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THE LADIES' GUILD JUBILEE.

To-morrow the Ladies' Guild celebrates its silver jubilee, and the good wishes and congratulations of the Exercise will go out to the members upon this auspicious event. When the ladies set up their organisation in 1912 there were doubts among many ringers, not so much whether the numbers justified the action, as whether they could make their operations effective, in view of the fact that they were few and far between. In those days ladies had only just begun to penetrate into the belfry, and they were, it was thought, already catered for in the existing territorial and diocesan associations. But the ladies had courage as well as faith, and they have proved that their optimism was justified. In these twenty-five years their numbers have grown nearly tenfold, and they have made for themselves an established place in the organisation of the Exercise.

It may be as well to recall the declared object of the Guild when it was founded, for it is an indication of the serious purpose which the ladies set before themselves: 'To encourage ringing among church workers as a spiritual, mental and physical exercise; to assist, when and where necessary, their brethren in the art of ringing; and to bring into a closer relationship all women and girl ringers in the kingdom.' Despite the handicap of a comparatively sparse membership spread over the whole country, the link formed by the Guild has certainly drawn the ladies into closer association and enabled them to co-operate as a body with other organisations. No one can deny the valuable services which ladies have rendered in many towers, not only in the war period but since, and those—and there are still a few—who are inclined to resent the presence of ladies in the belfry, are probably those who have not had the difficulty of keeping the bells going for service through depletion of man power. There are cases where the introduction of ladies has saved bands from virtual extinction and, even if the recruiting of this new material has not been due to the Guild, its existence must be an influence with many ladies when they contemplate entering the art. That there is a Ladies' Guild is one proof that bellringing is an occupation which they can becomingly take up.

The continual growth of the Guild is evidence of its vitality, but no organisation of this kind can flourish without a great deal of unselfish labour on the part of the enthusiasts. Ever since the Guild was founded, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher has been the hon. secretary. Hers was the leading spirit in its formation; and she has served it not only with loyalty, but with skill and success throughout the twenty-five years. Others, in varying capacities and

(Continued on page 694.)

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for shorter periods, have rendered service which has been
invaluable to the Guild, but Mrs. Fletcher has carried the
burden of the chief executive office throughout the whole
of its life, a record for which the members, we are certain,
are deeply grateful. Hers has not at all times been a
thankful task, for the handling of such a scattered team
is not always an enviable one, but the main success that
has been achieved has been due to her perspicacity and
guidance. Ringers to-day will unite in wishing the
Ladies' Guild continued prosperity.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

GEORGE E. FEARN Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS 7
HENRY H. FEARN 2	THOMAS H. REEVES 8
ALBERT WALKER 3	FRANK E. PERVIN 9
FRANK E. HAYNES 4	A. PADDON SMITH 10
WILLIAM C. DOWDING 5	ALBERT E. NORMAN 11
SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY 6	PERCY N. G. RAINEY Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

JOHN GRUNDY Treble	† J. FREDERICK MILNER 6
JOHN HOLMAN 2	§ FREDERICK H. DEXTER 7
* SIDNEY CHERNEY 3	* ALBO HUTCHINSON 8
† FRED W. HILL 4	HARRY BROUGHTON 9
† REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 5	† COLIN HARRISON Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYR. Conducted by COLIN HARRISON.

* First peal of Royal. † First peal of New Cambridge. ‡ 200th
peal for Midland Counties Association. § 200th peal of Surprise.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WICKEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

HARRY G. RIDGWAY Treble	RALPH FODDY 5
A. NUNNELLY WOOD 2	WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD 6
* HERBERT C. EDWARDS 3	ERNEST C. LAMBERT 7
THOMAS E. ROBERTS 4	ALBERT J. GREEN Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. J. GREEN.

* First peal in the method.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb.

ARTHUR W. HOODLESS Treble	HAROLD MARCON 5
GEORGE E. FEARN 2	* GEORGE DOBES 6
CHARLES MC GUINNESS 3	ERNEST BRITAIN 7
WALTER GODDARD 4	JACK BRAY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal in the method.

ALSAGER, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At Christ Church.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

BRYAN FERNEYHOUGH... ..Treble	GEORGE A. PACKER 5
RICHARD D. LANGFORD 2	JOHN BRASSINGTON 6
EDWARD FERNEYHOUGH 3	DOUGLAS R. WHALLEY 7
HARRY F. HOLDING 4	ROBERT MOSELEYTenor

Conducted by RICHARD D. LANGFORD.

Rung on the eve of harvest festival. First peal in the method as conductor.

LECKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(CHILTERNHAM BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND... ..Treble	THOMAS BOREHAM 5
MARK HICKS 2	GEORGE H. WALTERS 6
WILLIAM OAKY 3	JOHN F. BALLINGER 7
CHARLES W. MARTIN 4	REUBEN HEMMINGTenor

Conducted by J. F. BALLINGER.

* First peal of Triples. A birthday compliment to W. Townsend and in honour of the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williams, of Newent.

SOWTON, DEVONSHIRE.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. in G.

CHARLES R. LILLEYTreble	THOMAS G. BARTLETT 5
WILLIAM H. HOWE 2	*WILLIAM WEEKS 6
ALFRED G. BRITS 3	*ARTHUR TRUMAN 7
JAMES E. LILLEY 4	CLIFFORD VESSEYTenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Treble Bob and first attempt. First peal of Major on the bells.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Remigius.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb. in G.

WILLIAM E. BASONTreble	JOHN A. GODFREY 5
ROBERT G. FISHER 2	CHARLES H. MOORE 6
THOMAS E. SPEIGHT 3	HENRY TOOKE 7
PHILIP W. J. FRYER 4	WILLIAM J. CLOVERTenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by WILLIAM E. BASON.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, October 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

LESLIE C. WIGHTMANTreble	GEORGE BENNETT 5
DAVID VINCENT 2	JAMES BENNETT, JUN. 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	J. WILLIAM LAST 7
LESLIE G. BRETT 4	WILLIAM C. RUMSEYTenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by T. W. LAST.

L. C. Wightman's 400th peal.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*MRS. JAMES E. BAILEY ...Treble	HARRY HOVERD 5
JOHN WHEADON 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... .. 6
JAMES E. BAILEY 3	HARRY PARKS 7
NORMAN SUMMERHAYES 4	GEORGE J. BUTCHERTenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by GEO. J. BUTCHER

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

CLAVERTLEY, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 12, 1937, in Three Hours.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*LAURENCE W. FRANCIS ...Treble	ERNEST A. DREW 5
CHARLES H. WOODBERRY 2	CYRIL JONES 6
CYRIL CHAMBERS 3	FREDERICK J. HINTON... .. 7
JOSEPH MARSH 4	THOMAS DAVIESTenor

Conducted by CHAS. H. WOODBERRY.

* First peal. Specially arranged and rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. Gordon Clifford Goodson, a member of the local band, and Miss Rosamond Mary Swift, of Claverley, who were married at this church on September 29th.

HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, October 13, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

JAMES H. SHEPHERD... ..Treble	JOHN S. MASON 5
DANIEL T. MATKIN 2	SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY 6
*NORMAN J. GOODMAN... .. 3	WILLIAM DOWDING 7
WILLIAM SHORT... .. 4	JAMES GEORGETenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by DANIEL T. MATKIN.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob. Rung on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent to Birmingham.

HYPHE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

HIGHWOOD S. HUMPHREY ...Treble	HARRY BAKER 5
WILLIAM BIDNELL 2	THOMAS E. SONE 6
TOM SAUNDERS 3	WILLIAM WENBAN 7
RICHARD J. BIRCH 4	A. PATRICK CANNONTenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 327). Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE

HEAVITREE, EXETER.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four-and-a-Half Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

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

Tenor 26 cwt.

