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UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The story of unpaid subscriptions and lapsed membership is not new to ringing organisations, and it was renewed on Saturday at the annual meeting of the North-Western Division of the Surrey Association. The same tale has been told in various parts of the country frequently of late, just as it has been told through the years. There have always been the backsliders who, with one excuse or another, or none at all, have failed to pay up. The small annual subscription which is involved should be a first charge on the loyalty of a member, not only because membership implies recognition of the liability, but because no association could survive if the majority of the members adopted an attitude of indifference in regard to their financial responsibility. The Surrey Association is by no means alone in the justice of its complaint, and defaulters, wherever they are, are equally to be condemned. We do not, of course, include among them those ringers who are unable to pay their subscriptions through falling upon adverse times—unemployment, illness and other causes may impose a strain upon them which makes even the small contribution to a ringing society an impossible burden. The defaulters of whom secretaries complain are not of this category. The people who give the secretaries trouble are those who do not pay through sheer laxity. They not only handicap the work of the associations, but multiply the task of the secretaries, whose voluntary labours and sacrifice of time count with them for nothing. The retiring Surrey district secretary ventured the opinion that any association would be better off without these slack and lukewarm members, and many other association officials will, we feel, agree with him. They are a clog in the wheels, and if only the energy which has to be devoted to stirring them into action could be diverted to more productive channels much greater good might often be accomplished.

There is special reason why, at this time, the payment of subscriptions should be promptly made. Many associations have already relieved members serving with the forces of paying their contributions until their return to civil life, and others intend to take this course. As the call-up of men proceeds, this will make a growing demand upon funds, which, in many cases, are not too strong even now, and every member who is left behind should make it a point of honour to pay, and pay promptly. This decision to release serving members from their subscriptions, which was first suggested in this column, is being very generally followed, and we hope the other proposal, that was made at the same time, that those who are left in the belfries should voluntarily make

(Continued on page 50.)

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good these lost contributions, will also find a ready response. It may not be possible to adopt a general levy to raise funds to pay these absent members' dues, but there ought to be enough gratitude among those who are left, either in individual towers, or in associations generally, to make this, as we described it, a gesture of honour. It is easy to vote a resolution to relieve a member of his subscription if it costs those who vote it nothing. The real test comes when such a resolution involves a sacrifice, however small, from those who pass it. We hope that the associations, when they contemplate offering free membership to their serving fellows, will also consider whether it would not add to the value of their gesture and the dignity of their proposal if they arrange that those who are escaping the greater risks of national service should themselves reimburse the associations for the financial loss which would otherwise be involved. Another sixpence or so a year would be a small sacrifice for those who are left at home to make. But whether or no this is done, there is no excuse for the slacker, either in the tower or the association, who leaves it to others to carry the financial responsibility. Very often these are the men who, in their own tower, also leave the enthusiasts to do the ringing and come along to share in it only when it suits their own inclination.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, PRITTLEWELL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

GORDON A. BACON Treble	WALTER D. TAYLOR 5
*CYRIL E. SMITH... .. 2	STANLEY W. BAYBUT 6
WILLIAM PERRY... .. 3	†REGINALD W. DARVILL 7
ALBERT E. NORTH 4	FRANK B. LUFKIN Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

* First peal away from treble. † 25th peal. Rung half-muffled in memory of Sidney Walter Cordon, a local ringer for several years. Kenneth Blighton and John Atkingson kept watch as A.R.P.

MILNROW, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... Treble	DAVID VINCENT 5
STEPHEN L. PARRY 2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 6
DENNIS HOLLOS 3	IVAN KAY 7
ALLAN J. BROWN 4	HAROLD HAMER Tenor

Conducted by IVAN KAY.

The 25th peal together for Messrs. Ivan Kay and J. Meadowcroft.

HANDBELL PEAL.

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes

AT 170, HEADSTONE LANE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

CECIL C. MAYNE 1-2	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness—Mrs. C. C. Mayne.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF DORCHESTER BRANCH.****Call to Maintain Bells in Full Use.**

There was an attendance of over sixty at the annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Dorchester, and it proved a really successful war-time gathering. The bells at the Parish Church were available during the afternoon and after the meeting.

A service was first held in St. Peter's Church, where the Rector and chairman of the branch (the Rev. A. Wilkinson Markby) preached from the text, 'Whatsoever He saith unto you do it' (St. John xi., 5). He enlarged on the points: Do it yourself, do it promptly, do it cheerfully, do it for eternity.

Tea was afterwards served at the Moule Institute, and the meeting was presided over by the Rev. A. W. Markby, supported by Canon D. F. Slemek, Mr. C. H. Jennings (branch secretary) and Mr. J. W. Smith (assistant secretary). Towers represented at the meeting were Puddletown, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Dorchester St. Peter, Fordington St. George, Bradford Peverell, Sydling, Wyke Regis, Wool, Upwey and Bovington. A Bournemouth ringer was also present.

In his annual report, Mr. Jennings said when they started the year it was thought it would be a record one for the 30 years of the branch's existence, but the war altered for the Church the whole character of the year, including the special branch of the ringers' work which had promised such a bright outlook. The branch meetings were carried on up to the outbreak of war, which cut off suddenly their activities, as it disrupted the even flow of almost all phases of normal life.

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

He regretted there was no restoration to report, and no doubt the war would affect this work, but he trusted that when peace was proclaimed those responsible would do their best to put the bells in order in some of the noble towers in the district. Membership showed an increase, and a warm welcome was extended to the Maiden Newton band on their return to the Guild. Progress in the art of change ringing had been made and this was particularly noted at Dorchester St. Peter's.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. William Hewlett, father of the branch, on completing 64 years as a ringer at Puddletown and 45 years as captain of the band, and also on serving for 40 years as parish clerk. The latter occasion was marked by the presentation to him of a silver bell and a cheque for £20.

'I do hope,' the report continued, 'that where possible the bells may be rung, particularly for the Sunday services. It is a call to devotion, and no doubt the sound of the bells will help to keep up the spirits of many people who may feel depressed. This year may present some difficulties where the bands of ringers have been depleted by members leaving the district to go on National Service, and bands in our branch have already felt the effect. In all such cases it is hoped those ringers who are left will devote all their energies in keeping the art going and instructing young recruits.'

'It may be of interest to some members to know that the Minister of Home Security has seen no reason for the abandonment of bell ringing. No doubt ringing adds a general cheerfulness.'

'I wish to send greetings and good wishes to our members serving with H.M. Forces, and may they have blessings from Above and a safe return home.'

Thanks were extended to all who had helped in the work of the branch.

WAR-TIME RINGING.

