3	PHILIP MEHEW 7
RONALD J. SHARP 4	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by STEPHEN IVIN.

*First peal of Bristol. The first of Bristol on these bells.

A birthday compliment to C. W. Sinfield.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Dec. 12, 1957, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5088 CRICKLEWOOD SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb. in A.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER .. Treble	DENNIS KNOX 5
BRIAN BLADON 2	ALFRED J. HOUSE 6
ALICK CUTLER 3	THOMAS J. LOCK 7
STANLEY E. DARMON .. 4	JOHN R. MAYNE Tenor

Composed by RICHARD F. B. SPEED. Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.

The first peal in the method. This is the 100th different Surprise Major method to be rung on these bells—the first tower to achieve this distinction.

BROMLEY, KENT

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 8 lb. in F.

*GWENDOLEN J. SILOR .. Treble	PHILIP A. CORBY 5
DAVID J. KIRBY 2	BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 6
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS .. 3	PERCY J. SPICE 7
DAVID J. R. MARTIN .. 4	*MALCOLM K. J. POWELL .. Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP A. CORBY.

*First peal at first attempt. First peal attempt on the recast bells.

Rung on the occasion of the consecration of the completed church.

CRICKLEWOOD SURPRISE MAJOR

58—36, 14, 58—12, 38, 14—14, 5, 16—34, 5.

2nds place lead-end; 4ths place bob.

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF 5088 RUTLAND SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb. in F.

CLIFFORD T. BLUNDELL .. Treble	RALPH G. EDWARDS 5
JOAN BERESFORD 2	HAROLD TAYLOR 6
PETER BERESFORD 3	EDMUND MALIN 7
ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

BURNHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 5056 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

GEORGE GILBERT Treble	*GEORGE COUSSINS 5
MARY R. JAYCOCK 2	E. DENNIS POOLE 6
*HOWARD OGLESBY 3	GORDON W. LIMMER .. 7
*RICHARD E. DEAN 4	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (No. 416).

Conducted by GEORGE W. DEBENHAM.

*First peal in the method.

FAIRFIELD, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 5 Hours and 43 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 10000 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 10 lb. in F sharp.

*WILLIAM H. DOWSE (14) Treble	*JOHN H. ALLEN (17) .. 5
*STELLA HUGHES (17) .. 2	NEIL BENNETT (19) .. 6
*FRANK OSBALDISTON (13) 3	ROBERT B. SMITH (19) .. 7
BERNARD GROVES (14) .. 4	BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE (19) Tenor

Composed by SIR A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD (C.C.C. No. 57).

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

*First peal in the method. †First peal in the method 'inside.' The conductor's 100th peal, 50th as conductor and first of Double Norwich Court Bob as conductor. The longest length rung by all the band, on the bells, and for the Association. The average age of the band is 17 years exactly.

The peal contains the 4th, 5th and 6th, the extent in 6ths place, with the 2nd and 3rd never together in 5-6.

MILES PLATTING, MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

A PEAL OF 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt.

SYDNEY SAGE Treble	ALEXANDER RICHARDSON .. 5
*TREVOR TAYLOR 2	DEREK OGDEN 6
*NEIL D. LOMAS 3	*DEREK TAYLOR 7
SIDNEY HOUGH, JUN. .. 4	*DENIS MOTTERSHEAD .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (C.C.C. No. 28).

Conducted by DENIS MOTTERSHEAD.

*First peal in the method.

OLVESTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

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

A PEAL OF 5056 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

MICHAEL T. SPRACKLING .. Treble	J. HENRY GILBERT 5
DAVID HEIGHTON 2	REGINALD G. HOOPER .. 6
JOAN GRAY 3	*FRANK D. MACK 7
TUDOR P. EDWARDS 4	PHILIP M. J. GRAY Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by PHILIP M. J. GRAY.

*First peal of Surprise 'inside.' First peal in the method by all except the conductor. First peal in the method for the Association.

SHERFIELD ENGLISH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 14, 1957, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD.

A PEAL OF 5088 GAINSBOROUGH SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9½ cwt. in A flat.

DON C. EXELL Treble	JESSIE M. KIPPIN 5
JEAN POWELL 2	J. MICHAEL LAKIN 6
ADRIAN J. TUMBER 3	ROBERT C. KIPPIN 7
MARGARET E. BEAMISH .. 4	R. ROGER SAVORY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by R. ROGER SAVORY.

First peal in the method by all the band, and on the bells.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

NORTH CREAKE, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., Nov. 10, 1957, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.
FRIEDA A. FROST .. Treble | H. JOHN LARWOOD .. 4
ALBERT E. DIXON .. 2 | SAMUEL H. WATERFIELD .. 5
CECIL V. EBBERSON .. 3 | TONY OWEN .. Tenor
Conducted by TONY OWEN.

COLLINGBOURNE-KINGSTON, WILTSHIRE.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 CHEVIOT TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being two 2,160's and an extent (C.C.C. Nos. 96-101, 94).
Tenor 19½ cwt. in E.

BRIAN BLADON .. Treble | RALPH BIRD .. 4
JOHN R. MAYNE .. 2 | VICTOR GRIFFIN .. 5
PHILIP MEHEW .. 3 | DEREK P. JONES .. Tenor
Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

The first peal in the method (C.C.C. T.B. 20). The first peal of Minor on the bells.

UPAVON, WILTSHIRE.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being an extent each of Chiltern, Cheviot, Cotswold, Mendip, Pennine, Quantock and Snowdon Treble Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

VICTOR GRIFFIN .. Treble | DEREK P. JONES .. 4
RALPH BIRD .. 2 | PHILIP MEHEW .. 5
BRIAN BLADON .. 3 | JOHN R. MAYNE .. Tenor
Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.

The first peal in these seven methods, which are all named after hills and mountains.

ECCELESTON, NEAR CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1957, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents (six callings).

ALBERT GREENHALGH .. Treble | †GEOFFREY LLOYD .. 4
JAMES CUNLIFFE .. 2 | †DAVID BURGESS .. 5
*JOHN RIGBY .. 3 | JOHN ASHCROFT .. Tenor
Conducted by JOHN ASHCROFT.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

Rung for St. Andrew's Day, and in honour of the baptism of Andrew, son of the ringer of the third.

OLD HEADINGTON, OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1957, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 12 extents of Plain Bob and 30 extents of Grandsire.

Tenor 8½ cwt. in A.

*MARION GOULD .. Treble | †H. BADGER .. 4
TOM SMITH .. 2 | †DENNIS C. BOWEN .. 5
*VERONA NAYLOR .. 3 | REG BROWN .. Tenor
Conducted by TOM SMITH.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles 'inside.' ‡ First peal of Doubles.

Rung on St. Andrew's Day as a compliment to David Simms, a Headington ringer, and Miss June Ringe, on their engagement.

SHUSTOKE, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1957, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In three methods, being 240 April Day, 2,400 Plain Bob, 2,400 Grandsire (1,920 ten callings, 240 each of Morris's and Pitman's arrangement).

Tenor 12 cwt.

*ALBERT G. ENSOR .. Treble | GORDON H. LANE .. 4
D. KEITH LANE .. 2 | EDWARD H. HILL .. 5
WILLIAM C. RHODES .. 3 | HARRY J. WALKER .. Tenor
Conducted by GORDON H. LANE.

* First peal.

Arranged for the ringers of the treble and tenor, who have been ringing at this church for 40 years. Also to welcome the new Vicar (Rev. Mr. Yearsley) and Mrs. Yearsley.

TAXAL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Dec. 4, 1957, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In seven methods, being 720 Grandsire, 1,200 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 480 St. Nicholas' Bob, 1,200 Winchendon Place, 720 Plain Bob, 240 St. Simon's Bob and 480 St. Martin's Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt. 23 lb. in G.

*JOHN R. KENNETT .. Treble | *ALEX RICHARDSON .. 4
BERNARD GROVES .. 2 | ROBERT B. SMITH .. 5

BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

* First peal in seven Doubles methods.

Rung after being short for Minor.

BLYTHBURGH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in G.

ERNEST S. BAILEY .. Treble | JACK PILGRIM .. 4
JAMES M. BAILEY .. 2 | C. JACK GIBSON .. 5
RAYMOND PECK .. 3 | JOHN W. BLYTHE .. Tenor
Conducted by JOHN W. BLYTHE.

EAST HARLING, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 11 cwt.

JILL CREASY .. Treble | DR. PAUL H. A. JONASON .. 4
CHARLES E. G. BANHAM .. 2 | FRANK C. J. ARNOLD .. 5
LEONARD W. KING .. 3 | C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO .. Tenor
Conducted by C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO.

Rung for (1) season of Advent; (2) tenth anniversary of induction of the Rev. T. H. Child as rector of E. Harling; (3) farewell peal for Miss J. Creasy, who is leaving the district; (4) thanksgiving for Mr. L. King on his first peal since an operation earlier in the year.

HAYFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1957, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR

In 12 methods: (1) Norbury, College Exercise and Morning Star T.B.; (2) Duke of Norfolk and Ockley T.B.; (3) Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Sandal and Capel T.B.; (4) Oxford, Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure and Sandal T.B.; (5) Cambridge Surprise; (6) Kent T.B.; (7) Oxford T.B.; 76 changes of method.

Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. in G sharp.

*JOHN R. KENNETT .. Treble | BERNARD GROVES .. 4
†WILLIAM H. DOWSE .. 2 | †FRANK OSBALDISTON .. 5
†ROBERT B. SMITH .. 3 | BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. Tenor
Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

* First peal in 12 methods. † First peal in 12 methods 'inside.' ‡ 25th peal together.

Rung as a welcome to the Vicar (Rev. D. R. Cooper), who was inducted here the previous week.

BRISTOL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SOCIETY.

On Wed., Dec. 11, 1957, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-ON-THE-MOUNT, WITHOUT.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Combined Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 14½ cwt.

PAULINE F. SPRACKLING .. Treble | TUDOR P. EDWARDS .. 4
*PATRICK J. BIRD .. 2 | †BRIAN J. WYLDE .. 5
MAURICE E. DOWNS .. 3 | DAVID HEIGHTON .. Tenor
Conducted by DAVID HEIGHTON.

* First peal of Minor in more than one method. † First peal of Minor 'inside.'

BATLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Dec. 12, 1957, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 10½ cwt. in F sharp.

