

1750

Last Monday Evening as some Persons were ringing at St. Swithen's, in this City, a Bell over-set, and one Hooper, a Journeyman Hatter, going up to put the Bell in Order, fell down through the Loft amongst the rest of the Ringers, and was most terribly bruised: He was immediately carried to our Infirmary, where the utmost Care is taken of him, and there is a Probability of his Recovery. (*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 18 Jan. 1749-50)

ON Monday January the 8th 1749-50, was Rung at Stonham Aspal, in the County of Suffolk, upon that beautiful Ring of Ten Bells, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob-Major Royal, (or Ten in) being the first ever rung in this County. It was completed in three Hours and thirty-two Minutes, by the Men whose Names are underwritten.

Henry Gray, the Treble.	Richard Moyse, Sixth.
John Sharp, Second.	William Banyard, Seventh.
Richard Wade, Third.	John Plowman, Eighth.
Daniel Hearsham, Fourth.	William Walker, Ninth.
Joseph Alexander, Fifth.	James Wilson, Tenor.

N.B. Mr. John Sharp call'd the Bobbs.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 13 Jan. 1749-50 - advert)

ON the 2d of February next will be given gratis, at the Sign of the Dove in Framlingham, SIX PAIR of GLOVES to be RUNG for, and no less than two Companies; and a Pair for the Judge that belongs to the winning Company. - The two Peals are Plain Bob, and Oxford Treble Bob, an Eighteen Score of each. The same Day will be given gratis at the same House, five PAIR of GLOVES to be RUNG for; and no less than two Companies. - The two Peals are Grandsire and Old Doubles, and to prick from Tol to Tol; and a Pair for the Judge that belongs to the winning Company.

N.B. The Companies that Ring for the Six shall not ring for the Five; nor the Five for the Six; and to enter their Names by Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon the same Day: Where they shall meet with a hearty Welcome from their humble Servant, EDWARD WOODS.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 20 Jan. 1749-50 - advert)

ON Wednesday the 24th of January, 1749-50, was rung by the STONHAM ASPAL SOCIETY, at their Parish Church, a compleat Peal of Six Thousand three Hundred and Ninety Cators, in four Hours and twenty six Minutes.

The bobbs were called by Mr. WILLIAM WALKER.

N.B. This is the only Peal of ten Bells in the County of Suffolk, The Tenor weighing 24 Hundreds.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat., 27 Jan. 1749-50 - advert)

ON Friday January the 26th 1749-50 was Rung at WISBECH ST. PETER'S, in the Isle of ELY in the County of CAMBRIDGE, on a new Peal of Eight Bells, a compleat peal of 5040 of Garthen's Trebles. At the first pulling down it was completed in two Hours and 49 Minutes, by Us whose Names are under-written:

Treble, Thomas Thompson	Fifth, William Harrison
Second, John Harrison	Sixth, John Wright
Third, Joseph Raven	Seventh, Simon Hall
Fourth, John Parkinson	Tenor, John Bingham

N. B. The bobbs call'd by John Parkinson

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 3 Feb. 1749-50 - advert)

We hear from Dover, that on Wednesday last was rung in the Steeple of St. Mary the Virgin there, for a very considerable Wager, (by a Company of young Ringers) a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Tripples, in two Hours and fifty-eight Minutes. It was allow'd, by two very good Judges of Ringing from London, to be an exact Peal, and the best Striking, (and rung in the shortest Time) that ever was heard of in this County. As soon as the Peal was compleated, the Gentlemen of the Town gave a very elegant Entertainment to the Ringers.
(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 7 Feb./Sat. 10 Feb. 1749/50)

ON Candlemas-Day, a curious Variety of seven Different compleat Peals were rung by the Brandeston ringers, in Suffolk, on Six Bells, in two Hours and fifty-five Minutes, without Intermission of Ringing, and not a Bell out of Course; being the most difficult Performance of this Nature ever heard of from any Society. The Peals were as follow, viz.

London Surprise	}	{ James King, Treble
Cambridge Surprise	}	{ Thomas Bradlaugh; Second,
Francis Genius	}	{ Samuel Francis, Third,
Francis Goodwill	}	by Us { Thomas Bradlaugh, jun. Fourth,
Oxford Treble-Bob	}	{ James Gall, Fifth,
Court Bob, and	}	{ John Garrard, Tenor.
Grandsire-Bob.	}	{ Samuel Francis call'd the Bobs
Changes in all 5040.	}	

N.B. Francis Genius, and Francis Goodwill, were composed by the Society, in both of them the Treble has a dodging Course, and are as difficult as any Peals in Practice (London Surprise only excepted) and for Musick, inferior to none.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 17 Feb. 1749-50 - advert)

On Wednesday Mr. Oliver, an eminent Horner of Whitechapel, was married to Miss Lister [*sic*], Daughter of Mr. Lister [*sic*], a Bell-founder in that Neighbourhood.
(*London Evening Post*, Thurs. 15 Feb. - Sat. 17 Feb. 1750; also *Penny London Post or The Morning Advertiser*, Fri. 16 Feb. - Mon. 19 Feb. 1750.)

They write from Highworth, Wilts, that on Friday, the 9th of February last, were rung there, in three Hours and 28 Minutes, 5040 Changes, being the compleat Peal of Trebles, without any Single or Double; and that the same was perform'd by Courses, in a Method which, it's apprehended, is unknown to any but that Society of Ringers.
(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 20 March 1749-50)

Last Saturday was rung at Wye, by eight of the Society of Ringers of that Town, in three Hours 32 Minutes, a true and compleat Peal of 5040 Tripples, compos'd from the Wads [*sic*] and Bobs of the 40320 Bob-Majors, exclusive of the Treble, and called Bob-Major Tripples. - Though the Striking was fine, and the Peal delightfully melodious, they chuse to say but little about it, there being no *London Critics* to hear it.
(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 25 April/Sat. 28 April 1750)

This is to give Notice to all RINGERS,

THAT JANE MAY, at the Sign of the Plough, in the Parish of Kington-St.-Michael, near Chippenham, Wilts, will give

SIX HATS,

Each *Half-a-Guinea* Price, to be Rung for, in the said Parish, on Whit-Tuesday, the 5th of June. - The Ringers are to dine at the said Plough, and may Ring at any Time before the Day appointed.

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 8 May 1750 - advert.)

As soon as the news of the Princess of Wales being lately delivered of a Prince arrived here the Right Worshipful the Mayor ordered the Bells to be rung and in the Evening there were Bonfires.
(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 17 May 1750)

Problems at St. Bride's, Fleet Street

For several Days past, the Inhabitants near St. Bride's Church, have been alarm'd at seeing a Crack in the Steeple of the Said Church, and a great Stone fall from it; upon which, Orders have been given not to ring the Bells, for fear of endangering the upper Part of the Spire.
(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 7 June/Wed. 11 June 1750)

The Bells of St. Brides Church, which are thought so greatly to have endangered the Steeple, have not been rung since the repairing of that much-admired Structure till last Thursday, when the #Experiment was again tried, and the Steeple rocked so as to alarm Persons passing in the Street.
(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 13July/Wed. 17 June 1751)

A contest at Faversham, Kent

This is to acquaint all Lovers of Ringing,
THAT there will be Eight VELVET CAPS, of Three Pounds Value, Rung for, at Faversham in Kent, on that musical Peal of Eight Bells, on Monday July the 23d, 1750. The Conditions of Ringing are as followeth:
The Company that shall perform the greatest Variety of Peals, either Tripples and Doubles, or Quadruples and Tripples, not less than 630 Changes in each Peal, and strike the Bells the truest and best, shall be intitled to the Prize, if the Company and each Member thereof, are Inhabitants of Kent, and each Person a Member thereof before this Advertisement.
N.B. Each Company, or whom they shall appoint, are to meet the same Morning, at Six o'Clock, at Mr. Vidion's, at the Sign of the Ship, there to lay down eight Shillings Entrance, to chuse proper Umpires, and what else is required.
Note also, that no Peal will pass that the Bobs are made Tripple Leadings *Vice Versa*, but each Peal a different Course. An intelligible Account of each Peal is to be given on Paper to the Umpires before Ringing.
There will be a Twelve-penny Ordinary on the Table at One o'Clock.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 20 June/Sat. 23 June 1750 - advert)

The Velvet Caps, rung for at Faversham on the 23d past, were carried off by the Lenham Company, there being no Company to oppose them. But they, to entertain the Hearers, rung the following eight different Peals: Methodically thus, 672 Bob Major; 672 Bob Major Double; 672 Oxford Tripples, Eight in; 630 Bob Major Tripples; 630 Fulham Tripples; 720 Bob Ditty, eight in; 672 Bob Royal; and 756 Plain Bob Tripples. Each Peal was rung the first Trial, and without any Bell changing Course.
(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 28 July/Wed. 1 August 1750)

Whereas an Advertisement was inserted in this Paper some Time ago, for eight Velvet Caps to be Rung for, on that musical Peal of eight Bells at Faversham, July 23, 1750: And whereas several Persons are of the Opinion that the aforesaid Advertisement was in Favour of the Lenham Company only, which was the only Reason that hinder'd some other Companies from coming to ring for the Caps aforesaid; This is to certify, that there will be eight Velvet Caps (of three Pounds Value) to be rung for, on the same Peal of Bells, on Monday October the 8th, 1750. The Company that shall ring the compleatest Quarter Peal of Gransire [*sic*] Tripples, shall be intitled to the Caps: Not less than two or three Companies to ring for the Caps aforesaid. To meet at Mr. Thomas Vidion's at the Sign of the Ship in Faversham at eight o'Clock in the Morning the Day of Ringing. Each Company to pay eight Shillings Entrance.

N.B. There will be a good Twelve-penny Ordinary on the Table at One o'Clock.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 28 July/Wed. 1 Aug. 1750 – advert. Nothing further has so far been traced.)

Norfolk, July the 28th, 1750

These are to CERTIFY,

THAT THOMAS GARDINER, of the City of Norwich, Bell-Founder, did cast an entire new Peal of Five BELLS, for the Parish of Field Dawling in the County of Norfolk, (the Tenor of which is in B.mi.flat old Concert) and that the said Peal is strong and well executed, and was opened the Day above written to all Approbation.

Witness our Hands,

JOSEPH LANE, Vicar

JOHN WINN, / JAMES BROOKE, } Church-Wardens.

MATTHEW LOOSE, / ROBERT LOOSE, } Overseers.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 11 Aug. 1750 – advert, per David Cubitt; similar advert in the *Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 1 September 1750, with the by-line 'Norfolk, July 28, 1750.' and the additional paragraph:

'He lately cast Treble and Tenor for North-Cove; Treble, Second, Fourth, and Tenor, to make a Peal of Six at Mendham; a Treble, Second, and Tenor, for Burgate; a Treble and Second for Market Harling, to make Six; a Third and Fifth for Holm-Hale; one for Crown-Thorpe; a Peal of Eight for Wells; a Treble, Second and Tenor, for Suffield; and Treble, Second, and Fourth, for Tilny in Marsh-Land; and all these Bells are cast to the great Satisfaction of all that have heard them.') [Market Harling = East Harling]

A controversy between the ringers of Wye and those of Dover

Extract of a Letter from Dover, Nov. 19.

"On Friday last was rung in the Steeple of St. Mary the Virgin, by a Company of our Ringers, a true and compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Tripples, with all the proper Singles (compos'd by Mr. Benj. Hannibal) which peal was called by Tho. Taylor, one of the said Company, and perform'd in two Hours 54 Minutes, being the first Time the said Peal was ever rung in England. And notwithstanding the Gentlemen Ringers of Wye gave out their ringing several true Peals of Grandsire Tripples, they were all false and erroneus.

NB. Should be glad to have the Word *Wadds* explain'd in the next Ringing Advertisement from Wye."

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 17 Nov./Wed. 21 Nov. 1750; this refers to the peal report in *Kentish Post*, Wed. 25 April/Sat. 28 April 1750, *q.v.*)

Wye, Nov. 22, 1750.

To the Ringers of Dover

— “We are very much surpriz'd that you should publish a Thing so mean and false, as to say we never rung a true Peal; when it is so well known to all the World, that we have rung several different Peals, both at Home and Abroad, as Plain Bob Tripples, Bob Major Tripples, &c. As to the old Peal of Grandsire Tripples, we never called it a true Peal; but it is very hard for you to decry it, it having been rung by almost every Sett in England; and yourselves could never ring any other, till now you have pick'd up one, which is so near of Kin to the old one, that perhaps you might muddle through it at that Steeple of *the Virgin*, we having never heard of your ringing any where else.

N.B. As to the Word *Wadds*, it was an Error of the Press, it should have been *Leads*.

If you like to ring for a middling Wager, we will meet you at Canterbury, and ring the same Peal. (*Kentish Post*, Wed. 21 Nov./Sat. 24 Nov. 1750 - not an advert)

Dover, Nov. 29, 1750.

To the Ringers of WYE.

WE are sorry we should surprize you so much in our saying, You never rung a true Peal of Grandsire Tripples, and calling the World for your Witness, to justify a Thing which your selves knew to be nothing but Truth. As to the different Peals, which you mention'd you had rung both at Home and Abroad, it's true; you have blunder'd through some mean Things, both at Home and Abroad; as to your plain Bob Tripples and Bob-Major Tripples, &c. which you mention'd, in Reality they are very little more than plain Bob, and but Mean Stuff. As to the Peal we have pick'd up, which you said was of so near a-kin to the Old one, we really believe you will never be qualify'd to ring it, though you have given us the Challenge to ring the same, which we willingly accept, though not at the particular Place you mention'd; but we will come to Wye, and ring with you from eight Guineas to forty; and shall desire you to return the same at Dover; or we will meet you at Faversham, or at Wingham, or at New-Romney, and ring for the same Wager as above. N.B. Gentlemen if you accept of what we have propos'd, we shall desire the Liberty of chusing one Man as a proper Judge, and you to chuse another; and them two to chuse a third to determine it.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 28 Nov./Sat. 1 Dec. 1750 - advert)

Wye, Dec. 7, 1750.

To the Ringers of DOVER

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Challenge of Saturday last is very fair and handsome, and what we freely accept, to ring with you at Dover and Wye, for eight Guineas; and if you have a Mind to sport Money, here is Gentlemen that will do it: So we desire you to depute some of your Company to meet some of ours at any Time and Place as near as may be between both Places, (as you may signify by Letter to us) where we will meet you to stake the Money, and fettle the Articles and Days of ringing.

N.B. The *Grand Peal* with 194 Bobs and 46 Singles, was compleatly rung by us the 30th of November last, in three Hours thirty-one Minutes, being the second Time of trying, altho' you thought we could never do it.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 5 Dec./Sat. 8 Dec. 1750 - advert)

Bradford, Dec. 1- On Tuesday last was rung in our Church (by the young Men of this Town) the compleat Peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 Changes, in two Hours and forty-one Minutes; being the first Time ever perform'd here, and by several Minutes less than any Society of Ringers were ever known to have perform'd it before. - The Bells being hung new, only the Week before, by the noted Bell Hanger, Mr. Harrison, of Barrow, in Lincolnshire. (*York Courant*, Tues. 4 Dec. 1750)

This is to give NOTICE,
THAT there will be two Silver Bowls, of
Two Pound and Sixteen Shillings Price, to be Rung for at Poor-
stock, near Bridport, in Dorsetshire, the Friday after Christmas-Day next,
put forth at the sign of the Three Horse Shoes; and they are to ring a
Peal each Sett for one Bowl, and then begin and ring for the other; and
the two best Peals to have the Bowls: And every Sett of Ringers must
bring a Sidesman with them, that is fit to call the Faults; for not one of
the same Place is to have any Hand in it.

(Sherborne Mercury, Mon. 10 Dec. 1750 - advert)

On Friday the 7th Instant was rung at Wye, 5040 Quadruples and Tripples, alias Bob-Major,
in 3 Hours 45 Minutes, by eight Men only, viz. William Drayner 1st, Richard Dane 2d, Daniel Fagg 3d,
Robert Baker 4th, Robert White 5th, Thomas Tabraham 6th, Thomas Waters 7th, Thomas Jarman 8th.
(Kentish Post, Sat. 15 Dec./Wed. 19 Dec. 1750)

1751

Sunday last being the Anniversary of the Birth-Day of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the same was observ'd here in a very respectful Manner; in particular, the *Old Ringers* at our Cathedral Church rung a Peal, in the Morning, that lasted two Hours.
(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 24 Jan. 1750-51)

L O N D O N, Jan. 24.

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On Friday last was rung at the Parish Church of St. Leonard Shoreditch, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob-Majors reverse, by the Society of Eastern Youths, in three Hours and thir[t]y-six Minutes, it being the first ever performed in the Method.
(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 28 Jan. 1751; also *Kentish Post, or Canterbury Journal*, Wed. 23 Jan./Sat 26 Jan. 1750/1, with dateline '*LONDON, Jan. 23*', the latter per Chris Ridley. Not otherwise known.)