JOHN H. B. HESSETreble	ERNEST J. TAYLOR 5
KENNETH FORD 2	*CHRISTOPHER R. WALKER 6
FREDERICK TARGETT 3	RONALD G. BECK 7
FRANK SKIDMORE 4	JOSEPH T. DYKETenor

Composed by J. CARTER (202 C.C. Collection).

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

* 50th peal.

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BOREHAM, ESSEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 13 cwt.

GEORGE GREEN Treble	MRS. GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5
CLAUDE SNOWDEN 2	RONALD SUCKLING 6
*ARTHUR H. EVERETT ... 3	PERCY GREEN 7
GEORGE H. CROSS 4	ROBERT C. HEAZEL ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* First peal in the method.

STONE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*THOMAS C. TEMPLEMAN ... Treble	ANDREW THOMPSON 5
*HARRY HODSON 2	*ARTHUR ROWLEY 6
GEORGE A. PACKER 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY 7
CHARLES H. PAGE 4	WILLIS BUCKLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT CRAWLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

MRS. V. A. JARRETT, R.E. Treble	EDWARD A. J. ALLEN 5
DANIEL THOMAS HILL ... 2	WILLIAM J. WALKER 6
*FRANCIS J. CHEAL 3	WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT ... 7
FRANK BELSEY 4	CHARLES E. J. NORRIS ... Tenor

Conducted by WM. A. J. KNIGHT.

* First peal of Stedman. First peal as conductor.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*HAROLD TURNER Treble	BERNARD J. SADDINGTON ... 5
MATTHIAS HOBBS 2	ERNEST E. WHITMORE ... 6
ARTHUR BIGBY 3	BURLEY P. MORRIS 7
CHARLES W. BIRD 4	WILLIAM J. WHITMORE ... Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by W. J. WHITMORE.

* First peal.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM FERNLEY Treble	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 5
JAMES FERNLEY 2	JAMES A. MILNER 6
REV. FRANK BONNER ... 3	LIONEL CLOUGH 7
*JOHN J. L. GILBERT ... 4	JOHN WORTH Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who were the recipients of long service medals (for Sunday School and parochial church work) at the Cathedral, Manchester, the same day.

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ABERAVON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*TREVOR M. RODERICK ... Treble	SYDNEY D. EDWARDS 5
JOHN E. BLOXHAM 2	GEORGE POPNELL 6
EDWARD PHILLIPS 3	GEORGE TALBOT 7
ERNEST STITCH 4	GWYN I. LEWIS Tenor

Composed by J. W. LINES.

Conducted by G. I. LEWIS.

* First peal of Major and first attempt. † First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major. First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major as conductor.

BOTTESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 22½ cwt.

ERNEST BARTRAM Treble	WILLIAM E. CLARKE 5
WILLIAM G. THORPE 2	SIDNEY PROCTOR 6
*JOHN W. KIRTON 3	R. HENRY BARTRAM 7
FRANK DEWEY 4	ARTHUR W. WARD ... Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY PROCTOR.

* First peal of Stedman.

SIX BELL PEALS.

POYNTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 17 methods, viz.: (1) Ockley and Norbury Treble Bob; (2) Duke of Norfolk and College Exercise Treble Bob; (3) Old Oxford and College Bob IV. Delight; (4) Newdigate and Willesden Delight; (5) Charlwood and Wragby Delight; (6) Neasden and St. Albans Delight; (7) Chapel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb. in F sharp.

ARTHUR HIBBERT Treble	ALBERT T. BANCROFT ... 4
*REV. FRANK BONNER ... 2	†ERIC ELLISON 5
C. KENNETH LEWIS 3	JAMES A. MILNER Tenor

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal in 17 methods away from treble. † First peal in 17 methods. First peal on the bells. Forty-two changes of method.

BOSLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Viz.: 720 each of Wragby, Neasden, St. Albans, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 5 cwt. 22 lb.

MISS E. M. K. FETHERS ... Treble	ALAN BOWN 4
JOHN WORTH 2	ALBERT V. REES 5
THOMAS TAYLOR 3	JOSEPH WHITTAKER ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH WHITTAKER.

First peal as conductor and first attempt.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in ten methods: (1) Plain Bob, Double Bob and Hereward; (2) Cambridge Surprise; (3) Double Oxford; (4) Double Court; (5) St. Clement's; (6) Oxford Bob; (7) Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

ADAM DEAS Treble	WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 4
JOHN ANDERSON 2	STEPHEN THOMPSON ... 5
REGINALD H. HEWITT ... 3	WILLIAM H. BARBER ... Tenor

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

First peal in ten methods by all the band. Fiftieth peal as conductor.

HOLMER, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 11 cwt.

*PERCY H. MINTON 1 Treble	CHARLES H. TOMKINS 4
GEORGE T. COUSINS 2	ERNEST F. SALMONS 5
WILLIAM H. SYMONDS 3	*LESLIE L. QUARTERMAIN ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST F. SALMONS.

* First peal. Quarterly peal for the Hereford District of the Guild.

STAGSDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of College Exercise, Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in G.

BRIAN F. SIMS Treble	HENRY W. GAYTON 4
LEONARD WILLIAMS 2	REGINALD WEST 5
DONALD L. COCKINGS 3	PEARL INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by PEARL INSKIP.

GLASTON, RUTLAND.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In five methods, being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, 720 each of St. Clement's Bob, Single Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 7 cwt.

JOSIAH MORRIS Treble	JOHN H. BLUFF 4
ALBERT L. WARD 2	J. FREDERICK HUBBARD 5
J. GREGORY GEARY 3	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

First peal of Minor on the bells, which were augmented to six for the Coronation.

SPROUGHTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, October 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents each called differently. Tenor 10 cwt.

*STANLEY JOHNSON Treble	†SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER, P.G. 4
†RONALD W. STEWARD 2	URBAN W. WILDNEY 5
†JAMES W. JENNINGS 3	ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' ‡ First peal of Bob Minor.

WICKWAR, GLOS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 12, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

HORACE BENSON Treble	*WALTER SMITH 4
LESLIE FRANCOMBE 2	*FREDERICK ROBERTS 5
HORACE ROBINSON 3	DONALD MARSH Tenor

Conducted by DONALD MARSH.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. First peal in more than one method for all except the ringer of the 3rd.

RUSHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, October 14, 1937, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of Double Court, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

GEORGE W. HUGHES Treble	BARNABAS G. KEY 4
JAMES S. EASTWOOD 2	HOWARD HOWELL 5
RICHARD C. INGRAM 3	THOMAS J. ELTON Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS J. ELTON.

First peal in seven methods by all except the ringer of the 3rd. First peal in more than one method by the conductor.

NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ECGWIN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 extents of Plain Bob and 30 of Grandsire, with 10 different callings. Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES HEMMING Treble	WILLIAM HUGHES 4
*GEORGE BAYLIS 2	ALBERT HUGHES 5
RICHARD STEPHENS 3	*JUBAL BEASLEY Tenor

Conducted by J. HEMMING.

* First peal. Quarterly peal for the branch.

THORNHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Plain Bob and two each of Kent and Oxford. Tenor 9 cwt.

ERNEST F. POPPY Treble	*SIDNEY W. ARBON 4
ALBERT CHILVERS 2	JAMES BETTS 5
GEORGE BROWN 3	HARRY MOSS Tenor

Conducted by E. F. POPPY.

GOATHURST, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(TAUNTON DEANERY BRANCH.)