On the subject of continuing to ring church bells, a letter was received from the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, general secretary of the Guild, in which he said: 'In the many restrictions that the Government have seen fit to impose they have frankly and specifically recognised the right and privilege of ringers to continue their normal activities in the service of the Church. The recognition of that right by the State authorities calls for a corresponding recognition on the part of ringers of their sacred duty to the Church and nation. It is of the first importance that we should endeavour to the utmost of our power to maintain the bells of our churches in full use, and in this time of trouble do our part to proclaim the eternal message of joy, telling forth the glory of God and uplifting the hearts of the people.'

The letter circulated by the hon. secretary of the Central Council on the subject of ringing in war time was also read.

The financial statement showed receipts of £35 6s. 4d., including subscriptions from 133 ringing members, 15 honorary members, and 22 associate members. The balance in hand was £15 1s. 5d., against £13 8s. 2d. at the beginning of the year.

Discussion arose as to the holding of quarterly meetings, and the difficulties of transport owing to petrol restrictions, the lack of halls for meetings, and food rationing were referred to.

A quarterly meeting at Puddletown was favoured, and it was left to the secretary to see what he could arrange.

Mr. S. Essex and Mr. Justin Antell (Puddletown) were elected ringing members, and Mr. P. Gifford (Sydling) was approved as an associate member.

Acknowledging his unanimous re-election as chairman, the Rev. A. W. Markby said he was always enthused by the spirit of the

(Continued in next column.)

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**WAR-TIME RESTRICTIONS IN GUILDFORD DISTRICT.**

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday week. Major J. H. B. Hesse (Ringing Master of the Guild) presided, supported by Mr. G. L. Grover (Guild secretary), Mr. J. Corbett (Guild treasurer) and Mr. W. F. J. Cope (hon. district secretary). Apologies were received from Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. C. E. Smith (District Ringing Master).

Referring to the war in his annual report, Mr. Cope said the outbreak of war last September resulted in ringing being either stopped altogether or curtailed in a number of towers in the district. They were glad to say, however, that service ringing now took place again in every tower where it was suspended, and that, in a good many cases, practices were getting back to something approaching normal. It was difficult to understand why such severe restrictions should have been imposed in some places, especially when they considered that at Aldershot, service and practice ringing continued without a break. 'We can only surmise that the "powers that be" in what are considered safe areas view things in a much more cautious light than those in vulnerable areas.'

The restrictions on practising in some towers led to the setting up of regular Saturday afternoon practices at others. These, arranged by Mr. Whittington and Mr. Martin, were of great value, and the report expressed the thanks of the Guild to them. The report concluded with an appeal to all members to try and keep things going whatever the future might hold so that when times were again normal they would be ready to forge ahead instead of having first to make up lost ground.

A RECORD MEMBERSHIP.

The report gave the strength of the district as 174 ringing members, a record. The strength of honorary members at 26 was the second highest total on record. There had been increases in ringing membership at Albury, Bramley, Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, Godalming, Guildford (Holy Trinity), West Clandon, Witley and Wonersh. In addition five new members were welcomed from Shere, one from Mewton and one from Puttenham. These three towers had been outside the Guild for some time. Assistance had been given at Shere during the year by Mr. Grover, the general secretary. The big increase in the number of honorary members was largely due to the efforts of Mr. C. M. Martin, the Bramley tower secretary, who secured 14 honorary members during 1939.

The accounts showed a balance in hand of £24 2s. 1d., compared with £25 8s. 3d. at the beginning of the year. The slight decrease was due to a grant of £5 towards the New Cathedral Bells Fund. The report and accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. A. C. Hazelden.

The following officers were elected for 1940: Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. W. F. J. Cope; hon. auditor, Mr. A. C. Hazelden; member of Executive Committee, Mr. E. J. Ayliffe.

The following recommendation to the Guild annual meeting from Holy Trinity, Guildford, was approved: 'That for the duration of hostilities, ringing members serving in His Majesty's Forces be exempt from capitation fees to the Guild.'

The following new members were elected: G. Allen, W. Wells and G. Hammond (Wonersh), H. Wheeler (Cranleigh), A. Durrant, J. G. Jackman and R. Swan (Bramley) and Miss Chandler (Witley). Miss G. K. Ellis, Mrs. M. Ellis, Lt.-Col. A. Ridley-Martin and Mrs. F. Hawkesworth were elected honorary members on the proposition of Mr. C. M. Martin (Bramley).

Thanks were expressed by Mr. Whittington (Cranleigh) to Mr. W. F. J. Cope for his services as secretary of the district and also to the Rev. W. A. Hepher, and the organist, choir and verger of S. Nicolas' Church in connection with the Guild service which preceded the meeting.

Ringings took place at Holy Trinity and S. Nicolas' Churches during the afternoon and at the latter church after the meeting.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

annual and quarterly meetings. It was a spirit of enthusiasm that did a tremendous amount of good.

Canon Slemek was elected vice-chairman, and the following officers were reappointed: Ringing Master, Mr. E. Smart (Upwey); deputy, Mr. Toccock (Bovington); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the incumbents of St. Peter's and St. George's for granting the use of the bells, and to Mr. F. J. Waite for his services as organist at the service.

Mr. Smith called attention to the fact that although a memorial to the ringers who fell in the Great War had been in St. Peter's Church for about 20 years, no wreath had ever been placed on it on Armistice Sunday, and the hon. secretary was authorised to have one placed there at this year's Armistice commemoration.

Absent friends now serving their country were remembered by everyone standing in silent tribute.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. THE UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Retiring District Secretary Chides Backsliders.

In spite of the prevailing wintry conditions, about 40 members attended the annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association, held at Beddington on Saturday. There were visitors from London and elsewhere.

Ringling during the afternoon was followed by a short service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. V. Bond. In his address of welcome he referred to the important part which bells played in war, and to their message of joy and consolation in times of crisis. They all looked forward to the day when the bells would ring for victory. Most people liked to hear the old church bells, and for that reason he was glad that very few restrictions had been placed upon their ringing by the authorities. He wished his hearers God-speed and good luck in the work they were doing.

After a good tea in the Village Hall, kindly arranged by Mrs. Kippin, the business meeting was held, presided over by Mr. D. Cooper (District Master). Six new ringing members were elected and the ratification of four elections made in the tower prior to a peal was made.

The committee's report on the working of the district for 1939 was read and adopted.

In this the committee said 1939 would probably be regarded by future generations as marking the end of an epoch in the history of change ringing in the district. The revival, which was started in 1919 at the end of the last war, would be deemed to have ended with the start of this one; not through any desire or slackness on the part of members of associations, but simply as a result of restrictions imposed by the authorities and the consequent lack of opportunities for ringing experienced almost everywhere by everybody, and ringers becoming engaged in various forms of national service.

Up to the end of August ringing at most towers in the district was well maintained both at practices and for Sunday services, but at one tower ringing had been entirely suspended. This position had been brought about as a direct result of the general slackness and lack of interest amongst local members. The general secretary had, however, got the matter well in hand at this particular tower in the hope of securing a resumption of ringing, at any rate for Sunday services, in the very near future.