Yesterday being the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of King Charles the First, the same was observ'd here in a suitable Manner.... - A long Peal, with the Bells muffled, was rung at the Parish Church of All Saints, and another Peal, in the same Manner, was rung at St. Martin's.
(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 31 Jan. 1750-51)

LONDON, February 2.

On Monday last was rung, by the Society of Union Scholars at St. Sepulchre's Church, a true and complete Peal of 5094 Grandsire Cators. This was the first Peal ever rung on those Bells in that Manner, and was perform'd in three Hours and forty-two Minutes.
(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 7 Feb. 1750-51)

We hear from Worcester, that the Whole Peal of Grandsire-Triples containing 5040 Changes, was lately rung in Three Hours and One Minute, at the Parish Church of All-Saints in that City, by a Society of Ringers, who never attempted it before.
(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 5 Feb. 1750-1)

ON Monday February the 18th 1750-1 was rung on the Eight largest Bells at Stonham Aspall in the County of Suffolk, by the Stonham Society, a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples or all the Changes on seven Bells; it being the first true Peal of this Kind ever rung in this County. It was completed in three Hours and twelve Minutes, by the following Persons:

Henry Gray, Third		William Baynard, Seventh
Robert Plowman, Fourth		John Sharp, Eighth
Richard Wade, Fifth		William Walker, Ninth
Jonathan Hart, Sixth		John Thurlow, Tenor.

N.B. William Walker call'd the Peal.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 23 Feb. 1750-1 - advert)

We hear from Berwick upon Tweed, that on 26th Inst. [*sic*] the Rt. Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen, and the other Magistrates of that Corporation, attended in their Robes at the Ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of a new Town-Hall and Steeple for a Ring of eight Bells, intended to be built from an elegant Design; when Mr. Mayor was pleased to lay a Piece of Gold of considerable Value under the first Stone; his Majesty's Health, the Healths of the Princess of Wales and her Issue, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Royal Family, the Corporation's Representatives in Parliament, many other loyal Toasts, and Success to the Building, were drank upon that Occasion, amidst the Acclamations of a great Number of Spectators.
(*General Advertiser*, Thurs. 4 April 1751; also *Westminster Journal or New Weekly Miscellany*, Sat. 13 April 1751, and a shorter report in *London Advertiser and Literary Gazette*, Thurs. 4 April 1751.)

On Friday the 24th Inst, being the Birth-day of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the new Peal of Bells at Watford in Hertfordshire, cast by Mr. Thomas Lester, of Whitechapel, being compleatly hung, will, for the first time, be rung in honour of that Day.
(*London Daily Advertiser and Literary Gazette*, Tues. 7 May 1751)

And on Sunday Morning about Ten o'Clock, one of the Bells belonging to Little Shelford Church fell into the Church, but happily did no other Damage than frightening some Persons who were there.
(*Cambridge Journal and Weekly Flying Post*, Sat. 18 May 1751)

This is to give NOTICE,

THAT the FIFTH BELL belonging to the Town and Parish of Bromyard hath been, thro' Misfortune, broken, and must be forthwith cast. Application has been made to Mr. RUDHALL, of Gloucester, by the Churchwarden, to know the Charge, which he says will amount to near 20£. But the rest of the Bells being so untuneable that the Parish apply'd to the Bell-Founder aforesaid concerning the casting of the whole Peal, (as it is the Opinion of all who are Judges that there is not a worse Peal of Bells in England) to encourage them he says he will cast the whole Peal for about 50£. And, to prevent the Thing's being done at the Parish-Expence, several therein, according to their Abilities, have offer'd to contribute very honourable; and, as they could not think of a properer Method of recommending this Undertaking to the neighbouring Gentlemen than inserting it in this Paper, they hope it will meet with Encouragement, which will be gratefully acknowledged by the Town and Parish aforesaid.

N.B. Please to pay the Subscription-Money into the Hands of the Rev. Mr. GUEST, or Mr. THO. WILLIAMS, Churchwarden.
(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 11 June 1751 - advert.)

We are informed that the College Youths will be suffered to ring next Thursday at St. Bride's Church, and afterwards will dine at the Twelve Bells in the Neighbourhood.
(*London Daily Advertiser*, Tues. 30 July 1751)

We hear from Cork, that last Week a curious Set of Bells were landed there from Bristol, for the Use of the Church of St. Mary Shannons in that City.
(*General Advertiser*, Sat. 3 Aug. 1751)

A new ring of bells at St. George in the East, London

Last Week the Church-Wardens of St. George's in the East contracted with Mr. Lester of Whitechapel for a Peal of Bells for that Church.
(*General Evening Post*, Thurs. 15 Aug. - Sat. 17 Aug. 1751; also *London Daily Advertiser and Literary Gazette*, Fri. 16 Aug. 1751)

On Wednesday last they began to hang a New Set of Bells, at the Parish Church of St. George in the East.
(*London Daily Advertiser*, Fri. 3 July 1752)

On Tuesday the new Peal of eight Bells, cast by Mr. Thomas Lester of Whitechapel, were opened by the College Youths, at St. George's in the East, when a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Tripples were [*sic*] rung on the said bells.
(*London Daily Advertiser*, Thurs. 23 July 1752)

On Thursday last the new Peal of Bells were rung at St. George's in the East, the whole Day, by the Cumberland and College Youths; in the Evening several of the principal Inhabitants met at the George, where an elegant Supper was provided; several small Cannon were placed in the Street, and discharged, a Bonfire was made, Beer given to the Populace, and the Evening concluded with all Demonstrations of Joy.
(*London Daily Advertiser*, Sat. 25 July 1752)

The Inhabitants of St. George's in the East, have contracted with Mr. Thomas Lester, of White-Chapel, for two Tripples [*sic*], to be cast and added to the new Peal of eight, put up in that Church about three Weeks since.
(*London Daily Advertiser*, Mon. 3 Aug. 1752; this did not happen.)

A TABLE of the Course of the TUNES, or one REVOLUTION of the CHIMES at BRADFORD, viz for twenty-eight Days,

Made by JAMES HARRISON, 1750

[Tables by numbers showing the tunes played on each day of the week at 12 at Night, 4 In the Morning, 9 In the Morning, 12 at Noon, 4 in the Afternoon, 9 at Night on a four week (28 days) cycle]

The Names of the TUNES directed to each Figure:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Humphry Gubbins's
Courtship | 5. Voluntary. |
| 2. The Northern Lass. | 6. Senesino. |
| 3. Copins Air. | 7. Glover's Minuit. |
| 4. The Miller of Mansfield. | 8. Psalm-Tune |

At the Expiration of every twenty-eight Days the Chimes begin to repeat the above Tunes.

A CATALOGUE of the PEALS of BELLS new hung or repaired by JAMES HARRISON, of Barrow, Lincolnshire,

Appleby,	1741	Normanton,	1741
*Beverley Minster,	1741	Norwell,	1731
*Ditto Great Bell,	1741	*Otley,	1748
*Ditto St.Mary's		*Pocklington,	1739
*Barton, St.Mary's,	1735	Raison Middle,	1732
Ditto, St.Peter's,	1734	*Raison Market,	1734
Barrow,	1729	*Rotherham,	1738
*Barnsley,	1737	Royston,	1739
Barnaby,	1748	*Richmond,	1739
Birstal,	1742	Rothwell,	1731
Beighton,	1745	*Sheffield,	1745
Burton upon Stather,	1745	*Selby, [Tuned]	1733
*Bradford,	1750	*Thorne,	1738
Carleton,	1732	Thornton Curtis,	1732
Clee,	1729	Thornton Craven,	1745
Claxby,	1736	Terney,	1749
Calverley,	1748	Ulsby,	1748
Drax,	1735	Wotton,	1745
Dewsbury,	1739	Winterton,	1734
Derfield,	1741	Wath,	1737
*Doncaster,	1749	*Wakefield,	1739
Grainsby,	1734	Wath,	1741
Goxhill,	1738	Wooley,	1743
Grinton,	1751	{Minster,	1733
*Halifax,	1748	Y {Ditto Prayer-Bell,	1739
Halton,	1734	{Belfrey's,	1739
*Howden,	1735	O {St Martin, Coney-	
Hatfield,	1737	street,	1733
Horbury,	1742	R {St Martin, Mickle-	
Habrough,	1745	gate,	1739
*Hull,	1747	K {All Hallows, Pave-	
Kirkby-Nooke,	1737	ment,	1742
Kirkby-South,	1746	{St Helen,	1742
Killingham,	1749	{St Mary, Bishop-	
Linwood,	1730	hill,	1749
*Leeds Old Church,	1741	{St Michael, Spurri-	
*Louth,	1748	ergate,	1751

Those distinguished thus * are Market-Towns.

(York Courant, 20 August 1751.)

The new ring of bells for St. Philip's, Birmingham

On Wednesday a new Peal of ten Bells, cast by Mr. Lister [*sic*], of London, for the New Church in this Town, was rung for the first Time, which proved very musical, and gave a general Satisfaction.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette, or, The General Correspondent*, Mon. 12 Aug. 1751)

We hear from Birmingham, that a new Peal of Ten Bells, (cast by Mr. Thomas Lester, Bell-Founder in London) have been lately put up at St. Philip's Church in that Town, by Mr. William Lawrance, Bell-Hanger at Thame in Oxfordshire; which by all Judges is thought to be as compleat a Piece of Work as any in England.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 7 Oct. 1751; cf *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, 12 Aug. 1751)

ON Sunday the 22nd of September 1751, was rung on the Eight largest Bells at Stonham Aspall in the County of Suffolk, a compleat Peal of Five Thousand and Forty Bob Major double, in three Hours and twenty Minutes, by the Persons under-mention'd.

Henry Gray, Third		Joseph Alexander, Seventh.
Daniel Hearsham, Fourth		John Sharp, Eighth
Richard Wade, Fifth.		William Walker, Ninth
James Gardener, Sixth.		James Willson, Tenor

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 28 Sept. 1751 - advert; no conductor was given.)

READING, Oct. 26

Last Sunday the Reading Youths rang, at St. Laurence's Church in this Town a Peal of 5040 *Eastern Bob*, Eight in; which they perform'd in three Hours and a half.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 28 Oct. 1751)

LEEDS IN KENT, Oct. 30. Being his Majesty's Birth-Day, our ten Bells, lately compleated by Mr. Catlin, Bell-Founder in Shoe-Lane, was opened by the Order of the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who was Benefactor to the four smallest. And on Saturday, the 2d of November, was rung in the same Place, by the Lenham and Harrietsham Youths, jointly, with Leeds and Maidstone, 6480 Caters, in the Method of Bob Majors Trebles, in four Hours and four Minutes, which completes the Tittam [*sic*] Change, in 362880. The Performance was executed with the greatest Truth and exactness, notwithstanding several of the Company had never before practised on ten Bells.

(*Whitehall Evening Post, Or, London Intelligencer*, Thurs. 7 Nov. - Sat. 9 Nov. 1751)

We have an Account from Lenham in Kent, that a joint Company have rung the following Peals, viz. Dec. 29th, 1750, rang at Maidstone 5040 Bob Major in three Hours thirty Minutes; this being the first Attempt of its kind on these Bells; and having heard of ringing Bob Major reverse, they met at Harrietsham in the Evening on March 23d, 1750, and compleatly rang 5040 Bob-Major reverse double, in three Hours twenty Minutes. May the 15th, 1751, at the Opening of Lenham Eight Bells (the two Treble-Bells made by Mr. Catlin Bell-Founder in Shoe-Lane, at the Charge of the Subscribers of the said Parish) after the first raising the Bells they set for 5040 Bob Major, and compleated it in three Hours fourteen Minutes. Nov. 2d, 1751, rang at Leeds in Kent 6480 Caters in four Hours four Minutes. The Method of Bob Major Triples in the Tittum Range of 362880 Caters (see this peal in *St. James's Evening Post* for Saturday, November 9th, 1751); also rang at Leeds, November 16th, 1751 8100 Bob-Major Royal, or all Ten in, in five Hours twenty-six Minutes. The Company that rang the two last, and abovementioned Peals, are John and William Hunt, John Freeland, Samuel Grayling, and Thomas Barham, of Lenham, Abraham and Thomas Barham of Harrietsham, James Barham and Edward Mason of Leeds, and Joseph Sands of Maidstone. It is remarkable, that not one of this Company ever rung 500 Changes on Ten Bells before what is mentioned above. They have rang several 5040 Triples.

(*London Daily Advertiser*, Mon. 25 Nov. 1751)

WELLS in NORFOLK, Dec. 27, 1751.

This Day was rung in this Town, by a Company of Ringers from Aylsham, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob major, upon Eight, at the first pulling down, without a Bell out of Course, and allow'd by Judges to be fine Ringing; the like not being performed by any Company from their own Bells, except by the Londoners.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 18 Jan. 1752)

1752

On Saturday last the Ringers of Great Milton went to Long Crendon in Bucks, and rung six Six-scores on the five Bells there, which are so large it was always reckon'd almost impossible to ring the Six-score Peal on them; and these are the only Men known that ever did it.

(The Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury, Mon. 6 Jan. 1752)

Gloucester, Jan. 11

We hear from Stroud, in this County, that, on Monday last, the 6th Inst. was rung there the whole Peal of GRANDSIRE-TRIPLES, containing 5040 Changes, in three Hours and 15 Minutes, by John Robinson, John Lander, Jasper Park, Richard Bridges, Robert Barrat, Thomas Marsh, Daniel Watts, and Samuel Longdon.

(Gloucester Journal, Tues. 14 Jan. 1752)

This is to give NOTICE,

THAT there is to be rung for on Shrove Tuesday, at Mary Scott's, at the Sign of the Rose and Crown, in Bradford Abbas, Two Silver Bowls, one of Forty Shillings Price, and the other Twenty : each Sett to bring their Umpire and the Sett that rings the best Peal is to have the best Bowl, and the second best the second Bowl, and to be there by Twelve o'Clock at Noon, and that they may depend upon very good Usage from their humble Servant,

MARY SCOTT.

(Sherborne Mercury, Mon. 20 Jan. 1752 – advert; Shrove Tuesday was 11 February 1752.)

On Friday, Jan. 31, 1752, was rung at Stonham Aspal in the county of Suffolk, by their own Society of Ringers, a Five Thousand and Forty GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES, it being the second Time ever rung with two Doubles only. This true Peal has been very lately found out by Mr. JOHN HOLT of London, and the Bobbs were called by Mr. WILLIAM WALKER; it was compleated in three Hours and ten Minutes, by the eight following Persons.

Henry Gray, Treble.	-	William Banyard, Fifth.
Daniel Hearsham, Second.	-	John Sharp, Sixth.
James Gardener, Third.	-	Richard Moyse, Seventh.
Richard Wade, Fourth.	-	John Thurlow, Tenor.

Note. It is thought impracticable for a Man to ring one of the Bells and call the Bobs at the same Time, the Peal being so intricate.

(Ipswich Journal, Sat. 8 Feb. 1752)

February 10, 1752.

ALL Persons indebted to the Estate of Thomas Wroth, late of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, Bell-founder, deceased, are hereby required to pay their respective Debts to John Randall, Grocer, at his House in Honiton, in the County of Devon, his Administrator, on or before Lady-Day next, or they will be prosecuted without further Notice.

JOHN RANDALL.

(Sherborne Mercury, Mon. 10 Feb. 1752 - advert)

On Tuesday last, Feb. 11, 1752, was rung at Stonham Aspal in the County of Suffolk, a compleat Peal of 6160 Bob-Major on the eight largest Bells, in four Hours and two Minutes, by the following Men.

William Walker, Tenor.	Richard Wade, Sixth.
Richard Moyse, Ninth.	John Sharp, Fifth.
John Plowman, Eighth.	Daniel Hearsham, Fourth.
William Banyard, Seventh.	Henry Gray, Third.

N.B. John Sharp call'd the Bobbs.

(Ipswich Journal, Sat. 15 Feb. 1752)

Gloucester, March 2

Last Friday, was rung at the Parish Church of St. Mary de Crypt, in this City, by the Society of Ringers belonging to that Parish, the Whole Peal of Grandsire Tripples, consisting of 5040 Changes, in Three Hours and Five Minutes; a Performance never known in this City before; and, which is further remarkable, one of them sat the whole Time.

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 3 March 1752)

April 24, 1752.

This is to acquaint the Gentlemen Ringers,
THAT all the Bells in this Town will be rung on Tuesday the 5th Day of May next; to begin at Twelve o'Clock and ring till One; when, Gentlemen, your Company will much oblige your most humble Servant,

STEPHEN KIRBY, at the Sign of the
Griffin in Ipswich.

