



'The Ringing World' was founded in the year 1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith, who remained its proprietor and editor until his death in 1942.

No. 2474. Vol. LIV.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1958

Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.

6d.

THE EARLY USE OF HANDBELLS

By FREDERICK SHARPE

HANDBELLS have been used in the British Isles from the early days of Christianity. The earliest examples, made of riveted metal plates, or of the later cast bronze type, formed part of the equipment of the primitive saints, and it was the custom to present Celtic and Irish bishops with a handbell at their consecration.

Between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries small handbells were used as lych bells at funerals and in processions at Rogationtide and similar ceremonial occasions. Small bells without handles or clappers were used in sets for the purpose of tapping tunes. The usual number of bells in these sets seldom exceeded four or five, but some medieval manuscripts depict larger numbers and show performers tapping tunes in two-part harmony.

Funeral customs usually outlast others, and those medieval handbells which survived the Reformation of the Church in the sixteenth century were chiefly used as lych bells. But such was the unauthorised spoliation of church goods in the sixteenth century that King Edward VI. made an order that inventories of all church goods should be made, and from these we learn that many parishes still retained their medieval handbells.

In the early years of the seventeenth century the art of change ringing began to spread. It is an art peculiar to England and was at first practised on the rings of three, four and five-bell towers which had survived the Reformation. Most of these retained their pre-Reformation gear. These included half wheels and baldrick clappers—all assembled without bolt, nut or screw, and very cumbersome in action. Some means of practising the new art and some methods of learning the changes before attempting to ring them on the heavy, slow-moving tower bells was a vital necessity. So the old handbells which survived, no longer allowed to be used for ceremonial purposes, were rescued from their dusty hiding places and put to new use. Whether in tune or not mattered little—an upward movement of the arm denoted the handstroke and a downward movement the backstroke of change ringing.

Civil War devastated England in the second quarter of the seventeenth century—and, during the interregnum which followed, the ceremonial use of bells was prohibited. They were used for utilitarian purposes, and change ringing continued to expand. Two new rings of eight bells were erected in the University of Oxford during this period, and another, strangely enough, in Windsor Castle. In 1658, a Bedford ringer, Oliver Palmer, scored many change ringing compositions and tunes in bell notation. Palmer lived in dangerous times, and lest he should be accused of "Popery" disguised his work by writing the scores in Hebrew characters.

After the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, change ringing developed rapidly. Such was the demand for handbells at the end of the century that improved methods of casting were sought, and the Wiltshire bell foundry, then owned by William and Robert Carr, invented a method of casting handbells in sand moulds. They shaped these by means of full sized patterns, instead of using the strickle and false clay bell method hitherto employed. The new method proved so successful that within a few years others adopted it, notably the White-chapel founders and Edward Hemins, of Bicester.

So far the use of handbells was confined to the practice of change ringing. To ring changes on as large a number of bells as twelve requires very considerable skill and years of practice. Yet we read that when members of the Ancient Society of College Youths visited Calais in 1732 they rang a course of 'Cinques.' This is the first record of change ringing outside England, and evidence of a highly developed technique in the art of change ringing on handbells.

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A YORKSHIRE PEAL WEEK

(ALL PEALS RUNG FOR THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.)

OTLEY, YORKSHIRE.*On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in three methods: (1) and (2) Oxford Treble Bob, (3) and (4) Kent Treble Bob, (5), (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 16½ cwt.

ROY BETTLEY-COOKE .. Treble	WILLIAM DIXON 4
JEFFREY P. COOPER 2	EDWARD M. BRADLEY 5
PERCY WHITTAKER 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.

Rung to mark the arrival of Elizabeth Mary Chapman.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.*On Mon., Aug. 11, 1958, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,*

AT THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, HOLBECK,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in seven methods: (1) Oxford and Kent, (2) Cambridge, (3) Single Oxford, (4) Double Oxford, (5) St. Clement's, (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

BRIAN K. SISSONS .. Treble	CYRIL A. WRATTEN 4
JAMES THORLEY 2	EDWARD M. BRADLEY 5
ROY BETTLEY-COOKE 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.

A tribute to Paddy Thorley, who has now been married to the conductor for four years.

CALVERLEY, YORKSHIRE.*On Mon., Aug. 11, 1958, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in eight methods: (1) Thelwall, (2) Double Oxford, (3) Single Oxford, (4) St. Clement's, (5) Cambridge, (6) Oxford and Kent, (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 10½ cwt.

BRIAN K. SISSONS .. Treble	J. MARTIN THORLEY 4
JAMES THORLEY 2	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE 5
CYRIL A. WRATTEN 3	EDWARD M. BRADLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by ROY BETTLEY-COOKE.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.*On Tues., Aug. 12, 1958, in 2 Hours and 31 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, CHAPEL ALLERTON,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in seven methods: (1) Double Bob, (2) Double Oxford, (3) St. Clement's, (4) Cambridge, (5) Oxford and Kent, (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

BRIAN K. SISSONS .. Treble	EDWARD M. BRADLEY 4
J. MARTIN THORLEY 2	CYRIL A. WRATTEN 5
JAMES THORLEY 3	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE .. Tenor

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

The first peal in seven methods on the bells.

PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE.*On Wed., Aug. 13, 1958, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in ten methods: (1) Thelwall, Double Oxford, Childwall and St. Clement's; (2) Double Bob and Plain Bob; (3) Single Oxford; (4) Cambridge; (5) Kent; (6) Oxford; (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWARD M. BRADLEY .. Treble	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE 4
JAMES THORLEY 2	CYRIL A. WRATTEN 5
W. ERIC CRITCHLEY 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

HORSFORTH, YORKSHIRE.*On Thurs., Aug. 14, 1958, in 1 Hour and 43 Minutes,*

AT PADMAR, 146, BROADGATE LANE,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor size 13 in E.

J. MARTIN THORLEY .. 1—2	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE .. 3—4
CYRIL A. WRATTEN 5—6	

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

KIRK DEIGHTON, YORKSHIRE.*On Thurs., Aug. 14, 1958, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in nine methods: (1) Thelwall, Double Oxford, Childwall and St. Clement's; (2) Single Oxford; (3) Cambridge; (4) Oxford; (5) Kent; (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

JAMES THORLEY .. Treble	J. MARTIN THORLEY 4
MRS. J. MARTIN THORLEY .. 2	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY 5
CYRIL A. WRATTEN 3	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.

The first peal on the bells.

CARLTON-JUXTA-SNAITH, YORKSHIRE.*On Fri., Aug. 15, 1958, in 2 Hours and 19 Minutes,*

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

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven differently-called extents. Tenor 6 cwt.

J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Treble	DAVID THORLEY 4
ROY BETTLEY-COOKE 2	CYRIL A. WRATTEN 5
WILLIAM GRAVES 3	JAMES THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

HORSFORTH, YORKSHIRE.*On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 1 Hour and 45 Minutes,*

AT PADMAR, 146, BROADGATE LANE,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in three methods: (1) St. Clement's and Plain Bob, (2) Double Bob and Plain Bob, (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor size 13 in E.

J. MARTIN THORLEY .. 1—2	ROY BETTLEY-COOKE .. 3—4
CYRIL A. WRATTEN 5—6	

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

WOODLESFORD, YORKSHIRE.*On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in six methods: (1) Childwall and St. Clement's, (2) and (3) Cambridge, (4) and (5) Kent and Oxford (combined), (6) and (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt.

CYRIL A. WRATTEN .. Treble	THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY .. 4
JOHN RHODES 2	JAMES THORLEY 5
ROY BETTLEY-COOKE 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by ROY BETTLEY-COOKE.

TWELVE BELL PEAL**LINCOLN.****THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.***On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 3 Hours and 45 Minutes,*

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF 5280 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. in D.

JOHN WALDEN .. Treble	WALTER TOMLINSON .. 7
*PATRICIA M. CLARKE .. 2	GEORGE E. FEIRN 8
STANLEY E. BENNETT .. 3	*HILDA G. SNOWDEN .. 9
JOHN FREEMAN 4	RAYMOND F. SMITH .. 10
†GILES C. GALLEY 5	JOHN R. MAYNE 11
†RODERICK W. PIPE 6	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.

* First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. † First peal on 12 bells.

† First of Maximus.

TEN BELL PEALS**WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., July 26, 1958, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 24 cwt. 18 lb. in E flat.

ANTHONY AGER .. Treble	F. W. GROCOTT 6
*SHIRLEY M. PARSONS .. 2	RICHARD J. WARRILLOW .. 7
JEFFREY B. WEBB 3	*CYRIL A. WRATTEN 8
ERIC E. SPEAKE 4	PETER BERESFORD 9
ROBIN G. TURNER 5	EDMUND T. MALIN Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by F. W. GROCOTT.

* First peal of Royal in the method.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Aug. 6, 1958, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 21 cwt.

*SHEILA BLACKMORE .. Treble	FRANK HANSFORD 6
MARY M. HALL 2	RICHARD BOWDEN 7
FRANCIS C. MOGFORD .. 3	FRANK D. MACK 8
MRS. A. G. BOWDEN 4	ROGER O. FRY 9
TUDOR P. EDWARDS 5	MICHAEL T. SPRACKLING .. Tenor

Composed by ALBERT M. TYLER.

Conducted by TUDOR P. EDWARDS.

* First peal.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 3 Hours and 38 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS
 Tenor 28 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb.

*BRIAN DAWSON Treble	WILLIAM J. LEACH 6
HAROLD J. SHUCK 2	ALAN G. FOSTER 7
WILLIAM DAVIES 3	FREDERICK G. HANDLEY .. 8
*E. MARION KEY 4	BARNABAS G. KEY 9
*DAVID W. BRUNNING .. 5	EDWARD J. WHITE Tenor

 Composed by H. G. MILES.
 * First peal of Caters. Conducted by BARNABAS G. KEY.

TRURO, CORNWALL.
THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes.
 AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
A PEAL OF 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS
 Tenor 33 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.
 Composed by WM. HUDSON (Central Council Collection No. 13).

