

1647

The first thing that presents it selfe to our observation, is, the devotion of the City Saints on the 5 of November, particularly manifest by the Ringers at Bowe Church, and some other places of the City; but especially by the Boyes in Bonfires, and some squirting and squibbling fooleries in Lincolnes Inne fields, and Moore fields, which were but slender thanksgivings for so inestimable a mercy as our deliverance from the Powder Treason; but if it shall please God (as who dare doubt it) so stop the issue of blood in this Kingdome...

(*Mercurius Elencticus*, Fri. 5 Nov. - Fri. 12 Nov. 1647; this was a newsbook published in the royalist interest, and the 'City Saints' was almost certainly a reference to the Puritans of the City of London, Puritans who considered themselves as 'saved' often referred to themselves as 'saints'. The escape of Parliament on 5 November would have been of significance, indeed a day of celebration, to the Parliamentary interest. There is no clue to the identity of the ringers of Bow church, but at this period the Scholars of Cheapside were still in existence. Report and gloss per Chris Ridley)

Nay, the very Church Bells have much adoe to escape them; for Harry Martin hath moved againe and againe, that the Bells in all the Churches of the Kingdome may be taken downe, and melted for the service of the State: But what's the reason, it is either because the noise of 'em disturbes his private Devotion in St. Martin's Lane, where he fastens now and anon too upon the lips and hips of Mrs. A. (I will not name her out right, because he said long ago she was an honest Whore) or it was rather for that superstitious inscirption [*sic*] so usually found about all Bells, *viz. Feare God, Honour the King*. And without doubt, if the latter part of that verse had been added, which is, And meddle not with those that are given to change: The Bells should never have rung change more.

(*Mercurius Elencticus*, Fri. 5 Nov. to Fri. 12 Nov. 1647 – per C. Ridley)

Leicester, February 24.

Sir *John Hartop* (whose Zeal to the Protestant Interest sufficiently appeared in the two last Parliaments,) coming to this Town in order to his being Chosen a Member in the succeeding Parliament, there met him about fifty Horse three miles in *Northamptonshire*, before he entered the Borders of this County; and as he ent[er]ed into *Harborough*, he was met by divers others, who gave him their hearty welcome, saluting him with Joyful Shouts, and Musick, the Bells ringing while he was at Dinner, he being entertained there at the Charge of the Freeholders: After which, as he came toward *Leicester*, many more People came to meet hi, who accompanied him to the Town, the Bells ringing on every side in the Countrey as he went along; and within a mile of *Leicester* he was received with five Hundred Horse more, and as many Foot, with loud Acclamations, the Waits playing before him all the way into the Town.

(*Smith's Protestant Intelligence, Domestic & Foreign*, Thurs. 3 March 1681 – per C. Ridley)

Oxford March 17, 1680.

THis day His Majesty intends for *Burford*, and to be present at the Horse races there to be run; and it's said will continue there till *Saturday* next, and then returns to *Oxford*. Her Majesty has been highly complemented since her arrival in this City, not only by several Worthy Persons deputed by the University; But also by most of the Loyal Nobility and Gentry residing here; and it's said, has been resented with several rich Presents. On *Monday* next the Bells are order'd to be rung great part of the day, and several Sermons will be preached to exhort the People to persevere in their Obedience to the Sovereign [*sic*].

(*Loyal Protestant and Time Domestic Intelligence*, Sat. 19 March 1680/1 – per C. Ridley)

WHIG. TIS Number 47. This is it: I'm sure.

TORY. Pre'thee red it then; and I'le give thee my Notes upon't.

Wh. London, Octob. *In the Eastern part of this City there was One Evening*, not long since, a very Unusuall piece of devotion *Exercised in one of our Churches; by an Apothecary, and Confectioner*.

To. Hold there a little. This same *Eastern part of the City* is the Parish of *Allhallows Stainings*; and the *Not long since*, was only *September 29*, (three days before) The *Devotion* was in the *Belfry*: the *Apothecary* and *Confectioner* had given their Voices and their Interest for *Sir John Moor*, which stuck in the Gizzard of the *Whigs*; (a *Pragmatical Ale-house-keeper* among the rest) and here's the foundation of the Story. Now go forward.

Wh. This same *Apothecary, and Confectioner, about Ten of the Clock at night, sent for the keys, and having drawn together a competent Croud of Prentices and Rabble, set the Bells agoing, and sent for such abundance of Wine, that they disturbed not only their own Brains, but also the whole Neighbourhood, with their Impetuous Huzza's, and Horrid Noise; whereupon divers sober Citizens desired the Church-wardens to put some stop to that disturbance, and with much ado prevailed with to go forth of the Church a little after Twelve. But no sooner was he departed, but they (by some Undue means) got in again, and continued their Carrouzing Clamours till about three aClock in the morning.*

To. Stop again, and let me set ye straight. *The Apothecary* (upon *Sr John Moors* carrying the Election, having liv'd formerly in that Parish) sent about *Eight in the Evening* to the Church-warden for the Keys of the Church; and he not being at home, got them presently after of the Sexton: And the whole bus'ness was to give the Lord Mayor Elect the Complement of the Bells. Now for his *Competent Croud*, and the *Abundance of Wine*, they had presently upon their Meeting, a *Can of French-Wine*, that held out just to carry *Sr John Moor's* health about, at every man his Glass; and not one drop of Wine

more that night. And all this, in the *Belfry*, too; which is no more than the Constant Practice of the Town upon all such Occasions.

They fell after this to Ringing, till betwixt Nine and Ten; and then, they had a Shilling in Ale to above Thirty Persons; and the *Apothecary* went over the way to smoke a Pipe of *Tobacco*. In the mean time, the Church-Warden sends his Daughter to forbid them Ringing, upon pretence that it disturb'd one in the Parish that was sick, but no Complaint of *Huzza's* or any other disorder. This being told to the *Apothecary* over the way, he sent word that it was only a respect to *Sr John Moor*, who had well deserv'd it from the Parish, or to that effect. Upon this, the Church-warden goes himself in to the Church, and stops the Bells, declaring that no body should Ring without his Consent; whereupon the *Apothecary* went and Reason'd the matter with him, desiring him they might go on out of Civility to *Sr John Moor*, to which he received this answer, that *they should not Ring fore'ever a Sr John Moor in England*: And now came in the *Confectioner*. The People went on with their Ringing; and the Church-warden went back again to his Considering Cap to advise with his Pillow.

The Ordinary Ringers were now come, and about *Twelve*, they had *One Shilling*, and then *another Shilling* in drink some two hours after. Drinking first the *Kings Health*, and afterward the *Lord Mayor Elects*, with *One Huzza* to each; and *no more drink that night*. So that upon the whole, there was only *Three Shillings* in Beer and Ale; and one Glass of Wine a man, to at least threescore Goers and Comers; and this betwixt five and six hours a drinking; and all within the Compass of the *Belfry*. The *Confectioner* came not thither till they were half through, and here's the Sum of *Janeways Prophane Debauch*.

About Two in the morning, the *Apothecary* and the *Confectioner* told'em' 'twas now time to go home, but the Ringers Replyd, If you please Gentlemen, We'le e'en Ring my Lord Mayor up again, as we Rang him to bed; and so they Rang on, till betwixt four and five. The *Apothecary* and *Confectioner* going their way together, and giving them in Charge to have a Care of the Bells, and the Church, and to keep themselves Orderly; the Sextons Girl staying all night to take care of the Church. Betwixt four and five in the Morning, the Ringers had mony sent them to drink; and away they went with it to Breakfast. Now let's have the rest.

Wh.. In the man time, their over-charg'd Cups were plentifully disembogu'd in the Pues and Isles, and almost the whole Church as defiled with Spawling, Spewing, overflowing Liquor; and some say more Unmannerly Etcetera's; So that it may be a question, whether the Cathedral of St. Paul's was more Prophan'd by the Phanatique Rebellious Troops of Old, Stabling their Horses there, or this Church now, by the Debaucheries of these Sottish Extravagants: The shame and scandal of the Truly Venerable Church they would seem to pretend to.

To. Come we'le never Mince the matter with ye. There was a Person that came in after the Drinkin (he talks of) was over: and having stood a while to hear the Ringing slipt away into the next Pew, and laid himself to sleep thee, where he was surpriz'd, and fetch'd up his Stomack; but went Immediately to the Sextons Servant; told her what had happen'd, desir'd her to make no word on't, and gave her sixpence to put all in order again.

(*Observer in Dialogue*, Sat. 15 Oct. 1681 – per C. Ridley)

1682

[Dialogue between a Whig (*Wh.*) and Tory (*To.*)]

To. [My Father and Dr Oates (says he) went and Lodg'd at Fox-Hall, at one Lamberts, a Bell-Founder, (which House was Call'd by the Neighbours the Plot-House;... (*Observer*, Thurs. 1 June 1682; this was one of many pamphlet-type publications issued during the so-called Popish Plot. Fox-Hall = Vauxhall)

St James's August 15 1682

This Morning between the hours of 7 and 8 Her Royal Highness s delivered of a Daughter, to the extraordinary joy of all the whole Court, which was further manifested by Ringing of all the Bells in Westminster, S. Martins, &C.

(*Loyal Protestant and True Domestic Intelligence*, Thurs. 17 Aug. 1682 – per C. Ridley)

Advertisements.

Whereas on Tuesday the 29th of August, between twelve and one of the Clock at night, there were three Bells clandestinely conveyed away out of the Parish Church of All-Saints, in the Town and County of Southampton, by several unknown Persons, these re to desire all such that shall have knowledge of any such bells exposed to Sale, or lodged any where, to give notice thereof to Mr. *Speed*, the present Mayor of Southampton, or Mr. *Christopher Smith*, Alderman, and they shall be very well Rewarded.

(*London Gazette*, Thurs. 7 Sept. – Mon. 11 Sept. 1682 – per C. Ridley)

Advertisement

Thse [*sic*] are to give Notice to all Gentlemen and others, That there is to come to this Fair a new Play, the like was never seen in London, in which will be presented most exact dancing, Likewise you shall see a piece of rare German Clock-work, That I may boldly Challenge all England to Shew the like, Figures, Ringing of six Bells, Sets, Rounds and Changes,..... This Play is called the Princes Ball, or the Conquest of Queen Judith, which is to be seen in Bartholomew-Fair, in the Booth next to the Sign of the Greyhound.

(*The Loyal London Mercury or the Current Intelligence*, 26 Aug 1682 – per C Ridley)

1693

[Advert re proposals to print a book by William Leybourn, entitled 'Pleasure with Profit 'It Consisting of RECREATIONS of divers kinds, ...' – it goes on to list twelve recreations. On second page it lists the details of the recreations, the first being Numerical, which included 'Changes in Bells, Voices, Musical Instruments, Letters, Figures, &c.']
(*The Athenian Mercury*, 11 March 1693)

1697

* * *Campanalogia*: or the Art of Ringing Improved.
With plain and easie Rules to guide the Practitioner in the
ringing of all kinds of *Changes*. The Second Edition.
To which is added, great variety of New Peals. Printed
for *George Sawbridge* at the three Flower-de-luces in *Little
Brittain*.