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of three extents of Oxford and four of Kent, each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

JAMES HUNT Treble	WILLIAM G. GIGG 4
ALFRED J. WYATT 2	JACK ROY 5
PERCY MERSON 3	S. GEORGE COLES Tenor

Conducted by JAMES HUNT.

First peal on the bells. The peal contained 70 bobs.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, BURNHAM, BUCKS.)

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Reverse College, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Oxford Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 11 lb. in G.

PETER A. BLAMEY Treble	CYRIL A. BURGESS 4
*MARTIN A. BLAMEY 2	GORDON W. LIMMER 5
JOHN E. TAYLOR 3	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

* First peal of Minor away from the treble. First peal in seven methods by all except the conductor, and first seven-method peal by the St. Peter's Society. Arranged and rung as a welcome home from Scotland to Col. Lionel H. Hanbury, C.M.G., V.D. (donor of the bells), and Mrs. Hanbury.

HANDBELL PEAL.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. F. J. JOHNSON,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 12 in F.

MISS KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON 1-2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over.)

STANSTED, ESSEX. — On Sunday, September 26th, for harvest festival at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: F. Tharby 1, H. Watts 2, A. Prior (Leytonstone) 3, W. Prior 4, G. Jordan 5, I. Cavill (conductor) 6, T. Jordan 7, F. Morton 8.

FOR BEGINNERS.

FROM CALL CHANGES TO HALF-PULL RINGING.

We referred in our last article to the great importance of gaining bell control before a beginner proceeds to half-pull ringing.

When there are one or two learners who are practising with a competent band, the time spent in reaching this stage ought not to be unduly long. The difficulties arise when a young band are endeavouring to teach themselves. They will need patience and regular practice and should seek any help they can get from neighbouring ringers.

When they are able to strike rounds and call changes well, they can go on to half-pull ringing, but should not attempt to do so before they can strike accurately. The better they can 'strike' the easier they will find it to ring changes, because nothing confuses a beginner more, when he is endeavouring to find his next to strike over, than two other ropes coming down together.

There will be very few readers of these notes who do not understand what 'call changes' are, but in case there are any such, we would explain that these are changes 'called' by the conductor. Usually he changes the positions of one pair of bells at a time by telling them each which bell to pull over next, and when this has been done they go on ringing in the same order until the next alteration is made.

What happens to one pair of bells at intervals in call changes happens to as many pairs as possible at every pull when 'change ringing' is done, but while in the former the ringer may have several whole pulls after one bell and thus, if he has ears, the opportunity of improving his accuracy before he is moved again, in changes he has got to find the exact position for his bell at each pull on the rope, and, in addition, instead of being told which bell to pull over, he has got to find it for himself.

Here is one way in which a young band can approach change ringing, after having learned to manage their bells successfully in call changes. Instead of advancing all at once to half-pulls, they can change with the next bell at every whole pull, trying it at first by returning, at each alternate whole pull, to the previous position. Thus suppose they are ringing rounds on six bells, they can have alternate whole pulls (that is handstroke and backstroke), in the order 2 1 4 3 6 5 and 1 2 3 4 5 6.

They can do this for a time until, at each handstroke, the change is cleanly made all round. This accomplished, they can then do the same thing by making the change at backstroke and completing the whole pull at handstroke.

This will give them experience in making the change both ways of the rope.

From this stage the next should consist of whole pull ringing while changing with the next bell opposite to the one that the previous change was made with, so that if, in the first, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 respectively change, producing 2 1 4 3 6 5, in the next 1-4 and 3-6 change producing 2 4 1 6 3 5. At the following whole pull all three pairs will change, that is 2-4, 1-6, 3-5, and following this two pairs 4-1 and 6-3. If this is continued systematically the bells will come back into rounds in twelve changes. If the beginner can work these out on paper for himself, changing three pairs and two pairs alternately, he will see what happens.

One advantage of beginning by ringing this in whole pulls is that it gives the learner more time to get his new position and pick out the next bell he has got to change with. He will learn that when he has to put an additional bell between himself and the lead he must hold up a little longer—a fraction of a second—because more bells have to strike round before his comes in; while, as he gets nearer the lead, he has to pull in a little quicker to maintain the beat, because there is one less bell to strike before his own.

In going from the lead upward he will probably have no difficulty in finding the bell he will strike after at the next change, because it is following him in this one. But coming back to lead it is not so easy to see the next bell he will strike over, because it is, in a sense, hidden by two others which are striking in between. If, however, he can see the total number of bells in front of him, in other words, see that he is pulling after five or four others (or whatever the number may be), and if he then ignores the one he is striking over and pulls in a trifle quicker to place himself over the last of the others which have been below, he will have found the bell he wants. If he has not been quite accurate at the first blow, he can further correct his position at the next before having to move again. That is the advantage of beginning by ringing these simple changes in whole pulls.

When this can be done, so that the movement is not only understood by the ringer, but the ringing itself is good, then the young band can take the first step in half-pull ringing by putting this 'method' into practice in the proper way, and changing position at both handstroke and backstroke.

It is a good thing not always to ring the same bell at these practices, but to take a different one at different times. It gets one used to making allowance in the striking for bells of different sizes. There is more 'space' required in striking a small bell over a large one than in striking a large one over a small one, assuming that they are all correctly clappered. But sometimes a bell may not be evenly clappered, and then it is that the beginner must most particularly use his ears.

PEAL NOTES.

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES.

The ring of six at Glaston, Rutland, were augmented in honour of the Coronation, and the first peal—one of Grandsire Doubles—was rung by the local company. On October 11th the first of Minor was rung on them, and the band wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. King for their hospitality afterwards.

The bells at Glaston are rung from the floor of the church and the ringers stand between the nave and chancel (as is also the case at Somerby, Leicestershire). Glaston tower, with its short stone spire, is very quaint and originally had a small saucer bell for the clock hanging from the south light of the spire outside. This bell now adorns the Rector's lawn, reversed as a flower pot! The clock was dated 1739. Eyre, of Kettering, made bells of this shape, and this is, therefore, also the probable date of the bell. It was too dark after the peal for the conductor (Mr. Ernest Morris) to note any inscription.

The peal at St. Mary's, Nottingham, recorded in our last issue, was Mr. Ronald Salter's first peal of Stedman and a birthday compliment to his mother, Mrs. F. A. Salter, and to Mr. George E. Foster. It was also Mr. F. A. Salter's 150th peal and they all received the hearty congratulations of the band.

Kent Treble Bob Maximus has now been added to the methods rung on the new twelve at Croydon, and in it six of the local men rang their first peal of Maximus. The peal, recorded last week, was a welcome to the new Vicar, who succeeds the Bishop of Lichfield in the incumbency. Croydon, surrounded by the Diocese of Southwark, is an isolated part of the Diocese of Canterbury.

Police-Supt. F. R. Williams, of Manchester, president of the National Guild of Police Ringers, took part on September 29th in a peal of Grandsire Doubles at Culworth, Northants, rung as a farewell to the Rev. Canon Hill, for 39 years Rector of the parish. It was the first peal on the five bells and the first peal by three of the band. The details appeared in our last issue.

The bells of Poynton, Cheshire, were installed in 1887, but it was not until Saturday, October 9th, that the first peal was rung on them. They have recently been rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co. The peal was Spliced Treble Bob Minor in 17 methods.

The Rev. Frank Bonner took part in the peal. On the preceding Saturday he preached to the Stockport Branch of the Guild, and his homely address consisted of an analogy between a peal and life.

The first peal on the bells at Wickwar, Glos., was rung on Oct. 12th, in three methods of Minor. For five of the six ringers it was the first peal in more than one method, while two of the band rang their first.