N.B. There will be a Dinner gratis, which will be on the Table by Two o'Clock.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 2 May 1752 - advert)

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen
Gamesters,

THAT on Wednesday the 20th of this Instant there will be a Battle-Royal of Cock-fighting at the House of John Oborn, at Henstridge, for a Hat, Value Fifteen Shillings. The Day following there will be a good Hat play'd for at Sword and Dagger: The best Gamester to have the Prize. And the 29th of the same Month, the aforesaid John Oborn will have Ringing for five Hats, 5 s. each Hat. Any Sett of Ringers are welcome to ring the Bells before the 29th as above.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 18 May 1752 - advert)

AYLSHAM, July 10, 1752.

THIS IS TO GIVE Notice to all Lovers of the Art of RINGING, that on MONDAY the 20th of this Instant July, there will be given Gratis at the Sign of the RED LYON, Five or Six Pair of Gloves, to be Rung for by any Company of 5 or 6 Bell Ringers, (as the Company's shall agree when they meet) and not less than Two Companies to ring for either. To meet at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon, where all Gentlemen shall meet with civil Usage, buy their Humble Servant,

ALICE DIX.

N.B. AYLSHAM Ringers only excluded.

(Advert. in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 11 July 1752 – per David Cubitt)

Yesterday a Company of the College Youths, rung a compleat Peal of 5058 Grandsire Catons, at St. Dionis Back Church in Fenchurch-street, in three Hours and a Quarter; this is first Peal performed since the Alteration of four Bells, by Mr. Thomas Lester of Whitechapel.

(*London Daily Advertiser*, Thurs. 6 Aug. 1752)

On Saturday last was rung at St. Michael's Coslany, a compleat 5040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples, in three Hours without Changes alike, or a Bell out of Course, it being the first time ever performed by eight Men only, so intricate it was thought no Man could ring a Bell and call the Bobs: it has been rung in London, and at Stonham Aspool [*sic*], with Prompts, but was rung here by these Men without a Prompt.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 29 Aug. 1752)

On Sunday, October 22, 1752, was rung at St. Giles's in the City of Norwich, Five Thousand and Forty Grandsire Tripples, with only two Doubles, and no Alterations: This true Peal has been very lately found out by Mr. John Holt of London; the Bobs were called by William Dixon; the Peal being so intricate, that the best London Ringers thought it impracticable for a Man to ring one of the Bells and to call the Bobs at the same time. The Peal was compleatly rung in three Hours and six Minutes, by the following Persons:

William Dixon, Treble.	!	Samuel Shelver, Fifth.
John Gardiner, Second.	!	Robert Dyke, Sixth.
Thomas Hart, Third.	!	Charles Horth, Seventh.
Charles Jarvis, Fourth.	!	Fredrick Whitfield, Tenor.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 28 Oct. 1752)

On Tuesday last the Society of College Youths rang at St. Mary Overy's, a Number of Changes amounting to 1752, being the Date of the Year, upon Twelve Bells; Bob Maximus, or A[[]] in; the most extraordinary Thing hitherto done.

And we hear the said Society have [*sic*] leave to ring as usual at St. Bride's.
(*General Advertiser*, Sat. 25 Nov. 1752)

Yesterday being the Celebration of his Majesty's Birth-Day, the Society of Eastern Scholars rang at the Parish Church of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob Major Royal, or Ten in, being the first ever rang in that Steeple, and completed in three Hours and forty Minutes.
(*General Advertiser*, Tues. 28 Nov. 1752)

These are to acquaint the Publick,

THAT JAMES HARRISON, of Barrow in Lincolnshire, BELL-HANGER, has lately finish'd the hanging and tuning of six large Bells at Bedale in Yorkshire. The said Bells were rung on Sunday the 19th ult. by Richmond Ringers, who besides the exact raising and ceasing, rung several Peals of Changes, to the entire Satisfaction of the Parish, and all who heard them.—The said James Harrison makes and regulates Church Clocks and Chimes to the greatest modern Perfection; he also contracts with any Parish, or Gentlemen, for the casting or recasting of Bells.

The following is a Catalogue of the Peals of Bells hung or repair'd by him, viz.

[Then follows a list of work carried out by James Harrison, as in the *York Courant*, 20 Aug. 1751 - for which see above - but with 'Bedale, 1752' added.]

(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 2 Dec. 1752)

1753

This is to give NOTICE,

THAT Five very good HATS will be given by Reuben Brewer, at the Sign of the Two Brewers at Burghfield-Hatch, to be Rung for next New-Year's-Day, and a Silver-laced Hat for the Umpire.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 13 Nov. 1752 - advert. In the issue of 18 Dec. 1752 Reuben Brewer was advertising a Main of cocks, between the Gentlemen of Reading and the Gentlemen of Mortimer and Burghfield, to be held at the Two Brewers on December 27th.)

Youlgreave (Derbyshire) Feb. 3d 1753

Sir,

By inserting the following Account, you'll oblige all the MINERS, and Well-Wishers to the Prosperity of the Lead-Mines, in this Part of the Country.

His Grace the Duke of Rutland, out of his great Goodness and Generosity has been pleased to lessen his mineral Duties, in his Manours [*sic*] of Haddon and Harthill, by taking only a tenth, instead of a Seventh Part of the Ore. Upon the first hearing this News here, the Bells were rung; and there were Bonfires, and other Tokens of Joy; And Yesterday being the first Measure Day in Harthill, since the lowering of Duty, the Morning was ushered in by ringing of Bells which continued all the Day. ...

(*Derby Mercury*, Fri. 2-9 February 1753)

At Leeds in Kent January the 13th, was compleatly rung on that musical Peal of Bells, by their Society of Ringers, Twenty Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Quadruple and Triple Changes, in thirteen Hours thirty-four Minutes. Also Feb. 3d was compleatly rung at Lenham, by their Youths, 5040 Bob Major double, in three Hours and 13 Minutes.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 7 Feb./Sat. 10 Feb. 1753)

We hear from Darking [*sic*] in Surry [*sic*], that on Friday the 16th of February last was rung there, by the Ringers of that Town, a compleat Peal of 5040 Major Triples, commonly call'd Bob Triples. It was completed in three Hoursen Minutes, with the greatest Truth and Exactness.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 5 March 1753; the odd minutes in the time are torn from the file copy researched in the Reading Newspaper Co. Ltd. office.)

Last Saturday, March the 3d, was rung at Wingham, by their Youths, the Grand Peal of 194 Bobs and 46 Singles, containing 5040 Changes, in three Hours and fifteen Minutes; which was allowed, by good Judges, to be as compleat a Peal as has been rung in the Memory of Man.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 7 March/Sat. 10 March 1753; this would have been of Grandsire Triples.)

On Thursday last was rung, at St. James's Church in this City, by our Society of Ringers, a compleat Peal of Grandsire Tripples and Dubbles [*sic*]: It was performed in three Hours and eight Minutes; and is the first true Peal that has been rung in the West of England.

(*Bath Journal*, Mon. 12 March 1753)

On Tuesday the 21st of February the Tower belonging to the Parish Church of Preston, about four Miles from Bath, fell down, but no Person was hurt, tho' it occasioned much Damage to the Chancel: The Parishioners perceiving the Tower to be in Danger of falling, caused four of the Bells to be taken down about three Months ago, and the fifth, which was left standing to toll for Divine Service, was not taken down till about three Hours before the Affair happened.

(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 15 March 1753) [Preston = Priston]

Yesterday died suddenly in the Steeple of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, Charles Marsh, as he was ringing the Knell of Mrs. Kitchen Office Keeper and Messenger to the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

(*Public Advertiser*, Tues. 20 March 1753; *London Evening Post*, same date)

This is to give NOTICE to all Gentlemen

RINGERS,

THAT there will be Six HATS Rung for at Caversham in Oxfordshire, on Wednesday July the 18th, given by Nicholas Clisby at the Griffin.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 25 June 1753 - advert)

On Wednesday last was rang at St. Martin's in this Town, in two Hours and 51 Minutes, the whole Peal of Grandsire Trebles; consisting of five Thousand and forty Changes, according to the Rules prescribed in Campanalogia; the first Time of its being rang in this Town.
(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 16 July 1753)

This Day is published,
Price One Shilling and Six-pence bound,
The Fourth Edition, Corrected,
CAMPANALOGIA IMPROVED;

Or, The ART of RINGING made easy, by plain and methodical Rules and Directions, whereby the ingenious Practitioner may, with a very little Practice and Care, attain to the Knowledge of Ringing all Manner of Double, Triple, and Quadruple Changes with Variety of New Peals upon Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten. As also the Method of Calling Bobs for any Peal of Triples from 468 to 2520, being the Half Peal; Also for any Peal of Quadruples, or Caters from 320 to 11440.

Printed by C. Hitch and L. Hawes, in Pater-noster-row; and J. Hodges, near London-bridge.

(*Daily Advertiser*, Fri. 20 July 1753; also Sat. 21 July and Mon. 23 July 1753)

They write from Philadelphia of the 7th of June, that the Week before was raised and fixed in the State-House Steeple the great Bell, weighing 2080lb. cast there, with this Inscription [*sic*], *Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land, to all the Inhabitants thereof.* (*Manchester Mercury*, Tues. 31 July 1753; also *Bath Chronicle*, Thurs. 19 Dec. 1776, *Norfolk Chronicle*, Sat. 21 Dec. 1776, and *Hibernian Journal*, Mon. 30 Dec. 1776, beginning 'PHILADELPHIA, June 4. This day was raised...')

On Friday the 3d. Inst. ... The same afternoon a fire happened at Dorsington, in Warwickshire, whereby seven cottages, besides the Farm House, were consumed, together with Barns, Stables, a Bean-Rick, and a great Quantity of Hay and Straw, the Implements of Husbandry, Wearing Apparel &c and the Church is so much burnt, that it must be rebuilt before it can be fit for Use.
(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 13 Aug. 1753)

On TUESDAY the 14th Instant, was Rung at FAKENHAM in NORFOLK, A PEAL of 5040 Triples perform'd in Three Hours and Ten Minutes, and during the whole Peal (which was never rung there before) not one Bell out of Course.

The Treble was rung by William Minns; the 2d, by Edward Barnes; the 3d, by Thomas Buddle; the 4th, by James Fidgett; the 5th, by Robert Scott; the 6th, by James Scarfe [?Scarse]; the 7th, by Edward Harrison and the 8th, by John Burrows.

N.B. The Bobbs were all called by James Fidgett, of Fakenham aforesaid.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 18 Aug. 1753 - advert)

To all ARTISTS in RINGING.

Mr. John Holt of London having at length discovered a Method of Ringing 5040 Grandsire [*sic*] Triples true, without Changes over again, or the use of any other Means but plain Leads, Bobs, and only two Singles, which hath hitherto been looked upon as impossible; He has also made Improvements in Plain Bobs [*sic*] and Union Triples. All which he is willing to communicate to the World, but as his Circumstances are low, and as he can expect no Reward for his Labour, nor Assistance towards the Expence of publishing them, but from his Brothers in the Art; He proposes to have neatly printed, two whole Peals of Grandsire Triples divided into Halves, one containing three regular Courses, the other five; with two Singles, one at the Half Peal, the other at the End; the Bobs being so regularly disposed as to be easily called. One compleat Peal of Plain bob Triples in three regular Courses, without any Single or Alteration, but only Leads and Bobs as are usually rung. Also a compleat Peal of Union Triples, each Half in three regular Courses, the Singles made in the Middle and at the end of the Peal; and to deliver Copies of these four Peals by Christmas next, to any single Person, or to any Set of Eight-Bell Ringers who shall subscribe not less than five Shillings, and notify their Subscriptions, post-paid, to Mr. John Cundell in Salisbury-Court, Fleet-street; who engages to deliver the same, with a List of the Subscribers, or return the Subscriptions, if there should not be enough to defray the Expence of Printing.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 1 Sept. 1753; also *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 1 Dec. 1753 with minor differences and the additional sentence ‘Those who have not an Opportunity of subscribing in London, and are willing to encourage the Design are desired to send their names to the Printer of this Paper. / W. Chase, Cockey Lane, Norwich.’; also *Gloucester Journal*, Tuesdays, Jan. 1, 8 & 15 Jan. 1754, altered after ‘five Shillings’ to ‘Subscriptions are taken in by Mr. John Cundell, in Salisbury-court, Fleet-street, London; and by Mr. Richard Weaver, Clerk of St. Mary de Cript [*sic*], in Gloucester.’)

[Advertisement for tenders for old materials from Great Houghton Church, near Northampton, and concerning the rebuilding. Materials include the bells, as the new steeple was designed to hold only two bells]

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 17 Sept. 1753; North (*Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, 1878) states that in 1700 there was a ring of five bells.)

The opening of the new ring of bells at St. Neots, Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire, November 16, 1753.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT the New Ring of Eight Bells in St. Neots in this County, being now completed by Mr. Joseph Eayre of the said Town; it will be opened on Tuesday the 27th of this Instant.

(*Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 17 and 24 Nov. 1753; also *Northampton Mercury*, Mon 19 Nov. 1753, and Mon. 26 Nov. 1753)

We hear from St. Neots in Huntingdonshire, that the new Peal of Eight Bells, (cast by Mr. Joseph Eayre of the same Town) were [*sic*] opened on Tuesday the 27th of last Month by the College Youths of London, who rang several good peals of Grandsire Tribles and Bobb Major. There was a great Number of Judges present who all express'd their Satisfaction, and it was their Opinion, that they are as tuneable and toneable as any Bells in England.

(*Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 8 Dec. 1753; similar report, with minor differences, in *Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 10 Dec. 1753)

Canterbury, Dec. 15th

Monday last was rung at the Cathedral Church of this City a compleat Peal of 5040 Tripples, commonly called Bobmajor Tripples, it being an Abstract of the 40320 Changes upon eight Bells, and notwithstanding the Bigness of the Bells, and Difficulty in ringing them, the whole was truly finished, without a Change repeated or omitted, upon a low and pleasant Compass, in three Hours and nineteen Minutes, by the Wye Company of Ringers.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. Dec. 12/Sat. Dec. 15, 1753)

Saffron-Walden, January 2, 1754.

To inform all real Lovers and Professors of the
Art of Ringing

THAT the Society of young Ringers of this Town, on Tuesday, the 25th December last, being Christmas-Day, did ring the true Peal of Grandsire Triples, composed of 148 Bobs, with two Singles which they effected in three Hours and twenty Minutes; and on Tuesday following, being New-Year's-Day they compleated the same in eight Minutes less than before (being the only Times the same has been rung there since there has been eight Bells) to the no small Mortification of their Antagonists (some of the Old Society) who instead of Instruction gave them all the Obstruction in their Power. The Ringers which rung the same were Frederick Sell, Charles Baron, who called the Bobs, Richard Whitehand, John Banks, William Barrett, jun. John Bush, jun. John Clark and John Salmon.

(Cutting of an advert from an unknown newspaper, quoted in Benton, *The Bells and Annals of Saffron Walden* (1921); also quoted in the *Ringing World*, 13 Dec. 1940, p. 596. This was a performance of Holt's Original.)

1754

On Wednesday the 9th Instant was compleatly rung on that grand and musical Peal of Bells, at the Cathedral, 5040 Grandsire Tripples, in three Hours and seventeen Minutes, by nine Men belonging to the Senior Company in this City; which was allowed by impartial Judges to be as good Striking for Length of Time, without Variation of Compass, as was ever heard.
(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 12 Jan. 1754)

They write from Bradford, that on Thursday Night last was rung there, by the Union Society of Ringers, the complete Peal of Plain Bob Tripples, consisting of 5040 Changes, in two Hours and forty-two Minutes.
(*York Courant*, Tues. 22 Jan. 1754)

Last Thursday Night was rung at St. Nicholas Church by the young Society of Ringers 2520 Changes of Bob Trebles in 1 Hour and 36 Minutes, being Half of the complete Peal, which was never performed here before, it being thought impossible for any Society of Ringers to complete the whole Peal on these Bells by Reason of their bad Hanging.
(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 9 Feb. 1754; for an account of the first peal here, see *Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 12 April 1755.)