(Advert in *Post Man: And the Historical Account, &c.*, Sat. 6 Nov. – Tues. 9 Nov. 1697; per C. Ridley. Only one copy of this issue, dated 1698 on the title page, has so far been recorded. For a detailed discussion of the various issues of *Campanalogia* see ‘Fabian Stedman or, Little by Little,’ John C. Eisel, in *The Ringing World*, 2010, pp.489-91, 493.)

1699

On the 26 of this Instant December, at Casholton [*sic*] in Surrey, are five Gold Rings to be Ringed for, best of two Tryals of Sixscore Changes, called a Grandsir: As likewise five pair of Silver Buckles to be Ringed for, round Ringing for half an Hours Peal underneath. All Companies of Ringers therefore, that are willing to Ring, are desired to meet at the Greyhound by Nine a Clock in the Morning, and there to put in their Money according to the Articles. *Note*, If any Company be desirous to try the Bells before the Day prefix'd, they have the liberty.

(*Post Boy*, Tues. 12 Dec. – Thurs. 14 Dec. 1699; this is the earliest ringing match of which details have so far been found.)

THE School of Recreation: Or, a Guide to the
most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Riding, A-
cing, Fire-Works, Military Discipline, the Science of De-
fence Hawking, Tennis, Bowling, Ringing, Singing,
Cock-Fighting, Bowling, and Angling. Price 1s.

(Advert in *Flying Post of The Post Master*, Thurs. 24 Aug. 1699, Sat. 23 Dec. 1699, Sat. 20 July 1700,
and Thurs. Oct. 31 1700 – per C. Ridley)

1700

Flower-pots and Urns, made of hard Metal, and of the newest Fashion. By John Mayor, at the Five Bells in Old Bedlam, Founder, where all sorts of Brass-work is cast.

(*Post Man: And the Historical Account*, &c. Sat. 2 March - Tues. 5 March 1700 - advert; Mayor also cast small bells, for which see below. Old Bedlam was the site of the old Bethlehem Hospital, outside Bishopsgate, the hospital being moved to a new site in Moorfields in 1676.)

1701

Letters from New York inform us, That there is lately hung up a set of eight Bells, in the chief Church of that City, which is so great a rarity to the Indians, who are fond Lovers of all sorts of Musick, that the Novelty draws multitudes of them to that City to see and hear them: and they go away amazed with the greatness of the English that can effect such Things as seem to them so wonderful.

(*Flying Post or The Post Master*, Tues. 31 Dec. 1700 - Thurs. 2 Jan. 1701; this was possibly Trinity, Wall Street, which received a charter from William III in 1697, and the first service was held in 1698. A print of this church, published in 1740, shows that it had a tower and spire.)

THE School of Recreation: Or, a Guide to the Most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Riding, Racing, Fire-Works, Military Discipline, the Science of Defence, Hawking, Tennis, Bowling, Ringing, Singing, Cock-Fighting, Bowling, and Angling. Price 1s. Sold by H. Rhodes, at the Star, the Corner of Bride-lane in Fleet-street.

(Advert in *Flying Post or The Post Master*, Thurs. 23 Jan. 1701, occasionally until Thurs. 13 March 1701 – per C Ridley)

THis to give notice, that at the late Dwelling House of Mr James Bartlet at the Three Bells in White Chappel, all Gentlemen and Artificers may be served with Casting of Church Bells, Terrett [*sic*] Bells, and Ship Bells, and all sorts of Bells and Brass Work, large and small, at Reasonable Prices. Attendance given every day.

(Advert in *Post Man: And the Historical Account, &c.*, Sat. 19 April – Tues. 22 April 1701; also same paper, Thurs. 24 April - Sat. 26 April 1701; James Bartlett was buried on 20 January 1700 (/1) and the business was taken over by Richard Phelps, from Elizabeth Bixon, Bartlett's sister and administratrix.)

The King's Founder has received Orders to Cast 120 Pieces of Brass Cannon for the Royal Sovereign, which is to be Launched the 14th of this Instant.

(*Post Boy*, Thurs. 10 July - Sat. 12 July 1701; A.N. Kennard, in *Gunfounding and Gunfounders, A Directory of Cannon Founders from Earliest Times to 1850*, (1986), states that at this period the King's Founder was Philip Wightman, of Moorfields, who "after his father's death continued on his own as a founder and was called by the title of "Their Majesties' Founder in Brass." He also supplied the Ordnance with a variety of bronze and brass fittings. At the time that he was appointed, William and Mary were the monarchs. It is possible that he was the Philip 'Whiteman', place of residence unstated, who was elected a member of the College Youths in 1683.)

Flower Pots and Urns, made by John Mayor at the 5 Bells in Old Bedlam, Founder, where all sorts of Clock work and small Bells is cast.

(*Post Man: And the Historical Account, &c.*, Tues. 3 Feb. - Thurs. 5 Feb. 1701; advert, repeated.)

1702

↑↓↑ *Campanalogia* Improved, or the Art of Ringing made easie, with plain Rules, whereby the careful practitioner may attain to the Knowledge of Ringing all manner of double, triple and quadruple changes, with variety of new Peals upon 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Bells; the method of calling Bobs for any Peal or Triples, from 168 to 2520 (being the half Peal) also for any Peal of quadruples or cators from 324 to 11340; never before published. Printed for *George Sawbridge* at the three Flower de Luces in *Little Brittain*. Price bound 2s.

(*The Post Man: And the Historical Account, &c.*, Thurs. 2 April 1702 – advert. Also same paper, Thurs. 9 April 1702, in a column headed ‘This Day is published,...’ Also *Daily Courant*, Sat. 4 July, Tues. 7 July, Wed. 8 July, Thurs. 9 July, Fri. 10 July, Mon. 13 July, Tues. 28 July, Thurs. 30 July and Mon. 3 Aug. 1702; All extracts per Chris Ridley)

Whereas Mr. Abraham Rudhall, of the City of Gloucester, Bell-founder, was lately Imploy’d to Cast Eight Bells for the Parish Church of St. Dunstan’s in the East, London. This is to give Notice, that he has performed his Contract to the Universal Satisfaction of the Gentlemen of the said Parish, and, in the Opinion of the ablest Judges, has made them the best Peal of Bells in England.-

(*Post Boy*, Sat. 25 July 1702 – advert)

Whereas *Robert Corr* of *Aborue* [*sic*] in the County of *Wilts* Bell-Founder, having made and sold considerable Quantities of Wooden Buttons transfix'd with Wire Staples, contrary to the Statute in that behalf, made in the Tenth Year of His late Majesty's Reign King William the Third, hath been prosecuted for the same by an Action at Law on an Information on the said Statute: and whereas the said Robert Corr being advis's that he hath been a Delinquent against the said Statute, hath applied himself to the Prosecutor for an Agreement; And on conclusion thereof hath paid down Twenty Pounds to the Use of the Poor of *Sherborne* in the County of *Dorset*, as a partial Reparation of the Injury he hath done them; And hath paid all the Prosecutors Costs and Charges, and oblig'd himself in 2000 £. Penalty, never more to make, or cause to be made or sold, any Wooden or other Buttons whatsoever, or to Offend against the said Statute. And in further Acknowledgment of his said Offence, hath caused a Gross of the said Buttons to be burnt in the open Market-place of the City of *New Sarum* by the Beadle of the said City. Now he the said *Robert Corr* hath thought fit to publish this Advertisement, in order to prevent others from committing the like Offence against the said Statute.

(*Daily Courant*, Mon. 21 June 1703; it has been suggested that Robert Corr ran a profitable business making wooden buttons (M.A. Crane, *The Aldbourne Chronicle*, 1974, p.35, quoted in W. Butler, *Musical Handbells*, 2000, p.17), but this advert rather suggests otherwise.)

Extracts from the Chronicles of John Cannon Excise Officer and Writing Master, Part 1 (1684-1733), edited by John Money, Oxford: British Academy 2010. – per C. Ridley.

1703 (when Cannon was 19)

p. 44: ...at times we were allowed to go with our companions in neighbouring parishes as we listed to ringing, of which we became masters & very expert in round ringing, & if we chanced to go to any place where it required more strength, then we obliged [*sic*] two or three more, but chiefly one Edward Brice, an old Ringer, who was commonly called Ffacky Brice whose expenses we always sustained he being poor yet very agreeable, & and he in we & we in him delighted much.

[John Cannon was a native of West Lydford, where there was then at least a ring of four bells, and probably five.]

1704

Extracts from the Chronicles of John Cannon Excise Officer and Writing Master, Part 1 (1684-1733), edited by John Money, Oxford: British Academy 2010.

1704 (aet. 20)

p. 48. Once on a Sabbath day, we ringers concluded to go to Balstonborough [sic] Church, not so much out of zeal to hear a sermon as for ringing... After sermon was over, we had the liberty of the bells for a peal or two, after which we went into the clerks & spent about 8d apiece & and then took our walk friendly together.

(Until 1804 there was a ring of five bells at Balstonborough, Somerset: in that year they were replaced by a ring of six bells, cast by Thomas Mears I.)

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester, Bell-founder, having been many times and by several persons desired to give and account of how many Peals of Bells have been cast by him since the first year of King James the II to this time, they may be pleased to know, that he hath cast, 1 Ring of 10 Bells, ten Rings of 8, and 32 Rings of 6, and 25 Rings of 5, with several Bells into Peals, to the number of 547, besides others which he hath not been so careful to remember, as being not aware so exact an account might be required of him. The Bells aforementioned have been cast for the use of 7 Cities, 36 Market Towns, 4 Colledges, 162 Parishes in 13 several Counties, whereof a more distinct account may be speedily be given for the more general satisfaction, and the places where they belong, and how many. It will be needless to mention single bells for Chappels, Gentlemens Seats and Ships, &c. (*Post Man*, Sat. 17 Feb. – Tues. 20 Feb. and Sat. 24 Feb. - Tues. 27 Feb. 1705 – advert)

There is lately published The School of Recreation : Or, a Guide to the most ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Riding, Racing, Fire-Works, Military Discipline, the Science of Defence, Hawking, Tennis, Bowling, Ringing, Singing, Cock-Fighting, Bowling, and Angling. Price 1s. Sold by *H. Rhodes*, the Corner of Bride-Lane in Fleet-street. (*The Flying Post: or, The Post-Master*, Thurs. 1 March 1705 – advert; repeated in the issues of 12 April 19, 21, 28 and 30 June, and 19 July 1705)

Country-m. About Ringing the Bells. But, Master, to whom does the Belfrey belong, and to whom the Bells, &c.

Obs. The Bells belong to the Parish, and are under the Care of the Church Warden; the Bell-Ropes belong to the Parson if he be a *Tacker*. For, *Country-man*, the Parson of the Parish is an *Alms-man*, he is in Possession of an Alms-House called the *Parsonage* or *Vicarage-House*. The Church, in Respect of the Parson, is the same as a *Court Leet*, or *Court Baron*, in which he does Suit and Service for his Tenure by *Almonage*. But more of this when I come to prove, that, according to the *English Constitution*, the *Clergyman*, *Quatemus Clergymen*, have no Vote as *Freeholders*, and that the Major part of the *Tacking Clergymen* were Perjur'd at the late Election. All this shall I do against the Sessions, let *Lesley*, the whole Race of ...*agger*, and all the *Black Furioso's* in *England* form what Designs they can against me.