*ROBERT APPLEBY Treble	PETER DAWSON 4
MAURICE J. THURMOTT .. 2	DOUGLAS THORP 5
HAROLD B. SCHOFIELD .. 3	DAVID ATKINS Tenor

Conducted by DAVID ATKINS.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Maurice J. Thurmott.

HANDBELL PEALS

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1957, in 2 Hours and 14 Minutes.

AT WHINGARTH, RIDGE ROAD.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In seven methods, being 720 each of St. Osmund Bob, St. Nicholas' Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, St. Simon's Bob, Winchendon Place Bob, St. Martin's Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

BERNARD GROVES 1—2 | BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. 3—4

ROBERT B. SMITH 5—6

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

First peal of seven Doubles on handbells by all and for the Guild.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Dec. 8, 1957, in 1 Hour and 59 Minutes.

AT 7, WATERSIDE.

A PEAL OF 5040 ST. MARTIN'S BOB DOUBLES

Being 42 extents (five callings).

Tenor size 15 in C.

BERNARD GROVES 1—2 | BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. 3—4

*FRANK OSBALDISTON .. 5—6

Conducted jointly:

FRANK OSBALDISTON (11 extents), BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE (16 extents), BERNARD GROVES (15 extents).

* First peal on handbells. First peal in the method by all and for the Guild. 25th peal together by the band. Believed to be the first peal in the method on handbells.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Dec. 8, 1957, in 2 Hours and 7 Minutes.

AT WHINGARTH, RIDGE ROAD.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In ten methods, being 480 each of Canterbury Pleasure Bob, Reverse Plain Bob, St. Remigius' Bob, St. Nicholas' Bob, Winchendon Place Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob, St. Osmund Bob, St. Simon's Bob, St. Martin's Bob and 720 Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

BERNARD GROVES 1—2 | BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. 3—4

ROBERT B. SMITH 5—6

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

First peal of ten Doubles methods on handbells by all and for the Guild, and believed to be the most methods yet rung to a peal of Doubles for the Guild.

RADSTOCK, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Dec. 9, 1957, in 2 Hours and 6 Minutes.

AT 94, BEECH TERRACE.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Comprising 42 six-scores in 42 different plain course methods, with 106 changes of method; being one extent each of (1) Stedman S.C.; (2) Intwood, Westminster II, Lyng and Knapton; (3) Bedingham, New, Ellingham and Forncett; (4) Longworth, St. Simon's, Welford and Braywood; (5) Harpley, St. Nicholas', Haddiscoe and Fuldenhall; (6) St. Hilary, Ockham S.C., Broughton S.C., Blackburn, Chesham S.C. and Westminster II; (7) St. Vedast, Chipstead S.C., Oakley S.C., Huntspill, Itchingfield S.C. and New; (8) St. Osmund, Merton S.C., Slapton S.C., St. Martin's, Rugby S.C. and St. Simon's; (9) St. Remigius', Hascombe S.C., Thornborough S.C., Winchendon, Longford S.C. and St. Nicholas'; (10) Plain Bob and Candlesby; (11) Reverse Canterbury and Raveningham; 11 extents of St. Simon's and ten each of Grandsire and Plain Bob. Tenor size 11 in G.

EDWIN BROWN 1—2 | DAVID HOARE 3—4

RODNEY THATCHER 5—6

Conducted by DAVID HOARE.

This is the greatest number of methods yet rung to a peal by the Association and by all the band.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

QUARTER PEALS

BEDFORD.—At St. Paul's Church, on Nov. 24th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: S. Ivin 1, N. Inskip 2, Anne E. Amor 3, Jennifer M. Davis 4, M. Podd 5, G. Amor 6, S. Foskett 7, R. L. Piron 8, B. Pattison (cond.) 9, K. Wakefield 10. Rung for the visit of the Bishop of St. Albans.

BEOLEY, WORCS.—On Dec. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Barbara Langston (first quarter) 1, Gillian Jackson (first 'inside') 2, J. Merrell (first as cond.) 3, A. Ison (first quarter) 4, M. Davis 5, F. Ison 6. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to the Rev. and Mrs. E. N. Judge, and the christening that day by the Lord Bishop of Winchester.

BOLSOVER, DERBYS.—720 Kent Treble Bob (cond. S. Slaney) and 720 Plain Bob Minor (cond. A. B. Cooper): J. Saxton 1, C. Wright 2, Mrs. B. Holmes 3, D. Cooper 4, S. Slaney 5, A. B. Cooper 6. Specially arranged as a token of esteem for the memory of John H. Brothwell (Treeton), a very old friend of the Bolsover ringers.

BRENTFORD, MIDDLEX.—On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Margaret Westcott 1, Jill Barron 2, Meriel Holden Brown 3, C. M. Bloomer 4, Gillian Neal Smith 5, Dr. D. J. Neal Smith (cond.) 6. For Evensong and to mark the 21st birthday of D. Brian Lewis. With this quarter the conductor completed 100 consecutive days of tower bell ringing in 36 different towers.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.—On Dec. 10th, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. J. Lewis 1, Miss F. M. Martin 2, J. W. Reynolds 3, S. G. Ridge 4, H. Stalham 5, C. W. Riddlestone 6, S. E. Armstrong (cond.) 7, N. J. Armstrong 8. Arranged for the 30th wedding anniversary of 1 and 6, and the conductor's birthday.

BRISTOL.—At St. Michael's Church (City), on Dec. 15th, 1,260 Doubles (60 Stedman and 1200 Grandsire): Miss B. Stephens 1, Miss P. F. Sprackling 2, D. Heighton 3, T. P. Edwards (cond.) 4, M. T. Sprackling 5, P. J. Bird 6. For Confirmation service by the University of Bristol Society.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.—On Dec. 7th, 1,260 Plain Bob Major: Mrs. T. Norris 1, C. Cook 2, Miss S. Dorey 3, E. Ashby 4, C. Slade 4, N. Jenkins 6, J. Rootes 7, T. Norris (cond.) 8. Rung for the opening of Christmas sale.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.—At St. Mary's Church, Woodstock, on Dec. 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: O. Lamb 1, J. Riley 2, J. Wood 3, L. Hewitt 4, R. H. Stickley (cond.) 5, J. Ernstzen 6. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Smith.

CLERKENWELL, E.C.—On Dec. 8th, at St. James' Church, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: Miss F. C. Brown 1, Miss M. Prockson 2, Miss J. Scrutton 3, A. F. Lewry 4, G. Parsons 5, W. Prockson 6, W. G. Wilson 7, J. Euston (cond.) 8. For morning service.

COLESHILL, WARWICKS.—On Dec. 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. G. Ensor 1, D. L. Hooper 2, E. H. Hill 3, G. H. Lane (cond.) 4, D. K. Lane 5, W. G. Lane 6, W. C. Rhodes 7, H. J. Walker 8. First of Triples for 1 and 6.

CRANFORD, MIDDLEX.—On Nov. 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Susan Parker 1, Barbara Marchant 2, June Richardson 3, G. Thrush 4, D. Fowles (cond.) 5, T. S. Baker (first quarter) 6. For Evensong. Also on Nov. 23rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Margaret A. Westcott 1, Jill Barron (first of Minor 'inside') 2, Meriel Holden Brown 3, C. M. Bloomer 4, Gillian Neal Smith 5, Dr. D. J. Neal Smith (cond.) 6. Rung for St. Cecilia's Day, and on the occasion of the 50th meeting of the St. Matthias, Richmond, Guild since its formation a year ago.

DOVER, KENT.—On Dec. 9th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. Godfrey 1, Mrs. H. George 2, Miss V. Godderidge 3, G. George (cond.) 4, Miss A. Banks 5, J. Eagles 6, E. J. Walker 7, G. Gray 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of those who lost their lives in the Lewisham railway disaster.

FAIRFIELD, BUXTON, DERBYS.—On Oct. 31st, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: R. B. Wherry 1, S. Ellison 2, K. Ellison 3, J. R. Kennett 4, B. J. Woodruffe (cond.) 5. Rung by pupils of Buxton College.

FELMERSHAM, BEDS.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: T. Albury (first quarter) 1, P. Payne (first 'inside') 2, C. Payne 3, D. Cook 4, C. Lovell (cond.) 5, T. Hensman 6. A birthday compliment to Mr. C. Payne by the local band,

GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTS.—On Nov. 3rd, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Jean Croft 1, G. Cherry 2, S. H. Ashton 3, L. Runnacles 4, P. W. Croft 5, F. W. Croft (cond.) 6. For Evensong. Also on Nov. 10th, 1,272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Jean Croft 1, G. Cherry 2, S. H. Ashton 3, L. Runnacles 4, P. W. Croft 5, F. W. Croft (cond.) 6. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday. Also on Dec. 1st, 1,440 Bourne Surprise Minor: Jean Croft 1, G. Cherry 2, S. H. Ashton 3, L. Runnacles 4, P. W. Croft 5, F. W. Croft (cond.) 6. For Evensong.

HAWKHURST, KENT.—On Dec. 14th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (rung consecutively without standing): A. H. Kemp 1, R. Baker 2, W. Gorrings 3, R. E. Lambert 4, L. W. Jarvis 5, G. Pearson 6, R. J. Brown 7, T. Cullingworth 8. Kent conducted by G. Pearson, Grandsire conducted by W. Gorrings. Rung as a compliment to W. Gorrings on completion of 40 years' service with his employers. Birthday compliments to Mrs. R. Tappenden and Mr. G. Billenness.

HEMSWORTH, YORKS.—On Nov. 30th, 1,280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: D. Cubitt 1, Miss J. Roper (first of Surprise 'inside') 2, P. Mehew 3, H. Scott 4, J. F. Milner 5, V. Bottomley 6, W. E. Critchley 7, W. F. Moreton (cond.) 8. A birthday compliment to Miss J. Roper.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Doubles in 10 methods (120 each of Kennington, St. Simon's, Plain Bob, Chase Bob, Old Bob, London, Union Bob, Reverse Canterbury Bob, April Day and 180 Grandsire): A. Henman (cond.) 1, A. Ford 2, R. Henman 3, J. Kightley 4, L. Battison 5. For Evensong.