On the occasion of the visit of the Duke of Kent to Birmingham on October 13th a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at Hallowborne. The Duke's visit was in connection with the sixth annual conference of the Hospital Contributory Scheme.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that Mr. James George, who will be 84 next month, rang the tenor. Well, boys will be boys!

The Sunday service ringers at St. James' Church, Church, Lancs., scored a peal of Double Norwich on October 9th, when two of the band rang their first peal in the method. Eric Brunton, one of the rest of the band, is only 15 years of age. The peal was recorded last week.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise and Treble Bob Minor at Willingham, Cambs., on October 8th, was rung as a farewell to the Rector, Canon A. C. Hair. The peal details appeared in our last issue. After the peal Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Gleaves entertained the ringers. Mr. Gleaves and the conductor, Mr. P. Warrington, have rung 125 peals together.

Mr. Gordon Clifford Goodson, a member of the band at Claverley, Shropshire, was married on September 29th to Miss Rosamond Mary Swift, of Claverley. On October 12th a wedding peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for them.

A peal of London Surprise Major, rung at Framsdon, Suffolk, on October 11th, was arranged for Mr. David Vincent, of Altrincham, Cheshire, and was Mr. L. C. Wightman's 400th peal.

In honour of the birth of a daughter to Mr. Leonard Williams, of Stagsden, a peal of Minor in seven methods was rung on October 9th.

What is the meaning of the mystic letters, 'P.G.', after the name of Miss Sylvia Bowyer, in the report of a peal of Minor at Sproughton? Surely they do not mean 'Peal Grabber'! Miss Bowyer has rung more than 25 peals this year, ranging from Minor to Maximus.

A birthday compliment to Mr. W. Townsend, Ringing Master at Leckhampton, Cheltenham, the peal of Stedman Triples rung at that church on October 9th was also in honour of the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williams, of Newent. We referred to this auspicious event in our last issue.

Mr. W. Oakey, who rang his first peal of Triples, in this performance at Leckhampton, is leader of the ringers at Badgeworth, Glos.

The tenor in the peal at Alsager, Cheshire, on October 9th, stood in at almost a moment's notice, and the rest of the band extend their thanks to him.

Mr. Fred Dexter, one of Leicester's most popular ringers, rang his two hundredth peal of Surprise when he took part in a peal of New Cambridge Royal at Loughborough Parish Church on Saturday.

This peal was also Mr. R. F. Elkington's two hundredth for the Midland Counties Association. Such a double 'double' needed a double celebration.

(Continued on next page.)

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UMPIRE ?

(Continued from previous page.)

A handbell peal of Grandsire Triples at Hinton-on-the-Green, Worcestershire, on October 16th, was specially arranged for Mr. F. S. Wilson, of West Lavington, Sussex, who formerly resided at Ludlow.

The other three members of the band were Mr. J. D. Johnson and two of his sisters. Mr. John Thomas was the official umpire of the peal, but he was only present during the first and last four-parts of Parker's twelve-part. He was missing during the rest of the performance, and investigation into his movements during this interval traced him to various garages and eventually to a football match at least three miles away. John must have even better ears than we suspected to hear the bells at that distance.

A peal of Double Norwich Major was rung at Burton Latimer on October 16th as a welcome to the Rector (the Rev. R. W. Sharpley). It was also a birthday compliment to Mr. J. Saddington, whose son took part in the peal.

All the ringers, except the conductor, in the peal of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles at Norton, Worcestershire, on October 16th, were members of the local band, two of them ringing their first peal. It was the first peal on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

The peal of Kent Treble Bob at Hythe, Kent, on October 16th, when Mr. T. E. Sone called another of Mr. Arthur Knights' compositions (No. 327) for the first time, was the conductor's 275th peal. Of this total he has called 190.

The peal of Superlative at Wicken on October 9th was rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Ralph Foddy. The composition, by G. Lindoff, is published in the Peterborough Diocesan Guild's report for 1932, peal No. 474.

The first peal of Major on the bells at Sowton, Devon, was rung on Saturday, October 9th. It was arranged to enable Mr. W. H. Howe to ring a peal at his native place and as a welcome to Mr. Clifford Vessey, who has gone from Notts to reside in Devon.

ANSTEY BOYS' PERFORMANCE.

On Sunday, October 17th, for evensong at St. Mary's Church, Anstey, Leicestershire, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung: Jack E. Adams 1, J. Terry Smith 2, Mary L. Disney 3, George E. Bowler 4, R. S. William Smith 5, Alban Disney 6, Redvers F. Elkington (conductor) 7, Eileen H. Cufflin 8. It was the first quarter-peal by ringers of 1, 2 and 4, who are aged 15, 13 and 14 respectively and started to handle a bell only nine and a half months ago. This is believed to be the first quarter-peal ever rung on the bells by an entirely local band.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**CANTERBURY DISTRICT'S INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP.**

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, on October 9th.

Ringling took place at the three local towers, St. Stephen's, St. Alphege and St. Dunstan's, in the afternoon, and the association's service held in St. Dunstan's, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. E. Miller), the lesson being read by Mr. E. Trendell.

Tea, provided by the association, was served in the Parish Hall, the 83 members present being presided over by the Vicar.

Owing to a long standing promise made by the Vicar, he was prevented from staying to the meeting, but before he left he was heartily thanked for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for all the help he had given in making the day a success.

Mr. E. Trendell was voted to the chair. The secretary's report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The report showed an increase of 41 members over the previous year, the total of honorary and practising members in the district reaching the total of 291. The number of towers in union had increased from 28 to 30, the total receipts in the district amounted to £32 10s. 6d. and a balance was shown of £26 4s.

The district secretary (Mr. B. J. Luck) was re-elected, as were the district representatives, Messrs. F. G. Brett and H. Whitehead. The former was also re-elected Ringing Master.

Faversham was chosen as the venue for the district's spring meeting, St. Peter's, Thanet, for the summer meeting, and Wickham-breaux for the next by-meeting.

Votes of thanks were passed to the organist and to the ladies who had so splendidly looked after the wants of all during the tea.

RINGERS' WIVES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'Ringer's Wife,' I, too, am a neglected wife, with regard to peal ringing, but I am very pleased to think that my husband is interested in such a splendid hobby. When he is ringing I can always be sure he is in good company, for where can be found a more friendly atmosphere than in the ringing chamber.

Recently I entertained a party of ringers who had come some distance to ring a peal, but after several attempts had to own they were defeated. Were there any long faces? Not so, one couldn't have wished to be in the company of a happier party, and all were determined to have another try. They even went so far as to say there wouldn't be half so much pleasure in ringing if they won every peal. That's the spirit for 'ringers.'

'HAPPILY MARRIED TO A RINGER.'**John Taylor & Co.****LOUGHBOROUGH.**

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Miss Dorothy L. Sayers, authoress of 'The Nine Tailors,' is among the guests attending the Ladies' Guild silver jubilee dinner at Audertou's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, were on Saturday the recipients, at the hands of the Lord Bishop of Manchester, of long service medals for Sunday School and parochial church work. The presentation took place in Manchester Cathedral, and afterwards a peal of Bristol Surprise was rung at Mottram-in-Longdendale in their honour.

The older generation of ringers will recall that in 1906 a new Treble Bob Major record was set up at Mottram, a peal of Kent, 16,800 changes in length, being rung there by the Chester Diocesan Guild.

The bells of St. Peter's, Beunemouth, which have been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Son, of Loughborough, will be rededicated on Saturday, November 20th, at 3.30 p.m. by the Bishop of Winchester.

The Rev. J. M. Turner, Vicar of Moulton, Northants, who was instrumental in getting the bells at his church renovated and augmented to eight, has taken the incumbency of Washfield, near Tiverton, Devon.