Ten meetings were held by the district during the year, i.e., four district meetings, two combined meetings with two or more neighbouring associations, and four joint meetings (three with the Ladies' Guild and one with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild). The average attendances were: District meetings 43, combined meetings 41, joint meetings 35.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

Fourteen peals were rung during the year, as against 18 recorded in 1938. Five members rang their first peal during the year: Miss Mary Rawlings, Mrs. Massey, Mr. John S. Pink, Mr. H. Scotcher and Mr. John R. Davison (age 13), whilst 14 other members rang their first in the method. The year 1939 commenced with a district membership of 201. During the year 13 ringing members were elected; two members were lost by death; ten members allowed their subscriptions to lapse; three had asked to be transferred to the compounding list, and four other members were so transferred by the committee, leaving a total district membership of 195, made up as follows: Honorary members 8, ringing members (representing 21 towers) 161, ringing members (unattached) 26, which was a net decrease of six members on the figures for 1938.

The District Committee thanked the members, and particularly the tower representatives, for their support and co-operation during the past year, and asked for the continuance of their goodwill in the difficult months ahead. As soon as the war is over it would be the business of the rising generation to create yet another revival of the art in the county of Surrey.

The district balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £12 16s. 8d. (an increase of 10s. 4d.) was also adopted.

It was decided, in view of war conditions, not now to choose places for the holding of meetings for the whole of the current year, as in former years, but, when a meeting is held, to decide on a place for the next rendezvous, according to the availability of towers and the prevailing local conditions. The meeting, therefore, adopted a resolution to the effect that they should hold their next meeting at Ewell and Epsom on Easter Monday, March 25th, and that every endeavour should be made to hold joint meetings with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild at Ranmore on July 27th, and with the Middlesex Association at Kingston-on-Thames on October 26th.

The following officers were elected for the district: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. R. A. Simmons; representatives on committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Mr. Charles Potheary and Mr. F. G. Woodiss.

The Chairman (Mr. Cooper) and the Master (Mr. D. K. C. Birt) spoke in eulogistic terms of the work which the retiring secretary (Mr. F. G. Woodiss) had done for the association, and Mr. C. H. Kippin, speaking in the same strain, drew attention to a number of unpaid subscriptions.

Mr. Woodiss, in acknowledging these tributes, said that he had enjoyed, in part, doing the work. The only part he had found dis-

(Continued in next column.)

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT NORBURY.

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch was held at Norbury (Hazel Grove) on Saturday, January 20th, when despite the wintry conditions some 30 members and friends were present.

The bells were set going early in the afternoon and touches in various methods were rung before the service, which was conducted by the curate, the Rev. S. Gummer. The lesson was read by the branch chairman, the Rev. F. Bonner.

The Vicar, preaching from the text, 'There is neither speech nor language, but their sound is gone out into the whole world,' said that while we can learn a great deal from the silent things in nature, happily all nature is not silent. We have the larks and other birds, and music in its different forms, all of them means to bring us to understand something of the Heavenly One. But to reach this understanding our minds must be attuned to silent voices as well as to audible ones. He dwelt on the fact that not only those inside the church heard the sound of the bells, but those outside as well. The message goes forth to all who wish to hear, and there must be many whose consciences have been pricked by the sound of the church bells calling the people to worship. In this connection, he said, the work of bellringers is of great significance. God can use bells to convey his message and may that message be received!

Tea was served in the schools under the supervision of the local ringers' wives, and an excellent meal was quickly disposed of. From the appearance of things it seemed that no such thing as rationing had been heard of! As the Vicar was unable to stay to the business meeting which followed, he was heartily thanked for his services and for his excellent address. The Rev. F. Bonner, as chairman, expressed the members' pleasure at being present at Norbury once again for the annual meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Hough, Mr. E. Garside and Mr. J. P. Fidler and from the 'plumbing' section. The statement of accounts and annual report for 1939 showed a very healthy position, both financially and in general, there being an increase in the bank balance and 25 peals had been rung. The Beeston Library report was presented and read by the chairman, and both he and Mr. Laffin, the librarian, suggested that more use might be made of it. The election of officers resulted in the previous year's officers being re-elected, and votes of thanks were accorded them for their services. Seven new members were elected—Miss E. Humphreys, of Norbury; Mr. S. Davies, St. Mary's, Stockport; Mr. Richard C. Beaumont, Disley; and Messrs. W. Booth, E. Bowden, A. Crabtree and S. Lofthouse, of Hyde. Mr. H. Ashton was transferred to the non-resident members list, under Rule 18. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Bowdon on April 6th. The meeting was unanimous in sending its sincere thanks to the Bishop of Chester for his speedy and energetic action early in December in removing the ban imposed in error by local authorities on the ringing of church bells. The death of three old and respected members of the branch were reported, Messrs. J. Pollitt, of Denton; J. Mottershead, of Stockport St. George, and S. Fernley, of Norbury, and it was decided that the secretary send expressions of sympathy to their relatives. The secretary appealed for all towers to let him know of members serving in the forces or in the A.R.P. organisation so that a complete list could be compiled.

Further ringing then took place both on handbells and tower bells.

SURREY ASSOCIATION DEFAULTERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

tasteful was the necessity of continually having to beg for subscriptions in certain quarters. He had formed the opinion that, in association work, the good members carried the bad, and that any association would be better off without the slack or lukewarm element, even if it meant losing a tower occasionally. At the moment 25 subscriptions for last year had not been paid. Ten of these were due from members attached to one particular church, and he expressed the hope that members would honour their obligations better with his successor.

Mr. George W. Massey, the new district secretary, said he would always do his best for the association in his new post, and thought that if he only did half as well as his predecessor during his first year of office he would not have done too badly (applause).

The following nominations for general officers of the association were made: Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; treasurer, Mr. Charles H. Kippin; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

The following resolution was passed for submission to the annual meeting of the association: 'That members serving with H.M. Forces may be excused payment of further subscriptions until such time as they return to civil life.'

Mrs. Kippin called the attention of the meeting to a peal of Grand-sire Triples at Ewell on January 20th, published in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World,' and rung on the 50th anniversary of the conductor's (Mr. J. Beams) entry into the Surrey Association. Mrs. Kippin proposed that the secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Beams conveying congratulations from the meeting, and that the matter be duly recorded in the minutes.—This proposition was seconded and carried with acclamation.

The meeting concluded with the passing of votes of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and conducting the service, to Mr. H. N. Pitstow for playing the organ, to Mr. C. H. Kippin for having everything in readiness in the tower, and to Mrs. Kippin and Mrs. Jennings for the tea and catering.

RINGERS ON WAR SERVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Though far away from England and ringing, I still read 'The Ringing World,' and it does one's heart good to see the ringing meeting columns these days. Seventeen meetings for one Saturday afternoon sounds more like pre-war days. Oh! to be in England. . . . I congratulate you on the way you have kept the other columns full of interesting matter.