LONDON, S.W.—At Immanuel, Streatham, on Nov. 17th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: Miss D. Crowe (first of Major) 1, M. Williamson 2, R. Hinde 3, J. Cook 4, J. Euston (cond.) 5, W. Wilson 6, E. Talbot 7, J. Prior 8. Also at St. Stephen's Church, Clapham Park, on Dec. 10th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Tomsett 1, Miss S. Jacob (first of Treble Bob Major) 2, J. Euston (cond.) 3, M. Sinden 4, J. Cook 5, G. Parsons 6, R. Hinde 7, R. Sanders 8. For Confirmation service.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET.—On Dec. 7th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: H. Hardwidge 1, Mary Powell 2, M. J. Horseman 3, Mrs. R. Quint 4, J. Brain 5, L. Derrick (cond.) 6. Rung for the opening of the annual sale of work for the Church Restoration Fund.

NETHER COMPTON, DORSET.—On Dec. 13th, 1,260 St. Simon's Doubles: Miss W. Harewood 1, D. Sweet 2, E. Amey 3, R. J. Vardy 4, E. T. P.

Field (cond.) 5. First in the method by all. A farewell compliment to the Rector, who is retiring at the end of the month.

NORTH BRADLEY, WILTS.—On Dec. 8th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: Miss S. Brown 1, P. Harding 2, D. Knight 3, J. Case 4, A. Knight 5, E. Hitchins 6, L. Hitchins 7, F. Slatford (cond.) 8. First of Major 1, 4, 5 and 6. For patronal festival by service band.

OFFWELL, DEVON.—On Dec. 14th, 1,500 Grandsire Doubles: A. Hodge 1, J. Real 2, C. Manley 3, W. Sparks 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, G. Ackland 6.

RANMORE, SURREY.—On Dec. 7th, 1,280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: Miss F. Hankey 1, G. Oliver 2, E. G. L. Coward 3, A. Streeter 4, A. Smith 5, G. Francis 6, F. E. Roberts (cond.) 7, F. Hicks 8. First of Surprise for 1 and 4.

ROCKWELL GREEN, SOMERSET.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Taylor 1, C. Webber 2, H. Taylor (first quarter) 3, D. Salter 4, R. Trickey (cond.) 5, A. Chapman (first quarter) 6.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKS.—On Dec. 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss J. Robinson 1, Mrs. K. R. Foot (first 'inside') 2, V. A. Hemming (cond.) 3, J. K. Foot 4, K. R. Foot 5, J. T. Gwilt 6.

SKETTY, SWANSEA.—On Dec. 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Thorne 1, P. Whitworth 2, J. A. Hoare (cond.) 3, J. Dale (first quarter) 4, D. Asbridge 5, D. Robinson (first quarter) 6. For Confirmation service by the Archbishop-Elect of Wales (Dr. A. E. Morris).

STAMFORD HILL, N.—At St. Ann's Church, on Dec. 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. J. Rowe 1, Miss P. Rowe 2, Miss L. Hawes 3, Miss F. Secker 4, M. Rowe 5, M. Cubitt 6, B. Bladon 7, L. Green 8. First of Stedman Triples for all except 1 and 7. Also on Dec. 8th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: H. Howson 1, Miss P. Rowe (12) 2, Miss L. Hawes 3, Miss F. Secker 4, W. Theobald 5, M. Cubitt 6, M. J. Rowe 7, B. Bladon (first of Surprise Major as cond.) 8. First of Surprise Major for all except 5 and 8. Both rung by Sunday service bands.

STANMORE, MIDDLEX.—On Dec. 15th, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: T. Carless (first of Treble Bob) 1, Miss J. M. Wilcockson 2, Mrs. A. C. Wenban 3, A. C. Wenban 4, W. Wenban (cond.) 5, R. Stoddard 6. For evening service.

STINCHCOMBE, GLOS.—On Nov. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss C. Browning 1, R. Cox 2, V. Jellings 3, R. Trotman 4, S. Poole (cond.) 5, O. Mills 6. For the glory of God.

STOKE ALBANY, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 4th, 1,260 Minor (720 Kent Treble Bob, 540 Plain Bob): R. H. Idle 1, Miss S. Collins 2, Miss D. Lawless 3, G. E. Watson 4, B. S. Cone 5, B. Austin (cond.) 6.

STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. Brocklehurst 1, N. Buckland 2, P. Gray 3, W. Naylor 4, J. Laver (first as cond.) 5, Mrs. J. Gray 6.

TETTENHALL, STAFFS.—On Dec. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (with 7, 6, 8 covering): Miss B. Humphries (first quarter) 1, Miss B. Falkner 2, R. Humphries 3, Miss C. Slater 4, A. G. Newman (cond.) 5, F. Southwick 6, E. Southwick 7, H. Harris 8. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to R. Humphries, ringer of the 3rd.

TOTTERNHOE, BEDS.—On Dec. 15th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. J. Newman 1, R. J. Scott 2, Miss J. E. Gladman 3, J. G. Newman 4, W. Sear 5, J. W. Sinfield (cond.) 6. For Evensong.

WARSOP, NOTTS.—1,440 Plain Bob Minor (2nd hunt bell): Nancy Wilcox 1, B. Stevens 2, J. T. Rooke (first as cond.) 3, R. Lucas 4, F. Flint 5, H. T. Rooke 6.

WARWICK.—At St. Nicholas' Church, on Dec. 8th, 1,280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: A. R. Guy 1, Ruth M. Jackson 2, H. Summers 3, P. Stone 4, W. A. Stote 5, L. M. Callow 6, J. L. Garner-Hayward 7, P. Border (cond.) 8.

WESTMINSTER, S.W.—At St. Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, on Dec. 8th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: L. J. Batley 1, C. W. Otley 2, T. H. Taffender 3, M. Hawkes 4, F. A. Ranson 5, F. P. Mead 6, P. J. Hutchings (cond.) 7, C. M. Meyer 8.

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

Appropriately for Plough Sunday (January 12th) the B.B.C. are going into rural Wiltshire to broadcast the Parish Communion service at the Church of St. Sampson, Cricklade, at 9.45. The bells will be heard before the service in the West and North Home Services. Mr. Walter Witts is captain of the ringers.

St. Margaret's, Westminster, bells will be on the air on Sunday, January 12th, in the Home Service at 9.45 a.m.

Mr. Albert G. Ensor, who has been ringing at Shustoke, Warwickshire, for 40 years, rang his first peal on November 30th.

Congratulations to the band who rang a peal of 10,000 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Fairfield, Buxton, on December 14th, in 5 hours and 43 minutes. The peal constitutes a long-length record for the Derbyshire Association and was rung by a band whose ages range from 13 to 19.

Unfortunately, the peal of Stedman arranged at Hawkhurst to commemorate the 40 years' service with Esso Petroleum Company of the tower captain (Mr. William Gorrington) came to grief. Congratulations were, however, paid by two quarters—Kent T.B. and Grandsire—which were rung without standing. Afterwards the band was entertained to an excellent tea by Mr. and Mrs. Gorrington.

Five of the local band took part in the peal of Plain Bob Major at St. Nicholas', N. Stoneham, to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the granting of a Charter of Incorporation to the borough of Eastleigh. Twenty-one years ago, when the charter was presented to the town, a peal of Plain Bob Royal was rung, conducted by Mr. W. T. Tucker. Messrs. Reginald A. Reed and Harold P. Reed took part in both peals.

BELFRY GOSSIP

Since going to Leicester from Bedford, Miss Avril Thackray has been a regular ringer at the Cathedral for Sunday service and practice. She rang the treble to her first peal of Major on December 8th, and on December 9th rang the second to a peal of Yorkshire Maximus at Leicester Cathedral—her first peal on 12 bells and first of Surprise. A little nervous to start with, she soon settled down and rang a very good peal, to deserve the congratulations of the band.

Dr. P. Jonason, jun., entertained to supper the ringers of the peal at East Harling, which was a farewell to Miss Jill Creasy. His kindness was much appreciated.

Many who have enjoyed the hospitality of Bournemouth will regret the decision not to hold the ringers' rally and George Williams commemoration dinner in 1958 owing to the financial loss incurred with the 1957 function. We hope it is only temporarily in abeyance.

The peal of Superlative rung at St. Mary's Church, Anstey, Leicestershire, was also a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Jenney on the 54th anniversary of their marriage. The band wish them many more happy years. Congratulations to Avril Thackray on her first peal of Major, in which she rang the treble perfectly. It was John A. Acres' and Herrick B. Bowley's 300th peal on tower bells.

The first peal on the recast bells of Bromley is not without interest. These bells were broken when the church was destroyed by fire in the bombing, and recast by Gillett's in 1950. In the last peal on the bells in May, 1939, Mr. P. A. Corby conducted, and did so again on December 14th, ringing on both occasions the same bell. Also ringing the same bells in both peals were Mr. Arthur Richards (captain of West Wickham ringers) and Mr. Percy Spice (Bromley's captain).

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THOSE I REMEMBER

By ERNEST MORRIS

(Continued from page 793)

IT was very nice of 'M. R. P.' (whoever he or she may be) to give me such an encouraging 'puff' in your leader of December 6th, but the note on the late Harry Withers, of Birmingham, stole a bit of my 'thunder'! I remember him on one occasion at a meeting in Loughborough giving us a very fine recital on the small carillon of 40 bells which formerly hung in the tower on Mr. Taylor's lawn. A lot of visitors crowded around the clavier to see him play; then, clearing us all out, he locked himself in, and tapped off a splendid course of London Surprise Major. Had there been eight experienced ringers ringing this they could not have performed it more correctly. There were 50 or 60 ringers listening to it and everyone testified to its perfect striking.

On another occasion at a meeting in Birmingham, at the time when that city was an 'out-post' of the old M.C.A., I saw Harry Withers play on his dulcimer a course of that little-practised method of John Carter's—Scientific Triples—one of the most intricate Triples methods yet produced, still to be 'conquered' for a peal! Also on that occasion he sat at the piano, with William Willson sitting at the other end of the room calling a touch of Stedman Triples, which Harry tapped perfectly. Then John Carter and James E. Groves rang a course of Grandsire Triples 'four-in-hand.'

RECORDED RECORD-LENGTH PEALS

The last time I met Harry Withers was at Oxford. He was the first man I saw on coming out of the tower of Christ Church Cathedral after we had rung the record peal of Stedman Cinques. I asked him what he was doing there, and he gave me several sheets out of a notebook, and said: 'Here is the peal you rang'—he had recorded it as we rang it.