*To be given Gratis, to be RUNG for, at Hitcham Church,
by any Companies of Six-Bell Ringers (Hitcham Ringers
excluded.)*

SIX PAIR of GLOVES, value 2s. 6d. each Pair,
on SHROVE TUESDAY next; to meet at the House known
by the Name of the BLUE HORNS in Hitcham aforesaid, and
enter their Names by Twelve of the Clock of the same Day; and
that Company which rings two Eighteen- Scores (a Plain Course
and Dodging Course) best, according to the judgment of such
Judge, or Judges, as shall be provided by each Company, shall
be entitled to the Gloves; and such Gentlemen as will favour me
with their Company shall meet with a hearty Welcome, from
their humble Servant, SAMUEL HAYWARD.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 16 Feb. 1754)

A new ring of bells for East Dereham, Norfolk

We hear that Mr. Catelyn, thought to be the greatest Artist in England for hanging of Bells, is just come from London to East Dearham [*sic*], on purpose to hang a new Peal of eight fine large Bells, very lately cast by Mr. Lister [*sic*], of Whitechapel, Successor to the ingenious Mr. Phelps, deceased; and that the same will be compleated fit for ringing in about a Fortnight, and 'tis thought will exceed any Eight Bell Peal in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.
(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 23 March 1754)

ON Tuesday the 16th of this Instant April, will be open'd at EAST DEARHAM in NORFOLK, by ST. PETER's RINGER's [*sic*] from NORWICH, the Peal of Eight Bells lately cast by Mr. LESTER of London, and hung by Mr. CATLYN; which 'tis not doubted will give the greatest Satisfaction to all Persons of Judgment [*sic*].
(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sats. 6 and 13 April 1754)

On Tuesday the 16th Instant, was opened at East Dearham in Norfolk, the Peal of eight Bells lately cast by Mr. Lester, of London; many Judges were present, who allowed it to be one of the most Musical and complete Peals in England.
(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 20 April 1754)

ON the Third Instant was rung at EAST DEARHAM, a 5040 Bob Major, by Eight Men from Norwich, being inferior to a Company left in that City, being the first that ever was rung at that new Peal, and is allowed to be by Men of Judgment [*sic*], the best Peal of Eight Bells in the County of Norfolk. As many in the County have said, that Norwich cannot afford eight Men only to ring a 5040 at that grand Peal, to convince those swelling People, it was compleatly performed in three Hours and Eighteen Minutes by the following Persons:

John Chamberlin	rung the Treble, and called the Bobs		
Jeffery Brady	2	George Batley	6
Charles Gibson	3	William Drewry	7
Thomas Barton	4	Samuel Sewell	Tenor
Robert Dyke	5		

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 8 June 1754)

March 18th, 1754

This is to inform the PUBLIC,

THAT upon the Decease of Mr. William Ellery, of Closworth, near Yeovil, in the County of Somerset, Bell-Founder; the said Business is now, and ever since the Death of the said William Ellery has been carried on and accurately performed at Closworth aforesaid, by THOMAS ROSKELLY, Bell-Founder: And for further Satisfaction, Enquiry may be made at the following Parishes, viz at Ryme Intrinsic, and Chiselbourne, in the County of Dorset: and at Winsham, in Somerset; where his Bells may be seen, which gave ample Satisfaction to the said Parishes.

THOMAS ROSKELLY.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 18 & 25 March 1754)

On Tuesday was rung at St. Michael's Coslany, by eight Youths, a compleat 5040 of Court Bob, in three Hours and twenty Minutes: This is the first Time of its being perform'd by Youths only. (*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 30 March 1754)

Newcastle, April 13. ... On Thursday Evening, when the young Gentlemen Ringers were about half Way thro' a Peal of Grandsire Triples, the greatest Bell at St. Nicholas's unfortunately crack'd, by which it is render'd nearly useless. It was cast in 1622, and weighs 33 Hundred Weight. (*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 20 April 1754)

On the 15th past a compleat Peal of 5040 Changes was rung at Sheffield, by a Society of Ringers, in two Hours and fourteen Minutes [*sic*], this being a true Peal call'd *Allwood's Delight*, composed by Mr. Jonathan Allwood, one of the said Society. The Weight of the Tenor Bell is thirty-two Hundred Weight and a half and nine Pounds, and the Treble nine Hundred. (*York Courant*, Tues. 14 May 1754; also *Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 18 May 1754 – per Gareth Davies; *Derby Mercury*, Fri. 19 April - Fri. 26 April, under the by-line '*Sheffield, April 21.*'; and *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 25 May 1754, under by-line 'COUNTRY NEWS. YORK, May 14.', the latter per David Cubitt;)

KENNINGHALL in NORFOLK. WHEREAS the TENOR belonging to the Peal of Eight Bells there was lately Split, since which Accident, it has been scandalously reported that the Parishioners were not able to get the Peal compleated by reason of their being in Suit with the Parish of East-Harling, in the said County: This is therefore to undeceive the Publick, and to give Notice, That the said eight Bells are now compleated by Mr. JOHN DOVE of Garboldisham, that a new Six, Seven and Eight, were added to the Peal; that the whole Peal were hung by that ingenious Artist Mr MATTHEW COLEBY, of Banham; and that the said Peal will be open'd on Wednesday, the 10th Day of July next, when all Persons shall receive a hearty Welcome from G. Burlingham, at the Red-Lyon. (Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 29 June 1754)

This is to acquaint the PUBLIC,
THAT THOMAS BILBY, Son of Mr. Bilby, of Chewstoke near Bristol (who is well known to the World, for the numerous Set of Bells he has cast in several Counties of this Kingdom) is settled at CULLOMPTON, in the County of Devon, where he carries on the Business of a BELL-FOUNDER, WATCH and CLOCKMAKER, at the most reasonable Prices.—A Specimen of his Workmanship may be seen, at Plymouth, Cullompton, Bradninch, Bow, Alfrimpton, Kenton, Zeal, Caderleigh, and other Places in the said County; where he has cast several Sets of Bells, to the entire Satisfaction of the Hearers.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 22 & 29 July 1754 - advert)

We hear from Basingstoke, that on Monday last the Reading Youths went for a Peal of Bob-Majors of 5040 Changes, which they completed in three Hours and fourteen Minutes, to the great Satisfaction of the Gentlemen Ringers and others of that Town, it being the first ever done upon their Bells.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 29 July 1754)

[Advertisement for the sale of materials from the parish church of Great Houghton. Three of the bells are to be sold ...]

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 5 August 1754)

Last Week, Mr. Ellis, Coroner, took an Inquisition at Buckenham Ferry, on one Elizabeth Chamberlain, a very antient Woman, who being in the Belfrey or Ringing Chamber, fell from thence to the Bottom of the Steeple, and very much fractured her Skull, of which she died Instantly.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 10 August 1754 – per David Cubitt)

Last Friday the Society of Ringers at Tetbury, in this County, Rung the Whole Peal of Grandsire-Triples, being 5040 Changes, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes.

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues., 27 August 1754)

A postponed match

This is to give NOTICE, to all Gentlemen Ringers and others

THAT there are Six very good HATS to be Rung for at Heckfield in Hants, on the 11th of October next, given by Mr. William Hillyer at the Five Bells.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 2 Sept. 1754 - advert)

NOTICE is hereby given,

THAT the Six HATS advertised in this Paper the 2d of September, to be Rung for at Heckfield in Hants the 11th of this instant October, is now put off till another Time, of which timely Notice will be given in this Paper.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 7 Oct. 1754 - advert)

A new bell for Newcastle

NEWCASTLE, September 28.

On Wednesday the great Bell of St Nicholas's Church, which weighed 32 h. 3 q. 14 lb. (which was cast in 1612, Sir Geo. Selby, Knt. being then Mayor, and Robt. Ledger, Esq; Sheriff) was taken down, in order to be sent to London to be new cast.

(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 28 Sept. 1754)

Yesterday the largest Bell for St. Nicholas Church was landed on the Key from London, it weighs 36 cwt. which is 3 cwt. more than the old one and is esteemed a complete Piece of Workmanship.

(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 21 Dec. 1754)

From London Gazette. We hear the Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Mary, Islington, intend to build an Organ by voluntary Subscription, to compleat the Beauty of their new Church, several Gentlemen residing in that Parish having already generously offered to contribute handsome Sums for the Purpose, and also towards putting up a new set of Bells.
(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 5 Oct. 1754 – per David Cubitt)

On Saturday last was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths, at St. Leonard's in Shoreditch, the complete Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in five Parts, with the Single at the Half-Way, in three Hours and twenty-five Minutes, being the first performed in that Method, and composed by John Holt, deceas'd, who was the most famous in the Ringing Art ever known.
(*Whitehall Evening Post, Or, London Intelligencer*, Sat. 12 Oct. – Wed. 15 Oct. 1754)

DEDHAM, October 23, 1754.

OUR Peal of EIGHT BELLS being now compleated;
Friday the First of November is fixed for Ringing them,
when we believe they will be esteemed good Bells.
John Saunders, / William Croft, }Churchwardens.

N.B. In the Long Room at the Sun, in the Evening, will be
Country Dancing; proper Musick is provided.

(Advert in *Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 26 Oct. 1754; five bells were cast in this year by Thomas Gardiner of Sudbury, making a ring of eight bells.)

The papers have lately given several instances of longevity. We presume the following account, the truth of which is notorious, will not be unacceptable to our readers. Robert Gibbs, of Winslow, in the county of Bucks, had six sons, Robert, Richard, William, Thomas, John, and Stephen, which sons rang the bells of Winslow Church on New Year's Day, for forty years in succession. The senior son rang the tenor, and every son had his bell in right of seniority, and they were every New Year's Day entertained at dinner by the worthy family of Lowndes at Winslow.

(Extract from *Whitehall Evening Post* in November 1754 – quoted in Cocks, *Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* (1897), p.636.)

This is to give notice that on Monday the 11th of November at the Sign of the Angle [*sic*] in Stonham Earl will be given gratis six pair of gloves to be rung for at that Parish Steeple. That Company of Ringers that Rings Grandsire and Old Doubles truest and best by the determination of the two judges that shall be chose before ringing to be entitled to the said gloves. To enter their names by twelve o'clock the same day at the sign of the Angle aforesaid when all persons that will please to favour me with their company shall meet with good entertainment and Civil Usage from their humble servant

Thomas Dove

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 2 Nov. 1754)

Having lately mention'd the Ages of four Sisters, now alive, at Piccardie in France, to make together 342 Years, we have since been Favour'd with an Account of the Ages of four Sisters now living and in Health in the Parish of St. Dunstan's without Westgate, Canterbury. - The eldest being 88, the next 86, the third 84, and the youngest 82, - In all 340. - They are the Daughters of one Tho. Palmar, a Bell-Founder, who cast the great Bell in St. Dunstan's Church, and whose Name may be seen on some of the old Bell-metal Skillets still used in this County.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 6 Nov./Sat. 9 Nov. 1754; also *Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 11 Nov. 1754, and *Derby Mercury*, Fri. 8 Nov. - Fri. 15 Nov. 1754, both with 'Palmer' vice 'Palmar.')

Halifax, Nov. 12. On Sunday last being the Anniversary of his Majesty's Birth-Day, was rung here in the Morning a compleat Peal, call'd, PLAIN BOB TRIPPLES, consisting of 5040 Changes, in two Hours and forty Minutes; which, considering the Weight of the Bells, and the Lowness of Compass they were rung at, may be justly look'd upon as one of the greatest Performances of this Kind that hath ever been in England.

(*York Courant*, Tues. 19 Nov. 1754)

A controversy in Kent

On Wednesday November the 20th, in the Evening, the Youths of Leeds rung 5040 Bob Major Double, in 3 Hours 16 Minutes; and the Friday following the same Youths rung at Wrotham, on that celebrated new Peal of eight Bells, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob Major, in 3 Hours 18 Minutes, although a famous antient Company of Ringers in Kent attempted at Grandsire Tripples and Bob Major, but their Peals were short; their Complaint was, that the Bells went badly, tho' we could see no Foundation for such Complaint.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 30 Nov. 1754)

Whereas a Paragraph was inserted in a late Canterbury News-paper reflecting on an ancient and famous Company of Ringers in Kent for not going thro' a 5040 at Wrotham, and as there are a great many ancient and famous Companies of Ringers in this County, every one may not know who is meant thereby; but as the Wye Company were at Wrotham about that Time, and had not their usual Success, it is probable they may be the Company that is meant; if not, they beg Pardon; but if they be, this is their Answer:

To the LEEDS Youths.

Gentlemen,

THIS is to acquaint you, that notwithstanding the shortness of our Peals at Wrotham, we are ready to ring with you whenever you please. We are not ancient, neither do we esteem our selves famous, yet we have rung more whole Peals in Kent and Sussex, than ever you will do if you live to the Age of the Antediluvians.

At half of which Places

Tho' you're just in your Prime

Whenever you beat us

We'll leave off - 'twill be Time.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 7 Dec./Wed. 11 Dec. 1754; advert, as are the following exchanges.)

To the Company of Ringers at Wye.

GENTLEMEN.

YOU have very good Reason to suppose that a late Advertisement in this Paper, might probably be levelled at you.—We the Leeds Youths very readily acknowledge our Fault in speaking of you in a Language that you don't deserve; for whereas we stiled you *an antient and famous Company of Ringers*, we are forced now to agree with you, that altho' you may be *antient*, you certainly are not *famous*, but rather infamous Ringers, whatever your other Accomplishments may be.

As we can gain no Honour by engaging with you so soon after your miserable Performance at Wrotham, we recommend to your Practice Bob-major, which was never executed but by us; and when you have made some tolerable Progress in that, we shall then be ready to accept of any challenge from you.—But fear you will never be able to accomplish it, were you to live to the Days of Methuselah.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 25 Dec./Sat. 28 Dec. 1754)

To the Leeds Ringers, alias Pretenders to Ringing, alias Blunderers.

YOU have great Reason to boast of your Ringing, when you have never a Man in your Place could ring a Course of Catons. As to your *Billingsgate Stuff* in the Paper, it corresponds with your scandalous Behaviour at Wrotham; your Ringing there was the worst that ever was heard; and since (at Lenham) you perform'd most wretchedly. That you are sensible of your Insufficiency to ring with us, is plain, by your equivocating and ridiculous Answer, consisting of nothing but Impertinence. But what could we expect from a Parcel of conceited Fools, who never heard any Ringers but themselves, and consequently never heard a good Peal? O! poor Bob Major! You have used him cruelly at Leeds; you finally condemned him at Wrotham; and you have *executed* him at Lenham.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 28 Dec./Wed. 1 Jan. 1755)

To the Wye Ringers.

GENTLEMEN,

WE are *surpriz'd* you should say we have never a Man that can ring a Course of *Catons*; for Dec. 12th, 1751, we rung 6480 Catons, and Jan. 25th, 1752, we rung 7200 Ten-in.

We don't pretend to equal you in Scurrility; we profess *Ringing*, and not *Scolding*. If you really intend any Thing besides *Words*, we are ready to give you a Meeting and ingage in such Peals, and for such a Sum, as shall be agreed upon. But if you only love to hear yourselves talk, we shall not trouble ourselves to answer you.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 11 Jan./Wed. 15 Jan. 1755)

To the Leeds Ringers.

GENTLEMEN,

Retrosppecting upon the whole Affair, we think you exceeded us in Scurrility,—we are sorry we attempted to imitate you, and do with Pleasure drop it.—With regard to Catons, you charge us with Mendaciloquence, when your Men confess'd they had never rung it.—We take no Delight in Loquacity, neither are we fond of Altercations. We will therefore, if you please, meet you at the Swan in Charing on Saturday the first Day of February next, at Two of the Clock, and end the Dispute by ringing with you, at Wye and Leeds; agree upon a Peal or Peals, and stake the Money to be rung for.

From your humble Servants,

Wye Ringers.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 22 Jan./Sat. 25 Jan. 1755)

AS the Leeds and Wye Company of Ringers have come to an Agreement to ring at Leeds and Wye; This is to inform, the Publick, that they will ring the first Time at Leeds on Monday the 24th of this instant February, for a considerable Sum of Money.

N.B. There will be a good Twelve-penny Ordinary on the Table at One o'Clock at the Sign of the George.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 12 Feb./Sat. 15 Feb. 1755)

Monday, February 24th 1755, Being the day the Wye Ringers came to Ring us for Half Guinea a man. We Rung 5040 of Bob Major in 3 hours 10 minutes the First trial and they about 2160 of the same peal though very Badly.

(From a copy of James Barham's peal-book among the Slater MSS, Ipswich. Also quoted in *Church Bells*, July 14 1877, p. 387)

This is to acquaint the Publick, That
THE Small-Pox is intirely out of Wye, and hath been so for a
Month past; And that the Ringing Match between Wye and
Leeds, that hath been delayed upon the aforesaid Account, will be
rung on Monday the 26th of this Instant.

N.B. There will be a good Ordinary at One of the Clock the
same Day at Robert Quested's at the King's Head in Wye.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 3 May/Wed. 7 May 1755)

We hear that, notwithstanding all Reports to the contrary, the Ringing Match will be at Wye
on Monday next as was appointed.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 21 May/Sat. 24 May 1755)

On Monday May 26th 1755 was rung at Wye 5040 Changes of Bob major in 3 hours and 22 minutes
Against the Ringers of that Place for Half a Guinea a man so we Beat them Both at Leeds & Wye to the
great dishonour of that Company.