CHARLES SANGWIN Treble	GORDON A. HALLS 6
PATRICIA A. M. FORSTER .. 2	REV. ARTHUR S. ROBERTS .. 7
ARTHUR F. BURLEY 3	*WILLIAM T. COOK 8
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	†ALAN CARVETH 9
*J. DESMOND PAINTER .. 5	‡HARRY STACEY Tenor

 Conducted by REV. ARTHUR S. ROBERTS.
 * 50th peal together. † First of Grandsire Caters 'inside.' ‡ First peal on ten.
 Rung on the eve of the 81st anniversary of Truro being created a city.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

PENN, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., July 5, 1958, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
 Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 10½ cwt.

E. STITCH Treble	C. GRIFFITHS 5
C. F. W. EYRE 2	A. WILLIAMS 6
G. SMALLWOOD 3	E. G. BOWYER 7
J. A. RODEN 4	J. BLOOR Tenor

 Conducted by E. G. BOWYER.
 Rung to mark the engagement of Miss Jean Eyre to Mr. N. Millward, and to congratulate Miss A. Frost on attaining her majority. Both ladies are members of St. Bartholomew's band.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., Aug. 4, 1958, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 14 cwt. 7 lb. in F sharp.

JOHN T. MEDHURST Treble	BERNARD V. COLLISON .. 5
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT .. 2	STANLEY JENNER 6
ERIC J. BRUNGER 3	*EDWARD J. JENNER 7
GEORGE FRY 4	STANLEY G. PONTING .. Tenor

 Composed by W. THORNLEY. Conducted by STANLEY JENNER.
 * 50th peal. Mr. B. V. Collison has now 'circled the tower.'
 Rung as a wedding compliment to Dennis E. Leigh, a local ringer, and Miss Annette Trotter.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Aug. 7, 1958, in 2 Hrs. and 36 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY
A PEAL OF 5024 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
 Tenor 10½ cwt.

C. EDWARD JEFFRIES .. Treble	VIVIANNE M. HORTON .. 5
JOHN A. ANDERSON 2	PAUL J. RIGBY 6
ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 3	RICHARD CASTLEDINE .. 7
RONALD J. SHARP 4	PHILIP MEHEW Tenor

 Composed by R. F. B. SPEED. Conducted by C. EDWARD JEFFRIES.

OVERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.
On Thurs., Aug. 7, 1958, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
 F. H. Dexter's variation of Thurstans' Four-part.
 Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 1 lb. in A flat.

*A. JAMES POYNOR Treble	ERNEST J. JELLEY 5
JOHN A. ACRES 2	WILLIAM F. WOODWARD .. 6
RUSSELL S. MORRIS .. 3	BRIAN G. WARWICK 7
JOSEPH W. COTTON 4	PERCIVAL W. GRICE Tenor

 Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.
 * First peal of Stedman.

ALDERMASTON, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5056 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR
 Consisting of 1,664 Bristol, 1,600 Cambridge, 1,024 Superlative and 768 London, with 117 changes of method.
 Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in G.

FRANK W. LEWIS Treble	JOHN N. DISERENS 5
R. GEORGE MORRIS 2	NOEL J. DISERENS 6
REGINALD W. REX 3	*GEOFFREY K. DODD 7
CYRIL E. LEWINGTON .. 4	RONALD F. DISERENS .. Tenor

 Composed and Conducted by NOEL J. DISERENS.
 * First peal of Spliced Surprise Major.

BARNARD CASTLE, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5152 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR
 Tenor 17 cwt. in E.

MARION S. CAPEY Treble	ROLAND PARK 5
ROBIN G. LEALE 2	KENNETH LAWSON 6
FREDERICK R. SCOTT .. 3	W. NORMAN PARK 7
*WILLIAM S. DEASON .. 4	J. ALAN AINSWORTH .. Tenor

 Arranged by W. BARTON. Conducted by J. ALAN AINSWORTH.
 * First peal in the method. Believed to be only the second peal on the bells and the first of Major.

BURNHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5184 SINGLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. in F sharp.

*GEORGE COUSSINS Treble	*RICHARD E. DEAN 5
MISS M. R. JAYCOCK .. 2	*MICHAEL HATCHETT 6
*MISS J. ADAMSON 3	*GORDON W. LIMMER 7
*HOWARD OGLESBY 4	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

 Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.
 * First peal in the method. 150th peal on the bells.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,
 AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5120 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

*HARRY POYNOR Treble	ERNEST MORRIS 5
MARY C. PAYNE 2	GEOFFREY M. BREWIN .. 6
ERNEST F. PAYNE 3	ROYSTON WILMORE 7
†DEREK M. SAWYER .. 4	B. STEDMAN PAYNE Tenor

 Arranged by HARRY POYNOR. Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.
 * 100th peal on tower bells. † First of Major.
 Birthday compliments to Ruth M. Payne and F. Kevon Thompson, of Barrow-on-Soar, and Miss Margaret L. Morris, of Leicester.

CHURCH CLOCKS

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THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 13 cwt. 50 lb. in F.

WILLIAM LOVE Treble	STANLEY W. COPLING .. 5
ARTHUR G. BASON 2	NOLAN GOLDEN 6
ARTHUR G. MASON 3	GEORGE SAYER 7
EDWIN T. CHAPMAN 4	H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 3 Hours and 33 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 22 cwt. 8 lb.

DIANA M. LAWLESS Treble	ANNE E. AMOR 5
BRYAN PATTISON 2	DAVID W. JAMES 6
JENNIFER M. DAVIES 3	ARTHUR GIBBS 7
JENNIFER S. GILES 4	JOHN B. LONG Tenor

Composed by J. PLATT.

Conducted by BRYAN PATTISON.

First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major by all except the ringer of the seventh.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Aug. 11, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS.

A PEAL OF 5024 BRAUNSTONE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. in F.

*A. JAMES POYNOR Treble	†JOHN A. ACRES 5
ERNEST MORRIS 2	BRIAN G. WARWICK 6
JOSEPH W. COTTON 3	ERNEST J. JELLEY 7
†RUSSELL S. MORRIS 4	BRIAN S. CHAPMAN Tenor

Composed by ERNEST W. TIPLER (No. 46).

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First in the method. ‡ 400th peal for the Guild. The first in the method on the bells.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Wed., Aug. 13, 1958, in 3 Hours and 20 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's.	Tenor 21 cwt. 48 lb. in E flat.
NOLAN GOLDEN Treble	ARTHUR G. BASON 5
MRS. SAM J. HAINES 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT 6
EDWIN T. CHAPMAN 3	SAMUEL J. HAINES 7
PETER LAFLIN 4	BERT GOGLE Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDER.

DRAYTON, SOMERSET.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Aug. 13, 1958, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE.

A PEAL OF 5088 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 19½ cwt.

*SHELAGH R. COLLINS .. Treble	R. ROGER SAVORY 5
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH .. 2	CHRIS M. P. JOHNSON .. 6
RUTH M. BORDER 3	†JOHN H. GILBERT 7
MARIE R. CROSS 4	PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

* 50th tower bell peal. † First of Major in the method.

SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Aug. 15, 1958, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5152 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 48 lb. in G.

H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. Treble	JONATHAN ALDIS 5
NEVILLE FENN 2	EDWIN T. CHAPMAN 6
BRIDGET H. B. MUTIMER .. 3	JOHN S. BARNES 7
DAVID HEIGHTON 4	THOMAS R. SIMMONS .. Tenor

Composed by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Conducted by DAVID HEIGHTON.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF ST. CHAD.

A PEAL OF 5056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

CLIVE M. SMITH Treble	ARTHUR V. PEARSON 5
ELIZABETH M. YARDLEY 2	JOHN PINFOLD 6
DIANA J. PERRINS 3	NORMAN J. GOODMAN .. 7
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Composed by WM. BARTON.

Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

A wedding compliment to Mr. R. H. Willey and Miss V. Payne.

CLARE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 3 Hours and 21 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Johnson's variation.

Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

CLAUDIA A. CRITCHLEY .. Treble	JACK S. DEAR 5
K. PATRICIA HUTTON 2	ALFRED E. RUSHTON .. 6
PATRICIA M. BOURN 3	J. RICHARD CASTLEDINE .. 7
G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY .. 4	RICHARD E. PRICE Tenor

Conducted by G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY.

A birthday compliment to Richard E. Price.

ECCLESTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 3 Hours and 37 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 26½ cwt.

BARRY CORBISHLEY Treble	*GEOFF. D. FEARNEHOUGH .. 5
TREVOR TAYLOR 2	†LESLIE BOUMPHREY 6
NEIL BENNETT 3	DEREK TAYLOR 7
NEIL D. LOMAS 4	DENIS MOTTERSHEAD .. Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by DENIS MOTTERSHEAD.

* First peal in the method. † 150th peal.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Aug. 16, 1958, in 3 Hours and 9 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5024 BELGRAVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

*ALBERT YORK-BRAMBLE .. Treble	*PETER E. PARRY 5
*RUTH M. BORDER 2	*JOHN SEAGER 6
*MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH .. 3	†JOHN H. GILBERT 7
*SHELAGH R. COLLINS 4	*PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

* First peal in the method. † 50th peal.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Aug. 18, 1958, in 2 Hours and 21 Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.

*A. JAMES POYNOR Treble	BRIAN G. WARWICK 5
RICHARD J. CLIFTON 2	ERNEST J. JELLEY 6
RUSSELL S. MORRIS 3	ERNEST MORRIS 7
JOHN A. ACRES 4	G. RONALD EDWARDS .. Tenor

Composed by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY (No. 4).

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal in the method.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

BROOMFIELD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 12, 1958, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford, St. Clement's and three extents of Plain Bob.	Tenor 11½ cwt.
BERTRAM G. BRINKLEY .. Treble	RICHARD J. HARRISON .. 4
JOE E. G. ROAST 2	MICHAEL J. EDWARDS .. 5
TOM R. ROAST 3	IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS .. Tenor

Conducted by IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS.

Rung to welcome Alan John, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Crawley, of Chelmsford; also a birthday compliment to I. R. Panton.

WOOTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 19, 1958, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of Union, Reverse St. Bartholomew, All Saints', Winchendon, Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire.	Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. in E flat.
*JULIE SAUNDERS Treble	RAYMOND HENMAN 3
ALLAN R. JONES 2	MICHAEL R. BENNETT .. 4
ROBIN V. BAKER Tenor	

Conducted by ROBIN V. BAKER.

* First peal.

OLD HEADINGTON, OXFORD.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 2, 1958, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob and five extents of Plain Bob.
Tenor 8½ cwt. in A.

*BRIAN R. WHITE Treble	A. JAMES ADAMS 4
TOM SMITH 2	MALCOLM JOURNEAUX 5
HARRY W. BADGER 3	ROBIN J. TREBILCOCK .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBIN J. TREBILCOCK.

* First peal of Minor. Rung as a wedding compliment to David and June Simms, and to Malcolm and Mary Stone.

ANGMERING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Aug. 5, 1958, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.	Tenor 12 cwt.
HAROLD KILBY Treble	HENRY STALHAM (86) 4
*ARTHUR W. GRAVETT (76) .. 2	*HERBERT W. WOOLVEN 5
REGINALD G. HOOPER 3	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON .. Tenor

Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

* First peal on six bells.

CHURCHSTANTON, DEVON.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Wed., Aug. 6, 1958, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 18 240's and six 120's.	Tenor 11 cwt.
ROBERT SHIRES Treble	† PHILIP TUBBS 4
*LEONARD MUTTERS 2	WILLIAM WEBB 5
LESLIE MORRELL 3	*RONALD MUTTERS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM WEBB.

* First peal. † First of Grandsire Doubles.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Aug. 6, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of St. Simon's, St. Martin's, Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury, April Day and Grandsire.	Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb.
ARTHUR J. HENMAN Treble	ROBIN V. BAKER 3
MICHAEL R. BENNETT 2	ERIC BILLINGS 4
RAYMOND HENMAN Tenor	

Conducted by ROBIN V. BAKER.

The tenor ringer has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung as a farewell to Jack Lightly on joining H.M. Forces.

ROADE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Aug. 7, 1958, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of All Saints', Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob and three extents each of Little Aston, Seighford, Marchington, St. Columb, Southrepps, Norfolk, Kennington and Old.

Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb. in F.

ALAN C. COZENS Treble	ERIC BILLINGS 3
*PATRICIA F. CURTIS 2	MICHAEL R. BENNETT 4

† ROBIN V. BAKER Tenor

Conducted by ALAN C. COZENS.

* First peal in 11 methods. † 25th peal. The conductor has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung in honour of St. Cecilia, to whom the treble bell is dedicated, and for the sixth anniversary of the installation of this bell.

LITCHBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Aug. 8, 1958, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of Chase, St. Martin's, Union, All Saints', Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire.	Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.
ERIC BILLINGS Treble	ALLAN R. JONES 3
*MICHAEL R. BENNETT 2	KENNETH D. PERKINS 4

ROBIN V. BAKER Tenor

Conducted by ROBIN V. BAKER.

* 25th peal.

QUENIBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Aug. 8, 1958, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being four extents each of Stedman, St. Nicholas', Winchendon Place Bob and St. Martin's, five extents each of St. Simon's and Plain Bob, eight extents each of Reverse Canterbury and Grandsire.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb. in G sharp.

MARY C. PAYNE Treble	ERNEST F. PAYNE 3
*HARRY POYNER 2	ROYSTON WILMORE 4

B. STEDMAN PAYNE Tenor

Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.

* First peal of Doubles on tower bells.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Jesson.

BRANT BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being two Morris's 240's, two Price's 240's, two Pitman's 240's and two 120's Grandsire, and 14 extents each of Plain Bob and April Day.

Tenor 23 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.

J. EDWARD BROWN Treble	WALTER WESTON 4
PERCY D. BALDOCK 2	JAMES H. MUSSON 5
RONALD RUSSELL 3	FREDERICK DERRY Tenor

Conducted by JAMES H. MUSSON.

GREASLEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Court, Single Oxford and Plain Bob, and two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN MEREDITH Treble	WILFRED RILEY 4
DOREEN ARMSTRONG 2	FRANK BRADLEY 5
BRYNLEY A. RICHARDS .. 3	ALBERT WHEELER Tenor

Conducted by FRANK BRADLEY.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son (Bryan Robert) to Mr. and Mrs. Brynley A. Richards.

HEWELSFIELD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5520 DOUBLES

In 11 methods (25 variations), being two extents each of Stedman and Spliced Plain Bob and Candlesby S.C., one extent each of Spliced Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Raveningham S.C., Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Southrepps, Clifford's Pleasure, St. Columb, St. Simon's, Eynsham, St. Martin's, St. Leonard's, Winchendon Place, St. Miles, St. John, St. Nicholas, St. Giles, St. Andrew; ten extents and 240 each of Pitman's and Morris's arrangements of Grandsire; two extents each of Reverse St. Bartholomew, Northrepps, Plain Bob, Kennington, April Day and Old Bob; and one extent of Norfolk.

Tenor 11 cwt.

PATRICIA H. JONES Treble	ROBERT DOWDESWELL .. 3
*JACQUELINE S. KING .. 2	DAVID J. KING 4

CYRIL A. WRATTEN Tenor

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

* 100th peal. First in 11 methods by all except the conductor. First on the bells.

HOSE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 720 each of Winchendon Place Bob, St. Simon's Bob, All Saints', Reverse Bartholomew, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

Tenor 8 cwt.

J. HARRY COOK Treble	ALFRED E. HINMAN 3
CHARLES E. COOPER 2	GEOFFREY A. BOWCUTT .. 4

ROLAND H. COOK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND H. COOK.

Rung to the glory of God for the 100th birthday of the Rev. Robert Henry Bagnall, M.A., Vicar of Hose 1919 to 1930, now living in Leicester, retired; and for his great ministry in the Vale of Belvoir.

???? STOPPED ????? ???? ???? STOPPED ?????



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WALSOKEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Aug. 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb.	
TOM BUSH Treble	FREDA P. GREAVES 4
M. ROLAND REED 2	WILLIAM ROSE 5
HAROLD HUXLEY 3	NORMAN V. HARDING .. Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN V. HARDING.

Rung in honour of H.R.H. Prince Charles on his being created Prince of Wales.

COPT OAK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Aug. 14, 1958, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in three methods: (1) and (2) Single Oxford Bob, (3) Plain Bob, (4) and (5) Kent Treble Bob, (6) and (7) Plain Bob.

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in A.

BRIAN G. WARWICK .. Treble	WILLIAM F. WOODWARD .. 4
*A. JAMES POYNOR 2	JOHN A. ACRES 5
ERNEST MORRIS 3	JOSEPH W. COTTON Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal in three Minor methods.

GOOSNARGH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Preston Branch.)

On Fri., Aug. 15, 1958, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being four extents of Kent and three extents of Oxford.

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in A.

PHILIP DUNDERDALE .. Treble	LAWRENCE WALMSLEY .. 4
*JOHN H. OWENS 2	†PETER GARDNER 5
CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE .. 3	STANLEY WALMSLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by STANLEY WALMSLEY.

* First peal in two methods. † First of Treble Bob Minor.

Rung to mark the anniversary of V.J. Day and the birthday of Princess Anne.

HANDBELL PEALS

WHITWORTH PARK, MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., June 9, 1958, in 2 Hours and 27 Minutes,

At WESTON HOUSE,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 17 in A.

*TREVOR TAYLOR 1—2	DEREK OGDEN 5—6
FREDK. WM. GROCOTT .. 3—4	*DEREK TAYLOR 7—8

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by FREDK. W. GROCOTT.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.'

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Thurs., July 31, 1958, in 2 Hours and 4 Minutes,

At 27, CHALK HILL ROAD,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

*MARY MADDISON 1—2	KENNETH L. BROWN 3—4
ARTHUR G. BASON* 5—6	

Conducted by ARTHUR G. BASON.

* First peal.

CLEATHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Aug. 8, 1958, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,

At CLEATHAM HOUSE FARM,

A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB ROYAL

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. J. BRAY 1—2	GEORGE E. FEIRN 5—6
FRANK LORD 3—4	JACK BRAY 7—8

*C. AUBREY HARRISON .. 9—10

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE E. FEIRN.

* First peal of Little Bob Royal. First of Little Bob Royal as conductor.

SILEBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Aug. 12, 1958, in 1 Hour and 59 Minutes,

At 153, RATCLIFFE ROAD,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor size 14 in D.

DEREK M. SAWYER 1—2	HARRY POYNER 3—4
---------------------------	------------------------

B STEDMAN PAYNE 5—6

Conducted by HARRY POYNER.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers

All communications for publication to:—
The Editor, 'The Ringing World,'
c/o Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, Surrey.
Tel. Guildford 5028 or 5311.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

	One copy	2 copies	3 copies	4 copies
3 months	7/6	—	—	—
6 months	14/6	£1/6/-	£1/15/6	£2/6/-
12 months	£1/8/-	£2/9/-	£3/10/-	£4/11/-

Remittances to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones,
Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall. Cheques payable
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Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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FRANK I. HAIRS,
W. NORMAN PARK,
R. S. ANDERSON.

EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

Bells will be heard prior to evening service to be broadcast on Sunday, September 7th, at 9.45 p.m. in all Home Services except West and Scottish, from the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland. The service will be conducted by the Rev. C. E. Wyngard and the preacher will be the Rector (Canon C. L. P. Bishop).

Mr. John H. Gilbert, of Long Ashton, writes informing us of the success of a peal of St. Clement's Bob Major after unsuccessful attempts going back three years.

The Rev. Robert Henry Bagnell, who retired in 1930 after 42 years at churches in the Vale of Belvoir, celebrated his 100th birthday on August 9th. Mr. Bagnell was a friend of generations of ringers.

Our mailbag this week contains a cheery letter from Mr. E. Weatherby, of 1,235 Mullen Avenue, Los Angeles, 19, California. He is particularly interested in Mr. F. T. Blagrove's record of first performances. We wish Mr. Weatherby a happy 87th birthday on September 22nd.