I wonder how other Service ringers are faring. I seem to be unlucky, but perhaps some others have been more fortunate in ringing since 'joining up.' Perhaps a few would care to compare notes in your columns. We have yet to hear of a 'soldiers' peal' as we did in the last war.

May I conclude with a belated wish for a happy New Year to all my acquaintances in the Hawkhurst and Romney Marsh Guilds and the Eastern Branch of the Sussex Association.

A. H. KEMP.

R.E., Masonic Hall, Elgin, Morayshire.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT.

Approximately 50 people attended the annual general meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association, which was held at St. Giles-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday last. The tower bells were rung in a variety of methods for two hours before a short service at 4.30 p.m., the address being given by the curate, the Rev. Dixon, who, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector, extended a warm welcome to the association.

Tea followed at the Express Dairy Company's local branch, after which the business meeting was held.

Three new members were elected, and the retiring officers were re-elected. The statement of accounts was presented by Mr. G. W. Fletcher, auditor, and was accepted. It was agreed to hold the next annual district meeting at Kilburn. After some discussion it was decided, on account of the prevailing war conditions, to discontinue the special methods arranged to be rung at district meetings. It was decided to forward to the Central Committee for consideration a proposal that the subscriptions of members serving in His Majesty's Forces should be remitted.

The Hon. Secretary announced that the next district meeting will be held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on Saturday, March 2nd.

At the conclusion of the business the majority returned to the outer vestry of the church to spend a couple of hours in social intercourse, putting handbells, brought by Mr. C. W. Taylor, honorary member, to good use.

THE LATE CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

MEMORIAL RINGING.

On Saturday, January 27th, at the Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, after the usual 'office,' the 'whole pull and stand' was rung in memory of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney by H. Langdon, H. Hoskins, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, R. F. Deal, T. H. Taffender, T. Langdon, C. W. Roberts and A. B. Peck. Afterwards a 557 of Grandsire Caters was rung half-muffled, Miss G. Church, E. A. Young and T. A. Lewis-Cockey taking part. Mr. T. Winney (brother) and nephews of the deceased were also present.

The late Mr. Winney had been actively connected with St. Clement's for over 60 years.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with deep regret I read in 'The Ringing World' of the passing of Mr. Challis F. Winney, a most lovable and kindly Christian gentleman.

To the older members of the College Youths I believe I am still known as Young Bill (and worse), but I would have wished that younger of the London ringers, who have done bigger things than I shall ever do, could have known Mr. Winney as I knew him over a period of 25 years.

I spent many happy hours with him, and rang some very fine peals with him, and always left his company feeling better.

From a purely ringing point of view, years ago when I was working and 'playing' in London, I felt most honoured when on numerous occasions he asked me to ring for him at St. Paul's for either or both morning and afternoon ringing.

What more can I say of his memory than I am grateful and proud of being asked to substitute so truly a great ringer.

His passing leaves me and others I know bereft of a noble friend.

WILLIAM HIBBERT.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY BARTON.

FORMER LONDON RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Harry Barton, which took place suddenly last Saturday at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. The deceased gentleman had not taken part in peal ringing for several years, but during the closing years of the last century he was a well-known member of the Society of Cumberland Youths and the Waterloo Society, and had rung and conducted a great number of peals with them. He afterwards removed to the Isle of Wight.

During the years 1900 to 1902 he represented the Cumberlands on the Central Council, and from 1924 the Winchester Diocesan and later the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guilds. He was also treasurer of the latter body.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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THE

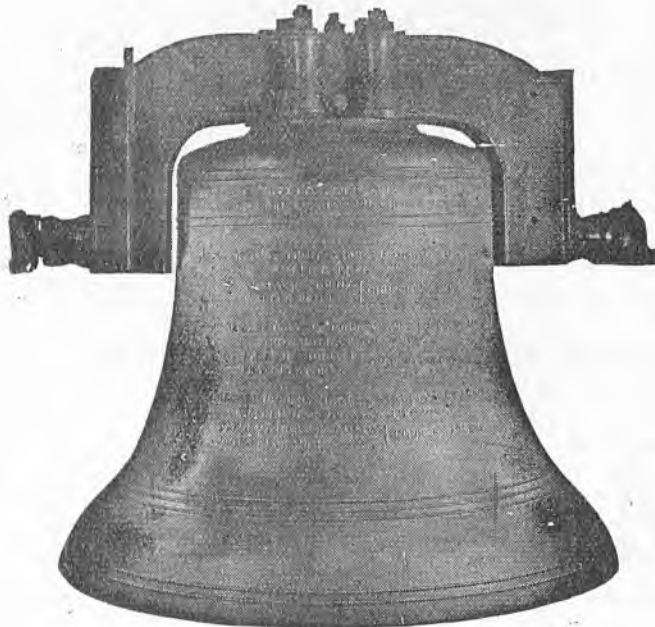
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The attention of readers is called to the fact that the Hertford County Association meeting at Apsley is to be held to-morrow, February 3rd, and not February 10th as advertised in our last issue.

On January 28th, 1911, the Ancient Society of College Youths rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus in London.

Henry Haley died on January 29th, 1886, in his 67th year. He had for long been one of the most prominent London ringers, and had rung peals with the Cumberlands, the College Youths and the St. James' Society. Among them were 5,600 Superlative Surprise and 15,840 Kent Treble Bob at Bethnal Green, 8,580 Stedman Cinques at Cornhill, and the first silent performance of the Original at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. He also took part in peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques on handbells.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756, in his 53rd year.

The Oxford University Society was founded on February 2nd, 1872, and the Cambridge University Guild on February 4th, 1879.

C. D. P. Davies died on February 5th, 1931. He was the author of 'Stedman' in the Jasper Snowdon Series and had completed the book on 'Grandsire.' He was an authority on the composition of peals in Triples methods.

The next few days see the anniversaries of three noteworthy peals rung by London bands of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A 5,555 Stedman Caters was rung at St. Giles', Camberwell, on February 3rd, 1883; the first peal in the same method at Lichfield Cathedral (a 5,005) on February 4th, 1888; and the first 'bachelors' peal' of Stedman Cinques (5,019) on February 7th, 1891. The last named was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and the ages of the ringers ranged from 20 to 40 years, the average being 27. This was also the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever accomplished in which the conductor was also the tenor-man. All the peals were conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe, who also composed the peals rung at Lichfield and St. Bride's. That at Camberwell was composed by Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, specially for the occasion.

The bells of Doncaster Parish Church, after being recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., are now being hung by their workmen. The opening date will be announced later.

THE GREAT BELL OF TALLEY ABBEY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your issue of October 13th, 1939, Mr. Edward J. Thomas raised a question regarding a bell of Talley Abbey 'being conveyed to Carmarthen . . . and then shipped to Exeter.'