He did a similar thing when the record long peal of London Surprise was rung at King's Norton, Worcs, on May 11th, 1903 (14,112 changes). He took down every lead as it was rung—a wonderful feat. His figures at the conclusion were exactly the same as a sealed copy held by Mr. J. S. Pritchett. Once he conducted a peal of Superlative Surprise at Selly Oak, Birmingham, from outside, in the churchyard, giving notice of the calls to the ringers up in the tower by pressing an electric bell-push.

KEITH HART

On several occasions I visited Brighton for August holidays—before the time of 'staggered holidays'—and invariably there would be present for Sunday service ringing some 20 to 30 visitors (almost like a meeting day). Keith Hart was then in charge and he saw to it that everyone had a ring, even though it would be only rounds. He was most strict that whatever was done for service ringing *must* be perfect striking; if not, he would stop immediately and fix another team in. The same applied to peal ringing. He put each man on the bell he knew he would ring best, and never allowed 'big-heads' on the tenor or wherever they wanted to go.

On my first visit he 'put the wind up' me by saying after Sunday evening service: 'We are going for a peal of Stedman Caters in the morning—you are calling it.' I was unprepared for this—but spent the rest of the evening on the pebbles *digesting* one of F. H. Dexter's compositions; and when next morning I called it, Keith Hart admitted it to be a fine composition but was worried (still when after three hours of 7568's and 7698's (and the 5th in 2nd place) in alternate courses, he expected a rambling home-coming course. He was amazed when I

dropped out a single at 15, bob at 16, and rounds came up.

On one occasion I called a peal of Royal at Southover, Lewes, and a peal of Superlative was arranged for a day or so after, at Steyning. One of the visitors was asked if he could treble this method, and to prove him capable he made us ring a course there and then! Just one of his ways! This is what the late editor of the 'R.W.' said of him: 'He was a graceful ringer and invariably performed at the back end. With his mastery of bellringing he found it difficult to understand how other rational beings could make errors. Indifference in ringing and striking he would not tolerate, and because of his criticisms (he had the reputation of a John Blunt) he was at times misunderstood. He died in 1947, having rung 1,164 peals.'

AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

On returning from one of my early visits to Brighton (on a Sunday) I broke the journey home to call at London so that I might go to St. Paul's Cathedral. I had never visited the belfry so was anxious to do so. I did not then know the London ringers very well except those who rang with me in 1922 when the late Tom Langdon called my wedding peal at Stepney. Seeing a group of men near the Cathedral and noticing one had a bell tie-pin, I made myself known. One of the party said to me: 'You won't get a ring here. I belong to London and been up many times, but they don't invite me to ring.' I replied that I did not expect to ring, just wanted to say I'd been up that tower. The fellow was taken aback when shortly afterwards the genial and stately secretary—the late William T. Cockerill—came along and shook hands with me!

On ascending the tower to the ringing chamber that dear old character, Challis Winney, came and made me welcome, asking me questions all about Leicester and Charnwood Forest. He had relatives this way and had visited the district some years before. On the little warning bell ringing for the start of the service bells, Mr. Winney said: 'You ring my bell; I'll sit out!' This I did to the famous three-course touch of Stedman Cinques. At its conclusion Mr. Winney got behind me and said: 'When they say "Stand" you keep going and treble the middle six down.' I did this and then I was allowed to ring the tenor (62½ cwt.) for the sermon bell. I never saw the 'dismal Johnnie' again who said they wouldn't let me ring!

In 1938 the late editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, arranged a secretaries' peal of Stedman Cinques at Southwark Cathedral, when 12 secretaries from 12 different Associations and Guilds rang with bells half-muffled a tribute to the memory of Mr. W. T. Cockerill, who passed away during the week before. I had the great honour to be invited, and rang in this peal, of which Mr. Goldsmith wrote: 'A number of experts assembled outside to listen to the ringing, and the band received their congratulations upon having rung an excellent peal, which was conducted by Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, secretary of the Ladies' Guild.' Later that year (1938) the life-size bust of Mr. Cockerill—which had formerly been exhibited at the Royal Academy—was erected in the ringing chamber of St. Paul's Cathedral.

(To be continued)

BROAD HINTON, WILTS.—On Dec. 13th, 1,260 Doubles (120 each of Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, St. Simon's, St. Martin's, St. Osmund, St. Nicholas, Winchendon, St. Remigius and 180 Stedman): D. Manship 1, P. J. Shipton 2, J. C. Taylor 3, A. R. Peake (cond.) 4, J. E. G. Roast 5. First in ten methods 1 and 3.

'QUARTERS' AND SKITTLES

For several years it had been 'thought of' but suddenly over the pint pots in the 'local' it was more or less all fixed and all the ringers present were called upon by the two pioneers of the idea to make suitable notes in their diaries under 'St. Andrew's Day.' Thereafter there was much correspondence between our two pioneers, local clergy and others, and a programme was eventually sent out giving details of ringing for St. Andrew's Day—to be followed in the evening by a skittles match.

There are four towers in the Chew Deanery of the Bath and Wells Association dedicated to St. Andrew, and permission was given for a quarter peal attempt at each (an additional tower—not dedicated to this saint—was included to accommodate an excess of ringers!). Methods for the quarters were chosen to suit the capabilities of all the ringers of all the bands, viz.: Grandsire and Plain Bob—except the 'excess' at SS. Quiricus and Julietta, who rang mixed Doubles!

The advance party assembled at Chew Magna on the morning of November 30th, but rang only half-an-hour in an attempt for Grandsire Triples. Undaunted, they afterwards rang an excellent 1,260 Plain Bob Minor at Chew Stoke: Monica Fray 1, C. Clarke 2, J. Brain (first in

Bellringer's Diary

Readers have asked us to make two corrections to the Bellringer's Diary for 1958:—

Mr. George A. Watson, 27, Raby Road, Wheatley, Doncaster, is hon. secretary of the Doncaster and District Society.

Ely Diocesan Association (Cambridge District), secretary: Mr. E. W. Bullman, 132, Cambridge Road, Great Skelford.

method) 3, K. Prime 4, D. Miller 5, M. Horseman (conductor) 6. The same party during the afternoon visited East Harptree, Compton Martin and Ubley (all fine sixes) while another band attempted Grandsire Triples at Backwell. They also rang for only half-an-hour!

After a very satisfying tea at the house of our organiser-in-chief, both bands set off in cars—one to go to Clevedon for Grandsire Triples and one to Tickenham for mixed Doubles—and both were successful, viz.: 1,260 Grandsire Triples—Audrey Bailey 1, Monica Fray 2, J. Brain (first of Grandsire Triples) 3, T. Phillips 4, G. Cheetham 5, C. Clarke 6, R. Short (conductor) 7, J. Lott 8; 1,260 Doubles (being four extents of Stedman, three of Plain Bob, 3½ of Grandsire)—Mrs. R. Quint 1, W. Blake 2, K. Prime 3, D. Miller 4, L. Derrick (conductor) 5, H. Hardwidge 6.

The evening's entertainment was yet to come and a further augmented party met at The Ring of Bells, Nailsea, where the Bobs challenged the Singles (or vice-versa) to a skittles match. The winners, we were assured, would receive 'valuable prizes.' Although no one beat our sticker-up, who showed us how it should be done (during the interval), several ringers showed unsuspected skill, and those who didn't also had a prize! Votes of thanks, the promise of a return match at Bridgwater, and the singing of 'Ye Olde Ringers' Song' concluded a very enjoyable day.

A pleasing feature of the venture was that the ringing was of a high standard throughout. The ringers who took part represented 11 towers (including one each in Yorkshire, Norfolk and Hertfordshire). On the following day some of the party also rang at Hinton Blewett (5) for afternoon service and were joined by the local ringers.

M. E. F.

GRANDSIRE CATERS

Its Notation and Calling

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD

THE notation and calling of Grandsire Caters have always presented certain difficulties to the student. The method is blessed with an abundance of musical positions and a great variety of callings designed to produce or maintain these musical effects, and so it is not surprising to discover a multitude of ways in which courses may be called. What is not apparent at first sight is that many of these callings are the same thing expressed in different language, and that much of what is to the eye so complex may, with a little study and a grasp of some general principles, be resolved into an intelligible and comprehensible formula. To arrive at this desirable stage it may be profitable to consider briefly in what manner Grandsire Caters differs from the even-bell methods and, indeed, from other Cater methods. The two main differences are (a) the course end, and (b) the effect of calls.

Generally speaking, the even-bell methods have a fixed course end. In Major it is the backstroke row 1 78, and on the other numbers of bells it is something analogous. Apart from certain unusual compositions this is the recognised course end, and all callings and calling positions are related to it and calculated from it. But in Grandsire Caters the course end may be one of many arrangements of the heavy bells. In the Tittums it may be 978 or it may be 789; in the Handstroke Home it is usually 879 and sometimes 7698; other musical arrangements of the heavy bells may offer the following course-ends: 7968, 7896, 9876, and many more like them. In fact, the student will readily perceive that using the back bells only to provide musical course ends, and the transpositions of 789 will provide six different course ends, and the transpositions of 6789 will secure twenty-four different course ends.

The effect of calls on the course, and on the heavy bells, provides the second important difference between Grandsire Caters and the even-bell methods, and also, in some degree, distinguishes Grandsire from certain other Cater methods. In the even-bell methods the tenors will usually be found to be unaffected (or little affected) by calls. Apart from one or two interesting and useful divergencies from the normal (such as the bob Before, the bob at 5 in Double Norwich, the In and Fifths in London) the standard even-bell methods leave their heavy bells alone and do not impair the normal length of the course. The cases of certain Treble Bob methods are peculiar and bring us nearer to the construction of Grandsire, while the Cater versions of Stedman and Double Norwich show an interesting combination of fixed and fluid courses, the heavy bells being affected by opening and turning courses and in the main undisturbed by standard callings.

In Grandsire it is in the nature of the method that most of the bells are affected by calls, and this means that the large bells cannot escape their share of bob making, although they will not lose their fixed formation. The length of the course, too, is modified by the calling of bobs and singles, the effect of calls being to advance the work of the bells and so shorten the course. The curious phenomena provided by the very early peals of Grandsire Caters, in which one bell was used as observation bell and was called Before for several courses, certainly provided courses of seven leads, a length identical with the plain course, but such compositions are musically valueless and can have little or no bearing on our present considerations. For all practical purposes it may be taken that bobs and singles in Grandsire Caters shorten the courses, providing six-lead, five-

lead, and, in one peculiar formation, four-lead courses.