Country-m. Now, Master, I'll tell you this *Tacking* Story from *Essex*. The Parish Priest of *Morton*, that bears the Name of an ugly devouring Fowl, and *Hubble-bubble* Priest of *Bubbingworth*, tow towns in *Essex*, were for the *Tackers*, God be thanked contrary to the Opinion of their Parishes; for, Master, had many Parishes in *England* been as wicked in the late Elections as were their respective Priests, we should have had a Parliament, for ought I know, that would have Tack'd away the *Protestant Succession* and our *Protestant Queen*, as some in the last Parliament would have done Her Majesty.

It seems Her Majesties Good People of the Parish were resolved to Rejoyce after the Rustick Manner, by making the *Ding-Dongs* express aloud their Joy, that two Honest Gentlemen in the Queens Interest were Chosen to Represent their Country. To prevent which the Parish Priest took away the Keys of the *Belfrey*, and not only Lock[ed] but N[ailed] up the Door.

The People of the Town, for all this, would have a peal for their Honest Members, and so they put a Young Fellow in at a hole in the Steeple, who let in the Ringers and to work they went. The Parson incens'd hereat made a Noise, Huff'd and Bounc'd what he would do. *Sacriledge, my Beloved, Sacriledge, get in a hole of the Steeple, employ the Sanctifyd Ding dongs to Unsanctify uses.* Lord have Mercy on our Church, the Bells and the Priest don't Chime the same way. *Presbyterian Bells* that must be new Christned when *High Church* shall have Absolute Dominion.

(*Observer* (1702), 4 July to 7 July 1705 – per C Ridley; part of the text is difficult to read and letters in square brackets thus [...] are speculative.)

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester, Bell-Founder, being desired by several persons to publish how many Peals of Bells have been cast by him since the year 1685 to this time, is as followeth, viz. entire Peals, one Ring of 10 Bells at Warwick, 11 Rings of 8 Bells, 37 Rings of 6 Bells, 27 Rings of 5 Bells, besides single Bells cast into Peals, to the number of 604. The Bells above-mentioned have been cast for the use of 7 Cities, 37 Market Towns, 4 Colleges, 179 Parishes, in 14 several Counties; a more distinct account maybe speedily given for more general satisfaction, and the places where they belong, not mentioning Chappel Bells, Ship Bells, or Bells for Gentlemens Seats; he

has cast since February last 5 Rings of 6 Bells, and 3 Rings of 5 Bell, [*sic*] and others to make into Peals to the number of 57, to the satisfaction of them that understand Ringing and good Bells.
(*Post Man*, Thurs. 27 Dec. 1705 – advert)

1706

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester, Bell-Founder, being desired to give an account of the Bells into Peal cast by him from the year 1684 to this time, is as follows, viz. Entire Peals, 1 Ring of 10 Bells, 13 Rings of 8 Bells, 39 rings of 6 Bells, 28 Rings of 5 Bells, besides Bells cast into Peals to the number of 656. The Bells above-mention'd have been cast for the use of 7 Cities, 41 Market Towns, 5 Colleges, 197 Parishes in 16 several Counties: he has cast since February last entire Peals, as follows, for Monmouth 8, Manchester 8, St. Juleans [*sic*] in Shrewsbury 6, Rugely [*sic*] 6, Shawbury 5 and other Bells to make up Peals to the number of 52, to the satisfaction of them that understand Ringing and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Thurs. 5 Dec. 1706; cf similar adverts in 1705 and 1707)

The Whigs, *as they do Universally*, Express the greatest Surprize of Joy Possible, at such a Flux of Wellcome News; and to Express their Loyalty, several of them went, tho' late at Night, to Mr. Thomas Gale, the Mayor of the Town, to have the Bells rung; it is to be Noted they did not go to him as Mayor, but as he is also Church-Warden of *Taunton St. Marys*, applying themselves at the same time to Mr. *Butler*; another of the Church-wardens, for Liberty to ring, but were peremptorily deny'd by both,—several Arguments were us'd to perswade, and particularly the Dissenters of the Town had taken the Charge upon them, and sent Money for the Ringers; at last about Midnight, they were prevail'd with to let them ring, tho' much against their Wills, as appear'd; for the next Day Mr. *Mayor*, and Mr. *Symon Wescot* declar'd, they had rather have given 5 Guineas, than the Bells should have been rung.

On the 1st of *June*, the News came of the raising the Siege of *Barcelona*, and these Gentlemen being then desir'd again to let the Bells to be rung; absolutely refus'd it, and there was no ringing at all in that Church.

At the other Parish, viz, of *Taunton St. James*, several of the Parish had obtain'd the Key of the Bellfrey, and began to ring; but they had not been long at it, but one of the Church-wardens, the first Letter of whose Name is Mr. *Slape*, and one Mr. *Yard*, a Shoe-maker, and Deputy Vice Admiral of the County, ran to the Steeple, fell foul on the Ringers, beat and abused them, and drove them down Stairs.

I forbear to repeat some of their disloyal and scandalous Expression upon this occasion, because perhaps it might expose them to the Resentment of the Government; but I cannot omit one thing, that the Sextons Wife of *St. James* Parish having honestly and innocently let the Ringers into the Bellfrey, little think it could be an Offence to have the Bells rung for beating the *French*, they turn'd the poor Man out of his Place f Sexton, to the Ruin of his Family, and put another in his Room.

(*Review of the State of the English Nation 1706* – per C. Ridley)

1707

London, March 1. The Names of, and Incriptions on, the eight Bells lately cast in a City in the West of this Kingdom:

Bell the 1st. *Blenheim.*

First in the Peal I will deserve My Name,
For Blenheim's Story will be first in Fame.

2d. *Ramellies.*

Second to that alone, Ramellies stands,
And when I Ring, Le Grand shall wring his Hands.

3d. *Barcelona.*

Tho' then my Followers lesser is my Poise,
Yet Barcelona makes a Glorious Noise.

4th. *Turin.*

When in Harmonious Peal I warbling go,
Think on Turin, and Triumphs of the Po.

5th. *Menin.*

Let Menin on my sides Engraven be,
And Flanders freed from Gallick Slavery.

6th. *Eugene.*

With Pride I bear the Illustrious *EUGENE's* Name,
The Friend of Fortune, and the Boast of Fame.

7th. *Marlborough.*

But I the Brave, the Mighty *MALBORO'* [*sic*] bear,
Terror of Tyrants, and the Soul of War.

8th. *Queen Ann.*

I boast the Name that doth the World Excel,
ANNA from all must bear away the Bell.

(*Post Boy*, Thurs. 27 Feb. - Sat. 1 March 1707; the bells were cast for St. Helen's Church, Worcester, by Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove, in 1706, and of these the seventh bell was recast in 1712. Disgracefully, they were scrapped in 1951.)

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester, Bell-founder, being desired by several Gentlemen and others, To give an Account of the Bells into Peals cast by him since the year 1680 [*sic*] to this time, is as follows, viz. entire Peals, one Ring of 10 Bells at Warwick, 14 Rings of 8 Bells, 41 Rings of 6 Bells, 30 Rings of 5 Bells, besides Rings of 4 Bells and Bells cast into Peals to the number of 704: The Bells above mentioned have been cast for the use of 7 Cities, 45 Market Towns, 212 Parishes in 17 several Counties. He hath cast since February last entire Peals as follows, viz. for Leverpool [*sic*] 8 not yet gone home, Grafmount 6, Highercall 6, Bidulph [*sic*] 5, Earls Crone [*sic*] 5, Calne 4 to make a ring of 8; and other Bells into Peals to the number of 49, to the satisfaction of them that understand Ringing and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Thurs. 4 Dec. 1707; cf similar adverts in *Post Man* in 1705 and 1706)

Extracts from the Chronicles of John Cannon Excise Officer and Writing Master, Part 1 (1684-1733), edited by John Money, Oxford: British Academy 2010. – per C. Ridley.

1707 [describing how he rode to Andover to take up an excise post.]

p. 74. I rode to a town called Andover in Hampshire where I arrived about 9. Thus was our long united knot of Ringers entirely broke & dispersed which had continued a true perfect band of amity and unfeigned friendship many years as have been already related. For Nathaniel Withers died a little before my departure having contracted a violent strain or bruise in ringing at East Pennard the 4th bells by himself, it having been accustomed for 5 of us to ring the said bells as singly notwithstanding the ponderosity of them that it was commonly 8 mens labour to ring them. At the same time I could ring the tenor with great ease. Parker, another of our company, was married and gone off before, so upon my remove, as at this time there only remained my brother and kinsman.

[There is an extended discussion of this entry by the editor on pp. 205-6.]

1708

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester Bell-founder, being desired to give Account of the Bells into Peals, cast by him since the year 1684, to this time, is as follows, viz. entire Peals one Ring of 10 Bells at Warwick, 14 Rings of 8 Bells, 44 Rings of 6 Bells, 32 Rings of 5 Bells, besides Rings of 4 Bells, and Bells cast into Peals to the number of 746: the Bells above mentioned have been cast for the use of 7 Cities, 47 Market Towns, 225 Parishes in 18 several Counties; he hath cast since February last entire Peals as follows, viz. for Cardiff 6, Ramsbury 6, Windrudg 6, Eardisley 5, Hampton 5, and other Bells into Peals to the Number of 42, to the great Satisfaction of them that Understand ringing and good Bells.