A copy of 'The Story of Exeter Cathedral,' by Archdeacon Thompson, of Exeter, has come into my hands, and in the notes on the bells of the Cathedral I find this reference: 'In the north tower is only one bell, Great Peter, weighing 125 cwt. On this bell the clock strikes the hours, and it is tolled daily at eight o'clock in the evening for the curfew, when it rings the number of the days in the current month and eight strokes afterward. It was given to the Cathedral by Peter Courtenay, afterwards Bishop and at the time Archdeacon of Exeter, in 1484. It is said to have been acquired from Llandaff in exchange for five Exeter bells, and to have been brought here over the Bristol Channel to Ilfracombe, and thence by road.' Is this the bell really referred to by Mr. Thomas?

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

Great Peter, of Exeter, has a Latin inscription, which states that it was the gift of Peter Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter, in the year 1484, and that it was recast at the expense of the Dean and Chapter by Thomas Perdue in the year 1676.—EDITOR, 'The Ringing World.'

MINOR FIVES ?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Most ringers know what we mean when we speak of 'a minor five'—a ring of five bells tuned to the same notes as the first five of a ring of six instead of the last five, with no proper finishing note. There are many such fives up and down the country, examples in this neighbourhood being found at Weston Favell, at Ashton, Everdon and North Kilworth. On no other number but five do we find a peal tuned on this principle, which leads me to ask, what was the idea, in the first place, of ever hanging such rings? Personally, I cannot believe that it was with the thought in mind of adding a tenor at some future date, for many of the cases I have come across the five bells have been hung in frames for five only, which goes to show that there was no intention at the time of providing for another bell. Furthermore, why do we never find a higher number tuned on this scale? On higher numbers, founders always kept to the principle of adding trebles, not tenors. It may be argued that on a higher number, to have no proper finishing note, would sound odd or that you couldn't ring Triples, Caters or Cinques on seven, nine or eleven bells only. but this seems to me hardly to supply the answer, for while we must agree that seven, nine or eleven bells rung without a proper tenor sound odd, five bells tuned on this principle, to my mind, sound just as odd. Yet there must have been a reason for founders hanging such fives, particularly as there are so many to be found. Perhaps one of your readers better informed than myself can supply the answer?

Northampton.

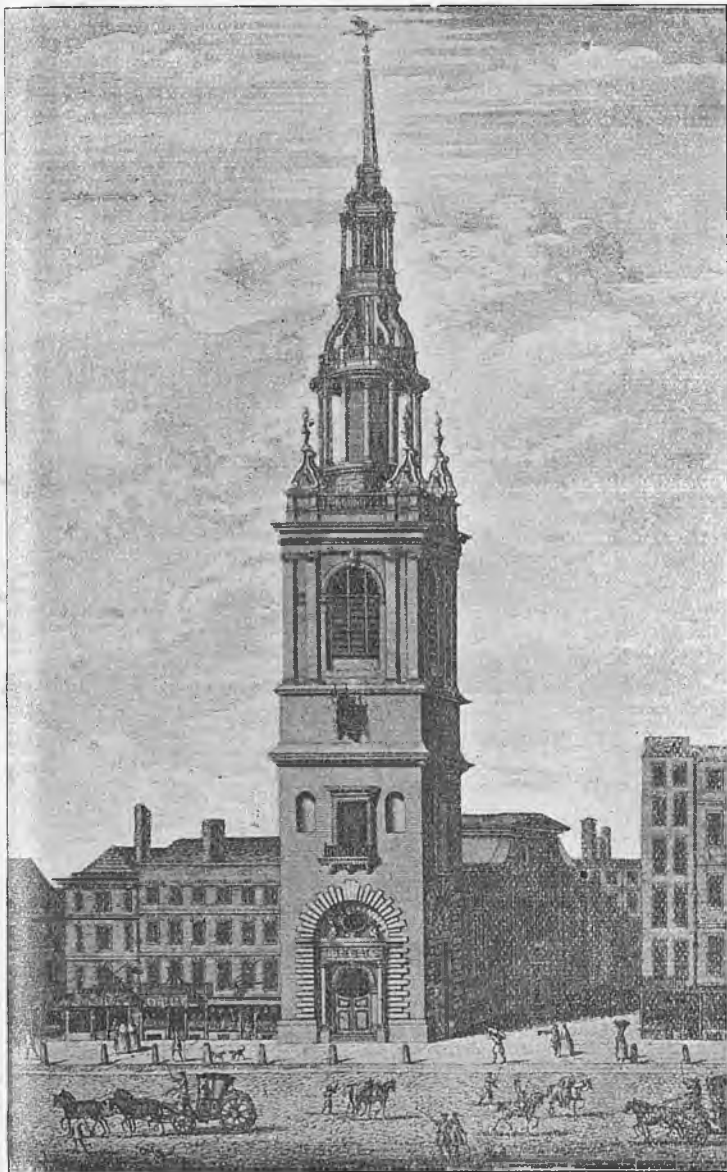
P. AMOS.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Throughout the whole world, certainly throughout the whole of England, there are no bells which are better known to the general public than Bow Bells. In the history of change ringing they hold a prominent place, but they are not so famous as those of St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Bride's, or St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.



BOW STEEPLE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Bow Church, with its splendid steeple, is perhaps the most prominent parish church in the city, and the present building is the successor of another equally well known, for, says Stow, 'for divers accidents happening there it hath been made more famous than any other church of the whole city or suburbs.'

'In the year 1100, in the reign of William II., the roof was blown off in a mighty tempest, in which several people were killed. Six years later William Fitz Osbert, a seditious tailor, took the steeple and fortified it with munitions and vituals. He stood a siege, and

after a desperate fight the building was set on fire and he and his men were forced into the open and taken, and afterwards hanged at Smithfield.

'In the year 1271 a great part of the steeple fell down and slew many people, men and women. In 1284 Lawrence Ducker, a goldsmith, having grievously wounded one Ralph Crepin in West Cheap, fled into Bow Church, into which, in the night time, entered certain evil persons, friends of the said Ralph, and slew the said Lawrence, lying in the steeple, and there hanged him up, placing him so by the window as if he had hanged himself, and so it was found by inquisition; for which fact Lawrence Duckett, being drawn by the feet, was buried in a ditch without the city; but shortly after by relation of a boy, who lay with the said Lawrence at the time of his death, and had hid him there for fear, the truth of the matter was disclosed, for which cause Jordan Goodcheap, Ralph Crepin, Gilbert Clarke and Geoffrey Clarke were attainted, a certain woman named Alice that was the chief causer of the said mischief was burnt, and to the number of sixteen, men were drawn and hanged. The church was interdicted, the doors and windows were stopped up with thorns, but the said Lawrence was taken up and honestly buried in the churchyard.'

The damaged steeple was rebuilt little by little, and by that time the great bell of Bow was one of four appointed to set the time for ringing of curfew throughout the city.

It is usually said that William the Conqueror introduced the curfew into England. He certainly did strictly enforce it, much in the same way and for the same reason that the British authorities recently enforced its modern equivalent in Jerusalem. But long before his time the beginning and ending of the working day were marked by the ringing of bells, and long after his law was repealed the custom continued.