Mr. Clifford Blundell and Miss Angela Faulkner were rung out of St. Barnabas' Church, Sutton, Surrey (a church without tower bells), after their wedding on August 16th by a team of handbell ringers. The compliment was unexpected and thrilled the newly-married pair.

Correspondents have called our attention to the photograph in 'The Wallington and Carshalton Times' of Frimley St. Peter's Church, which according to the report contains a chime of 12 bells, and that the enthusiastic team of bell-ringers ring changes and hymn tunes each Sunday. Guildford's new cathedral, adds E. G. T., will have to look to its laurels.

BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. T. Reginald Dennis rang in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major at the Church of St. Andrew-the-Great, Cambridge, for his 75th birthday on August 19th. We are sorry to hear that the peal was also a send-off for him to hospital, where he will undergo an operation during the next week or so. His many friends will wish him a speedy recovery and Cambridge ringers are looking forward to having him put right in readiness for future birthday peals.

Norton Subcourse, Norfolk, are planning to have their bells rehung on a steel frame and their six bells retuned.

The well-known Cheshire ringer, Mr. Alan A. Jaques, was married at Nantwich on August 16th to Miss Irene M. Caswell. Mr. Brian M. Buswell, of Nottingham, was best man.

Mr. Geo. H. Head, who contributes in this week's 'Ringing World' his recollections of early ringing in the Ashford District, writes gardening notes in 'The Hanworth Record.' He has been gardening for 70 years.

The bells of St. Mawgan, Cornwall, were rededicated by the Archdeacon of Cornwall on August 9th. The bells have been recast with the exception of the seventh, which was cast by William Dawe, of London, between 1378 and 1407, and is being kept in the church as a museum piece. The work was carried out by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. at an estimated cost of £1,350.

Mr. 'Bill' Norton, a member of the St. Andrew's, Holborn, band before the war, was visited by the St. Stephen's, Hampstead, ringers during their recent outing in Northamptonshire. Despite the loss of sight in one eye and suffering from neuritis, 'Bill' looked remarkably fit for his 84 years. He still reads 'The Ringing World' and notes the activities of his former friends and colleagues.

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

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SOCIETY OF ROVING RINGERS' 12th ANNUAL TOUR



Members of the Roving Ringers at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. Left to right (ringing): Mrs. Helen Diserens, Mrs. Kathleen Chilcott, Michael Chilcott, Michael Austin; (seated) N. J. Diserens, G. Goodship, G. Symonds and C. Sedgley.

[Photo by permission
'East Anglian Daily Times.'

ON July 26th, 22 members of the Society rallied at Ely for another cycling and bell-ringing holiday, which this year was to take place in East Anglia. By the time we had finished ringing at our first tower, Soham, the party was complete except for one, who was temporarily detained in H.M. service.

The military appearance of the youth hostel at Ely was much too familiar for some of us, but it was not long before the washroom was heard resounding to the tune of 'Who killed Cock Robin?'. We found that youth hostel washrooms seemed to have a natural resonance for this particular song, and Cock Robin was killed at least once a day for the remainder of the tour. Later in the evening, changes on handbells caused much wonder and delight to fellow hostellers.

The following morning we rang at Ely Parish Church, and then cycled to Cambridge. A good start was made at the R.C. Church with a course of Bristol on that fine ring of eight. At St. Mary-the-Great's, Cambridge Maximus did not go so well, so we concluded with a good course of Stedman Cinques for service.

By now the rain had set in for the evening, and it was still raining the following morning, when we headed for St. Andrew's. Here it took so long for some to climb the stairs that the more energetic members were obliged to start with a course of Minimus; this was followed up with a course of Gay Abandon (87s at back!). The rain had now stopped, and we saw no more of it, except for one or two short, sharp

showers. A short ride to Trumpington, and we were met by Miss Kitty Willers, who joined us in a course of London Major. A touch of five Spliced Surprise on these handy bells was voted one of the best touches of the tour.

SECRETARIES ON TANDEM

Lunch for some was taken at the Oulde Hoose, Saffron Walden, where it is believed the Master of the Essex Association also dined that day. The 22nd member of our party, having been 'let out,' joined us at St. Mary's, where half a course of Cambridge Maximus was successfully accomplished. The ride to Sible Hedingham was done, I think, in record time, the pace being set by the tandem, manned by the secretaries. Having settled in at the nearby hostel, some returned to Hedingham tower to join the local ringers in their practice.

Came Tuesday morning, and we rang on the heavy eight at Clare and the melodious six at Cavendish. A picnic lunch was generally the order of the day, and it was suggested by the

Master (half-way through a tin of peaches) that Frank was incapable of calling a touch of Stedman Triples due to his rather 'heavy' meal. Frank, not to be discouraged, confidently ascended Long Melford tower and commenced to call a touch of Stedman, but rounds never came up!

After another good touch of spliced at Lavenham, we cycled to the hostel at Naughton Mill, and in the evening repaired to the local tavern, where we enjoyed some very good singing. Back at the hostel, after we had rendered 'Cock Robin' and 'Slater's Dirge,' a young lady enquired whether we could not sing something happy.

BRISTOL ROYAL

Jim had distributed nine copies of a course of Bristol Royal, and it was decided that the first attempt to ring a course should be on the ten at Stonham Aspal. Three-and-half leads were rung before it came to grief, but all agreed that it was a good try. Lunch at Debenham and a ring on the very pleasant bells there, thence a short-cut via cornfields in the direction of Framdsen, which only brought us back exactly where we started from, so we decided to go the long way round by road. A few touches at Coddensham, and then back to Naughton Mill, where we spent the evening as before, except that it was John's birthday, and on retiring to bed, he found it missing, springs and all. After searching extensively (in diverse places) he found only parts of it, and exactly

ROVING RINGERS—Cont.

where he slept that night still remains a mystery; but I don't think John will forget his 20th birthday.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, we were met by Mr. George Symonds and Mr. Charles Sedgley, who joined us in Stedman Cinques and half a course of Yorkshire Maximus. While we were ringing, a press photographer entered the tower, and the following day an article on our activities appeared in three local newspapers. Another picnic lunch at Grundisburgh and again an attempt was made for Bristol Royal. This time we rang four-and-a-half leads, but a second attempt at this tower failed only two leads from the end, and I feel sure that had we the opportunity for one more attempt we would have scored; but this was not to be.

During the ringing at Henley, a lady living next to the village shop was heard to say: 'Have we got to put up with them — bells for another three hours?' At Barking the belfry was deserted while several members tried their skill at blowing a 'serpent,' an old church orchestral instrument.

A third pleasant evening was passed at Naughton Mill.

The only ladies' touch of the tour was brought round at Buxhall, the tenor being ably rung by 'Miss 3D.' Having rung at both towers in Bury St. Edmunds, the Cathedral handbells were tried, Mr. Moore ringing an excellent 1-2 to Kent Treble Bob Royal. Our next hostel, at Fittingham, was very quaint, but also very crowded. The warden had kindly offered to put up the complete party in a hostel designed for 16. Our more experienced members soon found the 'local,' where it was found that the acoustics of the bar were much improved once the carpet had been rolled up! A very enjoyable evening ended rather late, and the 'Duchess' (i.e., the warden of the hostel) threatened to get out the big stick, but decided not to on being presented with a large box of chocolates. Later that night Klorfy had to be dragged in by his hair through an upper-storey window.

OVER 40 AT WEEKEND

Saturday morning, and at Diss we were met by the first of the weekenders who, at Pulham St. Mary-the-Virgin and Pulham St. Mary Magdalene, arranged a shuttle service with their cars, enabling all to have a pull at both towers. On arriving at Norwich, a broken rope curtailed ringing at St. John-de-Sepulchre's, and at St. Giles' we read on the peel boards of 'Ingenious compositions of intricate, scientific methods, rung on harmonious bells by eminent bell-ringers, etc.' By now the remainder of the weekenders had arrived, making a total of over 40 members, and a short business meeting was held after dinner at the Bell Hotel.

On Sunday morning, the early-risers rang at St. Peter Mancroft and then joined the others at St. Michael Coslany, to ring the bells for the first time since the restoration of the tower. An hour's ringing at Hethersett had been arranged for the afternoon, and after tea we returned to St. Peter Mancroft to ring for Even-song. Another comparatively quiet evening was passed, although Miss '3D's' birthday was duly celebrated at midnight.

The first goodbyes were said the following morning, the majority proceeding to Loddon, to be met by Mr. H. William Barrett. The B.B.C., having been informed of our intended visit

'Ne Plus Ultra' Inspired Memories For George H. Head

THE front page article under the above heading in the 'R.W.' of August 15th awakens many pleasant memories of places and events in the district of Kent referred to. I recall visits made to some of the churches to ring at a time when there must have been stirring amongst ringers an interest in scientific change-ringing. Belfry reform was often mentioned at that time.

My earliest recollection of the above appellation was that a favourite variety of 'garden pea' went by this name, and we understood it meant none-so-good, but my dictionary says: 'Nothing further; the uttermost point or extreme perfection of anything.' Still the heading leaves me guessing as to whether it is meant to apply to the county of Kent, the villages or the bells.

I recall walking a few miles on a Sunday afternoon with other lads on a visit to Egerton for Grandire Doubles. My chief recollection is that there was a terrific din from the bells, as we could see them swinging above our heads—there was no floor between the bells and ringing floor. I suppose that was altered years ago.

Charing has always had very pleasant memories, with its historic associations, its setting on the Pilgrims' Way, the old church and Bishop's palace. My first visit to the church was to take part in a choral festival as a small boy (alto) and singing that beautiful hymn, A. & M. 379, as the recessional. But I well remember a visit on a Sunday for a pull on the bells for service. It was Grandire Doubles, in which Mr. W. Spice, that fine old Kentish ringer, and a Mr. H. Ward took part in some good service ringing. The record of Mr. Spice is well known, as well as that of his descendants.

CHURCH BURNT DOWN

It is recorded that the church tower was burnt down, and almost the whole of the church destroyed, in the 16th century. The fire was caused in a peculiar manner. On a hot August day a 'birding piece' was fired at a pigeon perched upon the church, and as a result the woodwork of the belfry was ignited. From that date until 1878 the church had but one solitary bell, and this gave the parish the unmerited ditty:

'Dirty Charing lies in a hole;
It has but one bell and that was stole.'