At the annual meeting of the Over Society (Cambs), Mr. F. Warrington was elected captain and Mr. C. Robinson vice-captain for the coming year. Mr. A. J. Ginn, with no less than 45 ringing years and 25 years as captain, has resigned, but will assist as occasion arises.

The Bristol United Guilds will return to the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on January 15th, 1938, for their annual dinner. Mr. Donald Marsh (Coalpit Heath) will be chairman.

Mr. E. Guise will attend the tercentenary dinner of the Ancient Society of College Youths to represent the Bristol United Ringing Guilds. Twelve or more Bristol ringers will attend. There will also be a considerable contingent from Birmingham.

There was a record attendance of 160 at the Yorkshire Association's dinner at Leeds on October 9th, commemorating Jasper Whitfield Snowdon and past officers. The detailed report of the proceedings reached us too late for this issue and will appear next week.

Mr. F. E. Dawe, who has devoted nearly as many years to rifle shooting as he has to bellringing, has carried off the Ross-Patrick Cup of the City Rifle Club at Bisley ranges. A fine performance at 75 years of age. It involved shooting at ranges up to 600 yards.

FALSE PEALS OF STEDMAN CINQUES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It has been pointed out to me that a peal of 5,005 Stedman Cinques, called by me at Surfleet on July 31st last, is false. This composition is Mr. Arthur Knights' No. 37, and was then rung for the first time. The repetition occurs in the first six of the peal, which starts with a slow six, bobbed, and the first six after the course-end 413256 in the tittums.

Similarly Mr. Knights' No. 36 is also false. This peal was called by me at Lincoln Cathedral on September 5th, 1936, and was published in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild report for last year.

In withdrawing these peals, may I express my sincere regret to all who took part in them, especially those who travelled very many miles to do so.

C. T. COLES.

Higams Park, E.4.

STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read your leading article on Stedman with interest. To my mind, it is not a fact that nothing is to be gained in Stedman Doubles by departing from the usual start. If we keep to it we can only get 10 six-scores with two singles only, but if we use the other five starts we can get 60.

The reason for what you term the strange start is, to my mind, quite obvious. If you divide the principle up into twelves, instead of only sixes, all twelves are symmetrical, a point that Stedman would be keen upon. With any other start it is not so.

E. BANKES JAMES.

Seafeld Park, Fareham.

A SYMMETRICAL PRINCIPLE.

Dear Sir,—I beg to submit that there is nothing strange about the start in Stedman. It is true that the method can be divided into Quick and Slow sixes, but my candid opinion is Stedman knew what he was about and believed in *symmetry*.

One of the Central Council's arbitrary definitions enforces symmetry in methods, then why not in principles? 'What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.'

I have not the least doubt that Stedman knew that he had produced a *symmetrical twelve with coursing order division heads and ends*, five twelves are sixty, the extent of the method without singles, and I sincerely hope the Exercise will never permit any alteration in the start of the principle from the way in which the author produced it.

GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton.

INSTRUCTING BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I wrote the article on the above subject in your issue of Sept. 24th I expected (as I said at the time) that a number of people would disagree with my views. From the letters which appeared in the following issue, I gather that amongst these are numbered Mr. W. Shepherd and Mr. F. E. Dawe. But is there really any need for them to be quite so rude about it? Have we come to such a pass that no one who is too young to have rung peals at every cathedral in the country is to be allowed to express his views in your column, without being accused of 'thrusting his ideas down other people's throats'?

We are often reminded of the difficulty these days in persuading the younger generation to become interested in bellringing, and it is sometimes said in reply that when they do take up the art they do not receive much encouragement from the older hands. This may only be true in certain isolated cases, but the tone of the two letters mentioned above is certainly not calculated to encourage the 'young practitioner'!

And as for this argument—if such it can be called—that Grandsire must be the best method to teach first, because certain instructors used to do so 50 years ago, this sounds to me suspiciously like the old cry, 'It must be right because grandfather did it,' which, to say the least of it, is never very convincing. The point is, did these men select Grandsire as the first method to teach after careful thought as to the possible merits of other methods, or was it because it never occurred to them to start their pupils on anything else?

It would seem that Messrs. Shepherd's and Dawe's vision has been so blinded with rage at the audacity of one of my tender years daring to express an opinion not shared by them, that they have been able to read into my article certain passages which somehow or other failed to appear in my copy. Where, for instance, does Mr. Dawe find the sentence in which I 'advocate startling learners in the discordant jangling of the unmusical Surprise methods'? And perhaps Mr. Shepherd would point out where I showed my aversion to Grandsire Triples as a method. What I did say was that I had not found it so good as Bob Major or Minor for giving a beginner a real grounding in the essential elements of good change ringing, and I gave my reasons for forming this opinion in some detail and after considerable thought. Mr. Shepherd, on the other hand, is content to state baldly that 'it is beyond question that Grandsire is the best method, etc.', but I notice that he does not attempt to substantiate this bald statement with a single concrete argument; in fact, I have scanned both his letter and Mr. Dawe's in vain for one word of constructive criticism or the slightest attempt to refute any of the arguments I put forward.

Mr. Shepherd then takes me to task for saying that good leading is obtained with the *ears*, and he asks, 'Is this all?' The answer is in the affirmative, and I believe that most good strikers will agree with me—even if Mr. Shepherd doesn't.

I am more interested in Mr. Arthur Prince's letter, because he does at least discuss the subject of my article and not its writer. But one or two of his statements seem to call for some comment as follows:—

(1) 'Most instructors teach the same method of hunting up, etc.' Mr. Prince, I gather, is one of the exceptions, considering this a waste of time. But what is his alternative method? If I understand him correctly, he first teaches his pupils to make 2nd's and 3rd's places and then tells them where to pass the treble and when and how to dodge. But he does not tell us how he expects his pupils to carry out these instructions before they have learnt to plain hunt!

(2) 'Learning to strike evenly over the other bells.' The point I was trying to make here was the necessity for finding out by practical observation how much gap has to be left when striking over the heavier bells, particularly the tenor. Mr. Prince says you learn this by ringing Rounds, Queen's, Tittums and Whittington's. Perhaps he will tell us which bell strikes over the tenor in any one of these changes.

(3) 'Learning to lead.' Mr. Prince advocates doing this while No. 2 is in progress, by the most advanced pupil taking the treble. But is this quite fair to the others, who (presumably less advanced) are learning to ring Rounds and Queen's on the other bells? I should have thought that to give them the best chance it would be wiser to put your most competent man—possibly the instructor himself—on the treble. Furthermore, leading on the treble in Rounds is not quite the same thing as leading in changes.

(4) Finally Mr. Prince makes the somewhat curious statement that 'Stedman contains every position known in ringing.' Stedman, like Grandsire, is an excellent method, but I have yet to discover where it contains dodging in 3-4 or 5-6 or striking the tenor in any position, all of which Mr. Prince will surely agree occur in quite a few other methods.

This subject of instruction is, as I feel sure all your readers will agree, one of vital importance; and it seems to me that an exchange of views and results of personal experience—be it long or short—by practising instructors may well prove helpful to those most concerned, and produce something of real value to the Exercise; and possibly, as we are discussing whether the odd or even bell methods are the best to teach first, the evidence of those who have tried both ways will carry most weight. But whatever our views may be, do for Heaven's sake, let us have more concrete argument and fewer vague generalities about 50 years ago, more constructive criticism and less personal abuse.

Bristol.

STEPHEN H. WOOD.