In the year 1282, in the reign of Edward I., a regulation was made that 'at each parish church curfew shall be tolled the same hour as at St. Martin's, beginning and ending at the same time, and then all gates, as well as taverns, whether of wine or ale, shall be closed, and no one shall walk the streets or places.'

St. Martin's was the great conventual church of St. Martin-le-Grand, which stood to the north of St. Paul's, and which possessed a big bell that could be heard at a great distance.

During the following years the regulation was several times renewed in varying terms. The reason given for it was that 'whereas murders, robberies, and homicides have in time past been committed in the City by night, it is forbidden that anyone walk the streets after curfew with sword, buckler or other arm, unless he be a great lord or other respectable person of note.'

Anyone who has tried to find his way among the narrow side streets of the city on a moonless night in these war days can realise what a terror and a danger lawless armed men could be.

In 1362 and 1369 the bell of Our Lady of the Arches (Bow Church) is mentioned in place of that at St. Martin's, and in 1370 and 1376 four churches in four parts of the city were appointed to set the time. They were St. Mary atte Bowe, Berkyngchurch, in Tower Ward, St. Bride, and St. Giles without Crepelgate.

All the other parish churches took their time from these, and instructions were given to the Quest of Wardmote that, if any clerk rang curfew later than these four, he was to be reported.

The curfew served other purposes than the prevention of lawlessness and crime. It was a general signal that the day's work was done.

Stow tells us that the apprentices of Cheapside held that the clerk was usually late with his ringing, so they set up a rhyme against him—

Clarke of the Bow bell with the yellow lockes,
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knocks.

(Continued on next page.)

BOW BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The clerk entered into the spirit of the thing and replied with another couplet—

Children of Cheape hold you all still,
For you shall have the Bow bell rung at your will.

The steeple was finished in 1512 and afterwards the open arches or 'bows' which supported the central lantern were added. They were built of stone brought from Caen in Normandy and delivered at the customs quay at a cost of 4s. 8d. the ton.

From this feature the church is said to have derived its name, but, if so, it must have been reproduced from the old steeple, for the church was called 'Our Lady of the Arches' at least as early as the fourteenth century, and probably much earlier.

William Copland, a tailor and king's merchant, who was churchwarden in 1515, gave the great bell, making the fifth in the ring, and provided that it should be used as the curfew. It was first rung as a knell at his funeral.

Bow tenor became so well known as a curfew bell that the tenor bells in many of the large provincial towns, which were also rung for curfew, were often called 'bow-bells.'

At the time of Edward VI. Bow Church possessed 'fyve greate belles and two Sanctus bells.'

These were added to from time to time until in the seventeenth century there were twelve in the steeple, of which ten were in a ringing peal and two the sanctus bells or their successors.

In the great fire of 1666 the church, steeple and bells were destroyed. The new building was begun in 1671 and finished in 1680. The church cost £8,071 18s. 1d., and the steeple £7,388 8s. 7½d., the total being greater than that of any other of the city churches.

Wren designed the tower for a heavy ring of twelve, and 'on the seventh of September, 1677, John Hodson, Citizen and Carpenter of London, and Christopher Hodson, of the Parish of St. Mary Cray in the County of Kent, Bellfounder,' had orders to make and cast eight bells.

The new bells were about the same weights as the present back eight, 'and,' said John Strype, 'surely for the number and melody of the bells Bow since the Fire surpassed former times.' The tenor, however, either got broken or was not considered good enough for the others, so in 1738 it was recast by Richard Phelps, assisted by Thomas Lester. The new bell, her founders' masterpiece, the famous old tenor of Bow, weighed 53¼ cwt.

In 1758 the parish, being of the opinion that they had one of the best bells in existence, and that the others were not nearly so good, determined to have them recast and two trebles added to make a ring of ten. This was done by Lester and Pack, and the new bells were rung for the first time on King George's birthday, June 4th, 1762. Towards the cost Samuel Blackwell gave fifty pounds. He was Member of Parliament for Cirencester, a member of the Society of College Youths, and a great patron of ringing.

The two trebles to make a ring of twelve were added by Mears and Stainbank in 1881, and in 1933 the bells were restored and rehung by Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, when eight of them were recast, including the tenor, Phelps' masterpiece, an exceedingly fine example of eighteenth-century bell founding. Unfortunately, when it was examined at Croydon it was found to be cracked in the crown.

PEALS OF DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the proposer of the 'Doubles' motion at Canterbury in 1937, perhaps you will allow me to reply to your article on 'The Present Illogical Position' in 'The Ringing World' of December 29th.

I agree that the present position is illogical, but submit that it is far less so than it was before the 1937 Council meeting. And, although many of the basic principles of change ringing are logical, are not many of the details of it quite illogical? A few examples will show my meaning. Duffield is the even-bell counterpart of Stedman on odd numbers, but it is never practised. Few 'Major' ringers confine themselves to two methods, but how often are Triples methods, other than Grandsire and Stedman, rung? Yet there are several other excellent Triples methods—one of them proved too difficult for some well-known ringers in a peal attempt at Ealing some years ago. You have yourself often drawn attention to the quite illogical preference of ringers for Surprise Major and Royal methods, although there are many plain methods which are equal or superior. Again, while 5,040 changes is the obvious and logical length for a peal of Triples, is there any logic in the custom which allows compositions up to 40 changes less to be called peals if they are rung on more than seven bells?

An art which has grown and is growing haphazardly, as ours, is bound to have details which are illogical. The alternative would be for a dictator to define exactly what is or is not allowed—and omnipotence does not mean omniscience—and not to allow departures therefrom. But I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would be the last person to wish for this check to the growth of the Exercise.

If, sir, I had added to the motion agreed in 1937 a clause stating that the definition must never in the future be altered, and if the Council had agreed such a clause (which, of course, it would not have done), then your article might have some justification. But the 1937 definition was to replace an older definition which experience had proved to be too narrow. Twelve-scores and spliced 120's had been accepted by the Council in its annual peals analysis for several years, and they had stood the test of actual practice and of opposition by the diehards. The Council took the only sensible course when it amended its definition to bring it into line with present-day practice and with its own actions in the analysis reports and in its publications. As Mr. P. J. Johnson remarked at the time, 'The Council must be consistent in its inconsistency.' It should be noted that the definition did not say that the twelve-scores known as Morris' and Pitman's were true, or that all other twelve-scores were not true and would never be allowed.

The definition certainly seems to have given satisfaction to the Exercise generally. It had been preceded by ten years of argument (over Doubles and the similar case of Minor), and your article is the first public criticism of it I have seen since. In spite of very able, if misguided, opposition in the Council meeting, the two-thirds majority obtained was larger than any majority on similar questions in the preceding years.