(Post Man, Thurs. 30 Dec. 1708)

ABraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester

Bell-founder, being desired to give Account of the Bells Cast by him into Peals, since the year 1684 to this time, is as follows, viz. intire Peals one Ring of 10 Bells at Warwick, and 14 Rings of 8 Bells, 45 Rings of 6 Bells, 34 Rings of 5 Bells, besides Rings of 4 Bells and Bells cast into Peals to the number of 765: the Bells above mentioned have been cast for the use of 7 Cities and 49 Market Towns, 234 Parishes in 19 several Counties: He hath cast since the 1st of May last intire Peals as follows, viz. for Cardiff 6, Rainsbury 6, Windrudge 6, Masey-Hampton 6, Eardesley 5, Coleshill 5, Cranum 5, Ashweek 5, and 2 Trebles to make 8 Bells for that famous Peal of Six at St. Margarets in Leicester, and other odd Bells into Peels [*sic*] to the number of 59, to the greater Satisfaction of them that understand Ringing and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Thurs. 28 April 1709 and Thurs. 10 May 1709)

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester Bell-Founder, being desired by several Gentlemen to publish an Account of the Bells and Peals, cast by him from the Year 1684, to this time, is as follows, (viz) entire Peales one Ring of 10 Bells at Warwick, 15 Rings of 8 Bells, 47 Rings of 6 Bells, 36 Rings of 5 Bells, besides rings of 4 Bells and Bells Cast into Peals to the No. of 813; the Bells abovementioned have been Cast for the use of 7 Cities, 48 Market Towns, 238 Parishes, in 20 several Counties. Note, he hath cast since Christmas last 11 entire Peals as follows (viz) in Herefordshire at Hamlacey, a Ring of 8 Bells, the Gift of the Rt. Hon. James Lord Viscount Scudamore, and at Bishops-Froom a Ring of 6 Bells, in Monmouthshire at Llantillo-Grocery [*sic*] a Ring of 6 Bells, at Gloucestershire at Buckland, a Ring of 6 Bells, Maycey Hampton a Ring of 6 Bells, Cramuck a Ring of 5 Bells, English-Bickner a Ring of 5 Bells, Somersetshire at Ashweek, a Ring of 5 Bells, Wiltshire at Castle Eaton a Ring of 5 Bells, Berkshire at Coulshill, a Ring of 5 Bells, Hinton Waldridge a Ring of 5 Bells not yet gone home, and other Bells into Peals since that time to the No. of 68, to the Satisfaction of them that Understand Musick and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Thurs. 3 Nov. 1709 and Tues. 8 Nov. 1709)

Whereas Charles Povey, and divers Traders and Shopkeepers in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, Borough of Southwark, and Parts adjacent, and several Persons ringing Bells about the Streets of the said Cities and Borough, have set up, imploy'd, and for some time continued a Foot-Post for Collecting and Delivering Letters within the said Cities and Borough, and Parts adjacent, for Hire, under the Name of the Half Penny Carriage, Contrary to the known Laws of this Kingdom, and to the great Prejudice of her Majesty's Revenues arising b Posts; her Majesty's Postmaster General has therefore directed Informations in her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, to exhibited against the said Charles Povey, and several Shop Keepers and Ringers of Bells, for Recovery against every one of them 100l. for such their setting up, and for every Week's continuance thereof; and also 5l. for every Offence in Collecting and Delivering of Letters for Hire as aforesaid, contrary to the Statute for erecting and establishing a Post-Office.

(*London Gazette*, Thurs. 1 Dec to Sat. 3 Dec 1709 – per C Ridley; this refers to handbells.)

ABraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester Bell-Founder, being accused by some pretending Bell-founders, that he hath published several false Accounts of his casting Peals of 8 Bells; particularly in an Advertisement published in Nov. last past, that he hath not cast half so many Rings of 8 Bells as was therein mentioned. Therefore for the Satisfaction of the Publick, here followeth; the Names of the Cities, Towns, and Counties the several Rings of 8 now Cast by him are (viz.) in the City of London at St. Dunstan's in the East, a Ring of 8 Bells, in Gloucestershire at Tewsbury, Cheltenham, Thornebury, at each Place a Ring of 8 Bells, Herefordshire at Ledbury, Ross, Halmacy, at each of these Places a Ring of 8 Bells, in Somersetshire at the City of Bath, the Abbey, a Ring of 8 Bells, and at Shepton-Malard a Ring of 8 Bells, Staffordshire at Woolverhampton [*sic*] a Ring of 8 Bells, Shrewsbury at St. Chades [*sic*] a Ring of 8 Bells, Hampshire at Portsmouth a Ring of 8 Bells, Monmouth at St. Mary's a Ring of 8 Bells, Lancashire at Manchester, and Liverpool, each a Ring of 8 Bells, Oxfordshire at Great Tew a Ring of 8 Bells, Warwick at St. Mary's a Ring of 10 Bells; besides the several Peals above-mentioned, he hath Cast 46 Rings of 6 Bells, 39 Rings of 5 Bells; and odd Bells in and for Peals to the No. of 819, since the Year of Our Lord 1684, for the use of 7 Cities, 48 Market Towns, and 246 Parishes, in 20 several Counties, to the Satisfaction of those that understand Musick, Ringing and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Tues. 1 Jan. 1710 – advert; also Sat. 26 Jan. & Thurs. 31 Jan. 1710.)

At Snetsham [Snettisham], in Norfolk, is a compleat Ring of Six new Bells all cast by Mr. Thom. Newman, Bell-Founder of this City; who is also Casting a Peal of five for Castleacre and others that he hath taken to the Number of Fourteen.

(*Norwich Gazette or The Loyal Packet*, Sat. 15 April 1710 – advert; quoted in *Bell News*, 3 Nov. 1888, p.398; also the *Ringing World*, 12 March 1971, p.216.)

This is to inform the Publick that Charles Newman, Bell-founder, of this City, has ever since January last been at Swaffham, in Norfolk, a Casting of Bells, where he had the good success of casting a Compleat Peal of 6 Bells for the parish of Snetsham, and another Peal of 5 Bells for the Parish of Castleacre, and 3 to make up 5 for the Parish of Hilborough, which are now a Hanging up, besides others to the Number of 29 since January last; but now is returned Home to his Office in Norwich, where he is ready to serve any Parish that he has like Occasion to new cast broken Bells, or design to make any Alteration in their Rings, and he will perform the said Works as well as any Pretender to that Art in England, and with as much expedition as can be desired. This is also to inform the Hotpressers of this City that have their Boxes out of Order, That they may have them new cast to Perfection, he having had better Success in that Business than any that ever took them in hand to do. Likewise any sort of Brasses either for Wind or Water-mills, or any other Engins [*sic*], are new cast by the said Thomas Newman, at his new erected Office without Bear-Street gates.

(*Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 21 Oct. 1710 – advert; quoted in *Bell News*, 3 Nov. 1888, p.398; *Ringing World* 12 March 1971, p.216 with a note – “Charles” Newman at the beginning of the Notice should clearly be “Thomas”.)

Abraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester Bell Founder, being desired to give Account of the Bells Cast by him into Peals, since the Year 1684 to this time, is as follows, viz. Intire Peals, 2 Rings of 10 Bells, 16 Rings of 8 Bells, 47 Rings of 6 Bells, 43 Rings of 5 Bells, besides Rings of 4 Bells and Bells cast into Peals, to the number of 867. The Bells above mentioned have been Cast for the use of 7 Cities, 51 Market Towns, 259 Parishes, in 21 several Counties. He hath cast since Christmas [*sic*] last entire Peals as follows, viz. In Shropshire at Acham 6 Bells, Herefordshire at Garaway Five Bells, and at Abbydore 4 Bells, Gloucestershire, at Cam 5 Bells, in Worcestershire at Suckly 5 Bells, and at Bushley 5 Bells, and now a Ring of 10 Bells Cast for St. Bride's in London, besides odd Bells Cast into Peals to the number of 51, and to the great Satisfaction of those that understand Musick, Ringing and good Bells.

(*Post Man*, Thurs. 21 Dec. 1710 – advert; also Tues. 19 Dec. 1710.)

JOHN GOLDSMITH, in Redgrave, in Suffolk, Casts and Hangs Bells more perfect than any have been for 50 years past, at very reasonable Rates.

(*Norwich Gazette*, 1710 – advert; quoted in *Bell News*, 3 Nov. 1888, p.398)

1711

Five new Bells being hung at Catfield in Norfolk, all very fine Notes, there are Five Pair of Gloves to be given by Mr. Thomas Key of Catfield, to such Ringers as will ring there on Monday in Whitsun-week.

(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 5 May 1711 – quoted in the *Ringling World*, 12 March 1971, p.216, with a note that ‘Perhaps Catfield bells were rehung this year – they were certainly not a new ring.’)

Thomas Newman’s ring of six bells, cast for East Dereham, Norfolk

Mr. Tho. Newman, Bell-founder of this City, having cast Six new Bells for the Parish of Market Deerham, the same are now fixing, and will be rung on Thursday next by the Six best Ringers in Norwich; where will be a very great Appearance of that Society to give their Judgment of that new Peal.

(*Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 8 Sept. 1711; quoted in the *Ringling World*, 12 March 1971, with a note: ‘Market Deerham is East Dereham. This six by Newman at East Dereham is not mentioned by L’Estrange, “Church Bells of Norfolk.”’)

From the Society of Ringers in Norwich, Sep. 21 1711.

Whereas we the Society of Ringers were invited to Market Deerham in this County, to ring and give our Approbation of that new Peal of six Bells, cast by Mr. T. Newman Bell-founder of this City, at which Time of Invitation appointed we did attend, and do allow and approve of them to be a good harmonious Peal; and that the said Peal gives a general satisfaction not only to Us, but to all those that have yet heard them.

(*Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 22 Sept. 1711; quoted in the *Ringling World*, 12 March 1971.)

By a Letter Yesterday from Southwell, we have a further Account, that the Fire Burnt with such Vehemence, as to melt the Bells, the Clock, and the Lead, and levelled the Body of the Church with the Ground, and ruined the Free-School; but the Choir and the Chapter-house was saved.

(*Newcastle Courant*, Wed. 14 – Sat. 17 Nov. 1711)

The Five Bells at St. James's in St. Edmunds-Bury in Suffolk are now made a Peal of six, by Casting the old Tenour and making a new Treble, by Thomas Newman, Bell-founder of this City; and they are now Fixing up, in order to ring for the welcome News of Peace when it comes.

(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 22 Dec. 1711 - quoted in the *Ringling World*, 12 March 1971, p.216.)

1712

On Monday the 28th Instant there will be Five Pairs of Gloves rung for at Acle in Norfolk, and Seven Ribbs of Roast Beef given for the Ringers Dinners at the Kings-head in the said Town.
(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 12 Jan. 1712 – quoted in the *Ringing World*, 12 March 1971, p.216)

THIS it to give Notice, That at the Sign of the Royal-Oak in Ludham upon Easter-Tuesday, being the 11th of April, will be given Five Pair of very good Gloves to be Rung for by any Company of Ringers (Ludham Ringers only excepted) that shall Ring Two double Peals best, according to the Judgment of Two Persons that shall be chosen by the Ringers to judge of the same.
N.B. The Ringers are desired to meet by 10 a Clock in the Forenoon.
(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 25 March 1712 – per David Cubitt)

On Tuesday the 8th of July next at Ten in the Morning, at the Unicorn at Hingham, will be Six Pairs of Gloves given to be rung for, (by any Gentlemen Ringers) at either Five or Six Bell Peals. Where all persons shall be kindly entertained.
(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sats. 28 June and 5 July 1712 – quoted in the *Ringing World*, 12 March 1971, p.216)

We hear from Exeter, That upon the good News coming thither, of her Majesty's being put into Possession of Dunkirk, the Bp. Sent to the D——n, that the Bells of the Cathedral might be rung; but the D——n would not permit the same, notwithstanding he was requested by all the Royal Party: However, the other Bells in the City were rung, and great Demonstrations of Joy were shewn upon the occasion. And the Sunday following, when the D——n ascended the Pulpit to Preach, many of the best Quality went out of the Church.
(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 19 July – Mon. 21 July 1712)

To the Printer of the Flying-Post.

St. Giles's in the Fields, Nov. 5 1712.