AN ADVOCATE OF EVEN-BELL METHODS FIRST.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—It was with great interest that I read your article on 'Handicaps for Beginners' in your issue of the 24th ult., and also Mr. S. H. Wood's excellent article. May I add it should give many other ringers cause for some hard thinking? I myself have had, during the past 44 years, a fairly varied experience of beginners and can, therefore, claim to be able to express some opinion on the subject. I cordially agree with Mr. Wood that it is far better to teach beginners even method ringing first, for the simple reason the beginner has not always to lead after the same bell, and when the beginner has mastered leading off all the bells in turn it must be easier to have always to lead off the tenor afterwards, although it may sound paradoxical. However, I maintain and always have done that those who learn even method ringing first and odd method ringing afterwards make the best strikers, and that is, or should be, the objective of all ringers.

I am sorely tempted to think that the sentence in your article that the hand, the ear and the eye are all needed, but that the ear is most neglected, is true, and pity 'tis 'tis true. However, to a certain extent I suppose we must grin and bear it.

There is also the point you mention that instructors themselves are sometimes bad or indifferent strikers. That, too, is perfectly true. I can give one instance. Some years ago a certain ringer was engaged by a Vicar in my district to teach a company on six bells, tenor about 7½ cwt., bells in good condition and plenty of opportunity to coach a band. But as the rev. gentleman himself was never a first rate hauler and the instructor was one of the slovenliest handlers I ever met, nothing ever came of it, simply because it was a case of a square peg in a round hole. Further comment is needless.

'INTERESTED.'

STEDMAN RECOMMENDED.

Sir,—I have had a good share of teaching beginners. Stedman is the best method. Leading 'wrong' is as simple to the novice as leading 'right' and the slow work is mastered easier than double dodging. Old Grandsire ringers do double dodging easier than the novices, but cannot manage the slow work any better, if as well.

After showing pupils how to strike handbells, they should be exercised in leading, dodging and place-making; then plain hunting by commencing on four bells and continuing on the successive numbers up to as far as is practicable (leading is thus easily acquired whether from the tenor or not). It should be done progressively—one change at a time—repeated if necessary until the striking-after bell is observed—and when the run-out is reached, start again if the correct order is not remembered. Coursing down can be shown after memorising the running-out has been mastered. If anyone cannot learn this way they never will learn.

Then Stedman! Attempt only a six at a time, then recommence and thus progress by the successive sixes until the whole course is accomplished and a good foundation laid for all methods.

I have had learners who could ring on handbells three methods, viz., Stedman, Grandsire and Treble Bob, before they could properly handle the tower bells.

H. D.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

YOUTH WANTED AT MEETINGS.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Tunstall on Saturday week. Forty members and friends were present from Burslem, Biddulph, Brown Edge, Cheadle, Draycott, Kids Grove, Kingsley, Lawton, Leek, Longton, Macclesfield, Norton, Newcastle, Stoke-on-Trent, Tunstall and Wistaston.

Tea was partaken of in the Church Institute, where a hearty welcome was extended by the Rev. S. F. Linsley (Vicar). The Vicar of Tunstall has started to ring, and it was encouraging to hear a person talk about Doubles and Triples, knowing that he knows what he is talking about.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. T. Hurd to the Vicar and ringers for the use of the bells. Mr. E. Steele, who seconded, said Tunstall brought back memories of the days when Mr. J. Johnson was secretary of the association. He was not only a good secretary, but a great help to young ringers.

Congratulations were extended by the association to Mr. W. Rigby, of Lawton, who recently celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. W. Rigby suitably replied. He was a ringer at Tunstall many years ago.

Mr. A. D. Steel, Ringing Master for the eight-bell towers, thanked the members for the great co-operation given to him at Uttoxeter, and expressed his desire for better meetings, both in attendance and in the standard of ringing. More of the youth were invited to attend the meetings and the practice meetings to be held on week-nights.

The secretary also hopes Mr. A. D. Steel will have better support at the practices arranged for Surprise ringing.

The next meeting will be held at Burslem on November 13th and not the 6th as previously arranged.

After tea the ringers, at the invitation of the Vicar, attended evensong.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—For harvest festival, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Major: *W. E. Symonds 1, D. C. Mears 2, W. J. Houghton 3, *E. W. Winters 4, A. E. Symonds 5, C. V. Hare 6, T. Castle 7, L. Fidler (conductor) 8. * First quarter-peal in the method.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

FUNDS CENTRALISED.

A quarterly meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, October 2nd, at Burbage, near Hinckley, and, whether taken as a social, business or ringing gathering, was a great success. Although Burbage is somewhat 'off the beaten track,' a goodly company assembled and kept the eight bells going to various methods, and for a meeting the ringing was remarkably good and well struck.

The committee met in the Parish Room, and, arising from their business, the hon. treasurer reported that all invested funds and bank balance had been centralised and now rested in one bank at Nottingham instead of being scattered as hitherto.

A short service was held in church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. D. H. Pughe, who gave an inspiring address and an instructive talk on the church's history, etc. A retiring collection was made and 17s. 9d. given to the Association Bell Repair Fund. About 60 members and friends afterwards sat down to tea. They were from Burton, Derby, Loughborough, Leicester, Hinckley and Nottingham districts, and a party from Irthlingborough, which included old friends in Messrs. A. Tyler, W. Perkins and others, was also welcomed.

The general meeting was presided over by Mr. E. Denison Taylor (president), supported by the Rector, Mr. W. E. White (hon. treasurer) and Mr. Ernest Morris (hon. secretary).

The President gave a review of the past quarter's peals, which he stated made a very good record, no less than 34 having been rung, but none above Major and none on handbells. He referred to the association's loss by the death of an original member, Mr. Herbert W. Needham, whose obituary notice had recently appeared in 'The Ringing World.' The President thanked the Rector for permission to come to Burbage and for his splendid service in church; also the local band for making this gathering such a success.—The Rector replied in a witty speech.

New members proposed since the last quarterly meeting, viz., 23 ringing, two rejoins, four life, were duly elected.

It was pointed out that the next quarterly meeting was fixed for Repton and would probably be January 15th, 1938.

Local secretaries were asked to prepare a short account of their district activities for inclusion in the next annual report, stating number of meetings held, whether attendance had been good, new members elected, Sunday service ringing and any other items of interest.

This concluded the business and further ringing took place.

BURTON DISTRICT SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

A very pleasant meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association was held at St. Peter's Church, Netherseale, on the eve of the Sunday harvest festival.

The Rector (Canon H. E. FitzHerbert) conducted a short service, the lesson being read by the Rev. W. R. L. Jones, curate of Seales. An interesting address was given by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall, North Notts, in the course of which he spoke of the encouragement which should be given by older ringers to beginners and reminded them of the high standard of striking which should be maintained for Sunday service ringing.

Tea was generously provided by the Rector of Seales in the Village Hall and was admirably served by the ladies connected to the Church Council.

The Rector presided over the business meeting which followed and read an apology from Mr. W. W. Worthington, J.P., chairman of the district and patron of the living of Seales, who, he regretted to say, was indisposed.

One honorary and one ringing member were elected, and the next meeting fixed for Newhall on November 6th.

Mr. J. H. Swinfield proposed thanks to the Rector for his hospitality and for the use of the bells. This was seconded by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, who said he was delighted to be amongst old friends of the Burton and Derby Districts once again. He referred to the beautiful peals of bells within the Burton District, especially mentioning the two peals of eight in the parish of Seales and referring to the restoration of the church and bells at Netherseale.

The motion having been carried with applause, Canon FitzHerbert replied thanking the ladies who had prepared the tea and also those who had assisted in raising the £1,100 necessary for the restoration scheme. He especially mentioned the magnificent grant from the Bell Repair Fund of the Midland Counties Association.

Handbell ringing then added variety to the proceedings, and on the return to the tower the bells were rung to various methods until the hour of curfew.