Mr. Wood pointed out at the meeting that it would allow a peal of Doubles without a single 120 in it. And why not? It had already been done on handbells, and, judging by the number of attempts for it, it was one of the hardest peals I've taken part in. The opponents of the definition were afraid, as you are still afraid, that people would ring peals which were travesties of peals—as long as each change appears 42 times in a recognised method.' You say that now 'there is no logical argument against any form of composition, good or bad.' But there is no need for logical argument. The good taste of the Exercise has always been sufficient to ensure that bad compositions will not be rung. And if that were not sufficient safeguard, the Council has the opportunity each year of refusing to include any peal in the Peals Analysis. And if it considers a composition which has been rung is suitable, it can, and does, approve the Analysis report in spite of the fact that the composition may not conform to the existing definition.

If, sir, through the power of the Press (rather limited in so conservative a body as the Exercise), you are able to make compositions such as the touches of Stedman you print popular with the Exercise, the Council would no doubt in due time amend its definition to include them. Some of them may prove excellent, but they must first of all be tested by practical experience.

To deal with the farthest point to which your logic has led you. If you are able to ring or to persuade others to ring sufficient peals of Grandsire or Stedman Doubles with only two singles in each and made up otherwise entirely of plain courses, to prove that the Exercise really wants such travesties, and if the Council, year by year, allowed such peals to remain in the Peals Analysis, then I would vote for an amendment of the definition to include them. To do otherwise would only be to turn a blind eye on them and make the Council look ridiculous. But I know, and you know in spite of logic, that this will never happen.

One more point. The Council at Canterbury did not decide the 'future of a peal of Doubles.' It faced the facts as they then existed and it laid down a guide for the future. It could not do less than the former and it could do no more than the latter. If experience proves that the guide needs amending, then that will no doubt be done, but the practical proof must come first.

WILFRED G. WILSON.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING OF PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Portsmouth Cathedral on Saturday week, when members were present from various towers despite the intense cold and other adversities. Ringing took place during the afternoon and was followed by the Guild service in the Cathedral, conducted by the Rev. A. Van der Byl, of St. Mary's.

The tea and business meeting were held in the Y.M.C.A. Institute, presided over by the Rev. A. Van der Byl, supported by the district chairman (Mr. W. Linter) and the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), who was also acting as the district secretary pro tem. Apologies for absence were received from the Provost (the Very Rev. B. N. Porter Goff), Canon H. C. Robins (St. Mary's) and the Rev. J. Rutherford and Mr. G. Williams (Master), due to indisposition.

The annual report of the district, which was presented by Mr. F. W. Rogers and adopted, first referred with regret to the enforced resignation of the district secretary, Mr. A. T. Greenwood. His removal from the district, on account of Admiralty duties, at the end of the year was a severe loss. During the eight years that he was secretary he rendered yeoman service to the district, and it was due to him that the district was in such a sound condition.

The affairs of the district had been kept in a steady condition despite the difficulties encountered during the early days of the war. Depletion of bands through the transfer of men to H.M. Forces, the exigencies of work, and the restraint placed on towers by local authorities presented a temporary setback, but, thanks to the co-operation of neighbouring towers and the raising of the ban on ringing by the Home Office, a partial, if not complete, return to normal activities was looked forward to. The district should be most grateful to Mr. W. Linter and his mid-week band for arranging combined practices during those early days and so keeping things going in the best possible way. As regards Portsmouth, they were indebted to the Cathedral authorities, who most generously placed their bells at members' disposal and offered facilities for practices, and to Canon Robins, of St. Mary's, who was always willing to allow the use of the tower and encourage them in their work. Meetings had been well attended and some useful practice obtained in a variety of methods. In addition to the annual meeting at Portsea, meetings were held at Curdridge and Buriton. Owing to war conditions it was not convenient to visit Alverstoke in October, but through the kindness of Canon Robins it was possible to hold the meeting at St. Mary's.

DROP IN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

There was a slight decrease in the number of subscriptions received during the past year. This must not be taken as meaning a drop in membership, but rather lack in forwarding contributions. It was hoped that those who were privileged to stay in their respective towers and carry on the good work would not lack in their support of the Guild either practically or financially. Members both honorary and ringing were thanked for their support during the past year and a hope expressed for their continued interest.

The balance sheet was read and adopted. After all expenses had been met there remained a balance in hand of £13 18s. 1d., and £5 14s. was remitted to the treasurer of the Guild. The following officers were elected for 1940: Chairman, Mr. W. Linter; hon. secretary, Mr. F. W. Burnett; hon. auditor, Mr. T. R. Taylor; representatives on Central Committee, Messrs. F. S. Bayley and W. Linter.

The Rev. A. Van der Byl was elected as an honorary member. He said how much he valued this and hoped that at the next annual meeting he might be in a position to be transferred to the list of ringing members.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on January 18th, 1941.

On the question of the subscriptions of members serving in H.M. Forces, it was proposed by the general secretary, seconded by Mr. F. W. Burnett, that 'A proposition be placed before the annual general meeting of the Guild that subscriptions of members serving in H.M. Forces be remitted until such time as they return to civilian life.'

Thanking Mr. W. Linter for his successful efforts in arranging mid-week practices for those members who cannot get to meetings on Saturdays, it was unanimously agreed that the expenses incurred in arranging these practices should in future be a charge on district funds.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. A. T. Greenwood for his past and valued services to the district as hon. secretary, and Mr. F. W. Rogers was also thanked for carrying out the duties of district secretary during the interim.

Before the close of the meeting votes of thanks were accorded the Provost for the use of the Cathedral bells, and to the Rev. A. Van der Byl for conducting the service and presiding at the meeting. Further ringing took place in the evening in all methods up to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

BRAFELD, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, January 21st, a quarter-peal of Doubles for evensong, being 360 April Day, 420 Grandsire and 480 Plain Bob: Cecil White 1, George Care 2, Cyril Barrick 3, Ronald Noo 4, Leslie Battison 5. Conducted by Philip Jones. First quarter-peal by all, whose ages are: Treble, 13; second 12; third, 14; fourth, 14, tenor, 15.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham on January 20th, when ringing took place on the bells of both All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches.

Service was held at St. Paul's Church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. P. J. H. Scott), the preacher being the Rev. A. P. Carr, Vicar of St. Sebastian's Church, Wokingham, whose address was based on the text, 'Do all to the glory of God' (I. Cor. x. 31). The collection for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 14s. 7d.

Tea, in St. Paul's Room, followed, and the Chairman expressed thanks to those at St. Paul's who had arranged the tea.—The Rev. P. J. H. Scott, replying, said he was always glad to welcome the ringers to the church and the town. He prayed that the days of peace would soon return.

Canon G. F. Coleridge (Master of the Guild and chairman of the branch) presided at the meeting, supported by the Rev. P. J. H. Scott, Messrs. R. T. Hibbert (secretary of the Guild) and Mr. W. J. Paice (hon. secretary and treasurer). War conditions and severe weather made the attendance smaller than usual.