It is the aim of this essay to analyse and examine some of these callings in order to make clear what their notation implies and what transpositions their operation will perform.

It will be convenient to ignore, for the time being, the opening courses, and to take up straight away the examination and analysis of what may be described as the standard callings, that is, the callings that leave the heavy bells in the musical position into which they have been thrown. The Tittum placing of the bells, being one of the most usual, will serve for the first investigation.

The normal Tittum course end is 978. In most well-constructed peals and touches advantage will be taken of the musical value of the 6th, and many course ends will be either 6978 or 6978. Certain callings will preserve the formation of 978 and also leave the 6th in one of these two positions, but some of these will produce a five-lead course and some will produce a six-lead course.

Let us take first of all three important callings that preserve the 6th-place bell intact, and examine each separately. This calling, which

is often described as 9 in 3, will be found also designated 9 in and 2 (which is perhaps more correct), or simply 9-3, which is a convenient and easily understood convention. It is, of course, 9 in and out of the hunt, with an added call to fetch 7 out of the hunt, because it is clear that if 7, 8 and 9 are to be kept together, none of the three must be allowed to remain in the hunt. The 7th, in this calling, as in several others, is an important guide: for the wise conductor, who does not trust to memory, knows that in calling 9-3 the third, and last, call is the one that brings 7 out of the hunt. This calling, it should be noted, also preserves the fifths place bell, and so may be used, if required, to keep 6, or any other bell, in fifths place.

Calling B is often described as 8 in 3, sometimes as 8 in and 2, and in the shorter form 8-3. These calls come at the second, third and fourth leads of the course, and at the last call 89 dodge together behind. It is this double dodging of 89 and the fact that 6 must be brought out of the hunt that provides proof that this is the last call of the course. The student will doubtless observe that the last call could have been omitted without destroying the Tittum position. This procedure would, nevertheless, leave 6 in the hunt, and so part it from its sixths-place position. This moving of the 6th will be referred to later. It should be noted that 8-3 retains the sixths-place bell but changes the fifths-place bell. The fact that the new fifths-place bell is the bell-in-the-hunt of the previous course end is a most important and influential matter.

While A and B each provide a five-lead course, C runs into six leads. There is no difficulty in calling the single, for it comes at the first lead after the course end, and from then on there is no further calling and the course end is allowed to run up plain. The two most interesting observations are first, that the big bells make thirds one after the other in the order 9, 8, 7, 6, and

second, that once again the new fifths-place bell is the bell-in-the-hunt of the previous course end. The sixths-place bell is, of course, retained. This calling is designated 1s.

Experience has shown that no small number of conductors of Grandsire Caters, while perfectly comfortable with the callings 9-3 and 8-3, are far from happy in the matter of the long-course callings, two of which are shown at D and E respectively. It is indeed a long time to wait until the fifth lead in one case and until the sixth lead in the other, and some fairly precise observation is needed to replace the doubtful expedient of trusting to memory. Happily there is a safe and simple guide in this matter. It rests in an observation of the heavy bells and their successive making of thirds, and particularly in a scrupulous attention to the 7th, for the

D
23456978

25394867
29583746
28975634
27869453
— 46237589
43652978

E
23456978

25394867
29583746
28975634
27869453
— 26748395
— 34256978

7th is the key to the whole matter. Study of these long courses will soon reveal that when the first of the heavy bells makes thirds the Tittum position is temporarily lost, and no call is possible until that position is restored. The making of thirds by the next bell, the 8th, indeed brings 8 and 9 together, but 7 is still away from her companions. As soon as 7 has made thirds the Tittums position is fully re-established, and the ear, as well as the eye, will record the fact. The time has come for the call at 5. This calling is usually known as '89,' because it causes 8 and 9 to double dodge together behind.

For the calling E the same observations and the same acute scrutiny of the 7th must be carried out, but in this case the call is delayed one lead later, that is, two leads after 7 has made thirds and the Tittum position restored. This calling is known as '78,' because it causes 7 and 8 to double dodge behind and, in fact, brings up the course end.

The importance of using the 7th as an observation and a guide in these callings cannot be over-emphasised.

The two callings F and G are interesting examples of a combining of C, D and E, and are by no means uncommon in certain types of composition. The first is often expressed as 1s and 89, but may also turn up in the conveniently shortened form, 1s, 4. The second is known as 1s and 78, but this, too, may be expressed as 1s 5. It should be noted that the calling F changes both the fifths-place and the sixths-place bells, and so is not likely to be used in a block that seeks to preserve a fixed bell in fifths or sixths. It is, however, a very useful calling for short touches where bells often have to be moved quickly from one position to another.

G
23456978

s 59283746
58972634
57869423
— 46537289
43625978

F
23456978

s 59283746
58972634
57869423
56748392
— 34526978

(To be continued)

STAMFORD HILL, N.—At St. Ann's Church, on Dec. 15th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Miss L. Howes 1, Miss P. Rowe 2, Miss F. Secker 3, W. A. Theobald (cond.) 4, H. Howson 5, M. J. Rowe 6, M. Cubitt 7, E. J. Rowe 8. First of Kent Treble Bob Major for all except the conductor.

TODDINGTON, BEDS.—On Dec. 10th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. K. Spavins 1, W. Sear (first 'inside') 2, Ann Spavins 3, K. Spavins 4, P. Newing 5, T. Pett (cond.) 6, R. Bloxham cover bell. A 21st birthday compliment to the conductor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CARTER'S ODD-BOB PEAL OF STEDMAN

Dear Sir,—I had the pleasure recently of 'bob calling' Carter's Odd-Bob peal of Stedman Triples at Gateshead, albeit at the fifth attempt. The version of the peal I called appears in Trollope's 'Stedman' (1938 edition, page 58), and this was also the peal Mr. W. E. Critchley first called for the Yorkshire Association at Doncaster in 1952 and which was published as being 'Carter's Odd-Bob (second version).'

I understood that the version Mr. R. G. Leale called some months ago in the Home Counties was what I know as the 'original' Odd-Bob, in which the singles are called in the opening courses of the composition.

Both of the above versions are generally published in this paper as Carter's Odd-Bob, yet they are very different to call.

Which version was called for the peal at Cookham by John D. Kape (page 767)? One presumes, as it is published as Carter's Odd-Bob Twenty-part, that it is the second version.

Would any learned Stedman expert give us the full history and details of the compositions and suggest some standardisation of the way in which the peals can be published? Is the 'original' harder to call than the No. 2?

Incidentally, the version William H. Barber called blindfold at Gateshead in 1908 was what I have called the 'original.'—Yours faithfully,

J. A. AINSWORTH.

Newcastle upon Tyne.

COMPOSITION No. 21

Dear Sir,—So far I have failed to see the reason of our learned friend getting so hot around the collar. I cannot see that I have done a great deal of wrong in bringing to light something that has been hidden for a period of many years. I wonder if anyone has ever done this before?

In a gentlemanly way, Mr. C. W. Roberts gave all particulars concerning the above; since then all claim has been withdrawn.

Now an interesting point arises. Mr. Roberts clearly states that the composition in question was composed and rung over 50 years ago, under the name of York Green. If this is correct, and I do not doubt it, coming from such a source, how is it that I am told a week later that the first 13 courses were by Dains and the last ten courses were by A. Knights? If this is so, who then does the whole belong to? Just fancy, and so soon after 1902.

Several times I have been offered compositions from friends to look through and comment on. I refused this offer on the grounds that I would not like to be accused of using another person's material. And yet I am accused of doing this very thing—no wonder he weeps. Many of my compositions were got out years ago, but are only now being rung. Should any of them clash with something gone before, then all claim will be waived. Experience is also mentioned (many thanks). For my experience tells me that wisdom is the difference between pulling your weight and throwing it about.—Yours sincerely,

E. W. TIPLER.

Lutterworth.

'THOUGHTS AFTER CAMBRIDGE MAXIMUS'

Dear Sir,—Over the first letter to you printed in 'The Ringing World' of December 13th readers are invited to register their agreement or disagreement with what has been written by R. Newman, Holloway, 7. May I for one say that I am wholly in agreement with the writer. Had an ordinary person with no previous knowledge of the publication come across that particular page with its so-called funny (what rot) cartoon, he would probably have thought he'd picked up a brewer's journal or something similar.

I have found in the two to three years that I have taken 'The Ringing World' that, to me, the most lowering feature of its contents is its attitude towards alcoholic drink. If you read the 1956 statistics this is still one of the country's greatest vices and increasingly so.

I read in another letter to you the statement that 'the "R.W." is a technical journal.' Perhaps so, but isn't it primarily the week-by-week report of the activities of a certain branch of church work, chiefly the calling of people to worship? As one who has served as a chorister for over 20 years and is now serving in the belfry, may I join with the aforementioned correspondent and respectfully ask that this matter of drink shall not be treated too lightly in what I like to feel is, I repeat, primarily a religious journal.—Yours, etc.,

N. ROBINSON.

Willingham, Cambs.

Dear Sir,—I think that your correspondent, R. Newman, ought to go and find a quiet corner and bury himself in gloom. Why should the fact that quite a number of bellringers like a drink of beer be hidden under a cloak? In these days I think there is too much reluctance in general for people to come out into the open and say what they think.

In my reply to R. N., I would like to say that in my experience as a former chorister and sidesman, now as a ringer, and connected with church all my life, I have found that the majority of good workers and organisers in the Church are the people who enjoy a drink of beer. So long as it is not abused, why shield the fact?

Far from being degrading, I think that the cartoon in question was very good, and worthy of publication. My opinion of all R. J. B.'s cartoons that have appeared in 'The Ringing World' is that they have been very good indeed and help to brighten the paper.

More power to your elbow, R. J. B., and any other artist who should aspire in this direction. Let's have a page of cartoons!—Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS R. LOWE.

Derby.

ANOTHER LAUGH

Dear Sir.—I would like to congratulate Mr. Newman in his letter on page 807 for managing to extract another laugh from the cartoon of November 29th. A sense of humour seems rare in the 'R.W.' these days.—Yours sincerely,

RICHARD SPEED.

Stretton-on-Dunsmore.