IT was observ'd, that Tuesday being the Birth Day of our late Glorious King William, which was always kept in Memory of that Pious Prince with great Zeal, whom we ought never to forget; yet there are many who can't forbear their invidious Reflections upon, and Contempt of him, as was evident by an Order of Vestry made by two of our Justices, with the Consent of our head Church warden, to forbid the Ringing of our Bells on that and Queen Elizabeth's Birth-Day; and they further said, If they had the Impudence to transgress it they might be assured, they should only have their Labour for their Pains. Which some worthy Gentlemen hearing of, sent for the Parish Ringers, and ask'd them, Why did they not Ring? They reply'd, They were always allowed Twenty Shillings for their Pains, on those Days; but this Year, they were like to have nothing. Come, Friends, says the Protestant Gentlemen, we'll raise Money amongst us for you, and do you behave your selves like Men. The Money was raised accordingly. But this day being the Fifth of November, the Ringers dared not touch one Rope, through the Opposition of the High-Church-Warden; which makes our Protestant Gentlemen wonder, that in so great a Parish the[r]e should be so little Zeal for the Protestant Religion. I would beg the Favour, you would send them some CHAPS for their Seven Bells, since they are not t be made use of till the Pretender comes. I hope you'll excuse

Your Servant,

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Thurs. 6 Nov. - Sat. 8 Nov. 1712 – per C. Ridley)

Extracts from the Chronicles of John Cannon Excise Officer and Writing Master, Part 1 (1684-1733), edited by John Money, Oxford: British Academy 2010. – per C. Ridley.

1712

p. 102.

During this my sickness, the great bell was broke & the gentlemen of the town [Watlington in Oxfordshire] agreed with one Mr Phelps, a founder living in White Chapel in London to cast their six bells into 8, which he did & made I an excellent peal & of the same note for deepness or sound as the tenor was while but 6.

p.112.

Mr Guise severely reprimanded by Dr Lancaster, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, for causing his name as Master of Arts to be inserted in one of the bells lately cast at Wycomb when only a bachelor.

§||¶ Just Published, Fact against Scandal: or, a Collection of Testimonials, Affidavits, and other Authentick Proofs, in Vindication of Mr. Richard Jennings, Carpenter, Langley Bradley, Clock-Maker, and Richard Phillips[sic], Bell-Founder. To be re-ferr'd to in an Answer which will speedily be published to a late false and malicious Libel, Entitled [sic], Frauds and Abuses at St. Pauls. To which is added, An Appendix relating to Mr. Jones and Mr. Spencer; and the Copy of a certain Agreement between the Minor Canons, &c. of the said Cathedral. Printed for John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall, 1713. Price 1s.

(Advert in *Examiner*, Mon. 2 March - Fri. 6 March 1713; the bell-founder was Richard Phelps, of Whitechapel, who supplied a new bell to St. Paul's cathedral in 1709, to replace the former bell which was cracked. The replacement bell, which was delivered before the old bell was taken away, was not a success, and Phelps recast it in 1716, a bell which still survives and which weighs about 5 tons 4 cwt.)

At the Czar of Muscovy in St. John's of Madder-market in Norwich, on Monday the 7th of April, will be Five Pair of Gloves given gratis to any Five Country Ringers that shall come and ring at the said Parish Three several Double Peals; and that Company which rings truest, and with fewest mistakes, shall have the Gloves. They are to meet at 10 a Clock, where they shall be kindly used, and their Horses standing for Nothing. The City Ringers are not to ring for them (Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sat. 15 March 1713)

Sept. 17th, 1713. The five bells belonging to the Church of Nantwich were taken down in order to cast them into six by Abram Rudhall.

(*Wilbraham Journal*, n.d. – quoted in the *Ringing World*, 25 May 1923, p.331. This is not, however, a newspaper, but a diary of the Wilbraham family which covers the years 1513-1962 and is now in the care of Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies Collection.)

SIR, *Berks. Wallingford, Nov. 7. 1713.*
THese are to inform you, that Grey Nevill, Esq; who was chosen at Wallingford the 24th of August last, by a fair Majority of 9 or 10 Voices, he being then at Berwick, and now upon his Return, came to visit, and to thank his Friends for the same, when the Ringers, as is usual at such times, rais'd the Bells; but the Mayor, one Thomas Basset a Draper, who had two Tools for the Church Wardens, went and would not let them ring; upon which a Messenger being sent to acquaint him they would ring a Peal in Memory of King William's Birth, and the Revolution, he said, That was a great while ago, and therefore they should not ring: but in the Evening of the Day, there was by Grey Nevill, Esq; and his Friends, a Bonfire on the High Bridge, and a Vessel of Ale, and after that, a Vessell more given in the Market Place, where they drank Healths to the Queen, the House of Hanover, the Glorious Memory of King William, the Duke of Marlborough, and such like honest Protestant Toasts. And I wish that his Worship, which is an extraordinary acute Person, known formerly by the Name of Tom Niget, don't get in his Arithmetick, account the 30th of Jan. to be of a later Date than the Revolution, notwithstanding the vast Distance of time between them.

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Sat. 14 Nov. 1713 – per C. Ridley)

London Dec 10

This Day [Monday last], being the Feast Day of the Sons of the Clergy, the same was usher'd in with the Ringing of Bells, at Bow, St Bride's and other Churches in the City. ...
(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat 12 Dec. – Mon. 14 Dec. 1713 - per C. Ridley)

1714

Newcastle, Sept. 27. Upon Receipt of the Joyful News of his Majesty's safe Arrival at Greenwich, the Right Worshipful the Mayor immediately gave Orders that the Bells in all our Churches should be rung; and in the Evening there were Bonfires, Illuminations, and other Demonstrations of Joy.

(*Newcastle Courant*, Wed. 22 Sept. – Sat. 25 Sept. 1714)

We have not room at present to give an account of half of those horrid Outrages committed under the Covert of those Words on the 28th and 29th Instant, nor indeed have we as yet all the Particulars, but as fast as they come to hand well attested, they shall be publish'd, and the Names of the Rebels expos'd to their Neighbours whose Peace they have disturb'd and to the Government, whose Justice they have so highly provoked. We shall only mention in general at this time, That on the Lord's Day at Night, the Rabble not only betook themselves to their old Trade of breaking Windows, but fell upon the Constables and VVatch in may places, so that some are very dangerously wounded. Others made Bonfires in which they burnt the Effigies of Persons in the Habit of Dissenting Ministers; and on Saturday-night last at Highgate, after the Inhabitants had with great Loyalty and Joy celebrated the Anniversary of his Majesty's Birth, with Illuminations and Bonfires, &c. a Party of the High-Church Rabble went to a Presbyterian Meeting-House, carry's off the Casements of the Windows, and did further Mischief, of which you may expect to hear more, as also of the cutting off the Bell-Ropes at Aldersgate Church, when the Ringers were going to give a Peal in Honour of his Majesty's Birth Day. These and many other Villanies, were all committed in Honour of *High-Church* and *Ormond*. In the mean Time, we hear that 30 of these Rioters are taken up and committed to the Compter. (*Flying Post*, Sat. 28 May – Tues. 31 May 1715 – per C. Ridley)

'Tis advised from Beckington near Froom in Somersetshire, That on Friday last (which they call the Pretender's Birth-Day) the Bells were rung, and his Health drank by the Name of King *James III.* at Philips-Norton in that County, where the Meeting-House narrowly escap'd a Scowering. The Bells were rung at Wolverton on the same Occasion. (*Stamford Mercury*, Thurs. 23 June 1715)

Bath, Sept. 26. A diverting Passage happen'd here lately, as follows: A very ingenious and loyal Lady, named Crew, who lodges at Mr. Moor's, an Apothecary in the Abbey-Yard here, being much offended that our Bells rung so much for the coming in of Sir William Windham, she sent for the Ringers on the 18th at Night, and told them, if they wou'd ring an Hour she wou'd give 'em a Guinea. They accordingly went and rung a very good Peal, and came back to the Lady, who told them that she had caused them to ring in Remembrance for King George's happy Arrival on that Day, and taking quiet possession of his Kingdoms, and that they must make a loud Huzza before her Window, and cry God bless King George and all the Royal Family, before she wou'd give them the Guinea. The Fellows demurr'd a long Time, and said like the Jews of old, 'It was Sunday, and there was a mix'd Company at the Bath, and some of them wou'd be offended at their praying for K. George in that Manner; and they made other trifling Excuses; upon which the Lady went from the Window, and wrote a Paper to this Purpose,

We the Ringers of the Bath, having at the desire of the Lady Crew, upon her promising us a Guinea, rung an Hour, on what Account we know not, and now being acquainted with the Occasion, and desir'd to pray for K. George, have refus'd to do it.

The Lady brought this Paper to the Window, and read it to the Fellows, who cry'd out, *God Bless your Ladship, we pray for King George every Day*, and faintly repeated the Words she bid them, but her Ladship made them do it aloud, and then gave them the Guinea; which occasion'd a great deal of Mirth here.

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Sat. 1 Oct. 1715 – per C. Ridley)

The Information of Thomas Hutchinson of Leeds in the County of York, Yeoman, taken upon Oath the 21st Day of June. Anno; Dom. 1715.

Who saith, That upon Friday the 10th Day of this Instant June, being the Pretender's Birth-Day, betwixt nine and ten at Night, he this Informant, went into the great Churchyard of Leeds aforesaid, the Bells of the said Church being then a ringing, and had been ringing a considerable time, where he saw a great Number of People, and asking some of the Mob, *What was the Menaning[sic] of the Ringing of the said Bells?* he was answer'd by one of the Mob, who said he as one of the Ringers, *That they were ringing for the King's Son, it being his Birth-Day,* after which he went home; and going gain to the same Place a second Time, and asking the meaning of the ringing the Bells a second Time, where the said Mob were still in the said Churchyard, told one of the Men, who said he was one of the Ringers, *he would give him a Pint of Ale, if he would tell him what the Bells were ring for,* the said Person reply'd, *That tho' Mr. John Dodgson had been to discharge them from ringing, (the Person who told him so having then put on his waistcoat) they were ringing for the Pretender, and they would go and ring again on purpose to grieve some Persons,* the said bells continuing until 12 that Night, and further saith that when this Informant came back again, he saw a Bonfire in the great Street in Leeds, call'd Briggate, on Mr. Ormroyde's Front, and a great many Persons about it, which continued for some time, and the Persons about it fir'd and threw several Squibs or Rockets made of Gunpowder.

The information of John Dodgson of Leeds, in the County of York, younger, Merchant, taken upon Oath, the 21st Day of June, 1715.