Mr. Paice thanked the Rectors of All Saints' and St. Paul's for their kindness to the ringers, also the Rev. A. P. Carr for his sermon. He had, in spite of illness, kept the appointment, but to their regret, was not able to stay to the tea and meeting.

Mr. F. A. Burgess was thanked for his services at the organ.

The balance sheet for 1939 showed a credit of £6 5s. 9d., only 15s. less than for the previous year. Receipts were £23 0s. 8d. (exclusive of the balance from 1938) and expenditure £23 15s. 8d.

The collection amounted to 14s. 7d., compared with £1 11s. last year. The Branch Restoration Fund now stood at £15 16s.

The balance sheet was passed with applause.

The hon. secretary, in his report, referred to the curtailed programme of 1939, due to the outbreak of the war. However, good work had been done, and ringing, especially on Sundays, had been maintained. The membership was now 26 honorary and 156 ringing members, a total of 182.—The report was adopted.

Canon G. F. Coleridge was unanimously re-elected chairman of the branch, and, in expressing thanks, said that if he came down the tower steps on Saturday he could not manage to be in the pulpit on Sunday. He had been in the Guild since 1881. The hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. J. Paice, was unanimously re-elected. There was no change in the Branch Committee, which consists of the foremen of the towers, while the branch representatives to the Guild Committee were Messrs. F. Dentry, J. Moth, J. Rance and Castle.

The Secretary said the combined practices had been very well attended. It was decided that the February meeting be held at Binfield and the March meeting at St. Paul's, Wokingham.

The Secretary further stated that at the Guild meeting he had the honour to propose, in the name of their branch, his resolution that old members of the Guild be exempt from paying subscriptions and retain their membership. This was carried at the Guild meeting (applause).

Mr. R. T. Hibbert expressed great satisfaction that this had been done. Continuing, he stressed the vital importance of Sunday ringing to call people to worship, adding 'That is what we are here for, and that is what the bells are for' (applause).

The Secretary mentioned that nine members of the branch were serving in H.M. Forces, and said he would be glad to be supplied with the names of others.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

The annual meeting of Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 13th, when 22 members were present from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Kirkburton, Pontefract, Sandal, Wath, Wentworth and the local company. The bells were made good use of from 2.30 until 5 p.m., when tea was served in the Rectory Rooms.

The business meeting followed, the Rector (Canon W. E. Wilkinson) presiding, supported by the vice-president (Mr. W. Moxon).

The balance sheet was presented and showed, after an expensive year, a small increase in the funds.

Mr. E. Brookes, of Hoylandswaine, was elected president of the society, and the secretary and treasurer were re-elected.

Mr. J. T. White (Felkirk) and Mr. C. Robinson (Cawthorne) were appointed as auditors.

The number of members on the society's books being sufficient to have two representatives on the Central Council, it was decided to elect the extra representative, in addition to filling the vacancy caused by the death of the late president of the society, Mr. C. D. Potter.

The treasurer and secretary were elected as representatives. After the usual vote of thanks, the ringers adjourned to the Royal Hotel for handbell ringing and a social evening, in the course of which the society's jug was brought into action through the kind hospitality of Mr. H. Potter, son of the late president. The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, February 10th.

NOTICES.

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

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KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Apsley on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Business: Committee, and arrangements for 1940. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, to-morrow, February 3rd. Ringing from 3 p.m. till black-out time, followed by business meeting.—J. G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Bromham on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall on February 3rd. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WITHINGTON, NEAR HEREFORD.—The restored ring of six will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford at the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 4th. The two trebles recast and the peal re-hung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. It is hoped to have some more ringing after meeting. To ensure tea, a postcard by Tuesday, February 6th, please. All ringers are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Feb. 10th. Ringing: St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 2.45 to 4.15; St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Perdy's Restaurant, Essex Street, Strand, followed here by business meeting 6 p.m. Names for tea to me, please, by February 7th.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.20.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at North Crawley (6 bells) on Saturday, February 10th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting and tea at 5 p.m.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A practice will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 10th, at 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Preliminary Notice. A meeting will be held at Southill or Northill on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Watch for next week's advertisement.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

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HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The general committee are meeting at St. Albans on Saturday, February 10th, when the bells of St. Peter's (10) will be open from 2.45 p.m. and after tea if required. The usual practice at the Cathedral (12) will be held at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome at both towers. St. Peter's bells are also available for practice on Mondays.—H. Frost, Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 until 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, February 7th. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea by kind invitation of the president of the Guild (the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird). Business meeting to follow. All are welcome, but those who intend to be present for tea must notify before February 7th.—B. Saunders, 18, New Road, Ridgwood, Uckfield, Sussex.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Make own arrangements for tea.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at Duffield on Saturday, February 10th. For tea please notify Mr. Fred Stone, Derby Road, Duffield, not later than Thursday, February 8th. Remember, no card, no tea. Tower blackened. All welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Thomas' on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Bells available after meeting.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 13th.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Names for tea, please, to Mr. F. C. Farnsworth, 16, King's Road, Faversham, not later than Tuesday, February 13th. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LADIES' GUILD.—London District.—Will members please note that, with the approval of the general secretary, it has been decided to renew activities in the spring, if circumstances then permit.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BIRTH.

BAGWORTH.—On January 15th, at 44, Cliveden Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, to Elsie Mary, wife of Norman S. Bagworth, a son, Alan.

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BURNHAM.—On Jan. 28th, for Confirmation service by the Bishop of Buckingham, a quarter-peal of Minor (720 Spliced Oxford and Kent, 360 St. Clement's and 180 Plain Bob): C. A. Burgess 1, P. A. Blamey 2, J. D. Taylor 3, G. W. Limmer 4, B. O'Neill 5, J. E. Taylor 6.

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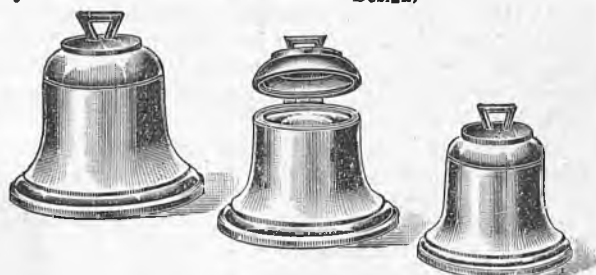
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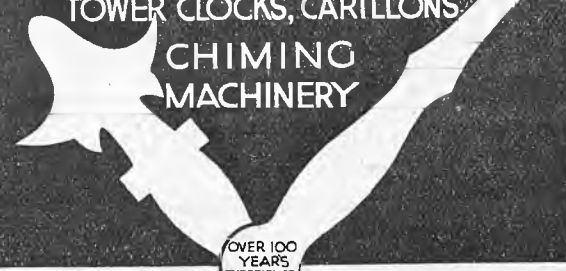
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