(From Naunton's transcript of James Barham's peal-book, in the Central Council Library.)

THE Ringing Match between Leeds and Wye was made to ring
5040 Bob-Major Changes; which the Leeds Youths compleated
at each Place, viz. Monday February 24th at Leeds, in 3 Hours 11
Minutes; and Monday May the 26th at Wye, in 3 Hours 22 Minutes.
—Notwithstanding the Wye Ringers boasting of their Peals rung in
Kent and Sussex, we cannot hear one of their ringing; for they
broke it at Leeds, after ringing 2128 Changes; and at Wye 3800.
As to your words, most finely canted, you may plainly see won't do.

To ring compleat Peals,

It is our whole Design;

Therefore leave off your Ringing,

Being beat at Home,—it's high Time.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 4 June/Sat. 7 June 1755 - advert)

Last Night as one Fox, who rung the Five o'Clock Bell at St. Philip's Church, was altering the
Bell, to make it go easy, unfortunately struck the Stay, and the Bell being set, it fell down and dash'd
his Brains out.

(*Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, Sat. 30 Nov. 1754; reported in *Oxford Gazette & Reading Mercury*,
Mon. 9 Dec. 1754 and *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 7 Dec. 1754, under the by-line 'Bristol,
November 30.')

On Monday last the Society of Ringers in this City, at the Parish Church of St. James's, rung
compleatly, in three Hours, a true Peal of 5040 Union Tripples; being the First that was Rung
in the West of England.

(*Bath Journal*, Mon. 16 Dec. 1754)

HINGHAM, October 24. Tuesday last being the Anniversary of the CORONATION of his
Majesty King GEORGE, great rejoicings were made here with the Ringing of Bells, by the old
Practitioners; when they had rung upon that compleat Peal of Eight Bells, Fifteen compleat Grandsires.
So greatly are they improved in the Art of Campanalogia.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 28 Dec. 1754 – per David Cubitt)

On Friday last one David Dent of South Creak in the County of Norfolk, Taylor, was
committed to the Castle, for sacrilegiously stealing out of the Church of South Creak, several Pieces of
Brass Plate, Bell Metal, and Iron, which he has confessed.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 28 Dec. 1754 – per David Cubitt; also *Derby Mercury*, Fri. 3 Jan. – Fri. 10 Jan.
1755, under by-line 'Norwich, Dec. 28.')

[The castle referred is Norwich Castle]

At FAKENHAM.

On Thursday December the 26th, 1754, by a Company of young Practitioners there, in 3 Hours and 20 minutes was performed a compleat Peal of 5040 of Bob Major, and not a Bell out of Course during the Whole. The Performers and each Bell as follows, viz. John Burrows, Treble; Robert Liddelow, 2d; Robert Pawley, 3d; John Flegg, 4th; John Readwin, 5th; James Fidgett, 6th; John Fidgett, 7th; and Edward Harrison, Tenor: the Bobs were called by James Fidgett aforesaid.

N.B. Five of the above Persons have not begun to practise any thing in the Art of Campanology [*sic*] above 18 Months.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 4 January 1755)

East-Budleigh, Dec. 24, 1754.

A Set of BELLS are wanted to be cast for the Parish Church of East-Budleigh, in the County of Devon. Any Person or Persons willing to undertake the said Work, are desired to be at the said Parish Church, on Wednesday the 22d Day of January next, by Ten o'Clock in the forenoon; when the Person or Persons who will do the said Work best and cheapest, will be contracted with by the Parishioners, who will then attend for that Purpose.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 6 Jan. 1755)

On Monday last was rung by the Southwark unions, at Christ-church in Surry [*sic*], a complete peal of 5552 Bob Majors single, in three hours and forty-five minutes, being the newest peal that ever was rung in London.

(*Read's Weekly Journal Or British Gazetteer*, Sat. 18 Jan. 1755)

On Monday the 27th of January last was rung at Wye, a complete 5040 of that celebrated Peal call'd Bob Major double, in three Hours twenty Minutes, by eight Men of the Wye Company; and allow'd by Numbers that heard it to be an elaborate Performance.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 8 Feb. 1755)

ON Monday Evening February the 3d, 1755, was rung in St. Michael's of Coslany, Five Thousand and Forty Bob Major Double Bob Method, by Eight of the youngest Set of Eight Bell Ringers in this City. It was completely rung in three Hours and seven Minutes, and no Bell turned out of its proper Place, by the following Persons:

John Chamberlin, Treble,	John Keepus, Fifth.
and called the Bobs,	James Vines, Sixth.
Thomas Barton, Second,	James Broadely, Seventh.
John Dixon, Third,	John Reed, Tenor.
Francis Lyth, Fourth,	

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 8 Feb. 1755)

March 13, 1755 [*sic*]

WHEREAS on Monday the 21st of April next, will be given gratis, at the Sign of the Crown Inn in Kingsclere, Hants, Six new Hats, at seven Shillings Value each, to any Sett [*sic*] of six Ringers that Rings the best plain Peal (Kingsclere Ringers excepted) each Set of Ringers to bring with them an Umpire, and the Umpire belonging to the Ringers who Ring the best Peal, will be intitled to a Hat of the same Value. No Ringers will be allowed to Ring, except he [*sic*] pay one Shilling for his Dinner before Ringing, and to begin precisely at Ten o'Clock.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mons. 17 March and 31 March 1755 - advert)

COUNTRY NEWS.

.....

Birmingham, March 24. Last Week Mr. Richard Fosbrook, a Bag-Weaver of this Town, was buried, when the following Directions for his Funeral, order'd by his Will, were observ'd; which were, That Half a Crown, in Queen Anne's Coin, should be given to each Bearer, Twenty Shillings to his Spinners, and Thirteen Shillings and Six pence to the Ringers for ringing a Peal; that 240 Quarts of the best Ale should be drank, three Songs sung, and that a Battle should be fought between two Cocks. He left many Legacies to Persons who Were to attend his Funeral; but, if any of them shed Tears, they were not to be entitled to their Legacies.

(*Adams's Weekly Courant*, Tues. March 25 - 1 April 1755)

At attempt for the extent of Major at Leeds, Kent

We hear that the Society of the Leeds Youths intend to go off for 40320 Changes at Leeds on Easter Monday, the 31st Instant. This Peal will take up about 27 Hours Ringing, and never as yet attempted by any Ringers.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 19 March/Sat. 22 March 1755)

Last Monday the Society of Ringers at Leeds attempted at 40320 Quadruple and Tripple Changes, according to a late Paragraph in this Paper; and ended thus, viz. At Two o'Clock in the Afternoon they begun, and on Tuesday Morning at Six o'Clock the sixth Bell's clapper broke, after ringing 24800 Changes; which was a great Misfortune to the said Ringers, as well as a Disappointment to a Number of People that came there to hear it; this, never being attempted before, was the greatest Performance of Ringing ever known.

(*Kentish Post*, Sat. 5 April 1755; also *Gloucester Journal*, Tues., 15 April 1755 under the by-line 'A Letter from Canterbury, April 5')

AT the Sign of the Shuttle and Hand-Bell in St. Lawrence, near Coslany Bridge, in Norwich, are cast Hand-Bells, from the sharpest to the flattest Key, well tun'd by one inferior to none in Judgment; where may be had any Number of Bells to a Peal, from six to eight, ten or twelve, or more if they like, fitted up in the best Manner, from two to four Guineas the flatter Peal, where there is a Variety of Peals of different Keys always ready for Sale; Also Sets of Tinglers cast for Horses, and other Bells, where Nackers may be serv'd as reasonable as any where else; and all Persons, who please to favour me with their Custom, may depend upon being well serv'd: Also Mill Brasses cast as cheap as any where in this City. And Shuttles, Temples and Nips, may be had by the Maker; and any Sort of Iron Work is done by
WILLIAM BETTINGHILL, Bell Hanger.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 5 April 1755 – advert, per David Cubitt)

William Lawrance, Clockmaker and Bellhanger

Thursday:

The same evening was rung at St. Nicholas' Church by the young Society of Ringers a compleat peal called Bob Trebles, consisting of 5040 changes in 3 hours, 13 minutes and 15 seconds. The above number of changes was never rung here before; neither was it possible for any set of Ringers to perform it on those bells in the condition they were in. But the Magistrates finding the Deficiency, sent for Mr. William Lawrence [*sic*], a noted bell hanger from London, who has hung them so effectually that the peal was rung through with a great Deal of Ease and Expedition, considering the Tenor is 36 hundred weight.

(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 12 April 1755; longcase clocks by this maker spell the name as 'Lawrance' which must be assumed to be correct version, confirmed by the advert below.)

WILLIAM LAWRENCE,

Of THAME, in the County of OXFORD, Clockmaker;

HA S now finished a fine large Church Clock, for *Newcastle upon Tyne*, of a hundred Pounds Value. Several Gentlemen and Workmen have been to see it, and allow it to be the strongest and best Piece of Clock-work ever yet finished. It is now going in his Shop, and will continue there till the 11th of June, when it will be carried to the Place aforesaid.

(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 17 May 1755 – advert)

We are assured, that William Lawrance, of Thame, in the County of Oxford, Clock-maker and Bell-hanger, has now finished a fine large Church Clock for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, of 100£ Value; several Gentlemen and Workmen have been to see it, and allow it to be the strongest and best Piece of Clock-Work ever yet finished; it is now going in his Shop, and will continue there until the 11th of June, when it will be carried to the Place aforesaid. He lately hung a Peal of eight Bells at Berwick-upon-Tweed, a Peal of six at Marlborough in Wiltshire, and a Peal of eight very large Bells at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 26 May 1755) (Cf *Jackson's Oxford Journal* advert of Sat. 17 May 1755, above.)

On Thursday last was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths, at St. Mary Whitechapel, a compleat Peal of 5040 Changes, Cumberlands Pleasure in three Hours and sixteen Minutes, being the first ever rung in that Method.

(Leeds Intelligencer, Tues 8 April 1755)

KINGSCLERE, May 8, 1755.

This is to give NOTICE to all Gentlemen Ringers,

THAT there will be rung for on Monday the 19th Instant at Kingsclere, Hants, a Sett of Eight Hand-Bells, value Two Guineas, the Property of John Lovell, Clerk, at the Faulcon-Inn in Kingsclere. Every Set of Ringers are [*sic*] desired to bring their Umpires with them, and to ring a compass Peal of fifteen Minutes each Set, and to begin Ringing at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon: Every Set to pay in Proportion to the Value of the Prize, before ringing.

N.B. There will be a good Ordinary on the Table by Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the abovesaid House: Where all Gentlemen's Favours will be gratefully acknowledged,

their Humble Servant,

JOHN LOVELL. [*sic*]

(Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury, Mon. 5 May 1755 - advert; in a later issue of the paper, this John Lovell was described as a collar maker.)

This is to give Notice,

THAT on the 20th of this instant, being Whit-Tuesday, will be Rung for at Gillingham near Chatham, Six Pair of Buck-skin Gloves, by Six Ringers of any Parish; and the Six best Ringers of one Parish are to have the Gloves.

(Kentish Post, Sat. 3 May/Wed. 7 May 1755 - advert)

We hear from Oxford, that on Monday last the Reading Youths went for a Peal of Bob-Major 5040 Changes at St. Mary Magdalen's College, Oxford, which they completed in three Hours and twenty eight Minutes, to the great Satisfaction of the Gentlemen Ringers, and others, of that City.

(Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury, Mon. 26 May 1755)

We hear from Stroud, in this County, that on Wednesday last was performed there the late Mr. John Holt's New and Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, being 5040 Changes, in Three Hours and 16 Minutes.

(Gloucester Journal, Tues. 3 June 1755)

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen RINGERS and Others, that on MONDAY, JULY 7, 1755, will be given gratis, by the Landlord at the Vine at Nayland,

SIX HATS of thirty Shillings Value, by as many Companies as will come. If no more than two Companies, to put in a Shilling a Man, their own Company excepted. Each Company that rings for the Prize, to ring two Eighteen Scores, one dodging Course and one plain Course, and that Company that rings best to have the Hats.

N.B. All Ringers that ring for the Hats to pay 1s. for Dinner, and all others 6d. according to Custom, and to enter their Names by Eleven o'Clock the same Day; when all that will pleasure me with their Company, shall meet with a hearty Welcome, from their humble Servant,

THO. LOVEDAY

(Ipswich Journal, Sat. 21 June 1755 - advert)

This is to give NOTICE, to all Gentlemen Ringers and others,

THAT on Tuesday the thirtieth Day of September next will be Rung for at Bray in the County of Berks, six New Hats Value seven Shillings and Six-pence each Hat, (the Gift of Thomas Matthews at the Sign of the six Bells in Bray aforesaid) by any Sett of Ringers whatsoever (Bray Ringers only excepted) to begin Ringing by Ten of the Clock in the Morning, each Peal to be Rung fifteen Minutes, and seven Minutes shall be between every Peal. Each Set to bring their own Umpire.

N.B. Every Ringer is to pay down One Shilling for his Dinner before Ringing. The Umpire to the Gentlemen who are deemed the Winners shall be intituled to a Hat of the same Value also.

* * * Any Set of Ringers who have a Mind to try their Hands before the Day of Ringing, may see the Hats at the aforesaid Thomas Matthew's.

(Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury, Mon. 23 June 1755 - advert)

We learn from Darlington that they have lately completed a new Ring of six Bells with Chimes by Subscription. The first four Bells were new cast by Mr. Lester, London, and the Hanging and Tuning the Bells and making the Chimes was performed by that honest and ingenious Artist Mr. James Harrison from Barrow, Lincolnshire: The whole Execution gives great Satisfaction.
(*Newcastle Courant*, Sat. 9 Aug. 1755)

On Tuesday was rung at St. Philip's Church, in three Hours and thirty six Minutes, a compleat Peal of Bob-Major; consisting of 5040 Changes, the longest of that kind ever rung in this Town, and allowed, by good Judges of Ringing, to be well perform'd.
(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 22 Sept. 1755)

Last Thursday Morning was rung at St. Peter's Church in this Town, a Double Peal, call'd *Leeds Delight*, consisting of five thousand and forty Changes in two Hours and forty-three Minutes.
(*Leeds Intelligencer*, Tues. 30 December 1755)

1756

Wakefield, Jan. 5.-Yesterday in the Evening was rang at our Church, a compleat Peal of Tripples, call'd *Union Tripples*, consisting of five Thousand and forty Changes, in two Hours and forty Minutes - being the first Time that ever it was perform'd by the Ringers of Wakefield.

(*Leeds Intelligencer*, Tues. 6 & Tues. 13 Jan. 1756; similar report in *York Courant*, Tues. 6 Jan. 1756, starting 'On Sunday Evening was rung at Wakefield...' and finishing '...the Ringers of that Place.')

NORWICH.

On Monday the 5th of January was rung at St. Michael Coslany, 5040 Court Bobs Eight in; it was compleatly rung in three Hours and eight Minutes, without a Bell out of Course, by us whose Names are under mentioned.

John Chamberlain rung the Treble, and called the Bobs
Jeffrey Brady 2 John Keepus 5
John Dixon 3 John Vines 6
Francis Lyth 4 John Reed 7
George Battley, Tenor.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 10 Jan. 1756)

On Tuesday Evening last was rung, by the York Ringers, at St. Martin's Coney-street, a compleat Peal of Tripples, call'd GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES, (in six Courses, composed by John Houseman, being the compleatest in England) containing 5040 Changes, in two Hours and thirty-seven Minutes.

(*York Courant*, Tues. 13 Jan. 1756)

ON Thursday January the 13th was rung at Leeds, by their Youths, a compleat Peal of 6720 Quadruple and Tripple Changes, Oxford Tripple Bob Method, in four Hours twenty-seven Minutes, and was allowed by good Judges to be as fine Striking as ever was heard, with the Peal as delightfully melodious.

And the said Youths went to Maidstone the Tuesday following, being the 20th of this Instant, and elegantly rang 5040 Changes of that admir'd Peal called Bob Major Double, in three Hours seventeen Minutes; this being the greatest Performance of Ringing ever any Company rung Abroad: And notwithstanding the Bigness of the Bells, it was rung by eight Men only, viz. William Hatwood, first; James Hamton, second; Henry Tilby, third; Thomas Barham, fourth; William Davis, fifth; Edward Cook, sixth; James Barham, 7th; Thomas Lacy, Tenor.

*Change Ringing, when in Infancy,
The Peals were short and plain;
But they that trace, as we have done,
Shall Honour by it gain.*

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 21 Jan./Sat. 24 Jan. 1756 - advert)

We hear that on Wednesday last, a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Tripples was rung in three Hours and 24 Minutes at the Parish Church of St. James, in the City of Bristol. - Those Bells were cast by Mr. ABEL RUDALL [*sic*] of Gloucester.