AFTER THE PEAL

Dear Sir,—Mr. Newman's letter amused me much more than the cartoon he takes to be in bad taste. One would gather that ringers in general made post-haste to the nearest hostelry as a matter of course, which I can assure him is not the case. In my experience it is too often the case that having rung at a tower away from home the band have had to dash to catch a bus or train, thus allowing no opportunity to realise the thoughts depicted in the cartoon.

It has been my pleasure in the last ten years to share the beverages to be obtained at the Griffin in Godshill with ringers from all over the country, and it is my hope that I may do so with many more in the years to come.

Best wishes.—Yours sincerely,

L. BAILEY.

Godshill, I.W.

P.S.—Did the trousers of last week's 'victim' ever reach the floor?—L. B.

OAKLEY, NEAR EYE, SUFFOLK

Dear Sir,—The six bells of St. Nicholas', Oakley, have just been taken down for overhaul and for a steel frame to be put in. Messrs. Taylor are doing the work. One of the bells is pre-Reformation, one a Dobson, one Mears and three are by John Goldsmith, 1711. The tenor is 10-11 cwt. Cut deeply into the frame, now dismantled, is 'GEO. DAY & SON, BELL-HANGERS, EYE, 1879. GMP BJA.'

The job is costing over £1,000 and Oakley has half of it in hand.—Yours sincerely,

CLAUDE RUSH.

Eye, Suffolk.

MISUNDERSTOOD

Dear Sir,—I must apologise for having misunderstood Mr. Marshall's statements in his letter; they are correct, and I should like to amplify his example as follows.

Calling 'rounds' R:—

A 34187652	R 12345678
A+B 16278453	B 23165487
B 23165487	R 12345678
B×A 16278453	A 34187652

These four rows are merely switched round, and the fact that, in Mr. Marshall's terminology, A+B=B×A serves to illustrate what I termed the 'fundamental relationship.'—Yours, etc.,

B. D. PRICE.

35, Church Lane,
Brighouse, Yorks.

THE LIGHTEST TENOR

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of December 13th you published an account of a day trip, when the bells at Staulton, near Pershore, were visited. I note that the tenor is 56 lb., and I would be very grateful if C. M. S. would send more details, as I thought that the bells at Balscote, whose tenor weighs 1 cwt. 2½ lb., were the lightest in the country.—Yours sincerely,

ROBIN J. TREBILCOCK.

Headington, Oxford.

The band of the peal at St. Andrew's, Old Headington, are very grateful to Miss Marion Gould for ringing at short notice. She took the place of Robin Trebilcock, who was prevented from conducting the peal by an attack of influenza.

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A SHAPE FOR THINGS TO COME

PART I.

TWO bellringers had been discussing the advancement of the ringing art and arising from their conversation was the inescapable idea that the Exercise is seriously handicapped by the size, weight and cost of the equipment needed to carry it on.

Of the two ringers, Dan Doubtful was the more down to earth in his outlook. 'I cannot believe,' he said, 'that the English game of football would have become world-wide if it required a tower of a hundred tons or more, and a couple of thousands pounds worth of metal in order to play it.' To his companion, Ned Neway, these words seemed like a challenge. A vision of the frail little tower of St. James' swam before his eyes—St. James', the daughter church of the Parish Church, at which he was a ringer. An idea was beginning to take shape in his mind—'Twelve bells at St. James'—just the tower for a light set—' his thoughts were being voiced aloud as he said goodnight to his friend.

Dan Doubtful was curious a few nights later. He had just locked up after the practice and everyone else had gone home except Ned, who was waiting for him at the foot of the stairs. 'What did you mean the other day when you said that St. James' would be a good tower for a light twelve? Why, the church has no tower, only that little turret with a spire.'

Ned Neway was silent for a moment. He had long since given up his once cherished aspirations to call a peal of Spliced Surprise. But Ned was none the less attached to the art, and was for ever on the look out for means of helping it that did not depend on his skill in actual ringing. It was said that he was a relative of that redoubtable Mr. Wol, whose resourcefulness once saved a peal by a remarkable feat of technical jugglery on the tenor (see 'The Ringing World,' May 11th, 1956; page 299), but the inherited resourcefulness came out in Ned in quite a different way.

Ned Neway: 'Yes, that's right. It is only a turret but it is bigger than it looks. The verger let me go up and see it. There is plenty of height in the bell-cot, and it is just over four feet across inside. Now what it wants is a set of fixed bells intermediate in size and character between tower-bells and handbells threaded on to a central shaft like clock chimes, and rung by electric clappers.'

Dan Doubtful: 'How do you mean "threaded on to a shaft"? I don't quite see.'

N. N.: 'Like a stack of flower pots, or nesting chairs, but with sufficient spacing to prevent actual contact. You could have them hung in a row instead, but there is very little room in the turret at St. James', and I suggest nesting them to economise in space. Then all you need below is a number of "dummy handbells" with contact switches in place of clappers and connected to a switchboard with flexible wires. Each "dummy" operates the electric clapper to a bell in the turret above. To ring, just switch on the current and use the "dummies" exactly as you use ordinary handbells.'

D. D.: 'Oh! but you could not call that ringing, could you? Why go to the bother of "dummy" handbells? Why not just a keyboard like a carillon?'

N. N.: 'Yes, you could have a keyboard as well if you liked, but, as I see it, the main point is to have an installation in which a band of ringers can ring to the glory of God as an act of worship. There seems to me to be no fundamental reason why they could not achieve this "in hand" as effectively as they can "on the rope."'

D. D.: 'But why have bells at all if you are going to have them electrically operated?

Why not use the modern electronic method of reproducing bell sounds, or use ordinary handbells with amplifiers and loudspeakers, as has been done at Sutton, Surrey?'

N. N.: 'I certainly think that the system tried at Sutton is a step in the right direction, but bells have for many years been used by the church. The genuine bell has an appeal of its own, which no ecclesiastical juke-box, however good, can match.'

D. D.: 'What about the electric hammers? Surely they are out of keeping with tradition?'

N. N.: 'No more so than the electric organ blower, which is accepted without question.'

D. D.: 'It may seem all right to you, Ned, but count me out of it. Chiming changes on fixed gongs! Anyone who seriously contemplated it would be the laughing stock of the whole Exercise. Besides, there would be a widespread fear that if the idea of having ringing bells hung "dead" began to catch on it would mean the end of the art as we know it to-day.'

N. N.: 'I don't think that there would be any real danger to established towers in the foreseeable future. After all, the arrival of the motor car did not force the railways out of business, nor did the cinema oust the theatre. Paradoxically, the introduction of new methods often stimulates rather than suppresses the old. I think there is a definite place for this new type of ringing in churches where, for lack of a suitable tower, conventional ringing is not practicable. The new method would supplement the old rather than destroy it, and I am sure it would make a special appeal to handbell ringers.'

D. D.: 'Possibly a few handbell ringers if you could find enough of them.'

N. N.: 'The establishment of "handbell" towers would give a new lease of life to handbell ringing. All sorts of erstwhile handbell ringers would reappear, and peals "in hand" where rung in such towers would acquire a new meaning and purpose.'

D. D.: 'You are far too much of an idealistic dreamer, Ned. You open "The Ringing World" and see only a small proportion of peals rung "in hand" and say "Ah! If only handbell peals could be rung to the glory of God, sounding forth from tower or steeple, there would be far more of them." The average peal ringer is often apt to forget this aspect of ringing in the intensity of concentration necessary to achieve the peal. There is more in tower bell ringing than in handbells, and that is the reason why there are more peals.'

N. N.: 'Oh, no. I don't think that you can say there is more in tower bell ringing except physically. Besides, ringers do regard their ringing as a service to the Church. This accounts for the prevalence of tower peals. Moreover, they would be keen to ring out the Church's call by whatever means were available and would not hesitate because it did not conform to their established ideas on how it ought to be done. I believe that every church has a right to the use of bells in its worship and everyone has a right to hear and, if inclined that way, to ring the bells of his own church, wherever he lives. If there is no suitable tower, or the cost of swinging bells cannot be faced, I think a cheaper substitute should be available.'

D. D.: 'I do not think that you are looking the true ringing facts of life quite fairly and squarely in the face. You must know that there are many fine old rings of bells about the country which are hardly ever heard, and often the reason is the difficulty of getting a reliable regular band. If what you say were true there would be a full ringing service, a complete band, and probably a lengthy waiting list of learners at almost every tower. If you cannot be sure of manning the ropes of a

genuine peal, what hope would you have of manning a bunch of "dummy" handbells?'

N. N.: 'I often think that one of the causes why many of our towers are silent may well be the high degree of skill necessary to produce first-class ringing. There are many people who have been scared off ringing in the early stages by unfortunate experiences with a bell out of control. There are quite a number of people who are temperamentally unsuited to handling tower bells but who would make quite good handbell ringers, and of whom this scheme might be the only means of bringing in the Exercise.'

D. D.: 'I see. Your proposal then is to offer greater ringing opportunities and scope, but can this hybrid scheme really help?'

N. N.: 'All I claim is that some such scheme as I have outlined might help to awaken wider interest. Is the Exercise to adapt itself to the changing conditions of a changing world and survive and grow with the Church, or is it to remain hard and inflexible and, like the prehistoric monsters, gradually die out?'

D. D.: 'Well, yes, your argument sounds quite plausible put that way, Ned, but I think that the Exercise has survived, and will continue to survive, only by its insistence on the maintenance of the high standards set up by former masters of the art, not by makeshift substitutes. Now you want to introduce something which is alien to the accepted practice of swinging bells apparently on the grounds that it has become necessary in a changing world. What are the changing conditions that you have in mind?'

N. N.: 'First of all, Dan, don't forget that handbell ringing is an accepted practice already recognised to some extent by the Church, which owns quite a number of sets of handbells. My scheme merely proposes to extend the application of this principle. With regard to the changing conditions, I was thinking particularly of the need to economise in materials. Have you ever studied the construction of any of the flimsier of our new churches or compared them with the ancient parish churches? If so, you must have realised how utterly incongruous a huge buttressed tower and ring of bells would be. That is where my scheme would come in, and the established bellfounders are the people to tackle it.'

D. D.: 'I don't think you can quite say that. The idea that ringing—modern change ringing, what we now call the "Exercise"—is an act of worship, part of the service of the Church, is one which has never been generally accepted. In places where there has never been any ringing tradition there would be no demand for peals in any shape or form or at any price. Knowing this, bellfounders are hardly likely to waste time and money developing new types of bells.'