CRICKET AND A QUARTER

My earliest recollections of Great Chart include a visit by our school cricket team to play the G.C. boys. I was put on to bowl, and somehow got some quick wickets. The home

here, recorded some Stedman Triples, and interviewed our secretaries, also 'the eighth romance of the tour.' More goodbyes were said, so that by the time we arrived at our final tower we numbered less than 20; but the last touch of the tour was a good one of four Spliced Surprise on the grand back eight at Beccles.

We are all grateful for a very enjoyable holiday, to Ronnie (the Master), the incumbents of the churches we visited, and those who made ringing possible for us; and especially to Kathleen and Michael, our secretaries, who again have done a wonderful job of work in arranging and timing the tour.

C. E. L.

umpire and schoolmaster soon put a stop to that game by giving successive no-balls, at which our umpire and master raised strong objections. This caused such a to-do that the game came to an end. A little later another visit was much more pleasant. I have a cutting from 'The Bell News' of that time, which reads:—

'GREAT CHART.—On Saturday evening, 720 Bob Minor, 18 bobs and 2 singles. W. Hills 1, F. Philpott 2, G. H. Head 3, J. Hover 4, A. J. Dyson (con.) 5, T. Tabrett tenor.

'First in the method by all; first 720 by ringers of 1st and 4th, and first with a bob bell by the 2nd.'

Reference is made to the ringing at Willesborough and to the grand old veteran, Mr. Ruck. I remember hearing these bells ringing Minor on a quiet evening over 60 years ago from a distance of about two miles. At that time they had a good Minor band under the leadership of Mr. E. Dixon. I have a record of a 720 Bob Minor that four of us lads from Kennington took part in at this church. At that time there was a Major band at Mersham. A walk of about four miles enabled us to get a bit of practice. I have a record of ringing a touch there as follows: K.C.A., Mersham, on January 18th, 1896; 576 Bob Major. Paine treble, Paine 2, Paine 3, Paine 4, Paine 5, F. Philpott 6, G. H. Head 7, E. Ruck (con.) tenor.

NOCTURNAL RINGING

It is pleasing to learn that ringing is again flourishing at Aldington. They had a good Minor band when I was a lad. I well remember walking over to the village to meet ringers from Canterbury for a pull. On our arrival the people had gone to bed. Nothing daunted, we knocked up old Mr. Hyder, who very kindly gave us permission to ring, and threw the key out of the bedroom window. I was given the figures and rules for ringing Stedman Doubles at that meeting by the late Morton Pierce, of St. Alphege's, Canterbury; I still have this by me.

I suppose the highlight of ringing during recent years in this District has been the splendid records set up by the Ashford band. I was in Ashford a few years ago, when the bells went off into changes, ringing for Sunday morning service. It was one of the most perfect touches of Surprise Major it has been my pleasure to hear.

WITH J. S. GOLDSMITH

On the front page of our journal is the notice "The Ringing World" was founded in the year 1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith. I rang a few peals with him in 1899. I well remember him calling on me at my place of employment at Eastbourne and handing me a piece of paper on which was the diagram of a course of Bristol Surprise. He asked me to meet a band in a week or so at Ringmer, Sussex, as they were anxious to score the first in the method. I always blame myself for losing the p.e. It was scored shortly afterwards by a Brighton band. In our attempt were G. Williams, Keith Hart, Frank Bennett, J. S. Goldsmith and myself; but who the others were I cannot remember. But I wonder if any survive besides myself.

GEO. H. HEAD.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A NEW ANGLE ON TEACHING BEGINNERS

Dear Sir,—After reading the above article in the issue of August 15th, I feel a few points need further comment.

Firstly, one has to consider a learner's aptitude towards ringing coupled with the general ability he shows, before allowing him to ring both strokes. Only in exceptional circumstances can there be genuine progress by reaching this stage in the very first lesson. The general style, positions of hands, etc., that one tries to impress upon a learner as most important to making a good ringer, are very soon lost, as sooner or later a panic stage arrives and the pupil's confidence is then, in many cases, replaced by fear.

In order to make this initial stage reasonably pleasant for both pupil and teacher I am in favour of leaving 'two stroke' ringing until the second lesson because, if our beginner is at all keen, subconsciously he will sort out his primary errors between his first two lessons, and also imagine the movements of ringing both strokes. In this way it is unlikely that confidence in his ability to ring is lost at any stage.

With regard to plain hunting, if our beginner is told what bells to follow, what is this but glorified call-changes? As all the other bells are changing their positions, in most cases I am sure a learner has no idea where he is ringing! A better method than this, I feel, is to ring rounds with him on the treble and then to allow just the treble to plain hunt up and down with each inside ringer giving the treble the necessary space as it passes through. Granted, this again is ringing by numbers, but there can be no doubt in our beginner's mind as to the different positions he takes up, and the idea of moving from 'front' to 'back' and down again which he is most unlikely to realise when all bells are changing positions. What is to be gained from this? In the first case the reason for ringing slower on the way up and quicker on the way down needs no further explanation. Secondly, as the treble is the only 'moving' bell he will be training himself to listen to his bell. Finally, from what has just been said, the learner knows that he must give more room to the heavier bells than to the lighter ones for good striking.

Very little time need be spent on the above 'hunting'—just long enough to acquire these valuable, fundamental points for himself. Then, plain hunting on three or four bells becomes considerably easier with the learner progressing mainly by his own initiative, with, at the very start, the ropes being pointed out to him if he goes astray.

My last point is to congratulate Mr. Bayles for the article on his method of teaching a beginner dodging. Although I admit to never having seen this attempted prior to someone 'having a go' at Bob Doubles or Minor 'inside.' I am sure, potentially, it is a great idea to be followed up.—Yours faithfully,

D. G. MITCHELL.

North Weald, Essex.

INQUIRY PURELY EXPLORATORY

Dear Sir,—Truly, 'how great a fire a little matter kindleth'!

Mr. Barnett's response to my letter to you which, through your kindness, was given space in 'The Ringing World' recently, wrongly throws emphasis upon an inquiry which was meant to be quite incidental to the main theme of my original letter to him. After seeing my own letter in 'cold print' I can appreciate that, in quoting Mr. Barnett, I have given a wrong impression, and, if such be so, I offer him my apologies. It was, as he generously assumes, quite unintentional!

There is no question, at this present juncture at any rate, of an application being forthcoming from this Association for representation on the Central Council; in any case, I feel that our 'parent,' the Devon Association, should be the body to inaugurate such a move if ever serious consideration were given to it. My inquiry was made from a purely general and exploratory motive of personal interest. My chief concern, as expressed in my original letter to Mr. Barnett and in that which I wrote to you, sir, lay not with representation as with the disappointment which I felt that no thought for call-change tower representation was given in compiling a, or 'the,' list of 'towers where good ringing might be expected' for submission to, and at the request of, the B.B.C.

Please be assured of my appreciation of your kind reception of my letter.—Yours truly,

B. E. BARTLETT, Hon. Secretary,
South Devon Ringers' Association.
Torquay.

MEMORIES OF YATELEY

Dear Sir,—I was much impressed to read Mr. George Gilbert's letter in the 'R.W.' Knowing this gentleman over 30 years ago, when he used to visit that quaint old wooden tower of Yateley with his young and enthusiastic band from Aldershot, it was a great pleasure to all the Yateley ringers of that day to have this great ringer and exponent of *good striking first*, together with principles and examples of good behaviour, all running in complete harmony.

Very happy days were those under that great leader and gentleman, the late Mr. Sidney Riddell, who in those days could ring a 500 of Stedman for matins with one band, and for Evensong a quarter peal of Grandsire with an entirely different band. We did not aspire to Major very much, and, of course, Surprise methods were only read of in the 'R.W.' but what mattered was that we had a wonderfully happy and loyal band, whose only interest was good Sunday service ringing, good striking, together with good and happy comradeship.

I retired from active ringing some six years ago, but I still take 'The Ringing World,' and when I read George Gilbert's letter it gave me a great thrill; and I say let's have many more like him, and ringing would be all the better for it.—Yours truly,

ALFRED J. WHITTLE.

Reading.

THE EGHAM PEAL

Dear Sir,—Mr. Coussins' letter regarding the peal rung at Egham on May 17th (not 24th) was a gross distortion of the facts, obviously intended to mislead. Mr. Gilbert, who was not in the peal, nor heard it, and obviously took no trouble to verify the facts from any of the seven other participants, has made some libellous innuendos, besides his insulting remarks about 'two of the ladies' who were *not* the people responsible for the poor ringing.

The facts are:—

- The peal was correctly called by the conductor, without recourse to any manuscript, which, in fact, was too distant for him to read, and was obscured by the body of another ringer.
- His 'co-pilot,' with no previous knowledge of the composition, was asked to 'keep an eye on' the peal, which he did by a hasty memorisation of the calling and a rigid concentration on the coursing order. No trips were corrected by reference to any figures.
- The peal was perfectly true, or it would not have been submitted for publication. The 6-3 were not over 'for some time,' but for a few changes, which rows with the third in 6th's place did not occur anywhere else in the peal. This was the *only* occasion throughout the peal when two bells crossed, and resulted from one of the offenders not doing what he was told when the trip occurred.
- The ringing was poor, but if Mr. Coussins, a good 'back-ender,' had helped by ringing a heavier bell instead of grasping the treble, the striking would have been vastly improved. He did protest that he did not want his name forwarded with the peal, and *immediately* swaggered out of the tower, whereupon one participant remarked: 'Why, I didn't think there was anything wrong with it!' If Mr. Coussins has no desire to include this peal in his personal records that is entirely his affair.

Taking into consideration the inexperience of the conductor and the band, the truth of the peal, and the great disappointment three or four young ringers would have suffered had it not been published, the peal was forwarded.