The towers represented were Burton St. Paul's, Ashby, Appleby, Measham, Overseale, Winshill, Newhall, Ticknall, Ibstock, Rotherham, Derby Cathedral, Derby St. Andrew's, Walsall, Wolverhampton and the local company.

RINGERS' BIRTHDAYS.

At Amersham, Bucks, on Saturday, October 2nd, after a peal attempt had failed, 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, J. Harrison 4, W. Edwards 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6. This was arranged as a birthday compliment to Miss D. R. Fletcher and Miss E. Harrison, also as a 21st birthday compliment to Mr. R. Smith.

A JOINT SOCIAL GATHERING.

FUN AND FROLIC AT HILLINGDON.

Fun waxed fast and furious at the annual social held at Hillingdon on Saturday by the Middlesex Association, the Oxford Guild and the Ladies' Guild. The event attracted ringers and their friends from a wide area and altogether nearly a hundred were present from over 30 towers.

The proceedings began in the afternoon with ringing at St. John's (Hillingdon) and St. Andrew's (Uxbridge) Churches, and a congregation numbering somewhere about seventy assembled in the former church for the customary service. They waited in vain for the arrival of a clergyman, and were meanwhile regaled with organ music by Mr. A. W. Owen, organist of Ruislip. After a quarter of an hour or so, the announcement was made that the service would be abandoned and the congregation filed out. No sooner had they dispersed than the curate (the Rev. B. Barron) arrived. There had been a misunderstanding with regard to the time.

Tea was served in St. John's Hall, Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president of the Middlesex Association) presiding, supported by the Rev. B. Barron, Mrs. R. F. Deal (vice-president of the Ladies' Guild), Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. F. W. Goodfellow (joint hon. secretaries of the Middlesex Association), Mr. A. D. Barker (hon. secretary of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild), Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Coles, etc. The tea was served by Mrs. Goodfellow and lady friends.

Afterwards on behalf of the Vicar (the Rev. A. M. Bashford), the Rev. B. Barron welcomed the ringers to Hillingdon and apologised for the misunderstanding with regard to the service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADIES.

The Chairman, in congratulating the Ladies' Guild upon their silver jubilee, welcomed them and the Oxford Guild to the Middlesex Association's tower. He said he remembered the time when there were no lady ringers and when a tower-bell peal was first rung by a lady she was regarded by some people almost as a freak (laughter). She was, however, not a freak, but a pioneer (hear, hear). Ringers were afraid in those days that if ladies came into the towers the standard of ringing would go down dreadfully, but he did not think it had gone down very much as a result. Some of the ladies were very good ringers indeed. In the Middlesex Association they were very pleased to have the ladies among them, and they offered the Ladies' Guild their congratulations (applause).

Mrs. Deal, who replied, thanked Mr. Trollope for his good wishes. Years ago, she said, there were mixed feelings when a lady ringer went into a tower, but nowadays the ladies were absolutely certain of a kind welcome from most societies. The Ladies' Guild was delighted to take part again in that joint meeting, and she was sure that the congratulations that had been offered would be much appreciated.

Mr. A. D. Barker supported Mr. Trollope in the congratulations to the ladies and expressed the pleasure of his branch in being able to take part in that joint gathering.

Mr. Coles proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicars of Hillingdon and Uxbridge for the use of the bells, to the Rev. B. Barron for his attendance, to Mr. A. W. Owen for coming from Ruislip to play the organ, to the local ringers, especially Mr. Pratt (captain) and Mr. Smith (steeplekeeper), of St. John's, and Mr. F. Corke, St. Andrew's; also to the ladies, and particularly Mrs. Goodfellow, for preparing the tea.—This was carried by acclamation.

Although the tower bells were rung again after tea, there were a number of gossips, handbell exponents and stage managers who remained in the hall and made it look untidy. Eventually all the party reassembled to find a programme drawn up to last until about 10.30, but after 11 o'clock the company was still clamouring for more! The official programme was launched shortly after 7.30 with a sing-song, led by the Stoke handbell specialists under Mr. A. D. Barker. Later on this trio played more tunes, with all the variations dear to the hearts of tune ringers.

A course of Bob Major was rung on a set of very large handbells. These bells, we were informed, were last rung in 1919 when the late William Pye visited Hillingdon for a peal to mark the peace celebrations.

Several sketches caused much amusement, especially the 'Operation' (a silhouette, with sound and speech effects!) and the 'Secretary-bloke' who had to wait for his wife (most unusual, we believe!). A violin solo skillfully executed completed the individual items.

Various games caused much hilarity to players and onlookers alike. The 'peal grabbers' had a high old time. A competition, arranged by Mrs. Barker, required contestants to draw a slip, bearing the name of a method, from a large pan, and find the corresponding slip, pinned up somewhere in the room. The young and the not-so-young started dashing about the hall in search of peals, and the winner was eventually found to have 'grabbed' nine.

The famous handball competition was contested in no slipshod manner. Spectators saw the 'tough guys' 'sock' into one another in earnest, and each match produced its casualties! Eight teams entered the contest from Cookham, Ealing, Hillingdon (two teams), Ruislip, Stoke Poges and Uxbridge, together with a team of the Tower Snatchers Union (N.U.T.S.). Shortly before 11, Hillingdon 'A' and Uxbridge fought out the final, with the latter fairly easy victors.

Mrs. Goodfellow thoughtfully provided refreshments during the evening and earned the thanks that were accorded to her.

NETHERTON LEADER'S RETIREMENT.**LONG FAMILY CONNECTION WITH THE BELLS.**

Mr. Albert Prestidge has recently resigned the leadership of the ringers at St. Andrew's Church, Netherton, an office which he has held for 20 years. He has had to give up ringing on account of rheumatism in the hands.

Mr. Prestidge has been ringing at Netherton for 37 years and is the second generation of his family to be connected with Netherton bells. His father, Joseph James Prestidge, and his uncle, Samuel, had learned to ring at West Haddon, Northampton, and in 1870, six years after they came to Netherton, six bells were given to the Parish Church. They at once formed a band and Samuel became first leader of the belfry. His brother afterwards succeeded to the leadership and held it for some years until his death in 1917.

He had taught his two sons, Walter and Albert, and on his death the latter became leader. For years Mr. Albert Prestidge strove to have the old bells recast and rehung and eventually this was done in 1935.

Two sons and two nephews now carry on the family tradition. Mr. Prestidge was always chiefly concerned in maintaining service ringing at the church, but he has rung 28 peals as follows: Bob Triples 1, Bob Major 9 (conducted 2), Grandsire Triples 5, Grandsire Caters 1, Treble Bob Major 8, Stedman Triples 3, Erin Triples 1.

Mr. Alfred Davies, of 19, Crescent Road, Netherton, Dudley, has now been appointed leader of the Netherton band, and applications for ringing, etc., should be sent to him for confirmation by the Vicar.

HUGHENDEN'S OLDEST RINGER.**DEATH OF MR. HARRY STRATFORD.**

By the lamented death of Mr. Harry Stratford, Hughenden has been deprived of its oldest and one of its most respected ringers. He was 78 years of age.

Ever of a genial disposition, Mr. Stratford was a most regular attendant both at services and practice while his health permitted. Although he had rather more than 60 peals to his credit, he was never an enthusiastic peal ringer, putting service ringing first. He took part in 1894 in the first peal of London Surprise for the Oxford Guild, in which the late Rev. F. E. Robinson also rang, the first peal of Superlative for the Guild, and one of the only two peals of 'Alliance' ever rung, Crawley ringing the other one on the previous evening.

Stedman was his favourite method, and nothing pleased him more than a well-struck quarter-peal.