Who saith, that on the 10th of June being in his Garden-House with some Friends, and hearing the Bells ring very merrily, a Lieutenant of Dragoons of my Ld. Strafford's Regiment, he begged of this Informant to send his Servant to know the Occasion upon which she went into the Street, came back immediately, and told us, the Occasion was (as the People in the Street told her) the Pretender's Birth-day, upon which the Informant did immediately go to the great Church, speak to one of the Ringers, and told him, *he this Informant wonder'd they were not ashamed to ring the Bells, being the Pretender's Birth-day, that it was directly proclaiming another King, and flying in the Face of his present Majesty,* and coming from the Church, this Informant went to the Home of Mr. Killingbeck, Vicar of the said Church, where he found Mr. Pancter, Lieutenant of Dragoons, begging of the said Vicar to Forbid the said Bells ringing, this Informant joyn'd with him in the said Petition, desiring very earnestly he would order the Bells to cease, upon which the Vicar answer'd he would and desir'd this Informant he would go down and forbid them, upon which this Informant went to the said Church a second time, where he spoke to one of the Ringers, told him as before, and would have gone into the Church, but the Fellow push'd the Door upon him, and lock'd it. Upon that the Informant went to a Woman intrusted with the Key of the North Door of the said Church, who let this Informant into the Church, and going up into the Bell-Chamber told the Ringers *that he wonder'd very much they were not asham'd to ring the Bells it being the Pretender's Birth-day, that it was directly proclaiming another King, and flying in the Face of his present Majesty,* the said Ringers answer'd this Informant, *that the Mouths of the Bells were up, and that they cou'd not cease them.* Upon which this Informant went down the Stairs from the Bell-Chamber, and so home, this was about ten a Clock at Night, and the Bells continu'd ringing till twelve that Night; and this Informant further saith, that talking with one James Heartly, a Member of this Corporation, and who is a person went suspected to be violently in the Interest of the Pretender, about the Ld. Bolingbrooke's going in to France, about the Secret Committee, he the said Heartley said, *That the Lord Bollingbroke was much in the right to flee, for that right or wrong, if he had staid they would have taken off his Head.*

The Information of Mr. Parcier Lieutenant of Dragoons of Lord Strafford's Regiment, taken upon Oath.

Who saith, That on the 10th of June, he this Informant being in Mr. Dodgeson the younger's Garden, desir'd the said Gentleman to send his Servant into the Street, to know the reason why the Bells were a ringing and the Mob a Hollowing? The Servant came in again, and brought the Company word, that *she was told it was the Pretender's Birth Day,* upon that this Informant went out into the Street, and saw before one Peter Ormeroyde's Door, a large Bone-fire, with a vast Mob about it hollowing; upon which this Informant went up to Mr Mayor, and represented to him the bad Consequence of such Proceedings, with all the Earnestness imaginable, telling of him, *That it was publick Treason against the best of Kings, and that he was obliged in Honour and Conscience to prevent so villainous an Action;* and told him, *the Employment he was in, requir'd it,* and other Words to that effect; and all the Answer this Informant could get from the Mayor, was, *That he could not help*

it, that it none of his Fault, and that he had nothing at all to do with the Matter, nor would meddle therein. Finding no Redress, with the Mayor, this Informant went to the Vicar, and complain'd of the said Bells Ringing, as this Informant had done to the Mayor; upon which Mr. Killingbeck immediately order'd his Maid to go to the Church, and to tell the Ringers to cease ringing; but the Ringers disregarded the Message sent from the Vicar, and continu'd ringing till 12 that Night, to the best of this Informant's Knowledge.

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Sat. 14 Jan. 1716 – per C. Ridley)

LONDON, February 6.

Whereas Samuel Bennet, Bell ringer, of the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields, came to me on Saturday Evening the 28th of January, and told me that the next Day was Prince Frederick's Birth Day, and desired leave to Ring the Bells, upon which Misrepresentation of his, the Flag was hung out and Bells did Ring; but since Understanding that the said Prince's Birth-day was the 19th of January; and some believing this Man had some Evil Design to cover, and several Stories having been raised upon it by ill-minded People, That it was the Pretender's Coronation, and for Joy of a Victory gained by him over the King's Troops; in order to justify my self and the rest of our Parish from having any such wicked Design, I complain'd to Justice Medlicot of this Bennet's Mistake, who has sent him to Goal for it; and solemnly declare, I had no other Design, Intent, or Meaning, than doing Honour to the said Prince, and rejoicing at his Happy Birth; as Witness my Hand this 3d Day of February 1715—16. As on the Oath I have taken before the said Justice,
William Braman, Church-Warden.

(*St. James's Post*, Mon. 6 Feb. 1716; also *St. James's Evening Post*, Thurs. 9 Feb. 1716. Both reports per C. Ridley.)

At Stafford Assizes.... Will. Woolrich, Wolverhampton Bell-man, fined 20£. and to stand in the Pillory for a Riot there.

(*Worcester Post-man*, Fri. 30 March - Fri. 6 April 1716)

The terrible accident at Moorfields

Thursday Night, about Nine a Clock, a most terrible Accident happened at the Gun-Founders on Windmill-Hill by Moorfields, were [*sic*] the Workmen casting some Brass Guns in wet Molds, they bursted, and kill'd one of the Clerks of the Ordnance: Bagley, the Master Founder, has lost his Eyes, and his Son, and 16 others, are desperately wounded, insomuch that it is thought several of them will die.

(*Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, Sat. 12 May 1716)

Last Thursday night about 9 a'clock a tragical accident happened at the Royal Foundry near Upper Moorfields where while the workmen were casting a Canon the metal that was running into the mould flew up on a sudden with very great noise and violence and came down like Drops of Fire not only upon all the workmen but Spectators (of whom there were a great Number to see the performance). Several attended from the Tower particularly Mr. Hall Clerk of the Ordnance [*sic*] who was so sorely wounded that he dy'd next morning. The Master Founder and his son with above 20 others were also very much hurt. 'Tis generally agreed that this sad accident was owing to the dampness of the Mould.

(*Flying Post*, Sat. 12 May 1716; quoted in J.C.L. Stahlshmidt, *Church Bells of Kent* (1887), p.101, where it is noted that there was a similar report in the *Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, which

stated that ‘Bagley the Master Founder has lost his Eyes and his son and sixteen others are desperately wounded.’)

On Thursday night last, at a quarter past 9, as they were casting three Pieces of Canon of an extraordinary Size, at Mr. Bagley's a Founder on Windmill-hill, soon after the 2d Cannon was pour'd into the Mould, the same burst, (occasion'd by some small Damp) whereby Mr. Hall, one of the Clerks belonging to the Ordinance [*sic*], was so wounded, that he died yesterday morning. Mr. Whiteman, who keeps a Publick-house hard by, and about 10 or 12 more, being present at this Accident; they were so dreadfully wounded, that their Lives are despair'd of. Several Persons of Distinction were expected there on this Occasion; but happily did not come.

(*Worcester Post-man*, Fri. 11 May to Fri. 18 May 1716)

Mr. Bagley, the Founder on Windmill-Hill is dead, as is also, we hear, a Danish Gentleman who was then present.

(*Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, Sat. 26 May 1716. It was as a result of this disaster that the Royal Brass Foundry was set up at Woolwich, as at the time of this accident the foundry on Windmill Hill was the only facility for casting brass ordnance in the country.)

Pull on, expiring Tory Boys,
And pleass yourselves a while with Noise,
Y'have lost all other Hopes;
Your Loyalty to Perkin Feal,
Pull on, Ring out your Fun'ral Peal,
Then *Hang yourselves I'th Ropes.*

....

Pull on, be Loyal Holbeach Boys,
And Gawl the Tories with your Noise,
And show you Love your King:
King George is he that fav'd your Church,
The Jacks had left it in the Lurch,
At Tyburn may they Swing.

(*Flying Post or the Post-Master*, Sat. 12 May 1716 – per C. Ridley. Two extracts from political poetry with some references to bell ringing.)

Whereas it has been industriously and maliciously reported, That Abraham Rudhall, the younger, of the City of Gloucester, Bell-Founder, has left his Habitation, and is settled in Lancashire; This is to satisfie the Publick, that he never did leave his Habitation, nor had any Design so to do; but to the great Satisfaction of all judicious Persons, has Cast a great many Peals of Bells, and is ready to serve any Parish at reasonable Rates, that has or may have Occasion to employ him; and is to be spoken with (or if Occasion to direct) at his House in the Lower Northgate-street in Gloucester.

(*Worcester Post-Man*, Fri. 18 May to Fri. 25 May 1716 – per D.G. Franklin: also *Evening General Post*, Thurs. 17 May and Sat. 19 May, with the added text: ‘N.B. He continueth his Work Houses in Lancashire as usual, for the Conveniency of Carriage to tho[s] Parts.’ – per C. Ridley.)

WE hereby Witness, That Henry Penn, Bell-Founder, of Peterborough in Northamptonshire, fits Ruptur'd People of both Sexes, and all Ages, with Steel Trusses, and has Applications, internal as well as external, for the Cure of even the most Desparate Cases of that Nature.

Theoph. Hill, M. B. Sam. Pendleton, Physician, Alex. Stuart, Chirurg.

(*Stamford Mercury*, Thurs. 5 July 1716)

Whereas a Brass Foundery is now building at Woolwich for his Majesty's Service, all Founders as are desirous to cast Brass Ordnance, are to give in their Proposals forthwith, upon such terms as are regulated by the Principal Officers of His Majesty's Ordnance, which may be seen at their Office in the Tower.

(*London Gazette*, Tues. 10 July – Sat. 14 July 1716)

On Monday last in the Evening, the Bell Called, Tom of Westminster, having been new cast by Mr Phelps the Founder at Whitechapel, was brought again to St Paul's, and on Thursday was weigh'd before a Committee, and found to be Five Tons, Two Hundred, One Quarter and Twenty One Pound Weight.

(Stamford Mercury, Thurs 9 Aug 1716 – per C Ridley)

1717

* * William Eldridge, a noted Bell-Founder of Chertsea in Surrey, being lately dead, his House and Work-house, with Tackle and Tools for such Work, are to be lett or sold. Any Founder that is dispos'd to take or buy it, may hear farther from Thomas Miller, Baker, in the said Town, or Mr. Thomas Bartholomew of Hardwich in the said Parish.

(Advert in *Weekly Packet*, Sat. 19 Jan. - Sat. 26 Jan. 1717; William Eldridge died at the end of 1716, and his will, proved in May 1717, is given *in extenso* in J.C.L. Stahlschmidt, *Surrey Bells and London Bellfounders*, (1884), pp.117-9. Bartholomew (who held a mortgage on the premises) and Miller were Eldridge's two executors.)

Bury, Tuesday, Jan. 22.

SIR,

IT is no small Concern to all good Subjects of our Rightful and Lawful Sovereign King George, to see that we have yet a wretched Faction amongst us, who dare to take all Opportunities to shew their Disrespect to the Government, and endeavour to stir up the Peopled to do the like: A Specimen of which I here send you, and hope you will think it ought to be expos'd. By Sunday Night's Post we had the agreeable News of His Majesty's safe Arrival from Abroad, and the next Day it was expected that the Bells would have proclaim'd our Joy, with other concurring Testimonies, in Acknowledgment for so great a Blessing; but instead thereof, not a Bell stirr'd, nor was the lest Notice taken of it by some of our Magistrates, from whom it might reasonably have been expected; Not but this Town bears as good a Character for its Loyalty to the present happy Establishment, as most in England; sends up two very good Members; has 3 of its 4 Parsons entirely in the Interest of King George, (which, you will say, is much) and one of them his Chaplain, and now had Courage enough to command the Bells to ring, and otherwise to shew their Loyalty, but it stuck with our worthy Churchwardens, who, it seems, have the Command of the Bells; some of which, tho' they refus'd this Honour to a Protestant King, yet about ten Days before, with many others, mounted their Horses to bring in an Irish popish Earl, whom they met at some Distance from the Town, and conducted into it with Triumph; all the Bells in the Town then ringing, and other Demonstrations of Rejoicings made, suitable to the Introducing of POPERY (in the Sence of the Party) and the Reception of so good a CHURCHMAN coming to dwell amongst us: Besides whom, for several Months past, we have had several Families of Strangers that have come and settled in these Parts, and with them Priests, Jesuits, &c. So that we now swarm with the D---l's Agents, who are carress'd by several Parsons, and other Members of the true Orthodox High-Church, *alias*, Church of England, with a Paper Wall between that and Popery. 'Tis to be hop'd, these Things will be enquir'd into, and that this may serve to promote it.