We are sorry if Egham's tower secretary was offended by our ringing apparently without his knowledge, and tender our apologies. As for the peal 'turning out to be a practice meeting,' what is any peal but a practice? Surely that is the justification for any peal. If peals are rung only by expert ringers purely for pleasure, then peal ringing should be banned.—Yours faithfully,

A. E. HARTLEY,
W. BIRMINGHAM.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—Anonymous 5s.

Peals.—Churchstanton 3s., Old Headington 3s., Goosnargh 4s. 6d., Greasley 3s., Brant Broughton 3s., Oakley 2s. 6d.

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A RINGING HOLIDAY IN CORNWALL

HAVE you got a tower beginning with each possible letter of the alphabet? It was this question which led to a recent tour in Cornwall by six ringers from Gloucestershire, Somerset and Surrey; two from each county. Cornwall offered Jacobstow and Veryan, the towers necessary to complete their records. Those who have previously visited this county will know that it is definitely not flat! The six learnt this the hard way—on bicycles. It appears that after such hard journeys to his towers, the Cornish ringer conserves further energy in several subtle ways. Most of the rings of bells visited were very light (compared to the Somerset men's standards), and the bells are generally rung from the ground floor—no matter how high the tower! In addition, many of the towers are cunningly concealed in most out-of-the-way spots, and it soon became apparent that 1" O.S. maps would have been preferable to smaller scale editions.

In this 'call-change' country, probably less visited by the 'scientifics' than other parts of England, many other interesting traditions were found. The rope-ends are cut off and only tucked back some six inches—some, indeed, preferred a simple knot at the end! The country ringer loves a ringing festival, and many towers are festooned with the class certificates awarded at these. Some also have a low opinion of the abilities of a 'scientific' band to 'rise' and 'fall' properly in peal, but we did our best to rectify this theory.

The six met at Truro on Sunday, July 7th. Mike Rothwell and Pat Bird had experienced some of the trials to come by cycling down from Somerset, while Pauline and Michael Sprackling, Alan Smith and his father had preferred the train. That evening we joined the Cathedral company in ringing Grandsire Caters on the heaviest ring of the tour, before attending Evensong.

A FAIRY TALE

Monday dawned fine and warm, and we experienced our first hills on the way to Kea, a pretty eight, and the quaintly-named Perran-Ar-Worthal. Gwennap proved very interesting, this being a light six with the third dating to 1727 and the fifth to 1746. They were recast and augmented by Warners and the first 'peal' took place in 1787. The detached tower aroused interest and the Vicar told how the populace of a neighbouring village had once decided to augment their three bells by some from Gwennap, but finding the door locked decided to take the whole tower. Having carried it a small distance from the church they found it too heavy and put it down on the spot on which it stands today. A more likely tale is that the tower was built further up the hill to make it more prominent.

At Kenwyn we were able to hear all the eight when Mr. R. A. Southwood kindly rang 6-7 to rounds. Later we enjoyed the six at St. Erme, whose ringers have done very well in recent ringing festivals. Probos has a grand tower and ring (8, 20 cwt.) more in the Somerset style. It is the tallest tower in Cornwall and has one of the very few upstairs ringing chambers which we encountered. The bells are very good and we wish we could have heard all eight. At Veryan the 'V' was happily noted in 'Dove,' and it was a tired party that eventually found Boswinger Y.H. that evening.

By Tuesday a restful evening on the beach and a paddle in the sea had put us right and we arrived early at St. Ewe. Here is a light six hung two upon two upon two in the spire. The only noticeable effect of this arrangement in the ground floor ringing

chamber is the amount of plaster which has fallen down from a space between the nave and the tower! St. Mewan and St. Austell followed; the latter displays a feature noted in several of the churches visited, the chancel is bent slightly to the left with respect to the rest of the church. After lunch we went on to Tywardreath. Here Mike thought that his bell had no stay, but the local Vicar doubted his deduction, with the result that the bell went over just as a ringer reached the church to warn us. Fowey left us wishing for two more ringers, while Lanteglos proved most elusive. The church was easily seen but only reached after nearly circling it by road and crossing a field. It has a deceptively tall tower since it is built in a hollow while the ringing takes place from apparently below ground level. Two more light sixes completed the day's ringing—St. Veep, which reputedly have never been tuned, and St. Winnow, where water leaps against the church wall when the tide is in.

Wednesday's ringing commenced at Lostwithiel, where a great welcome was extended by the Vicar and local captain. Lanhedock is an estate church beside a picturesque Elizabethan mansion. Here is a light eight apparently not rung often—the rope on the third broke below the sally while the rise was in progress. There is a ninth bell in the tower which would appear to be a properly hung sanctus bell. Bodmin was followed by Withiel, where ringing was curtailed when the third slipped wheel and set at backstroke, and the key to the belfry could not be found.

A WONDERFUL JOB

St. Columb Minor is the second highest tower in Cornwall, and its ringers have done a wonderful job in decorating and furnishing the ringing chamber. St. Eval is another of those churches to be seen but not reached. It is almost ringed by an airfield and the guards would 'certainly not' let us take a short cut up the main runway! Here we found with some dismay that Oxford Little Court 'doesn't work.'

Thursday morning, with the fine weather still holding, found us ringing at St. Merryn. Padstow and Little Petherick followed; at the former the bells are a little odd-struck, while the latter's appear to 'stick' both at hand- and at back-stroke. St. Issey and St. Breock both pleased, while Eglosayle's are a grand eight. Up to this time we had not met a rough ring, but St. Tudy's was to prove the exception: the six 'go' more like twice the weight. Pauline's bell set rather prematurely in the rise and refused to come out again even with all her weight on the rope! St. Teath's are a pretty six and the rise, 240 of Grandsire Doubles, and fall were tape-recorded by a gentleman from Calcutta. The play-back appeared quite good considering that the band were somewhat uncomfortably placed due to the absence of stays on the front three. Advent, with one of England's lightest fives (3 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb.), was approached (across its surrounding fields!) with some trepidation, but they are a ring to be enjoyed once handling has been mastered, and here Pauline rang her first tenor.

THE VICAR WARNED

Tintagel was visited early the next morning, followed by St. Juliot and Lesnewth. At Jacobstow Mike, with his usual misfortune, could not raise the third above frame height and even Alan's and Mr. Smith's ingenuity failed to do better. A very large key opened a very small door to the belfry, which had been left in a shocking condition by our 'feathered friends.' To say that the bell was loose on the headstock would be a gross understatement, since both that and the stay

could be moved freely through some 15 degrees. The fittings had gouged deeply into the rotten wood of the headstock, which could be powdered away in the hand. We regretfully advised the Vicar that the bell should on no account be rung again until properly restored. Hence we completed our alphabetical tower record on the other five. At Poundstock we managed the elusive course of Tewkesbury, much to Pauline's and Michael's delight. Marhamchurch bells are an excellent six, while Launcells and Week St. Mary's are also most enjoyable.

Saturday dawned our only wet day, but we reached Launceston safely, if a little wet, and were soon at St. Stephen's enjoying the back six, which were cast by Pennington. The light six at St. Thomas' was our last, and the ringing chamber here must rank as one of the smallest in England.

It was a tired but happy party which bade each other farewell at Launceston Station, none too soon, perhaps; the weather had broken and the bikes were beginning to crack up under the strain of almost 200 miles of rough roads covered; indeed, Alan's almost fell apart the next day! Our chief memories are of the unbelievably fine weather, of the interesting and enjoyable ringing in 54 methods, and of the Cornishman's usual directional advice: 'Just along there, turn right and straight up.' Our sincere thanks go to all incumbents and ringers who met us, and a very big 'thank you' to Alan Smith from the other five of us for all the work he put in organising such a marathon.

P. J. B.

HILLINGDON RINGERS' OUTING

On August 16th, members and friends of St. John's, Hillingdon, held their second half-day outing. Leaving the church at 1 p.m., the party toured by coach through Surrey. A stop was first made at the Devil's Punchbowl, Hindhead. Then on to Haslemere, where some good ringing was had on the ten bells. Then to Milford, where the company had tea. From there to Leatherhead via Dorking, where the ten bells were rung from Grandsire to Cambridge Royal. The party returned to Hillingdon at 11 p.m. The outing was very well organised by the captain, Mr. F. W. Goodfellow.

T. G. B.

UNRINGABLE BELLS IN ESSEX

Dear Sir,—It may be of interest to anyone organising outings in Essex to have a list of the unringable bells in the county, thus avoiding unnecessary correspondence and wasted time.

Rings of eight: Belchamp Walter, Dedham, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Ilford.

Rings of six: Ashdon, Great Chesterford, Helion Bumpstead, Maldon, Ridgewell, Steeple Bumpstead, West Ham (Holy Trinity, Canning Town), bells removed.

Rings of five: Aveley, Little Bentley, Blackmore, Great Burstead, Canewdon, Great Clacton, Hadstock, Hempstead, Henham, Horndon-on-the-Hill, Latton, Laver de la Haye, West Mersea, Navestock, Ramsey, Great Sampford, Stambourne, Theydon Garnon, West Tilbury, Toppesfield, White Roding.

There appears to be some doubt as to the condition of Heydon, Pentlow and Rickling bells. Penilow's were given as unringable by Deedes and Walters in their 'Church Bells of Essex' 50 years ago, and Rickling's as neglected. Good Easter's are a tricky proposition due to an organ in the way, but probably could be rung—Yours sincerely,

J. E. G. ROAST.

Danbury, Essex.

SURPRISE MAJOR COMPOSITION QUALITIES

By P. G. K. DAVIES

IN recent months there have appeared some excellent articles on the qualities and originality of compositions. Little, however, has been said in detail on the possibilities of Surprise Major; and considering the popularity of these methods it would be perhaps worth while to have a glance at a few of them in connection with their flexibility in composition.

It is only too well known that Cambridge does not provide much scope in composition, Middleton's unmusical peal being the only one with the tenors together. However, in Yorkshire you needn't have 82's or 83's if you don't want them, and there are available nine of the 18 courses with 4-5-6 only in 5-6 (combination courses). Now as this is only half the number anyway the best peals would seem to be those with nine combinations and not less. Yet the most popular peal is Pitstow's (the Doxology) with six—a mere third of the musical courses. The popularity is no doubt due to its simplicity, but Craven's 3-part is not much more complicated and better. I give a variation of the well-known 3-part with the 2nd only six times in 5th's—the minimum for a 3-part. Other examples of good peals abound in the Central Council Collection and elsewhere.