A Peal of Eight Bells, we hear, is intended to be put up in the Tower of the Parish Church of St. Michael's, in this City.

And a Peal of Six Bells is talk'd of, to be erected in the Tower of the Church in the Parish of Walcot. And as a Clock will be a great Service, some worthy Persons have promis'd to promote a Subscription for that laudable Purpose. - Those who are willing to subscribe, may send their Subscriptions to the Printer of this Journal.

(*Bath Journal*, Mon. 9 Feb. 1756)

A few nights ago was buried under the tower of St. Bride's, Mr. Benjamin Annable, the best ringer that ever was known in the world.—'Till his time ringing was only called an Art, but from the strength of his great genius he married it to the mathematics, and like a Newton in philosophy; a Radcliff, in physic; a Hardwick, in wisdom and law; a Handel, in music; a Shakespear, in writing; and a Garrick, in acting. O RARE BEN.

(*Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser*, Tues. 10 Feb. 1756; also *Kentish Post*, Sat. 7 Feb./Wed. 11 Feb. 1756. Whilst this extract has been known for many years, it is only recently that the source has been identified.)

BURY ST. EDMUND's, Feb. 10, 1756.

Whereas the Peal of Eight Bells in St. MARY's Steeple of Bury aforesaid, have been all lately rehung by Wm. Smith, of Bradfield St. George in the County of Suffolk, Wheelwright; this is therefore to desire those who are Lovers of Ringing, and have a mind to try how the said Bells will swing, to meet at the said Church on MONDAY the 1st Day of March next, being Shrove-Monday, and the favour will be gratefully acknowledged, by their humble Servant, WM. SMITH.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sats. 14 and 21 Feb. 1756 – advert)

Wakefield, Feb. 16

Yesterday in the Evening was rung, with great Applause, by the Wakefield Youths, a second Peal of Tripples, call'd *Wakefield Pleasure*, containing 5040 compleat Changes, in two Hours and 36 Minutes and a Half, being the first Time it hath been rung in the Northern Parts of England.

(*Leeds Intelligencer*, Tues. 17 Feb. 1756; similar report in *York Courant*, Tues. 17 Feb. 1756)

Last Week was rung at the Parish-church of St. James's, Bristol, by John Jones at the 1st Bell, John Birt at the 2d, Thomas Savory at the 3d, James Archer at the 4th, James Curnock at the 5th, Richard Murford at the 6th, Thomas Wilmott at the 7th, and Joseph Jones at the 8th, a complete Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in Three Hours and 24 Minutes, (which is thought a very short Time for a Ring of that Weight) to the entire Satisfaction of a great many good Judges of Ringing met upon the Occasion. (These Bells are thought to be the most complete Ring of their Weight in this Part of England, and were cast by Mr. Abel Rudhall of Gloucester, and Hung by Mr. George Nott, of Hanham, near Bristol.)

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues. 17 Feb. 1756; short report in *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 19 Feb. 1756, starting 'A few Days since was rung...' and without details of the band, as far as the time taken)

Beverley, Feb. 11. Last Week was finished, and play'd off here, a Set of new Chimes, upon the eight Bells in St. John's Church, by that eminent Artist, James Harrison, from Barrow, in Lincolnshire, which afford general Amusement to all that hear them, having, for Variety, ten different Lessons, nine of which are changed by its own Motion from one Time to another, every Time it plays, which is every three Hours, till Saturday Night, twelve o'Clock; when, of itself, it always plays the tenth, which is two Psalm Tunes, nor changes to any other till Sunday Night twelve o'Clock, then goes to its changing Course as before, being nine Weeks in making one Revolution; that is, before the same Tune be play'd at the same Hour on the same Day of the Week. The Machine is curious, yet simple; the Model plain, yet beautiful; the Motions free and easy; for all which it is looked upon to be as fine a Piece, for its Design and Performance, as is extant.

(*York Courant*, Tues. 17 Feb. 1756)

We hear from Leeds, of [*sic*] the 5th of February instant, that the Youths of that Place rung 5040 Changes of that *extraordinary* Peal call'd Court Bob in three Hours 16 Minutes; which was never rung in Kent before.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 18 Feb. 1756)

On the 27th of last Month, was rung at the Parish Church in Leominster, by the Society of Ringers from Ross, a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in Two Hours and 53 Minutes, which is reckon'd a very extraordinary Performance. This Sett of Bells was cast by Mr. William Evans, of Chepstow, in Monmouthshire, and allow'd, by good Judges, to be an excellent Sett of their Weight, and

of a most agreeable Tone. Mr. Evans had finish'd hanging them but two Days before the above Peal was perform'd.

(*Berrow's Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 8 April 1756)

On the 30th of last Month, at St. Neots, in the County of Huntingdon, was rung, by the Company of Ringers there, Mr. John Holt's compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Tripples, in three Hours and forty Minutes.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 12 April 1756)

On the 11th Instant was rung a Peal of Bob Major, consisting of 5040 Changes, in three Hours and sixteen Minutes, on the eight Bells at St. Peter's Church in this Town, by a Company of Ringers of this Place; on account of some agreeable News being receiv'd relating to the Navigation of the River Neen [*sic*] from Thrapston-Bridge to this Town.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 19 April 1756)

Last Monday, being the Birth-day of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, the Field-Pieces attending on Col. Jordan's Regiment, quarter'd here, were several times discharg'd, and the Soldiers fired three Vollies in the Market-Place; whilst the famous READING YOUTHS were ringing at St. Lawrence's Church, in Honour of the Day, Ten Thousand and eighty Quadruple Changes, otherwise Grandsire Catons, which they performed in Six Hours and Thirty Minutes, being the first Time of their attempting the Peal.

(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 3 May 1756)

Litchfield, May 15. Yesterday, about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, a Fire was discovered in the South Steeple of our Cathedral Church, whereby one End of the Main Beam of the Floor of the Bell-Loft was almost consumed, together with Part of the Frames and Wheels of the ninth Bell and the Tenor. As the Fire was discovered in the Day Time, a Stop was soon put to its Progress; had it been in the Night, the whole Bell Frame must have been consumed, and by the falling of the Bells the Steeple must have been greatly damaged. The ninth Bell was heated to such a Degree, that by playing the Engine it was unfortunately crack'd. It was owing to a Fire that was made the Day before in a Hole on the Outside of the Steeple, and it is supposed had insinuated itself through some open Joint in the Stone Work, so as to catch Sticks &c. brought into the Steeple by the Jack Daws who there build their Nests.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 17 May 1756; also *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 20 May 1756)

This to give NOTICE,

THAT on the seventh Day of June next, being Whitsun Monday, will be Rung for at Beamister, in the County of Dorset, (a free Gift by the Landlords at the King's-Arms and White Horse Beamister aforesaid,) A Silver Bowl of One Guinea and Half Price; each Man paying one Shilling for his Dinner, and each Sett to enter their Names at one of the said Houses by Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day.—Netherbury Ringers excepted.

N. B. The Bells are new hung, so that six Men may ring them with Pleasure.—Dated May 10, 1756.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 17 May 1756 – advert; the five bells had just been rehung by William Wadsworth, a local carpenter, and it was clearly anticipated that the tenor would require two men. 'Beamister' = 'Beaminster'.)

May 29, 1756.

RUNG at FRAMLINGHAM in the County of Suffolk, at the Peal of Eight Bells, a compleat 5040 Bob Major, perform'd in three Hours and 12 Minutes, by us whose Names are under-mention'd.

Briant Smith,	Treble		Edward Woods,	5
Robert Homes	2		Thomas Forsdike,	6
William Forsdike,	3		Daniel Sawyer,	7
William Spalding,	4		Edmund Clod,	8

N.B. Daniel Sawyer called the Bobs.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 12 June 1756 - advert)

*Notice is hereby GIVEN,
To all Gentlemen RINGERS and Others,*

THAT on MONDAY the 9th August next, (The Day of Opening the Peal of six Bells at Shipdham in Norfolk, now lately hung, tun'd, and compleated by JOSEPH MALLOWS of East Dearham in the said County Bell Founder,) Six Pair of Gloves will be given Gratis to that Company of Ringers that shall Ring the best of two different six Bell Peals, not less than three Companies to ring for the Prize; and Enter their Names by Twelve o'Clock the same Day, and begin to Ring at Three, and each Company to draw Lots which shall Ring First, Second, &c. and each Company to have ten Minutes Liberty to rest between Peal and Peal, and if loose the first Peal to have the same Liberty of Time to pull down for the Second; and they that Ring most and best shall be entitled to the Gloves, except not a whole Peal Rung.

And Also Five Pair of Gloves to be given to that Company that shall ring the best of three different Five Bell Peals; and that Company that Ring the six Bell Peals is not intituled [*sic*] to Ring for the five Bell Peals.

A Dinner will be provided at the Crown at One o'Clock, where all Gentlemen, Ringers and Others, that will oblige us with their good Company, shall Receive a hearty Welcome, from their Humble Servant,

JOHN TOMPSON.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 31 July 1756)

A series of advertisements from *Schofield's Middlewich Journal*

Middlewich, August 16. The RINGERS of this Town having heard that the CHANGE RINGERS at *Nantwich, Leek* and *Stoke-upon-Trent* in *Staffordshire*, being at this Time in full Practice, take this Opportunity of sending

A CHALLENGE

to the Ringers aforesaid, that they will Ring any of the above mentioned Places upon six Bells, let them mention their Peals, either Court-Bob, Ox-Treble, Coll-Pleasure, Coll-Treble, Crown-Bob, or any other Peals upon six Bells: Any of the Gentlemen Ringers aforesaid, or any other Place, may have an Answer by sending a Line to Thomas Townley, Bricklayer in Middlewich, post paid, mentioning their Place, Sum or Sums of Money, from One Guinea to Ten Guineas a Man, or what they shall thing [*sic*] proper; or if they have a Mind to Ring any other Peals than the above, and chuse the following, viz. Morning Star, Evening-Star, Morning-Exercise, Morning-Pleasure, London-Scholars-Pleasure, Evening-Delight, or Royal-Bob, they may depend on having their Letters punctually answered by their humble Servant,

THO. TOWNLEY.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal, or, Cheshire Advertiser*, Tues. 17 Aug. 1756)

Leek in Staffordshire. August 18. 1756.

A Challenge appearing in your last Paper, from the Ringers of your Town, I beg the Favour of your advertising an Acceptance thereof by the Ringers of this Place; and that they will Ring them any Treble-Bob Peal, that can possibly be Rung upon Six Bells, from One Guinea, to Twenty Guineas a Man. They think Single Bob and Double Bob Peals are only fit for Learners and Boys to Ring, therefore think proper to accept of Treble Bobs only.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 31 Aug. 1756)

Middlewich, September 7, 1756

RINGING

An Advertisement from Leek in Staffordshire appearing in the Middlewich Journal last Week, containing an Acceptance of our Challenge to Ring Changes; and a Post Letter from Stoke-upon-Trent, signed *Paulson*, coming to Hand the 22d of August last, that they will Ring us at Stoke, and desire us to meet them at Talk-o'th Hill: And as the Ringers at both the aforesaid Places have termed those Peals we gave the Challenge for single and double Bob, as only fit for Boys or Learners, We take this Method of Challenging to Ring them the Alteration of *Hunt's Treble-Bob Method*; and to be bound to Ring three Seven Hundreds and Twenty only; and if they refuse to Ring the above Peals, the Middlewich Boys will look upon them as Pretenders and Imposters.

N.B. Thomas Townly [*sic*] will be at the Swan in Talk, on Wednesday the 22d Instant, *Not to Article only, but to stake the Money*; nor do they propose a Thing so unfair as to compel them to Ring in this Town, but will meet them at Sandbach, Barthomly [*sic*], or Congleton; and desire the Ringers of Leek to meet us at the Swan aforesaid on the Day appointed. (We hope the Leek Ringers will stand to their Word for once, and not use us as they did in the Year 1739 at Sandbach. HUZZA!

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 7 Sept. 1756 - advert.)

RINGING

Whereas I Thomas Townley, of Middlewich, have for some Time part been engaged in a Dispute with the Ringers of Stoke-upon-Trent, and Leek in Staffordshire, in order to Ring with them for any Sum or Sums of Money; and whereas I went to Talk-o'th-Hill according to their Appointment, in order to give them a Meeting, and to Article and stake the Money; but they, the poor Pretenders, not forgetting their old Trick, of first promising and then breaking their Words, never appeared. - Therefore not to them, (being worthless) but to any Six Change-Ringers in England we give this Challenge, that we will Ring them at any Place that they shall Appoint, for any Sum or Sums of Money, not less than Ten Pounds a Man, as Witness our Hands,

Nicholas Townly, Treble. George Howard, 4th.
Samuel Partington, 2d: John Cheney, 5th.
Samuel Jackson, 3d. Thomas Townley, 6th.

N.B. We do not desire so unfair a Thing as to compel the Gentlemen Ringers to come to Middlewich, but will ring them at any Place in the County (their own Bells excepted) - Middlewich for Ever! WHO DARE?

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 28 Sept. 1756 - advert)

RINGING!

We were much diverted to find that the pretended Gentlemen Ringers of Middlewich had stuffed up their Paper of the 28th of September with such a cowardly barefac' d LIE, as none but They themselves could have been the Authors of -- 'Tis true, that their Bully came to Talk-oth'-Hill at Eight in the Morning; but as soon as he could, mounted his Horse and away he rode as fast as FEAR could drive him, and never returned, tho' the Ringers he so much wanted to meet, waited from Eleven in the Morning 'till Five in the Afternoon to see him. - Now, that they were afraid to Ring with the People they had challenged is plain, had they had the Brains to keep it to themselves, but they could not help exposing their Weakness to the World; for when the senseless Bullies challenged any Set of Ringers in England, they excepted the Ringers they had before challenged, for a manifest Reason, because they were not fit to face them. However, We want no more Satisfaction, for the mean low-liv'd INSULT they have imposed on US, but to meet them fairly, and let ACTIONS SHEW THE MEN.

WHO DOES NOT DARES NOT!

Thomas Bird, George Bell,
Josiah Spade, Joseph Cyples,
William Wright, Thomas Page.

N.B. As we are credibly informed that the Ringers of Middlewich would never have sent their foolish Challenge Abroad, (especially to us, who they know are their Masters at that Exercise) had it not been through the Persuasions of their nonsensical Bully and run away Ambassador; and also that one of their principal Performers was dead before this vain Trumpeter made his Challenge, we are willing to put up with the Affront, on condition that the said empty Boaster confesses his Fault publicly, and owns himself sorry for his Transgression to his Superiors.

Stoke, October 4, 1756.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 12 Oct. 1756 - advert)

Middlewich, October 19.

Yesterday the [*sic*] was rung by the Change Ringers of this Town, three seven hundred and twenty, the Alteration of Hunt's Treble Bob Method. - *The Ringers of Stoke may depend on having an Answer to their last Week's Puff in our next Journal, and a Time and Place fixed;* - and then let Actions show the Men!

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 19 Oct. 1756)

The Change Ringers of Middlewich do hereby give this Notice to the Ringers of Stoke, that they will give them the Meeting at Acton near Nantwich, on Saturday the 27th Day of this Instant November; and they desire that they will give them the Meeting on that Day and Place: An Advertisement, (according to Promise) should have been inserted in the last Middlewich Journal, but through hurry it was omitted. -----Thomas Townley, Change-Ringer, will Dine every Change-Ringer at Acton, at his own Expence, who rings the first seven Hundred and Twenty of Royal Bob.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 2 Nov. 1756)

To the Printer of the MIDDLEWICH JOURNAL.

SIR.

The sham Pretender's Answer of the 26th ult. I have lately seen. It has been read by the Gentlemen Bobsters of this Place, without any Regard to the Injunction Mr. Townley has laid upon them: They think it would be more commendable to him, if he would employ his few Thoughts in a more advantageous Scheme, and not spend his Time and exhaust the little Sense he is possess'd of, in writing frivolous Answers, that are nothing relating to the Point; but it's evident, that *Ostentation* was the Chief Motive that induced him to put out the first Advertisement, and it's *Fear* now that stops the Progress of his Intentions.

If he had any real Desire of coming to an Engagement, he would, without any Hesitation or Reluctancy, have consented to their Proposals, and eagerly embraced the Opportunity of meeting them (the Ringers) in the Midway, and not desired them to meet *him and his worthless Sett* twenty Miles distant from their Houses. He has made manifest the Proficiency he has attained to in Ringing, by his Choice of Royal Bob; which is one of the easiest Treble Peals in all *Campanalogia*, and may be performed without any Difficulty, by anyone of the meanest Capacity.

P.S. He has discovered the honourableness of his Intentions by his Proposals : The first was to any Sett of Ringers for a Guinea a Man; the second not under Ten Guineas a Man; and the third. (to make Amends for the Extravagancy of the preceeding too [*sic*]) was for – A DINNER!