I am, &c.

(*St. James's Evening Post*, Sat. 9 Feb. 1717 – per C. Ridley)

SIR,

Oxford, May 30.

I Think fit to acquaint you that our Governours put by our Market on Wednesday the 29th, because it was the Anniversary of King Charles IId's Restoration, and had it held on the 28th, the Anniversary of King George's Birth. We had little Ringing at Night, all our Neighbours illuminated, and we were very quiet, but yesterday we had Noise enough of Bells. The Party seems to stand a little in awe, being afraid of having more Soldiers, by which the World may judge how well affected they are to his Majesty and the Royal Family.

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Thurs. 6 June 1717 – per C. Ridley)

On Tuesday last, His Majesty saw the Horse-Race at Guilford [*sic*], and afterwards din'd with the Lord Onslow. The same Evening he return'd to Hampton-Court, and next Day to dinner at St. James's.

...His Majesty, as he passed thro' Kingston, order'd ten Guineas to be given to the poor Prisoners in the Goal there; five Guineas to be given to the Poor of the Town, and two Guineas to the Ringers; And likewise gave Money, more or less, to such Uses, in all the Towns through which he pass'd. ...

(*Weekly Journal, or, British Gazette*, Sat. 15 June 1717)

At a Town called Trunch, near Northwalsham in Norfolk, there happen'd on Thursday Night the 4th Instant, a great Debate to arise between the Churchwardens of the said Parish and the Parson of the same, concerning Ringing there for Joy that the Earl of Oxford was Acquitted: the Churchwardens having set out the Bells, the Parson came to the church in a great Passion and forbad the Ringers ringing any longer, and in short Turn'd them out of the Church, and told them amongst other Things, *That the Nation was Ruined by this Act of Acquitting the Earl of Oxford, and that the said Earl was for bringing in the Pretender*, and much more to that Purpose, upon which we are ready to witness upon our Oaths.

Robert Harmer, Chwdn.
Rich. Primerose, Overseer.
And many Others.

(*Norwich Gazette or Loyal Packet*, Sat. 13 July 1717)

This is to give Notice, that John Stephens from London, Church Bell-Fonder [*sic*], who casteth all sorts of Bells, and also all sorts of Brasses, (he served his Apprenticeship with Mr. Abraham Rudhall in Gloucester City, the Ablest Bell-Founder in England, to the Judgment of Norwich Ringers, who have sent for him from London) is now come to Norwich to live; and all Gentlemen shall have good Security for their Bell or Bells, he having perform'd the Business these 18 or 20 Years. He is to be spoke withal at Mr. John Baist's at the Sign of the Castel [*sic*], by the Hall's End in the Market-Place in Norwich, at any time.

(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sats. 13 & 20 July 1717)

SIR,

Newbury, August 16.

NOT one Bell was rung here on the Glorious First of August, because of some in Power being willing to shew, how sensible they are of the Blessings of the present happy Government, and how much they are softened by forgiving Mercy from the Throne, and did in great Wisdom, as 'tis said, tell the Ringers, who offer'd to exercise their Talent that way, That it would wear the Ropes; so they might easily remember, that a great deal of the precious Commodity have been sav'd by the Act of Indemnity. But forgetting the wise Reason, they suffer'd the Bell to be rung merrily the next. Now the generality, and far the better part of this populous Town, are really concern'd for the Honour of King George, and would keep in the most publick manner the Anniversary of his seasonable and happy Accession to the British Throne, and are therefore the more displeas'd that their Bells were not as Loyal as some other; however these noisy and ringing Whigs did venture to make Bonfires in Defiance of the above wise and quiet Persons. But it will be less strange that there are some in the Town who do not heartily favour the just Cause of our Sovereign, when it is known that we have a young Prea---r, who to shew his Wit and Loyalty, as used the *honest way of Praying*, viz. *Ye shall Pray, &c.* and who, to shew his Christian and Protestant Principles, has very furiously, (but like others) to very little purpose, attack'd, what has been so seasonably asserted, and so victoriously maintain'd by the truly Protestant Bishop of Bangor, whose Scripture and Christian Doctrine does very much satisfy and not perplex the Minds of the Generality of this Town. If this Account will serve to Vindicate the many Loyal Inhabitants of this Place, and fix the Reproach where it properly belongs, it will very much rejoice your Humble Servant, Philo Georgius.

(*Flying Post or the Post Master*, Tues. 22 Aug. 1717 – per C. Ridley)

The Steeple of the new Church in the Strand is finished, and a Sett of Bells cast; but the Inhabitants are unwilling to have them put up till a Church of England Church-warden is chosen. N.B. The Maypole is still in pawn at the five Bells Tavern, and will be taken down next Week.

(*Weekly Journal or Saturday's Post*, Sat. 12 Oct. 1717; the Five Bells was a well-known public house close to this new church of St. Mary le Strand, and its name occurs many times in a number of adverts at this period. There is still no ring of bells at the church.)

1718

We have Advice from the Bath, that the late D. Ormond's Birth Day, which was last week, had been kept with great Solemnity (viz.) by ringing of the Abby Bells, and by great entertainments, wherein the Mayor and Aldermen (if they are belied) were concerned.
(*Weekly Packet with the Price Courant*, Sat. 10 May 1718 – per C. Ridley)

SIR,

July 7th 1711 [sic]

THE 10th of *June* last, being the Pretender's pretended Birth-Day, the Jacobites at this Town hired several Fellows to ring the Bells, and drink his Health, which they did in the Belfry of Ashford-Church, and afterwards dress'd up one of their Company with a Pastboard-Crown on his head, and Scepter in his hand, and these Words writ on the Crown (*James the Third, King of England*) and so marched thro' the Town. Mr. *B*— the Constable had the Courage and Honesty to take away the Crown from them, and went with it to Mr. *R*— an Attorney in this Town, and ask'd his Advice what to do with the Fellows. Mr. *R*— told him, that without doubt he had Power to apprehend them, as it was a Crime of a high Nature, and a Justice of the Peace within two or three Miles of the Town, he thought it advisable to apply to One for further Orders therein, and named *S— E— K—* to him. Mr. *B*— immediately went to *S— E— K—* and inform'd him of the whole Matter, whose Answer was, that on Saturday they shou'd meet upon the Appeals of the Land Land [sic] Tax, and then wou'd enquire into it. Mr. *B*— told him by that time they wou'd be gone; *S— E—* reply'd, Pish they won't be gone out of the Kingdom, and so dispatch'd Mr. *B*— without any further Notice of the Matter, and on the Saturday following, the Justices being met upon the Appeals of the Land Tax; sent for Mr. *B*—, and wou'd have bound him over to the Sessions, which he refusing, they threaten to send him to Goal for the next Meeting, for this Behaviour of his.

'Tis to be obser'd, *S— E— K—* was at Ashford the 11th of June, but never sent for Mr. *B*---d, or make and Inquiry into the Matter till Saturday, when the Fellows were run away.

I am, your humble Servant, &c.

(*Weekly Journal of British Gazetteer*, Sat. 12 July 1718 – per C. Ridley; the letter was not signed.)

This is to give Notice, That John Stephens from London, Church Bell-Founder, casteth all sorts of Bells, and all sorts of brasses: He serv'd his Apprenticeship with Mr. Abraham Rudhall in Gloucester City, the ablest Bell-Founder in England, and is now seated in Norwich, where he has perform'd this Work as followeth: Deerham [sic] 3d, Caston 5th, Blickling Tenour, Rednall [sic] treble and 3d, to make six; Framlingham in Suffolk the Tenour and Two Trebles, to make eight; and several other Bells, to the Judgment of those that understand Ringing, and good Bells. My Office is near Bearstreet-Gates, where all Gentlemen shall have good Security for their Bell or Bells.
(Advert in *Norwich Gazette*, Sats. 26 July, 2 & 9 Aug. 1718)

We have an Account from Reading, of the 25th, That two Foot-Pads robb'd a Clergyman at Sunning, three miles from that Place, taking from him his Hat and thirty Shillings in Money; but that he hearing the Parish Bells Ring made Application to the Ringers, who immediately pursu'd, and apprehended them; The Money and Hat being found upon 'em; they were committed to the County Gaol.

(*Weekly Journal or Saturday's Post*, Sat. 31 Jan. 1719)

SIR,

East Grinstead, May 30.

I Doubt not but you will have Accounts enow of the Rejoicings on his Majesty's Birth-Day: But I cannot help acquainting you with the notorious Impudence of Those that have the Conduct of the Bells in this Town; who, I think, ought to be expos'd. Several Gentlemen met at the Crown-Inn here, to drink His Majesty's Health, and not hearing the Bells ring, they agreed to send for the Ringers, and told them, they would give them Ten Shillings if they would ring; but Rebellion has had so little Success lately, that these Manufacturers of Hemp and Bell-Metall cou'd not be prevail'd with to handle their Destinies; for, by the way, 'tis hop'd the Bell-Ropes will fall to some of their Shares. 'Tis a hard Case tho', that all the Clamour must be of the Jacobites side, and that the poor Bells must be drawn into Petty-Treason for the Good of the Church. I hope one Royal Visitation will let us know who the Power of the Bells belongs to, that they must be so particularly at the Service of a Rascally Mob, to keep Treason and Rebellion in Countenance.

I am Yours, Friend and Reader,

Jerry Flagstaffe.

(*Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, Sat. 6 June 1719)

To the Author of the MEDLEY.

SIR,

Watford in Hertfordshire.