5,088 YORKSHIRE (A. Craven)

B	M	W	H	2	3	4	5	6
X				3	5	2	6	4
				6	3	2	5	4
			3	5	2	4	3	6
			2	5	4	3	2	6
				2	3	6	4	5

Twice repeated.

In Rutland one can obtain all the 18 combination courses, which involves the use of many hobs. An excellent example is this 5,056 by S. Ivin, with 69 hobs:—

M	B	W	H	2	3	4	5	6
—	X			3	5	4	2	6
A	—	2		—	5	2	3	6
	—	X			3	5	2	6
	—	X			—	2	3	5
A				6	2	3	4	5
—				—	5	3	2	4
B	—	X		—	3	4	2	5
	—	X			4	5	2	3
	—	X			—	2	5	3
B				3	2	5	4	6
—	X			—	2	4	5	3
2A				6	3	2	5	4
—				—	2	3	4	5

If one wants less calls one has to have fewer combinations, and a very popular peal is this with 12 combinations and 45 hobs.

5,088 RUTLAND (C. W. Roberts)

M	B	W	H	2	3	4	5	6
—	X			—	4	3	5	2
			3	—	2	4	5	3
	X			—	2	4	3	5
—	X		—	2	—	4	3	2
—				—	2	3	5	4

It seems futile to call compositions with more hobs and less music. I have one in front of me with nine combinations (obtainable with 33

calls) and 96 hobs—in my opinion, a worthless peal.

Belgrave is quite often rung, and as there is no falseness between Middle and Wrong, extra (i.e., more than nine) combinations can and have been obtained at the course-end. Unfortunately, this means having 82's or 83's elsewhere and one will probably land up with a few leads of inferior music. Here is an example with ten combinations—but 82's B. to M.

5,024 BELGRAVE (C. W. Roberts)

W	B	M	H	2	3	4	5	6
—		2		—	5	6	2	3
	1		—	3	—	5	3	2
—			—	—	6	2	3	4
—	1			—	6	2	4	5
—	1		—	3	—	5	2	4
—			—	—	4	3	5	2
			—	—	5	3	6	2
2			3	—	3	2	6	5
—		2	2	—	3	5	4	2
—			3	—	2	3	4	5

The following has one combination course less and one course less of 82's and 83's, having extent qualities with three bells only in 6th's place. It is a 5,024 which I put together:—

W	B	M	H	2	3	4	5	6
—			3	—	5	2	4	3
—	1		—	2	—	3	5	6
—	1			—	2	3	6	4
—		2	—	—	2	6	4	3
—		2	—	—	—	2	4	3
2		2	—	—	6	3	4	2
	1		—	—	6	3	2	5
—		2	—	—	6	2	5	3
2			—	—	5	2	3	6
—			3	—	—	3	5	4
—				—	—	2	3	4

Turning away from Cambridge above to Cambridge below we come to Pudsey, again quite a popular method. Often compositions of Yorkshire are called to this method, but one

might as well take advantage of there being less falseness in what is not the most musical of methods—and several good compositions of 'Pudsey only' exist. You can have 15 combinations without 2 or 3 in 6th's—a considerable increase on Yorkshire's nine. There are several simple ones in parts. I give a 5,184 with the 15 combinations and the 6th ten times home.

R. F. B. SPEED								
B	M	W	H	2	3	4	5	6
				—	—	—	4	5
				—	3	—	2	5
X							5	3
A	X			—	—	—	2	4
							4	3
							6	4
				—	—	—	5	2
							4	2
X							4	2
A adding 3H after before, 4 3 5 2 6								
X							3	2
X							3	2
X							3	2
X							2	4
					3	—	6	2
					—	—	3	4
X					2	—	2	3

Lastly, a word about an 8th's place method—Cornwall. This is one of the few methods in which all the 144 combination roll-ups (i.e., the 5678's, 6578's, 4678's, 6478's, 4578's and 5478's) occur in 18 natural courses, all of which are obtainable. It has the little 4-bell peal, rather effective when 5678 are dodging in 1234, a characteristic of methods with Ealing below. This method is only occasionally rung to peals and is acknowledged as being extremely musical. It has no defects such as four places at a cross-section, or adjacent place-making on the front.

The purpose of these lines is to focus a little attention on Surprise compositions and to encourage the calling of good compositions, which as has been said before, are sometimes but not always harder to call than poor ones. If conductors insist of getting what they want they will enjoy music as good as the method will produce, and foster the composer's art at its best.

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THE RYE WEDDING

Two well-known Oxford ringers were married on July 26th at St. Mary's, Rye. Ruth Storr Hodgson was a physiotherapist at St. Mary's Hospital, London, and then at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, and was taught to ring by her brothers, Robin and David. Donald Henry Niblett took a First Class Degree at Oxford in Physics and then did research at the Clarendon Laboratory for his doctorate. He is now a pressed steel research Fellow. He was taught to ring at Mickleton, Glos.

On the eve of the wedding a peal was rung (with Donald conducting) at New Romney. Before and after the service Rye bells were rung by the local band (captain, A. J. Hicks).

Wearing a cream brocade dress and a Limerick lace veil, which has been in her family 96 years, the bride was attended by Miss Elizabeth Yates and Miss Patricia Aitken in pale turquoise brocade. The best man was Mr. Colin Taylor, from Bath. The Vicar officiated.

The sun, which had been absent all morning, appeared as the happy pair left the church on the way to the reception held, by kind permission of the Mayor, in the Town Hall. Mrs. Hodgson had arranged a magnificent spread, attended by 60 guests with a leavening of ringers, including Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Cloke, Messrs. R. A. and D. Hodgson, R. N. Pittman, P. R. Sanders, D. J. Roaf and R. Niblett.

Colin and Donald made amusing speeches, and then Ruth, in a silk floral going-away dress with pink duster-coat and white accessories, and Donald left for Dover (where they rang next morning), Luxembourg and Switzerland, where the bulk of the honeymoon was spent.

No Tea Break

Telephone conversation with a Kent incumbent:—

'Hello, is that Rev. C—?'

'Yes.'

'Will it be possible for us to come and ring a peal on your bells on Saturday?'

'Yes, by all means. What time will you come?'

'Oh, about half-past three, if that's convenient.'

'Certainly. How long will it take?'

'Er, about three hours.'

'WHAT! But—er, but—er, what are you going to do about tea?'

GUILD of DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

St. Mary's, Kentisbeare, with its recent ring of six (tenor 104 cwt.) was the meeting place on August 16th for many ringers from towers in West Somerset and Devon, some 60 ringers being in attendance during afternoon and evening.

The service was conducted by the Guild president, the Rector of Kentisbeare being on holiday. The Rev. Preb. E. V. Cox welcomed all to Kentisbeare with its lovely church and bells. A collection for the Guild bells restoration fund amounted to £2 4s. 6d.

Arrangements for tea were made by Mr. L. G. Leath and his fellow ringers and their wives. This was very much enjoyed.

The Rev. E. E. Hughes (Branch chairman) presided at the business meeting. It was decided to hold an evening meeting at Silverton in October. The chairman reminded the meeting that the Branch Secretary would be resigning at the next annual general meeting. A vote of thanks to all was carried with acclamation.

Methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Minor, Kent and Cambridge. Messrs. Taylors and Mr. J. Walker, who did the work at Kentisbeare in restoring the old frame and recasting the bells, are to be congratulated on a fine ring of six, much enjoyed by all. W. H. W.

NOTICES

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ENGAGEMENT

CONWAY—PARKER.—The engagement is announced between Colin, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Conway, of Verona Avenue, Southbourne, and Margaret, only daughter of Mrs. Parker and the late Mr. J. Parker, of Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth. 2871

MARRIAGE

BLUNDELL—FAULKNER.—On Aug. 16th, 1958, at St. Barnabas', Sutton, Surrey, between Clifford and Angela. Present address: 10, Farquhar Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of Mr. and Mrs. John Hill is now: Kyrebrook, 23, Tavistock Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex. 2866

The address of Dr. and Mrs. D. N. Layton is now 120, Gough Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15. Telephone number Calthorpe 1070. 2865

The address of Mr. F. A. Munday is now 6, Rockwood Crescent, Woodhall Estate, Pudsey, Yorks. 2882

PERSONAL

MARRIAGE THRO' SOCIAL INTRODUCTIONS.—The only social service of its kind enjoying the warm approval of both Clergy and Press. It is completely confidential and operates throughout Great Britain. Interesting free brochure under plain sealed cover from The Bournemouth Bureau, 176, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. 2731

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MISCELLANEOUS

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SOCIETY.—All ringers coming as freshers to Bristol in October please contact B. J. Wylde, 37, Junction Road, Totton, Hants. 2830

COMPLETE YOUR FILES.—For back numbers, price 6d. each, apply 'The Ringing World.'