If the Ringers had a Mind to satisfy their Curiosity, and consented to his last Proposal, they think it would be very judicious to have better Security for the fulfilling of his Promise; therefore they think it proper to inform him, that he need not give himself, nor you the Trouble of inserting any more such Nonsense as his former Pieces, except he will appoint the Time and Place, and injoin some responsible Person as Security with him for the Performance of any Thing he shall propose. He must be cautious in his Choice, and not bring one of *as base a Character as himself*.

Your Paper, since its first Publication, has, in general, been very well received, as it really contains more News than any other Paper published in these Parts; but this I can assure you, that many of your Readers are offended at such Nonsense, and therefore would advise you to desist for the future from any Thing of the Kind.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 23 Nov. 1756)

Middlewich, April 5. Whereas the Ringers of Middlewich have lately been engaged in some Disputes with the Ringers of Stoke-upon-Trent, concerning Changes, &c. this is to inform them, that if they chuse to take a Pull, and exercise their Limbs in Camponology [*sic*], they may depend on us (the Ringers of this Place) meeting them in Sandbach, at the House of William Clayton, Clark, on Easter Tuesday, as it's a Time that little Work is done, and hope their Journey will not be attended with any ill Consequences; by your meeting us you will much oblige your humble Servants,

THOMAS TOWNLEY, &c.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 5 April 1757)

[There are no further references in any subsequent issues up to the paper's final issue on Tues. 24 May 1757 – CAW]

THE PETTY SESSIONS formerly kept at STONHAM
PYE, for Part of the Hundred of BOSMERE and CLAYDON,
will be kept at the TEN BELLS at STONHAM ASPAL on TUESDAY
the 28th of this Instant September, for hiring and retaining of Ser-
vants, by JOHN PALMER.
N.B. There will be Variety of good Ten-Bell Ringing, and good
Entertainment for Man and Horse provided, by their humble Servant
to command, JAMES GARDINER.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 25 Sept. 1756 – advert)

Wakefield, Oct. 25. Last Friday, being his Majesty's Coronation, was rung, by the Set of Ringers of this Place, 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES, (in ten Courses complete) in two Hours 48 Minutes and a Half, being the first complete Peal [of] 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES Method that has been rung in this County.

(*York Courant*, Tues. 26 Oct. 1756; report to same effect, *Leeds Intelligencer*, same date.)

On Friday last the society of *College Youths*, famous for their skill in the art of ringing, held their annual feast at the Globe tavern in Fleet-street; when the following cantata, written extempore on the occasion, by Mr. Boyce, adapted to the music of the *Early Horn*, was sung by Mr. Lowe, with the general applause which always accompanies his merit.

RECITATIVE

Now blushing morning paints the eastern skies,
And nature wakes, reviv'd to life and joy;
With new-born rising beauties the sight is charm'd,
Fresh verdure decks the grove, fresh flowers the vale;
Earth smiles to Heav'n, and Heav'n re-smiles to earth.
But hark! what magic sounds ring o'er the plain!
The merry bells strike up a jocund peal,
And nature's warblers swell their throat no more.
Change, change, ye Gods, my senses all to hearing!
Ye *Blackwells* all, ye *Turners* of the age,
When you the *sally* gently touch, the sounds
Delight and harmonize our thoughts; and hence
New pow'r invigours us, the mind's at ease,
And exercise leads on to calm content.

AIR.

The Gods can tell
The sweet-ton'd bell
With pleasure fills the skies;
And *Lester's* art
Shall glad the Heart,
When other musick dies.
The *College Youths*, so fam'd
For matchless skill,
Superior still,
All are by the world proclaim'd.

(*Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser*, Wed. 10 Nov. 1756; also *Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 6 Nov. 1756, with the introduction as far as 'Lowe'...)

On WEDNESDAY last was rung at East-Dereham in Norfolk, by Eight of their own Company, the Grand Peal of Eight Bells, a compleat 5040 of Bob-Major, without a Bell out of Course, in the Space of Three Hours and Twenty Minutes. The Persons Names and the Bells they rung are as follows, viz.

James Philo, - Treble John Ruddock, - 5th.
Daniel Harrington, - 2d James Moore, - 6th.
William Woodrow, - 3d John Payne - 7th.
James Woodrow, - 4th William Secker, - Tenor.

The Bobs were called by William Woodrow above mention'd.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 13 Nov. 1756)

DISS, November 29, 1756.

THIS Day was rung by a Society of Ringers belonging to the said Town, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob-Major, in three Hours and one Minute. The Persons Names and the Bells they rung are as follows, Viz.

John Ayton - Treble Andrew Ward, jun. - 5
Robert Rudd - - - - 2 William Nurse - - 6
John Allen - - - - 3 Rob. Eaton call'd the Bobs, 7
Stephen Clarke - - 4 Benjamin Kerry - Tenor.

N.B. This is the first compleat 5040 that ever was rung in this Steeple. Two of the abovemention'd Persons have not practis'd on eight Bells, above one Year.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 4 Dec. 1756; also *Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 11 Dec. 1756, starting 'At DISS, Nov. 29, 1757 [sic]...')

KENNINGHALL, December 4th, 1756..

THIS Day was rung by a Society of Ringers belonging to the said Town, a compleat Peal of 5040 Bob-Major, in two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes, and not one Bell out of Course during the Whole. The Persons Names and the Bells they rung are as follows, viz.

Anthony Davy, Sen. Treble	John Dove, - 5th
Robert Eaton, - 2d	Thomas Hews, - 6th
George Drake, - 3d	Anthony Davy, Jun. - 7th
John Palmer, - 4th	Matthew Coleby, Tenor.

N.B. This is the first compleat 5040 that ever was rung in this Steeple. The Bobs were call'd by Robert Eaton, aforesaid.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 11 Dec. 1756)

This is to inform all Gentlemen RINGERS,

THat there will be given Gratis SIX PAIR of Gloves, to be Rung for, at JOHN WEST's, at the QUEEN's HEAD in St. OSYTH, Essex, on the 27th of this Instant December, by any three Companies of Ringers, (our own Ringers excluded.) They are desired to meet and enter there by 12 o'Clock the same Day, or before. The second-best Company are to have Favours also Gratis.- Every Man to pay 1s. for his Dinner, and have 6d. out of it in Liquor.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 18 Dec. 1756)

Middlewich. Dec. 21. On the Arrival of the News of the Birth of a Son and Heir to Sir Peter Lester, Bart. the same was observed here by all Sorts of People in a remarkable Manner, vieing [*sic*] with one another in shewing their Sentiments of Joy, on the important Occasion, with Bells ringing successively for three Days.

(*Schofield's Middlewich Journal*, Tues. 21 Dec. 1756)

Sunday last, being the Birth-Day of John Spencer, Esq; of Althorpe, several of that Truly Honourable Gentlemen's Tradesmen met in the Evening at the George Inn in this Town to celebrate the same, when they caus'd the Bells of All-Saints Church to ring on the Occasion, and concluded their Meeting with great Decency.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 27 Dec. 1756)

On Friday last (being the last Day of the Old Year) was perform'd, at East-Haddon, in this County, by a Society of old Ringers, each Man upwards of 50 Years of Age, 5040 Changes, which takes up 42 several Peals of five Bells; and compleated in three Hours and ten Minutes.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 3 Jan. 1757)

1757

We hear from Burford in this County, that on Friday the 21st Instant, John Osman, Isaac Coburn, Stephen Palmer, William Beechy, William Wickens, Thomas Roaf, Simon Jeffs, and Thomas May, rung the whole Peal of Grandsire Triples, five thousand and forty Changes in three Hours and eighteen Minutes; a Thing never before performed in that Town.
(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 29 Jan. 1757)

We are informed that a few Days since the Leeds Youths rung a musical Peal of 6720 Quadruple and Tripple Changes, it being a new Composition, consisting Part Oxford Tripples [*sic*], and Part College Pleasure, called Morning Pleasure, in four Hours and twenty-one Minutes, altho' a very hard Peal and never rung before; and that the said Youths intend to go to Wrotham the 5th Day of March next, in order to ring Part of the same Peal, and several more of different Work.
(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 16 Feb./Sat. 19 Feb. 1757)

Tuesday last being Shrove-Tuesday was rung at St. Peter's Church in this Town, by Wakefield Ringers, Grandsire Triples, in ten courses complete, consisting of 5040 Changes, in two Hours and fifty-five Minutes.
(*Leeds Intelligencer*, Tues., 1 March 1757; similar report in the *York Courant* of the same date, starting 'Last Week was rung...')

Notice is hereby GIVEN,

THAT THURSDAY the 10th Inst. is the Day appointed to open the Peal of Six BELLS, at Caston near Watton in Norfolk, the five biggest Bells were formerly at West-Harling, the Treble to the Six, is entire New cast by JOSEPH MALLOWS Bell Founder, at East-Dereham in the said County, by whom the whole Peal is well hung and compleated. A Dinner will be provided at the Red Lion, where all Gentlemen, Ringers, and others, that will oblige us with their Company, shall meet with a hearty Welcome,

From their Humble Servant,
ROGER TALLBOT.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 5 March 1757)

On Tuesday last was rung by the Society of College Youths, at St. Mary Overy's, a compleat Peal of 5280 Maximus, or Twelve in; and was performed by twelve men only, in four Hours and twenty-five Minutes; the Tenor in this Peal is near 52 C. Wt. and was rung by a Person little more than ten stone.
(*London Evening Post*, Thurs. 21 April – Sat. 23 April 1757)

On Saturday last, the 30th of April, the WITNEY SOCIETY, in this County, rung a complete Peal of *Grandsire Trebles*, which is 5040 Changes, in three Hours and ten Minutes; a Performance at least equal to any Thing of its Kind.
(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 7 May 1757)

WHEREAS the stated Meetings of the Members of the Brotherly Society of Ringers and others established in Dover, have not lately been punctually observed, owing to some Misconduct, which is now settled and put right; and therefore the present Officers of the said Society take this Method of informing the Members thereof; and they are desired to attend at the next Meeting, being the last Monday in this Month, as usual, at the Saracen's-Head in Dover aforesaid, in order to pay their last Quarter's Alloqance; and that in Default of such Payment, such Member or Members will b excluded the said Society, according to the Tenor of their Articles.

(*Kentish Post*, Wed. 4 May/Sat. 7 May 1757 - advert; also same paper, Sat. 7 May/Wed. 11 May 1757.)

To be RUNG for, on Tuesday the 26th of July,
at Hurst in the County of Berks,

SIX good HATS, and a Hat for the Umpire, for any Set of Ringers that shall ring the best round Peal. Each Set to bring their Umpire along with them; and each Ringer to pay One Shilling for his Dinner, which will be on the Table at Two o'Clock, and to begin Ringing at Four. Given by Mr. Thomas Egleton, at the Bowling-Green House in Hurst aforesaid.
(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 23 May 1757 - advert)

Last Wednesday James Grint near 70 Years of Age, a Carpenter of Blofield, hung himself in Blofield Church, with one of the Bell Ropes.
(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 20 Aug. 1757 – per David Cubitt)

We hear from Kirtleton in Oxfordshire, that on Sunday Sen'night there was rung in that Church, by the Witney Society of Gentlemen Ringers, the finest Peal of Cinques that was ever performed in that County. After the Peal was finished, the Society adjourn'd to the Oxford Arms, to partake of an elegant Entertainment, which, by their own Order had been prepared for them.
(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 3 Sept. 1757)

NORFOLK. Sept. 26 1757.

THIS is to give NOTICE to Gentlemen, Ringers, and Others, That on Wednesday the Fifth Day of October next, will be a Pale of Six Bells open'd at Old Buckenham in Norfolk completed by Mr. John Dove of Garboldisham; and Mr. Thomas Jolly, at the White-Hors on Church-Green, will give a Dinner Gratis to all Gentlemen Ringers, and they shall be sure of good Liquors, and an hearty Welcome, from their humble Servant,

Thomas Jolly.

(*Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 1 Oct. 1757 – advert, per David Cubitt)

Sorting out Thomas Wroth's affairs

Notice is hereby given,

THAT on Tuesday the first Day of November, 1757, a Publick Survey will be held at the Green Dragon in Wellington, in the County of Somerset, for Sale of the Fee Simple and Inheritance of All that new-built Brick Tenement, situate in the Middle of the Town and Borough of Wellington aforesaid, commonly called or known by the name of the CROWN: Together with an Orchard, Garden and one Acre of Land, thereunto belonging, heretofore in the Possession of Thomas Wroth, Bell-founder, deceased; but now lett to four good Tenants, who are willing to continue therein.

NOTE. The above Premises were heretofore an INN, and at a very small Expence capable of being made the best in the Town.

For further Particulars enquire of Mr. John Randall, Grocer, in Honiton, Devon; Mr. Joslin Browne, Attorney at Law at Wrangway, near Wellington; or Mr William Kerby, Grocer, in Wellington aforesaid, who will shew the Premises.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 17 Oct. 1757 - advert)

WHEREAS the Affairs relating to Thomas Wroth, late of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, Bell-founder, are about to be settled, and his Estate and Effects are now sold, for the Payment and Discharge of his Debts, and the Surplus remaining being to be divided amongst the Widow and Children of the said Thomas Wroth; This is therefore to give Notice, That if any person or persons have any Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the said Thomas Wroth, they are desired to give in a particular thereof to Mr. John Randale, of Honiton, Grocer, his Administrator, on or before the 25th of December next.

(*Sherborne Mercury*, Mons 21 & 28 Nov. and 12 Dec. 1757 - advert)

At NORTH-ELMHAM in NORFOLK,

A Peal of Eight Bells, (Tenor Twenty Hundred, being cast and compleated by JOSEPH MALLOWS, of East-Dearham in the said County, Bell-Founder,) will be open'd upon Monday Nov. 7th next, by a select Set of Ringers from Norwich; good Ordinaries at One, at the King's-Head, Cherry-Tree, George, and Maid's-Head, in the said Parish.

By { John Crow.
{ Matteu Howlett.
{ Thomas Sizer.
{ James Davidson.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sats. 29 Oct. and 5 Nov. 1757)

We hear from Bampton in the County of Oxford, that on Thursday last a compleat Peal of six Bells was rung at that Place in three Hours and two Minutes, by six young Men of Bampton, viz. the Triple [*sic*] by Mr. William Townsend; 2d by Mr. William Roberts; 3d by Mr. John Skinner; 4th by Mr. William Touke; 5th by Mr. William Hill; and the Tenor by Mr. Thomson Hazle, which is supposed to weigh 36 Hundred. This is the first Time that Peal was ever rung at Bampton.

(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 31 Dec. 1757)

Northampton, Dec. 31.

On Monday the 19th Instant, being the Birth-Day of John Spencer, Esq: of Althorpe, near this Town, many of the Tradesmen of that Gentlemen met at the George Inn in this Town to celebrate the same, who caused the Bells at All-Saints Church to ring on the Occasion.

(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 2 Jan. 1758)

1758

ON Monday the Second of this Inst. was Rung at North-Elmham in Norfolk, by a Company of Ringers from East-Dereham in the same County: A compleat Peal of 5040 Bob-major, in three Hours and fifteen Minutes, without a Bell out of Course, by the following Persons,

James Philo, Treble.	‡	John Ruddock, Fifth.
Tho. Horseley, Second.	‡	James Moon, Sixth.
Wm. Woodrow, Third.	‡	John Payne, Seventh.
James Woodrow, Fourth.	‡	Daniel Herrington, Tenor.

William Woodrow, call'd the Peal.

N.B. This is the first Time the above Peal was Rung to a 5040, and the above Company have for some Time expected the same, from that learned and opinionated Company at Fak-h-m.
(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 7 Jan. 1758)

On Friday last was rung at the Cathedral by the Society of Ringers of this City, with eight Bells, a Peal of Tripples, call'd York's Delight, in ten courses, consisting of 5040 complete Changes, in three Hours, the Tenor weighing 30C. Weight, by the following Persons. viz. Richard Jackson 1st, Jacob Bussy 2d, Thomas Walker 3d, Cornelius Smith, 4th. John Kilham 5th, Thomas Mason 6th, John Douglas 7th, Christopher Severs and Richard Beeforth 8th.
(*York Courant*, [Tues. 10] Jan. 1758; quoted in the *Ringling World*, 3 Oct. 1986, p. 867, which says 'Friday last' was January 6th)

DEAD.

...