THERE having been some Paragraphs inserted in the publick Papers concerning the Ringers being taken up at this Place for abusing the Church-Wardens, in which the Ringers are set forth as the Authors and Fomentors of Sedition; and out of Disaffection to the present Government, are said to have rung those several Peals with an Intent to distinguish the *Tenth of June*, (which is the Pretender's Birth-Day) as a Day of *their* Merriment; I, who lover to hear Facts told as the Facts in themselves really are, address my self to you as a Professor of Impartiality, and desire you to rescue this Set of Men from such harmful Misrepresentations, and to strike dumb the Thousand calumniating Tongues of *evil Fame*. Fellows of so low a Class are usually *Honest Men* but *Ignorant Men*; And it too frequently happens, that *Ignorance*, which where they commit an involuntary Blunder should excuse them, is by some Sort of malicious People made a Handle for giving them rough Treatment and hard Usage when they don't deserve it; because they think they can find a Pretext and a Colour to Varnish over their Malice and make it look so like Law, they know that the Capacities of the ignorant Men accused can't defend them against the Sophistries of sly and malicious Injustice. It behoves therefore *Men of Sense* to turn publick Advocates; where *Ignorance* is *innocent*, and is only run down and argued to be guilty, because it is *Ignorance* and cannot plead in its own Defence. The Fact was in reality thus (*Sir*) to a little —

You must know (*Sir*) Mrs. *P—kins*, one of the chief Inn-keepers in or about this Town, was supposed to be marry'd on the Tenth of June; tho' all the Privacy and Secrecy in Nature was, (it seems intended. Yet the Rumour of its actually being done got so great Head, that from being whispered by one Neighbour to another, it became in about an Hour a publick Town-talk. They, who pretended to be most in the Secret of the Wedding, *gave out*, that she was marry'd not in her own, but a Parish adjacent, that the Parson of her own Parish sent to demand his Fees as his due, and that she accordingly sent him 10 Shillings, desiring at the same time, that the Ringers might give her a Peal; a Request always comply'd with on the Occasion of a Wedding. The Ringers apply'd themselves to the Minister and Church-Wardens for the Keys of the Church, proposing to themselves an Advantage, but were refused the Keys. At length they got the Keys, and made Jovial Musick for the new *Bride* and *Bridegroom*. But the Day being the Tenth of June, alter'd it seems in the Opinion of some of the Legality, (Custom and Prescription had made way for) of ringing Bells on a Wedding into an illegal Act and a Crime. But whoever the Justice was, that committed them, I presume to foretell that the Assembly of Justices or the Judges of the Assizes, if the Matter be brought so high as their Cognizance, will certainly and entirely acquit them. For their having an unusual Reason, *viz*: a Marriage to ring the Bells for; If they did not openly say they did it on Account of the Day, the Fault of distinguishing the Say, (which is all the Crime) lies at the Doors of those, who distinguish'd it by Suspicions, and by

taking them up upon Suspicions, when the requested to ring for another Reason, viz. a *Marriage*. Were the same *good* opportunity offer'd them of getting Monaey, they would probably as soon ring the Bells on the *Tenth of July* as on the *Tenth of June*, or in any other Month, and therefore 'twas not the Day they celebrated, but a *New Marriage* that *happen'd to usher in that Day*: Therefore it was no Fault in them but in the Mis-interpreters of the Act; It was *scandalum acceptum, non datum*, a Scandal *taken* and *NOT given*. Otherwise by that way of arguing, the *Dissenters* might have their *Wills* for once, and with Plausibility stop all the Bells in *London's* Hundred of Parishes, which they so much hate from calling People together to the Church upon one Sabbath Day *septennially*, that is, when that *Sabbath Day* lighted upon the Tenth of *June*, by more impudently saying and affirming, (according to their way of Falshood) that all the Churchmen rung the Bells to celebrate the *Tenth* of June as the *Pretender's* Birth-day, and not as the Sabbath. I am Sir, by being thus an Advocate for Ignorant Innocent and Poor People against the sly designing rich Accusers well assured, that my Pleadings for them will gain a Place in your Paper. For 'tis because you are a Lover of *Justice* and *Reason*, and will not *upon any advantageous views* depart one Inch from *either*, that I value and esteem your Writings and own my self,

your Reader, your Friend,
and your Correspondent.

(*Weekly Medley or the Gentleman's Recreation*, Sat. 20 June 1719 – per C. Ridley)

Trouble-making at Ludlow

'They write from Ludlow, that some of the Dragoons, quartered there, made a Disturbance in the Town, on account of the Inhabitants solemnizing the 29th of May; that they went into the Belfry, beat the Ringers, and made them desist, cut two of the Townsmen with their Swords: Whereupon the High Constable waited on the Commanding Office to demand the Offenders, two of which were delivered up, and committed to Prison.'

(*Evening Post*, Sat. 6 June 1719 – Tues. 9 June 1719; also *Weekly Packet* for Sat. 6 June 1719 – Sat. 13 June 1719, and *Pue's Occurrences*, Sat. 13 June 1719 - Tues. 16 June 1719, where the source was stated to be 'Post Boy, dated June 9.')

[Unsigned letter from Ludlow, dated 26 June 1719)

THE Enemies of the Government are always ready to lay hold of every Occasion to asperse it; but more especially the Soldiery, because they are known to be hearty for the King: And it appears, that we have Papers as ready to do their dirty Work, as they are to contrive it:...

[The writer then recounted essentially what was in the earlier news report, and went on to say;]

This plausible story inserted in so plausible a Paper, made a noise for some time, and the poor Soldiers were miserably curs'd by High-Church, as Enemies to the Restoration, when the poor Men are nothing less, but rejoice as hearty on that Day as any other; at length the truth comes out, and the Person that inserted it, is in Justice obliged to say, that the whole Story is false and groundless: he ought likewise, I think, to be oblig'd to ask Pardon of the Soldiers for aspersing them in that tender part of their Honour, who are Men that behavd [*sic*] well and civilly in their Quarters.

(*Weekly Journal or, British Gazetteer*, Sat. 27 June 1719)

On Wednesday last, the Ringers at Watford in Hertfordshire abused the Church-Wardens, broke into the Church and rang [*sic*] the Bells; for which they were committed to Hertford-Gaol.

(*Evening Post*, Thurs. 11 June – Sat. 13 June 1719; also *Plymouth Journal or General Post*, Fri. 12 June – Fri. 19 June 1719, and *Pue's Occurrences*, Tues. 16 - Sat. 20 June 1719, where the source was stated to be the *Post Boy*, June 13, and the name of the place was omitted.)

The Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Clement Danes have Subscribed for two new Bells, to be added to the eight they have already.

(*Original Weekly Journal*, Sat. 18 July 1719 – per C. Ridley; William and Philip Wightman cast a ring of eight bells for the parish in 1683, but these were not augmented to a ring of ten until 1843.)

The Augmentation of St. Bride's, Fleet Street

The Ringers in and about the City of London have Subscribed for 100 guineas, for Two New Bells for St. Brides Church in Fleet-Street.

(*Original Weekly Journal*, Sat 1 Aug. 1719)

Two new Bells being this Week put up in St. Bridget's Steeple in Fleet-street, cast, as we hear, by Mr. Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, who cast the other Ten; which Peal of twelve Bells being more than in any other Steeple in England, were rung last Night for the first Time, to the great satisfaction of those that heard them.

(*Daily Post*, Sat. 5 Dec. 1719)

ABraham Rudhall of the City of Gloucester, Bell-Founder, who, some Years since, cast the famous Peal of ten Bells for the Parish of St. Brides, London, has lately cast two Trebles to make the same a Peal of 12, it being the first Peal of the Number, upon which Changes have been rung in England, and notwithstanding the many Difficulties which attended the Undertaking (which may be truly call'd the Masterpiece of all his Labours) He has completed the same beyond the Expectation of those who had the greatest Opinion of his Abilities.

(Advert in *Evening Post*, Thurs. 24 Dec. - Sat. 26 Dec. 1719)

Mr. Mist,

BY constantly reading your Journal I find you a Man of Probity, which gives me Hopes of a Place for this in your next; because it is to do Justice to the greatest Artist in the World, in the Way of Bell-Foundry; I mean Mr. Abraham Rudhall, sen. of the City of Gloucester, who (notwithstanding some of his Enemies of the same Business, who find they can make but little Progress whilst he or his Son live, have industriously reported they are both dead, whereas they are both alive, and in perfect Health) hath lately performed the greatest Piece of Work ever known, by Casting two Bells for St. Bride's Church, which, being added to the Ten he formerly cast, make a compleat Peal of Twelve, which, according to the best Master in Musick and Ringing, exceed all others. It is hoped this ingenious Man may live to fill many vacant Steeples with his excellent Harmony, so pleasing in the Ears of all Honest Men, and Lovers of Church-Musick.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Bellarmino Soundwell.

(*Weekly Journal or Saturday's Post*, Sat. 9 Jan. 1720)

MR. ABRAHAM RUDHALL, the famous Bell-Founder at Gloucester, who has given more Proofs of his Dexterity in that Art than any of his Predecessors ever did before him, which his own Works in so many Parts of England can testify, especially the noble Peal of 12, which he has lately perfected at St. Brides, which may justly be counted the standard Peal of England for the Time to come, and will remain as an everlasting Monument of Praise due to that most ingenuous [*sic*] Artist, which Number of Bells is such an Addition and affords so much Variety of Musick, that no Instrument whatsoever has receiv'd so great an Improvement, which Improvement however is abundantly help'd by the Charming Air and musical Notes peculiar to Peals of Mr. Rudhall's casting, there being as much Difference in the Tones of Bells as to Music, as there is between a Bartholomew Fair Fiddle of a Groat, and a Cremona Fiddle worth a hundred Guineas.

(Advert in *Evening Post*, Tues 12 Jan. - Thurs. 14 Jan. 1720)

MR. ABRAHAM RUDHALL, the famous Bell-Founder at Gloucester, who has been so often reported to be dead, is to the great Mortification of the Authors of those Reports, still alive in perfect Health, who has given more Proofs of his

Dexterity in that Art than any of his Predecessors ever did before him, which his own Works in so many Parts of England can testify, especially the noble Peal of 12, which he has lately perfected at St. Brides, which may justly be counted the standard Peal of England for the Time to come, and will remain as an everlasting Monument of Praise due to that most ingenious [*sic*] Artist, which Number of Bells is such an Addition and affords so much Variety of Musick, that no Instrument whatsoever has receiv'd so great an Improvement, which Improvement however is abundantly help'd by the Charming Air and musical Notes peculiar to Peals of Mr. Rudhall's casting, there being as much Difference in the Tones of Bells as to Music, as there is between a Bartholomew Fair Fiddle of a Groat, and a Cremona Fiddle worth a hundred Guineas.

(Advert in *Evening Post*, Thurs 14 Jan. - Sat. 16 Jan. 1720)

The bankruptcy of Julia and William Bagley

WHereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded against Julia Bagley and William Bagley, of the Parish of St. Giles Cripplegate, London, Founders and Partners, and they being declared Bankrupts; are hereby required to surrender themselves to the Commissioners on the 6th and 13th Instant, and on the 3d of December next, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London: At the second of which Sittings the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay their Contribution-Money, and chuse Assignees.

(*London Gazette*, Sat. 31 Oct. - Tues. 3 Nov. 1719)

To be Lett or Sold.

The large Foundry, late Mr. Bagley's, at Windmill-Hill near Moorfields, with all Necessaries and Conveniences, fit either for a Foundry, Brew-house, Still-house, Vinegar-house, or other Trade that requires Room: Also two large Fire Engines to be sold at Pennyworth. Enquire at Ned's Coffee-house in Birchin-lane.

(Advert in *Daily Courant*, Wed. 1 June 1720; also same paper, Fri. 3 June 1720; this proposed sale was evidently a consequence of the bankruptcy of Julia and William Bagley the previous year. However, it is thought that the premises remained derelict for the next twenty years. John Wesley recorded in his *Journal* for Sunday 11 Nov. 1739 that he 'preached at 5 in the evening to 7 or 8000 in the place which had been the King's Foundry for Cannon.' Subsequently he bought the lease and the premises were rebuilt as a base for his evangelising. A new chapel was later built nearby and the last service on the Foundry site was held on 1 November 1778.)