N. N.: 'I agree that the majority of people have not had the privilege of any personal experience of the spiritual, mental, social and other blessings which ringing brings. You and I, however, have had this privilege. We are fully aware that the rewards that ringing offers are not cheap. It often means a hard struggle and a lot of work. For many, the difficulties to be overcome are too great. They fall out by the wayside and are lost. Is it not right that we, who have won some measure of success, should be anxious to pave an easier path to extend the benefits of ringing to our less fortunate neighbours?'

D. D.: 'By substituting the strap for the rope; and what would you propose to do next?'

N. N.: 'The first step is that of sensing the opinions of others who might be interested, especially the clergy, and the diocesan chancellors who grant or refuse faculties for installations in churches, and, of course, the bellfounders.'

(Continued next page)

A Shape For Things to Come—Cont.

D. D.: 'The bellfounders would not be at all happy about all those electrical bits and pieces. Hardly in their line, is it?'

N. N.: 'I see no real difficulty there. If the bellfounder did not wish to make these accessories he would appoint more suitable firms as sub-contractors and still retain the main contract for the whole installation. It is quite common practice.'

D. D.: 'You certainly seem to have got it all worked out, but what about the Ministry? What do they really think about the potential value of bell ringing, and how would they view the prospect of a minor revolution?'

N. N.: 'Where opinions exist at all they naturally vary. There is no doubt whatever that bell ringing undertaken in the right spirit is appreciated by many of the clergy, and indeed highly cherished even by top brass. You have only to read the speeches of bishops at ringers' annual meetings to see that the Ministry is not blind to the value of the services that a loyal band of ringers can offer. If the spirit of service and worship is there I do not think they would lose much sleep over the mechanical details of its execution.'

D. D.: 'Do you think the diocesan chancellor would be likely to grant faculties?'

N. N.: 'I think they would be guided to a large extent by what they believed would be appropriate for the particular church concerned. I cannot say what else they might consider, but I know that they have in some cases granted faculties for recorded bells and other kinds of installations which do not offer anything like the same facilities for service and worship as my scheme does.'

D. D.: 'Good old Ned! I am sure this brainwave is going to see a revolution in ringing such as has not been seen since the introduction of the full-wheel, stay and slider.'

N. N.: 'I am afraid you will be disappointed then. I don't think the climate here in the 20th century feels right for this kind of thing, but perhaps it would be rash to rule out the possibility. In the past, many schemes have been proposed years before they were generally adopted. For example, several machines of the motor scooter type were made privately before the war but there was no sale for them. Then suddenly the fashion caught on and now there's no stopping them.'

D. D.: 'Yes, but how did they get started?'

N. N.: 'Scooters? Well, presumably the Italians, who pioneered the movement, had faith in their ideas, developed them, and took a chance and went ahead with their project and reaped their reward. It seems worth inquiring of the bellfounders whether something of this kind might not be done for bell ringing.'

D. D.: 'Using your ideas? They would need an awful lot of faith in their merits, and in the ideals that the scheme hopes to bring out. All the same, go ahead with your letter, and I wish you luck.'

C. E. V.

(To be continued)

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations towards the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—J. W. G. £1.

Peals.—Eccleston 3s., Shustoke 3s., Bromley 5s., Huish Episcopi 4s., Warminster 4s., Ashted 5s., Penarth 3s. 6d.

Quarter Peals.—Dover 2s. 6d., Beoley 6s., Little Houghton 2s. 6d., Bushey Heath 4s., Warwick 5s., Sketty 2s. 6d., Clerkenwell 2s. 6d., London, S.W. 4s., Nether Compton 2s. 6d., Brighton 2s., Cape Town 2s. 6d., North Bradley 4s., Hawkhurst (2) 4s., Stanmore 3s.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD**Mr. A. V. Davis Retires as Secretary of Christchurch District**

The annual meeting of the Christchurch District was held at Christchurch on December 7th, when 42 members and visitors were present at the service held in the Christchurch Priory, which was conducted by the Rev. Canon R. P. Price (Vicar of Christchurch) and the sermon preached by the Rev. J. B. Elliott (Vicar of Hordle).

The annual meeting followed tea in the Priory Restaurant. Rear-Admiral Everett was re-elected chairman, and Mr. W. T. Godfrey was elected District secretary to succeed Mr. A. V. Davis, who had retired after being secretary for 12 years. Tributes were paid to Mr. A. V. Davis for his devoted service during these years. Mr. W. E. Cheater and Mr. R. Marlow were re-elected joint Ringing Masters. Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay and Mr. D. T. Matkin were re-elected executive council representatives and Mr. R. Hurst was re-elected hon. auditor.

Following a report on the 1957 ringers' rally and George Williams commemoration dinner by Mr. D. T. Matkin, it was decided, with regret, that owing to the financial loss sustained in connection with the 1957 function no rally or dinner would be held during 1958. It was resolved that the matter should be discussed again at the next annual general meeting of the District.

BALDOCK RINGERS' DINNER

The Baldock ringers and their friends gathered for the annual dinner at the Rose and Crown on December 14th. The party was informally grouped; indeed, the only formal toast was that of 'The Queen,' proposed by Canon F. G. Brenchley. After an excellent meal, carols and methods were rung on the handbells.

The peal attempt in the afternoon was brought to a premature end because the striking was poor.

J. S.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. G. Billenness, secretary of the Hawkhurst and District Guild and a member of St. Lawrence's, Hawkhurst, tower, is, owing to failing health, unable to ring.

Stuffed Owls To Keep Bats Away

At Gissing, Norfolk, where the five bells are unringable, two stuffed owls are kept in the church for the purpose of scaring bats.

From time to time one was placed on the pulpit and the other on a pew at the opposite end of the church. The birds were said to have the effect of discouraging bats from swooping low over the congregation and preacher during the services, but they did not appear to keep bats out of the church altogether.

It is argued that although bats are almost blind, they are aware of the shapes and textures of objects through echosounding, and according to a Gissing theorist there is no reason to suppose that they would fail to notice a stuffed owl inside a church even in the midst of the congregation.

5,152 RUISLIP SURPRISE MAJOR

By JOHN R. MAYNE

2 3 4 5 6	M	W	B	H
5 2 4 3 6	—	—	3	—
4 3 5 2 6	—	—	—	—
(3 2 4 6 5)	—	X	—	—
4 2 5 6 3	—	—	3	—
5 2 3 6 4	—	—	3	—
2 4 3 6 5	—	—	2	—
3 2 5 4 6	4ths and In	—	3	—
(2 4 3 6 5)	—	X	—	—
3 2 4 6 5	—	—	—	—
3 5 4 2 6	4ths and In	—	2	—
2 3 4 5 6	—	—	3	—

Rung at Willesden, Middx, on June 6th, 1957, conducted by the composer.

RUGBY, WARWICKS.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Dec. 13th, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: Mrs. W. Vann 1, C. Underwood 2, E. Hunt 3, J. Underwood 4, P. Howitt 5, P. Fisher 6, W. Vann (cond.) 7, S. Osborne 8. For Confirmation service.

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OBITUARY

MR. H. W. GIDDINGS

The death occurred on Wednesday, December 11th, after an illness of six months' duration, of Mr. Henry W. Giddings, of March, Cambridgeshire. His wife predeceased him in 1956, and two daughters are left to mourn their loss.

Mr. Giddings, who was in his 81st year, was a bellringer at St. Wendreda's Church. He was also verger, a position he held for over 30 years until ill-health forced him to relinquish this work some months ago. A devoted churchman, 'Harry,' as his many friends knew him, was a Sunday School teacher and clock-winder, and in addition to these duties was caretaker of the churchyard and church hall.

His chief interest, however, was bellringing, and he was well-known for his many fine poems, especially those referring to bells. For several years in his younger days he was secretary of the Ely Diocesan Association, and became a popular figure in that capacity.

Reserved in nature, Mr. Giddings possessed a fine philosophical spirit which is rarely observed in these days, and through his unassuming yet confident and helpful way he endeared himself to many in all walks of life. A Sunday School scholar once said that her idea of a Christian was to be like Mr. Giddings.

He loved to be with young people, and he taught many the art of ringing bells; nothing gave him greater pleasure than to see his pupils progress in this way. His knowledge of the theory of bellringing was hardly to be surpassed. He had no peals to his credit but was, first and foremost, loyal to his church in Sunday service ringing, and on practice nights it gave him great delight to 'climb the belfry stair and meet his brother ringers there.'

'Harry' was also an accomplished flutist and enjoyed method and tune ringing on handbells.

His fellow ringers paid their final tribute on the day of the funeral by ringing the bells half-muffled prior to the service, and following the interment a well-struck peal of Minor was rung half-muffled by Miss Freda P. Greaves, T. A. Bevis, M. Gathercole, W. Rose, F. S. Parsons and W. Harding (conductor).

Truly, Mr. Giddings' lasting memorial may be heard from the tower of St. Wendreda's, in which shadow he reclines—the bells, which were his pride and joy. T. A. B.

LATE NOTICES

ARCHDEACONRY OF HALIFAX GUILD.—Annual meeting, Huddersfield Parish Church (10), Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. No tea arrangements, but plenty of cafes. Business meeting and bells afterwards. 1536

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—Next meeting at Whitnash on Saturday, Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the local ringers. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., followed by a social in the evening at 7. All ringers and friends welcome. Names for tea by Jan. 1st, please.—H. M. Windsor, The Bakery, Long Itchington, near Rugby, Warwickshire. 1535

'HILL' METHODS AMONG THE WILTSHIRE HILLS

Having sampled the intricacies of Chiltern T.B. Minor in an appropriate setting earlier in the year, Mr. Brian Bladon felt the challenge of ringing a peal in seven of those methods named after hills and mountains, and again chose his native county as a venue, another 'Weekend Wheatsheaf' at Swindon resulting, John Mayne and Victor Griffin joining the usual party. Once again overcrowded but reliable, if somewhat draughty, Morris Cowley transport was laid on from distant Derby.

A preliminary peal of Cheviot was first brought round in fine style on the good, heavy six at Collingbourne Kingston, to revise the unusual work involved, after which the 'Sally Lunn' restaurant at Collingbourne Ducis fortified body and mind ready for the main onslaught on Chiltern, Cheviot, Cotswold, Mendip, Pennine, Quantock and Snowdon at Upavon, a beautiful six on the edge of Salisbury Plain.