CANCELLATION

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Fylde Branch.—The meeting proposed to be held on August 30th at All Hallows Church, Bispham, Blackpool, has been cancelled. Details of next meeting later.—John F. Turner, Branch. Sec. 2901

POSTPONEMENTS

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—S.E. Division.—September meeting at Great Totham is postponed.—P. W. Saltmarsh, Hon. Sec. 2867

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Sible Hedingham postponed until September 27th. 2883

MEETINGS

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—An evening meeting will be held at Everton (5) on Saturday, Aug. 30th. Bells available 6 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 2843

LADIES' GUILD.—Beds and Northants Branch.—Meeting, Saturday, Aug. 30th, at Isham. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. Garley, 14, Fairfield Road, Isham, Northants. 2841

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bottesford (8), Saturday, Aug. 30th. Bells 3 p.m. Special method, Rutland Surprise Major. Names for tea to Mrs. P. Clarke, The Vicarage, Whaddon. 2822

SOUTHEND AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Leigh-on-Sea, Saturday, Aug. 30th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Bring own food—tea provided. All welcome.—B. Crossman. 2858

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Quarterly meeting at Havant on Aug. 30th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. 2797

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—Meeting, Aysgarth (6), Saturday, Aug. 30th. Bells from 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. H. C. Pauli, Wensleydale Cottage, West Burton, Leyburn. Other towers in District may be available.—Edward Hudson, Hon. Sec. 2860

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Practice meetings 7.30, Monday, Sept. 1st, and first Monday in each month, St. Mary's, Lambeth Bridge. General body meeting Saturday, Oct. 11th, details later.—Rogers (ISL 3921). 2834

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION. — Practice meeting at St. Giles-in-the-Fields (one minute from Tottenham Court Road tube station) on Monday, September 1st, at 7 p.m.—T. J. Lock. 2873

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Mid-week ringing meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, chiefly for members unable to attend on Saturdays: Town Hall, 6 p.m., and Cathedral, 8 p.m. All welcome.—R. Benson. 2903

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Monthly practice at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, at 6.30 p.m. Quarterly meeting at Hatfield on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Details next week.—A. W. J. Butler. 2891

ARCHDEACONRY OF HALIFAX GUILD.—Next meeting, Saturday, Sept. 6th, at Newmill (6) only. Bells available from 4.30 p.m. onwards. Bus service from Huddersfield. No towers for the afternoon can be arranged. 2878

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—The meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6th, at Willington. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea, please, to Mr. D. Wooding, Byways, Station Road, Willington, Bedford.—Miss P. Gray, Hon. Dis. Sec. 2897

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Peak District.—Meeting at Hope (8), 3 to 5 p.m., and Castleton (8), 6.15 to 8.15 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6th. Own tea arrangements. All welcome.—H. E. Taylor, Dis. Sec. 2812

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Ely District.—Meeting at Soham, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—D. F. R. Knight, Dis. Sec. 2899

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—Meeting, Coaley (6), Saturday, September 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Notify by Sept. 3rd.—Mary Drew, Bibstone Farm, Cromhall. 2885

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Saturday, Sept. 6th, St. James' (10), 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Please attend.—A. Bennett. 2906

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford District.—Quarterly meeting at Withington, Sept. 6th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service and tea. Names, by Sept. 2nd, to: A. Wingate, Huntington House, Hereford. 2840

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kingston District.—Meeting, Weobley, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., meeting after. Names for tea by Wednesday, 3rd, to J. Preece, Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow. 2876

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Ashwell, Saturday, Sept. 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m. Special method, Surfleet Surprise.—E. Buck, Dis. Sec. 2889

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—By-meeting at Frittenden on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Mr. H. Baker, 1, Bourner Cottages, Frittenden.—C. T. H. 2853

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—By-meeting, Herne, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea must reach not later than Wednesday, Sept. 3rd. Mr. D. Hadlow, 66, School Lane, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent.—B. J. Luck. 2852

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—By-meeting at Stockbury on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea not later than Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, to A. Dunk, Pett Farm Bungalow, Stockbury Valley, near Sittingbourne.—T. Barton, Hon. Dis. Sec. 2846

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Brasted on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, to Mr. F. Budgen, 11, St. Martin's Meadow, Brasted. 2848

LADIES' GUILD.—West Midlands Branch.—Meeting at Kingswinford on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, to Mrs. M. P. Barron, 17, Dulvern Grove, Kings Heath, Birmingham, 14. Tel. HIG 3032. 2892

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting, Saturday, Sept. 6th, Rainford. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those notifying by Sept. 3rd. Mr. E. Roughley, 1, Randle Avenue, Rainford.—M. E. Ridyard. 2904

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—Meeting at Silverdale, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Ringing 2.30 to 8 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to W. Bolton, Kirkmeade, Cove Road, Silverdale.—R. F. Eccles, Sec. 2900

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting, Church Kirk, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec. 2902

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Fenny Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Please notify for tea by Sept. 1st.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. 2856

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined Practices at Hurst on Saturday, Sept. 6th, and Binfield on Saturday, Sept. 20th, both at 6 p.m.—B. C. Castle. 2855

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting, Longbridge Deverill (8), on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service and tea. Names for tea.—S. Cockell, 19, Craybourne Road, Melksham, Wilts. 2898

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY AND DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at Harthill, Saturday, Sept. 6th. 3 p.m. Names for tea, please to Rev. A. J. Bishop, The Rectory, Harthill, near Sheffield.—J. Seager, A. B. Cooper, secs. 2880

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.—Quarterly meeting, Attenborough, Sept. 6th. Bells (8) 2.45 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify, not later than Sept. 3rd, Mr. M. Rose, Wyoming, Nottingham Road, Long Eaton.—S. Adams, Dis. Sec. 2809

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Quarterly meeting, Ardingly (6), Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names by previous Wednesday, please, to I. Butcher, 14, Withypitts, Turners Hill. 2895

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Quarterly meeting, Saturday, Sept. 6th, Fordingbridge. Bells 3.15 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, to Mr. R. Marlow, Bickton, Fordingbridge, Hants.—W. T. Godfrey. 2864

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Quarterly meeting at Addingham and Ilkley on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Addingham bells available 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in Church Institute, Ilkley, followed by business meeting. Ilkley bells available after business meeting. Names for tea by Friday, Sept. 28th, to Mr. H. Crawshaw, 20, Leicester Crescent, Ilkley.—A. E. Marsh, Hon. Dis. Sec. 2888

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Cup contest at Hoylandswaine on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Teas: please notify not later than Sept. 10th, Mr. J. Whitehouse, Guyder Bottom, Hoylandswaine, Barnsley. 2905

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. District.—Meeting at Hatfield Broad Oak (8) on Saturday, Sept. 13th, at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea at the Cock Inn. Names, please, to G. Blake, Hamlet House, Roydon Hamlet, Harlow, Essex. 2875

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—S.W. District.—Crusader meeting, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Orsett. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea, please, to Mrs. C. Blatch, Brick House, Malting Lane, Orsett. 2874

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Exminster, Saturday, Sept. 13th.—Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 6th to W. J. Andrews, Brampford Speke, Exeter. 2872

HEREFORD GUILD (Bridgnorth Branch) and SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting, Claverley, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea not later than Wednesday, Sept. 10th, to Fred Bennett, Pool House Road, Wombourn, near Wolverhampton. Very definitely—no name, then no tea. 2881

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—By-meeting at Boughton Monchelsea, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Other details later. 2894

LADIES' GUILD.—South Wales District.—Meeting, Saturday, Sept. 13th, at Ebbw Vale. Usual ringing arrangements. Gentlemen welcome. Names for tea, please, to Miss D. Evans, 17, Belle View, Garden City, Ebbw Vale.—J. S. King. 2879

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Quarterly meeting, Sept. 13th. Kingston Seymour. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Names for tea by Tuesday, September 9th, to Mrs. Norton, Gout House Farm, Kingston Seymour, Clevedon.—B. Johnson, District Secretary. 2908

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester and Rochdale Branches.—Joint meeting, Saturday, Sept. 13th, at St. George's, Mossley, in support of local ringing day. Opening ceremony and civic reception 10 a.m. Bells (8) available from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. Service 4

p.m. Names for tea to H. Pickles, 11, Seel Terrace, Lees Road, Mossley. Business 6 p.m. Whist drive, beano and dance 7.30 p.m. Buses: 'E' route from Oldham Town Hall (9.35 a.m. and every 30 minutes, 2.5 p.m. and every 15 minutes); or, 'Mossley via Barracks' from Ashton.—Benson and Hudson. Secs. 2890

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—General quarterly meeting at Ashby Folville (8) on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. in Institute, followed by meeting. Names for tea by Sept. 10th to Mrs. H. Walker, The Carrington Arms, Ashby Folville, Melton Mowbray, Leics. Committee on Monday, Sept. 8th, 7.45 p.m. at St. John's Vestry.—B. G. Warwick, Hon. Gen. Sec. 2868

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Half-yearly meeting, Grantham, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m., for those who notify by the Tuesday previous Mr. F. G. Vickers, Ermine Street, Ancaster, Grantham. 2869

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting, Byfield, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Names for tea, please, by Tuesday previous to Mr. F. W. Hutt, Knowle Cottage, Byfield, Rugby.—F. W. Hancock. 2896

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Practice meeting, Saturday, Sept. 13th. Semley. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, Benett Arms, 5 p.m. Names, please, by Sept. 9th to Miss A. Bacon, 30, St. Francis Road, Salisbury. 2877

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Notts District.—Cup contest and meeting at West Retford (6), Saturday, Sept. 13th, at 3 p.m. Plenty of cafés in town.—H. Denman. 2887

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Quarterly District meeting will be held at Barnes on September 13th. Bells 3. Service 4. Tea and meeting in Church Hall 4.30. Mortlake bells after. Names for tea to Miss Heath, The Rectory, 25, Glebe Road, S.W.14.—W. Parrott, Hon. Sec. 2825

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Western District), BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (North Bucks Branch).—A joint meeting at Tring on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Saturday, Sept. 13th, to Mrs. J. Good, 83, Leys Road, Hemel Hempstead. No name, no tea.—K. Spavins, R. Howson, J. Good. 2886

ELY ASSOCIATION DINNER.—The Ely Diocesan Association will hold a dinner at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27th, at the All Saints' Hall, Ferrar's Road, Huntingdon. Tickets 12s. Peals can be arranged for persons attending the dinner, also various rings will be available during the afternoon and evening—times to be announced later. Tickets and peal arrangements from H. S. Peacock, 8, Roscrea Terrace, St. John's Street, Huntingdon. 2842

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Half-yearly ringing meeting, Bolton, at 2.30 p.m., and committee meeting in St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton, at 3.45 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27th. Bells available: St. Mary's, Deane (8), 2.30 to 5 p.m. and after tea: Holy Trinity (8) and The Saviour (8) 3.30 to 4.30 and after tea, Tea 5 p.m. at Deane, at 2s. 6d. per person. Names only by Wednesday, Sept. 24th, to Mr. Major Crook, 6, Manningham Road, Deane, Bolton. 2807

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