On the 31st of December last died at Kettering, in the County of Northampton, Mr. Thomas Eayre, of that Place, Bell-founder, in the 66th Year of his Age.
(*Whitehall Evening Post, Or, London Intelligencer*, Sat. 14 Jan. - Tues. 17 Jan. 1758; short report in *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Fri. 13 Jan. - Mon. 16 Jan. 1758)

ON Monday last was rung at North-Elmham, in the County of Norfolk, a compleat 5040 Court Bobs, (eight in) in three Hours and ten Minutes, by a young Company from Norwich; being the first Time that this Peal was ever rung in England (Norwich excepted) by we whose Names are hereunder written.

John Chamberlain, Treble,	Joshua Maultby, - - 5
and called the Bobs.	James Vines, - - - 6
John Keepus, - - - - 2	William Drewry, - - 7
John Dixon, - - - - 3	John Reed, - - Tenor.
Thomas Barton, - - - 4	

N.B. This Peal was lately cast and compleated by JOSEPH MALLOWS, of East-Dereham.
(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 21 Jan. 1758)

Northampton, Jan. 28.

The Birth-Day of that *incomparable* Monarch the King of Prussia (who *then* compleated the forty-sixth Year of his Age) was observed here on Tuesday last with many Demonstrations of the Publick Regard. - The Morning was ushered in by Ringing of Bells at all the *four* Churches, which continued almost the whole Day; Collections being made for the Ringers, and everyone cheerfully contributing to them on so laudable an Occasion.
(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 30 Jan. 1758)

To the Printer of the BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE.

THE following Lines were occasioned by a Member of the Corporation of B---y's refusing to pay the Ringers on the King of Prussia's Birth-Day.

For the good King of Prussia, we all ought to pray;
And the least we could do, was to keep his Birth-Day:
And B---y, I'm certain, most Places excels,
In Burning of Candles, and Ringing of Bells.
They acted like People of Spirit and Sense;
But nothing at all at the Chambers Expence!
And all through the S---d, a son of H---r;
And if he was h---'d up, it would be no great Matter.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Monday 30 Jan. 1758 – per Chris Pickford)

On Monday last was rang at St. Saviour's, Southwark, by the Society of Old London Youths, a complete peal of Bob Maximus, containing 6336 changes, which was completed in five hours and 12 minutes, being the greatest number of changes ever rang on 12 bells, and the same was completed the first trial by 12 men only.

(*Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Wed. 12 April - Fri. 14 April 1758; also *Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 15 April 1758, the latter per Gareth Davies.)

On Tuesday last was rung at Croydon in Surry, by the Society of Croydon youths, the compleat peal of Union Triples, containing 5040 changes, which was completed in three hours and fifteen minutes, being the first time that peal ever was rang there.

(*Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Wed. 26 April – Fri. 28 April 1758; the peal would probably have been rung on 18 April 1758 as both the terms 'Wednesday' and 'Wednesday last' were used in the same column, and were clearly different, hence the use of the word 'last' indicates the previous week.)

An opening at Wells

COUNTRY NEWS.

.....

SHERBORNE, May 5. We hear that on Friday and Saturday (the 28th and 29th of April) a Company of Ringers from Bristol, opened the new Set of Bells, (a Peal of Eight) at the Cathedral Church of Wells cast by the famous Mr. Rudhall of Gloucester. Very good Judges are of Opinion there is not a better Ring (of Eight) in the Kingdom. They say the Wells Ringers rung them best when at SET; but that the Bristol Ringers shewed their Skill most, by ringing them at RISING and FALLING. (*Sherborne Mercury*, Mon. 8 May 1758)

LOCAL NEWS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

No. 6.

.....

WELLS, May 5.—We hear that on Friday and Saturday (the 28th and 29th of April), a Company of [*sic*] Ringers from Bristol opened a new Set of Bells (a peal of Eight), at the Cathedral Church of Wells, cast by the famous Mr. Ruddle of Gloucester. Very good judges are of opinion there is not a better Ring (of eight) in the Kingdom. They say the Wells Ringers ring them best when at Set; but that the Bristol Ringers showed their skill most by ringing them best at Rising and Falling. (*Sherborne Mercury*, Tues. 3 Aug. 1858; although Abel Rudhall received a payment of £45 1s 6d. in 1757, this must have been a part payment, with the work being completed in 1758. The Chapter accounts record that the Bristol ringers were paid £8 8s.)

Sheffield, June 5. On Monday Morning the 29th of May, Holt's Tripples, containing 5040 Changes, in ten Courses, was performed by our Sheffield Ringers, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes. The Weight of the Tenor is Thirty-two Hundred and a Half; and the above-mention'd Changes were rung by the following Persons, viz.

<i>Peter Cut.</i>	}	{	<i>Joseph Tricket.</i>
<i>Jonathan Wild.</i>	}	{	<i>Richard Owen.</i>
<i>Robert Marshal.</i>	}	{	<i>John Owen.</i>
<i>William Crouder.</i>	}	{	<i>John Hobson.</i>

(*Derby Mercury*, Fri. 2 June - Fri. 9 June 1758)

THOMAS BAYLEY, of Bridgwater in the County of Somerset, Brazier, takes this Opportunity of informing his Friends and the Publick, That he is disengaged from the Partnership and Company in Bridgwater, in which he has been for some Years past concerned; and now carries on the business of a Brazier and Bell-Founder upon his own Account on the Corn-hill in the same Town; where every Persons that will be pleased to favour him with their Orders, may depend on being served, on the most reasonable Terms, by,

June 1, Their most obedient humble Servant,
1748. T. BAYLEY.

(Advert in *London Evening Post*, Sat. 1 July - Tues. 4 July 1758)

Extract of a Letter from Bath, July 10.

“The Peal of Eight Bells, cast by Mr. Rudhall, of Gloucester, for the Parish of St. Michael in this City, being brought to Church last Tuesday, the Churchwardens and others of the Parish gave several gallons of Rum and Brandy to make as much Punch as would fill the Treble, for the Entertainment of the Workmen and a great Number of the Parishioners, &c. assembled on the Occasion.”

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues., 18 July 1758; original report – quoted *verbatim* above - in *Boddeley's Bath Journal*, Mon. 10 July 1758)

On Tuesday last a Peal of ten Bells, cast by Mr. Lister [*sic*] of Whitechapel, London, for St. Martin's Church in this Town, were rung for the first Time, which gave the highest Satisfaction, and are thought not to be inferior to any Bells in England.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 24 July 1758)

NOTICE is hereby given,

THAT on Friday the 4th Day of August, is the Day appointed to open the Peal of Six Bells at BROOK, near NORWICH; lately cast, hung, and compleated by Joseph Mallows, of East-Dearham, in the County of Norfolk, Bellfounder.

N.B. A Dinner will be provided at the King's Head, at One o'Clock; where all Gentlemen, Ringers, and others that will oblige us with their good Company shall meet with a hearty Welcome, from their humble Servant,

JOSEPH PICKERILL.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 29 July 1758)

To be LETT immediately,

A HOUSE just out of Bearstreet-Gates, with compleat Foundery for a Bell-Founder, late in the Occupation of Thomas Gardener, Bell-Founder.

There is a Quantity of Metal, and some useful Tools, to be disposed of.

N.B. There is not one of the Trade in this City.

Enquire of the PRINTER of this PAPER.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sats. 2 and 9 Sept. 1758)

It is said that a fine Peal of tuneable Bells, taken from the French at Cherbourg, are order'd to be sent to Woolwich, and there hung.

(*Whitehall Evening Pos, Or, London Intelligencer*, Tues. 5 Sept. - Thurs. 7 Sept. 1758)

Yesterday morning a fire broke out at Mr. Janeway's [sic], a Bell-founder at Dick's Shore, Limehouse, which greatly alarmed the neighbourhood, but was happily soon extinguished.
(*Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Wed. 13 Sept. - Fri. 15 Sept. 1758)

Birmingham, October 9, 1758.

Notice is hereby given,

THAT the Anniversary Feast of the Gentlemen Ringers, will be held at Mr. Richard Sambrook's, at the Chain, in Bull-Street, on Monday the 16th Instant; where the Members are desired to attend.

WILLIAM HARRIS, Esq; Steward.

JOHN WEBB, Deputy.

N. B. Dinner will be on the Table precisely at One.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 9 Oct. 1758 – advert)

To be LETT immediately, in NORWICH.

A House just out of BEAR-STREET GATES, with a compleat FOUNDRY for a Bell-Founder, late in the Occupation of Thomas Gardener, Bell-Founder. There is a Quantity of Metal, and some useful Tools, to be disposed of.

N. B. There is not one of the Trade in this City.

Enquire of Mr. Richard Ward, Brasier, in Norwich.

(*Ipswich Journal*, Sat. 21 Oct. 1758 – per Chris Pickford)

Yesterday being the Anniversary Meeting of the ancient Society of Ringers, in the Parish of St. Stephen, Mr. Wm. Pynn, on resigning his Office of Master to the said Society, generously gave Five Guineas, to be paid to the Treasurer of the Bristol-Infirmiry.

(*Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, Sat. 18 Nov. 1758)

Yesterday was rung at St. Martin's, a compleat Peal of 5040 Cators, in three Hours and twenty-two Minutes, being the first that was ever performed there.

The ten Bells of Lichfield Cathedral were rung for the first Time on his Majesty's Birth Day, and are thought to be as good as most in England.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 20 Nov. 1758; two news items one below the other. The King's birthday was on November 10th.)

1759

Last Tuesday was rung, by the Society of Gentlemen-Ringers at All Saints, in this City, a compleat Peal of Five Thousand Four Hundred CATORS, in Three Hours and about Forty Five Minutes.

(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 11 Jan. 1759; also *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 13 Jan. 1759, beginning 'They write from Worcester, that on Tuesday last...')

On Tuesday last was rung, by the Society of Gentlemen Ringers, at All Saints, in the City of Worcester, a complete Peal of 5400 Cators in Three Hours 45 Minutes and 45 Seconds.

(*Gloucester Journal*, Tues., 16 Jan. 1759; also *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 15 Jan. 1759, starting 'On Tuesday the 9th Instant was rung...')

NOTICE is hereby given,

That on Monday the 19th of this Instant, is the Day appointed to open a Peal of Five BELLS at Fleet, near Holbeach in Lincolnshire, now lately cast, hung, and compleated by Joseph Mallows, Bellfounder, from East Dereham, in the County of Norfolk.

A Dinner will be provided at the Black Bull in Fleet aforesaid; where all Gentlemen Ringers, and others, that will oblige us with their good Company, shall receive a hearty Welcome from

Their humble Servant,

EDWARD SCALES.

(Advert in *Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 17 March 1759)

This is to give Notice to all that love the Diversion of Ringing,

THAT there will be rung for at RINGLAND, on Easter-Tuesday, five Pair of Gloves, at Eighteen Pence a Pair, on five Bells, by any Company, the best of three Peals, and each Company to ring what Peals they please; to ring off at Two o'Clock. There will be proper Judges provided, and no Company to have a Judge of their own. Where all Gentlemen shall meet with a hearty Welcome, from their humble Servant,

CHARLES HARDY.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 14 April 1759)

RINGING and SINGING

TO be RUNG for, on WHIT-MONDAY,
at WATLINGTON in the County of Oxford,
A HAT of a GUINEA Value,

or a Guinea in Cash, which the winning Sett shall like best; not less than Four Setts to be admitted to ring for the Whole: If but two Setts appear, to have Half the Value of the Prize.—Each to bring their Umpire; and begin Ringing at Three o'Clock. Not less than Twenty Minutes each Peal.

At the same Place, on WHIT TUESDAY, will be Sung for, a HAT of HALF a GUINEA Value, or Half a Guinea in Money, as the winning Company shall like best. Each Company to Sing two Two-part Songs, and one Catch; not less than three Companies will be admitted, and each Company to bring their Umpire: To begin Singing at Three o'Clock.—Dinner at the Oxford Arms at One o'Clock; where all Performers are required to dine.

(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 12 May 1759 - advert)

NORTH ELMHAM in NORFOLK, May 23, 1759.

On Monday June the 11th, will be given Gratis, Eight Pair of Gloves of 2s. 6d. each Pair to be RUNG for, the best of two different Peals, each Peal not less than a Thousand, nor less than two Companies to Ring, which Ringing shall be determined by two Judges who shall be chosen by the Companies that Ring, each Judge to have a pair of Gloves of the same Value: Where all Gentlemen and Others shall meet with a Glass of good Liquor and a hearty Welcome, *From their humble Servant,*
THOMAS SIZER.

N.B. There will be a very good Ordinary ready exactly at One o'Clock.
(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 26 May 1759)

A few Days ago five Men belonging to Perton, in Hertfordshire, went to Shittlington in Bedfordshire, and rang a Peal, whose Ages together amounted to 383 Years; but what is remarkable, the same five Men rang together at the same Place when their Ages amounted but to 80 Years.
(*Northampton Mercury*, Mon. 4 June 1759; also *Cambridge Journal*, Sat. 9 June 1759, the latter per Gareth Davies.)

Yesterday Mr. Frankling, the famous Bell-ringer, well known for his amazing Exhibitions at Covent Garden, the Hay-Market, &c. arrived at this Place. His Performances so far surpass Belief, that we must recommend him to the Curious as one of the most extraordinary Artists of the Age.
(*Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 18 Aug. 1759)

Addingham in Craven, Sept. 8. This Day was finish'd here, by Mr. James Harrison of Barrow in Lincolnshire, the hanging of Six new Bells, from Lester and Pack, Bell-Founders in Whitechapel, London; which are allow'd, by Judges, to be extremely musical. The next Day was rung upon them, by a Set of Ringers from Otley, several Peals, viz. Oxford Treble Bob, College Pleasure, College Treble Bob, and Crown Bob, the whole consisting of 2520 Changes, performed in one Hour and 31 Minutes, to the great Pleasure and Satisfaction of a numerous Concourse of People from different Parts, assembled upon this Occasion.
(*Leeds Intelligencer*, Tues. 18 Sept. 1759)

*Given Gratis by Thomas Eggleton,
To be RUNG for at Hurst-Church, in the County of Berks.
On Monday the 15th of October next,*

SIX HATS of Seven Shillings each, for any Set of Ringers that shall ring the best Round Peal: Each Set of Ringers to bring their Umpire with them; and each Ringer to pay One Shilling for his Dinner, which will be on the Table at One o'Clock, and to begin ringing at Three. And for farther [*sic*] Encouragement for young Ringers there will be a Dozen pair of good Gloves for the second and third Peals.
(*Oxford Gazette: and Reading Mercury*, Mon. 24 Sept. 1759- advert.)

Tuesday se'nnight, while the Great Bell at Tong was ringing, being Wake-Time, by the breaking of the Gudgeon at the Chancel End, the Bell fell down, and took with it great Part of the Loft that was under it. Many Persons were in the Church, none of whom were hurt by the Bell itself, which cut very deep into the Floor; but by the falling of the Loft three Persons were greatly maim'd, one of whom had a Leg broke, and some others much bruised.
(*Worcester Journal*, Thurs. 27 Sept. 1759; also *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 24 Sept. 1759; *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Sat. 29 Sept., 1759, starting 'They write from Birmingham, that on Tuesday, while...'; *Northampton Mercury* and *Sherborne Mercury*, both Mon. 1 Oct. 1759, and both headed 'Birmingham, Sept 24. On Tuesday last. ...')

NOTICE is hereby Given,

THAT on MONDAY October the 8th, is the Day appointed to open the Peal of Five Bells, at HETHERSET, near Norwich; now lately cast and completed by JOSEPH MALLOWS, Bell-Founder, in East-Dereham, in Norfolk.

N.B. Dinner will be provided at the QUEENS HEAD, at Two o'Clock, where Gentlemen, Ringers, and others, that will oblige with their good Company shall meet with a hearty welcome, from their Humble Servant,

EDWARD BALL.

(Advert in *Norwich Mercury*, Sat. 29 Sept. 1759)

Yesterday on receiving the first News of the Taking of Quebec, the bells of both our Churches were set to ringing, in the Evening were Bonfires and Illuminations of Windows, and this Day the Bells are also ringing on the Occasion.

(*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, Mon. 20 Oct. 1759)

[Last Monday Se'nnight] as they were ringing in full Peal, at St. Mary-Redcliff Church, the large or Tenor Bell fell from its Hanging, but as it providentially happened to fall on the main Beam of the Tower it did no Damage. The Bell is suppos'd to weight Fifty-two Hundred Weight.

(*Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, Sat. 17 Nov. 1759; also *Kentish Post*, 24 Nov. 1759, beginning: 'Bristol, Nov. 17. Some days ago...')

Last Sunday Morning we receiv'd by the Post, the agreeable News of the destruction of great part of the Brest Fleet, by the brave Admiral Hawke; on which the Bells were immediately rung at all our Churches, and continu'd during the Intervals of Divine Service; but the further Rejoicings were suspended till next Day.

On Monday Morning the Bells were rung again, and continu'd ringing most part of the Day....
(*Derby Mercury*, Fri. 30 Nov. - 7 Dec. 1759)