The member of the party with a Welsh name pointed out that Berwyn was also the name of a mountain range, but was overruled with the objection that it was bad enough to learn the difference between Cotswold and Mendip without learning an extra method. However, a good peal was duly brought round, Cotswold proving the main snag for some reason.

Service ringing on the fine heavy six at Purton next morning enabled us to renew acquaintance with Mr. Ralph Shailes and to ring a course of Burslem Delight, the method chosen for the afternoon peal attempt. Philip had already chosen our tower for us, but it was with some forebodings that we wended our way over 30 miles of chalk country to Edington Priory, a magnificent church beneath the Westbury Downs.

We were horrified to note the ominous rumblings and shudders from the maze of wooden framework that filled the low central tower as we raised the bells singly, a very heavy old six, upon which no peal has ever been known. We were even more horrified when the opening rounds not only revealed that the bells were in no recognisable scale, but also sounded down upon us with overpowering noise.

Conducting and conversation had to be done by signs, but things went better than expected, the bells having just been rehung (very skilfully) on ball-bearings by a local ringer. A good peal would no doubt have been rung but for three unfortunate discoveries. First, that every time the fourth got in a certain change the other bells acted upon their own initiative. Secondly, the necessary steady pace made it impossible to finish by service time. Thirdly—a dreadful shock—the light had not been switched on! John nearly caused disaster in attempting to reach for the switch.

As a result the peal was brought round, reluctantly, at the half-way mark; but this was probably the greatest length on the bells and of Burslem Delight to date.

Ralph then left us on his long, cold, motorcycle journey, while the rest went to catch trains at Chippenham or to take the long road to the industrial north—another most satisfactory Wiltshire weekend completed. D. P. J.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Taunton Deanery A.G.M.

The Parish Church of St. George's, Wilton, Taunton, was the venue for the Taunton Deanery annual meeting on December 7th. Altogether ringers from 16 towers were present for the Guild service, conducted by the Vicar (Rev. T. M. Clark), which was followed by tea in the Schoolroom, and the business meeting.

The secretary welcomed the Association's Master (Rev. Harold Warren, of Exford), this being only the second occasion a Master had been present at a Taunton meeting during his period of office.

In his report the secretary referred to the sudden death at the beginning of the year of the Branch's vice-chairman (Mr. A. W. Hayward), one of the Association's oldest members and a member of the Wilton band. The meeting stood in silence in memory of a beloved member.

During the year the Branch membership had increased by eight to a total of 109. Ten peals were rung during the year, consisting of five of Doubles, three of Minor, one of Plain Bob Major and one of Kent Major.

Officers elected for 1958 were: Chairman, the Rev. Edwin Hirst; vice-chairman, Mr. S. G. Coles; Ringing Master, Mr. W. Gigg; secretary, Mr. A. H. Reed.

Nine new members were elected, eight of them being the complete new band at Ruishton, and one hon. life member (Mr. James Morley, of Ipswich).

Four meeting places were agreed upon for the ensuing year—the annual meeting at Milverton, quarterly meetings at West Monkton and Fitzhead, and the joint meeting with the Devon Guild at St. James', Taunton. The ringers afterwards returned to the tower to continued ringing until 9 p.m. F. W. S.

A HANDBELL DEDICATION IN DEVON

Last year the Newton Abbot Society for the Blind, under the leadership of the blind welfare officer, Miss Wakeham, embarked on the raising of money to buy a set of handbells, and this spring the bells were obtained from Messrs. John Taylor and immediately put into good use by a band of blind ringers who had previously been using a ring borrowed from one of the local churches.

Although the bells are 'secular,' it was very much the wish of the Society that they should be brought to church to be blessed, and on September 5th a service was held in St. Leonard's, Newton Abbot, when the 20 bells were blessed. The back ten were brought up to the altar by five of the ringers, the rest being already on the altar, and after the blessing they were returned to the ringers and a few minutes' rounds rung on them. The service continued with an act of thanksgiving for the bells themselves, the craftsmanship of their makers, and the generosity which had made it possible to buy them.

Under their captain (Mr. Saunders), who has for many years been a choirman at St. Mary's, Abbotsbury, in Highweek parish, the band are making good progress at rounds and call-change ringing, and it is hoped that before long they will be able to organise a competition for blind handbell ringers from various centres in the West Country. It is intended that the competition will be for rounds, call-changes or change-ringing, striking being naturally the chief criterion, but credit given to difficulty of method, so that very good rounds will be judged better than moderate changes, but good changes better than rounds of about the same standard.

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NEW YEAR'S GREETING

THE COLLEGE OF CAMPANOLOGY thanks all supporters for the successful founding year just closed, and sends greetings to members and associates throughout Britain, Eire and overseas, with best wishes for happy progress in 1958. 1527

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The temporary address of Mr. W. F. Moreton will be c/o 199, Leeds Road, Newton Hill, Wakefield.

PERSONAL

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'THE CHURCH BELLS OF OXFORDSHIRE.'—Less than 20 copies remain of this work; 488 pages, with 68 plates, and scale drawings of 258 bellfounders' marks in the text, bound red cloth, price two pounds (£2) each, including postage. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Final offer. Cannot be repeated. 1484

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MISCELLANEOUS

BEDFORDSHIRE.—Silsoe. As from Thursday, Jan. 2nd, practice night will be on Thursdays instead of on Wednesdays. Visitors will still be made welcome. 1488

PACKWOOD, WARWICKSHIRE.—Ringing at Packwood has now recommenced. Practice night, Friday, 7.30 to 9. Beginners and ringers welcomed. Bells available for visiting change-ringing bands by appointment with the Vicar through Mr. Tallis; KNOwle 2425, evenings. N.B.—Sunday Evensong is at 3 p.m. 1460

COMPLETE YOUR 1957 FILE.—We have copies of nearly every issue of this year for readers who are short. Price 6d. per copy, post free. Also available, copies of previous recent years with a few exceptions. Write 'The Ringing World' Office, c/o Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford.

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

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Mr. and Mrs. FRED PRICE are pleased to announce the completion of ten happy years at 'St. Michael's,' Fisherman's Avenue, during which we have made many new friends. The only adverse factor has been continually rising costs. This has robbed us of our reward for the hard work necessary to give our guests the best possible holiday, and we regret having to increase our charge for 1958.

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We wish all our friends the compliments of the season.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Price, 'St. Michael's,' 9, Fisherman's Avenue, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel. Southbourne 46005. 1493

MEETINGS

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western and Northern Divisions.—Advanced ringing practice, Arundel, Saturday, Dec. 28th. Bells 3.30 to 5 and 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Special method, Ashtead. Tea available—get your own. —G. Francis. 1513

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Combined practice, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Wednesday, January 1st. Bells (12) available 6.30 to 8 p.m. All very welcome.—Peter N. Bond. Hon. Sec. 1514

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at St. Peter's, Bedford. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea, please, to Miss Phyllis Gray, 18, Durler Avenue, Kempston, Bedford. 1530

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chester-le-Street meeting brought forward to January 4th as joint Northern and Western Districts meeting. Bells 2.30 p.m. Social evening with tea. Numbers, please, by Jan. 1st to Mr. S. Walker, 21, Avon-dale Terrace, Chester-le-Street. 1515

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting at Bocking, Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea to Mrs. M. Moore, 244, Broad Road, Bocking, Braintree. 1486

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual District meeting on Saturday, Jan. 4th, Hertford. St. Andrew's 3 p.m.; All Saints' after tea. Tea and meeting at Salisbury Arms. Please send names for tea to C. E. Hayter, 27, Sele Road, Hertford.—T. J. Southam, Sec. 1525

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Quarterly meeting at Brenchley, Saturday, Jan. 4. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, with cash, please (2s. 6d.), by Jan. 1st to Mr. C. Tester, The Cottage, Tawdsen, Brenchley. 1452

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Annual meeting at the Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 4th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec. 1526

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, nomination of officers, etc., All Saints', Isleworth, Jan. 4th, 3 p.m. Tea and business in Church Hall 4.15. Service 6. Further ringing 6.30 to 8. Evening social in Church Hall. Practice, Jan. 6th, St. Mary's, Lambeth, 7.30. A.G.M., Feb. 8th. Dinner, April 19th. Names for tea, please.—Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth, ISL3921. 1518

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Tadmarton (6), Saturday, Jan. 4th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45. Swcliffe (6) after 7 p.m. For tea please notify H. L. Roper, Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon. 1474

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—Annual meeting, Thrapston (8), Saturday, Jan. 4th. Names for teas by Tuesday previous, please.—L. Witten, 4, John's Street, Thrapston, Kettering. 1532

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, St. Martin's Hotel, at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4th. St. Martin's bells available 4.30 p.m.—G. E. Fearn, Hon. Sec. 1496

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting, Devizes, St. John's (8), Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service and tea. St. James' (6) and St. Mary's (6) available. Names for tea.—S. Cockell, 19, Craybourne Road, Melksham, Wilts. 1528

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at Nottingham. St. Mary's bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements. Business meeting in belfry at 6 p.m.—C. W. Towers. 1516

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Northern Section.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at St. Mary's, Brecon (8 bells). Service 4 p.m. 1519

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Annual meeting, St. Peter's, Tiverton, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 6th.—W. H. Ware, 1, Holly Road, Cowleymoor Estate, Tiverton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—S.W. District.—Annual general meeting, Hornchurch, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea, please, to Mr. F. Gant, 3, Central Drive, Hornchurch. 1521

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Annual general meeting, Barnwood, Gloucester, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Bells (8) 3 to 4.15 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business meeting. Service 6.30. Ringing till 8.30 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 7th to Green, 30, Malvern Road, Gloucester. 1476

LADIES' GUILD.—Sussex Division.—Annual meeting at Seaford, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 8th, please, to Miss D. Lester, 9, Laton Road, Hastings.—Daphne Lester, Hon. Sec. 1534

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Wroxham, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Bells (6) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Jan. 8th, to Mr. A. J. Boyce, Hoveton Hall Lodge, Neateshead, Norwich. 1461

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual dinner, Saturday, Feb. 1st, 1958, Old Bell Restaurant, Holborn, 6 for 6.30 p.m. Tickets, price 13s. each, now available from J. L. Morris, 25, Lancing Road, Orpington, Kent. 1465

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