In addition to his ringing abilities, he was a member of the church choir for a great many years, and secretary of the Church Helpers' Society from its inception down to his death. In fact, any project for the welfare of his beloved church had his wholehearted support, and a former Vicar declared that 'Harry was worth two curates.'

A large and representative congregation attended the funeral to pay their last respect to an esteemed parishioner. The service was fully choral, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave, the tower bells afterwards being rung half-muffled. A well-struck quarter-peal of Stedman was rung on the Sunday following by his fellow-members with the bells half-muffled as a tribute to a devoted churchman.

He will be greatly missed at Hughenden. A hackneyed expression, perhaps, but certainly true of Harry Stratford.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**MONTHLY PRACTICES TO BE HELD.**

A quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at Enville, near Stourbridge, on Saturday, September 25th, in beautiful weather and with the country seeming to be at its best. Ringing began about three o'clock and later a service was held, at which the Rev. W. F. O'N. Fisher (Rector) officiated and gave an interesting address. Mrs. Fisher kindly presided at the organ.

The Rector kindly placed his study at the disposal of the members for the business meeting. The Rector presided and gave the Guild a hearty welcome to Enville.

It was proposed that the quarterly peal be attempted at Enville, the arrangements being left in the hands of the Ringing Master, the Rector kindly giving his consent to the attempt.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Old Hill, subject to the usual permission being obtained. Failing Old Hill it was left to the secretary to make other arrangements.

The question of holding a practice night for the Guild and others who might care to attend came in for a lengthy discussion. It was eventually proposed to hold a practice at St. Thomas' Church, Dudley (10 bells) on the first Monday evening in the month. It is hoped that many members will avail themselves of this arrangement so that the practices may be made successful.

Mr. S. J. Hughes proposed and Mr. J. H. Cox seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector of Enville for his kindness and to Mrs. Fisher for the musical part of the service.—The Rector briefly replied on behalf of his wife and himself and said that he hoped to have the pleasure of welcoming the Guild again.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT RETTENDON.**

Although there was not a large muster at the South-Eastern Division meeting at Rettendon on October 9th, those who attended had a very pleasant and enjoyable time. Ringing began at 3 p.m.

Service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. W. R. Norman), the hymns were accompanied by Miss Meeson, and the lesson was read by the hon. secretary (Mr. H. W. Shadrack).

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, 20 sitting down, presided over by the Rector.

It was announced at the business meeting which followed that the annual divisional meeting would be held at Writtle on November 27th. The Rector said that he and his ringers were very pleased to welcome the association and hoped they would enjoy their visit and the ringing.

Mr. H. W. Shadrack thanked the Rector for allowing the meeting to be held and also for his interesting address.

A vote of thanks to Miss Meeson, to the organ blower and to Mr. Jay and the local band was proposed by Mr. J. D. Buckingham and carried with applause.

After handbell ringing a return was made to the tower, where ringing continued in a variety of methods, with rounds for two beginners who were present, until 9 o'clock.

The following towers were represented: Great Baddow, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Fryerning, Goldhanger, Maldon, Rettendon and Springfield, also visitors from Prittlewell.

RECTOR TO THE RESCUE.

On Saturday, October 16th, a meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Great Bromley, when about 30 members (including five lady ringers) attended from Tending, Mistley, Dedham, Weeley and St. Matthew's, Ipswich. Among other towers represented were Harwich, Colchester, Thorington, St. Osyth's and Ipswich. After a short service, conducted by the Rector, it was found that tea was not obtainable at the usual place, so the Rector very kindly came to the rescue by inviting all to tea at the Rectory.

Afterwards some returned to the tower for more ringing, while others went over to Little Bromley to ring on the four bells there, an unusual experience for the Surprise ringers. These bells were rehung in 1898 and nothing has been done since. They had not been rung for many years until recently, when some ropes were obtained from a neighbouring tower and an enthusiastic member from Mistley had spent some time in oiling and making them ready. Quite a good time was spent here, after which all returned to Great Bromley again, where, during the day, some good ringing took place in methods ranging from Stedman Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

On the way home some of the ringers were able to have a pull on the fine eight at St. Peter's, Colchester, which were being rung by an outing party.

At the meeting, after some discussion, it was decided to hold the annual meeting again at Colchester in December.

Thanks are due to the gentleman who kindly lent his car and took those without cycles to Little Bromley, although he is not now able to ring.

TWO ASSOCIATIONS MEET.**HERTS AND BEDS RINGERS AT LEIGHTON BUZZARD.**

Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire ringers held a combined meeting on Saturday at All Saints' Church, Leighton Buzzard. The fine peal of ten were set going to Stedman Caters soon after 3 p.m., and ringing was continued until 4 o'clock, when a short service was held, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. T. Stephens), who, in his address, spoke of the history of bells and described the important part ringers play in the Church's life. He thanked all ringers for the services they so freely gave for the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

After service the whole party (very appropriately) adjourned to the Golden Bell, where they enjoyed a very excellent tea. The Vicar welcomed the ringers from over the border.

Handbells were demonstrated by the experts, spliced Little and Plain Bob Major being splendidly struck. The party then returned to the tower, while a few went to Linslade to try the light peal of eight. On their return, with the help of Mr. Reuben Sanders and others, a grand course of Cambridge Royal was successfully completed, and a course of London Major was well struck. Methods from Grandsire Triples to Little Bob Royal were also in the programme, and a very successful meeting was brought to a close about 8 p.m. It is hoped this may be one of a series of joint meetings of the two associations, and ringers in Bedfordshire look forward to a visit to Hertfordshire.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, October 10th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples (Thurstans): E. Wilson (first quarter of Stedman) 1, A. O. Lewis 2, J. Woodyatt 3, G. E. Large (conductor) 4, D. R. Sayers 5, R. W. Sayers 6, R. Woodyatt 7, G. Colley 8. Arranged for A. O. Lewis, of Bromsgrove.

PRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.—At St. Lawrence's Church on October 13th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Oswald Claybrook 1, William Bibby 2, Norah M. Bibby 3, Cyril Valentine 4, Francis Bibby 5, George H. Randles 6, John E. Bibby (conductor) 7, Thomas Lightfoot 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples on the bells by a local band.

SURREY ASSOCIATION AT LAMBETH. MASTER WELCOMED BACK.

Members of the Surrey Association who attended the North-Western District meeting at Lambeth on Saturday week had the pleasure of seeing their Master, Mr. D. Kenneth C. Birt, back in his accustomed place at the head of the table after his long illness, and took the opportunity of expressing their gratification. Mr. Birt, in opening the meeting, thanked them for their kind expressions of sympathy and welcome and said how happy he was to be back with them once more. 'Coming over Lambeth Bridge this afternoon,' he said, 'I could not help feeling how beautiful Lambeth bells sounded and what a happy contrast they provided to the turmoil of the present day and all that we see going on around us, reminding us as they do of higher and nobler things.'

'Of all the minor arts,' he added, 'I think we may regard the art of bellringing as the greatest and most worthy of encouragement, for we can never really know what people feel or what help we are giving when we ring our bells. In those days of stress and strain I believe that help to be very very real.'

Mr. Birt said he had been asked to convey to the meeting apologies for unavoidable absence from their assistant general secretary, Mr. C. H. Kippin, and their District Master, Mr. D. Cooper, and others who were busily engaged in ringing a peal of welcome to the new Vicar of Croydon. He also extended a hearty welcome to their visitors, amongst whom were the South and West District Master of the Middlesex Association, Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, and the Guildford District secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, Mr. G. L. Grover; Mr. J. Herbert (Twickenham), Mr. O. L. Ashbrook (Isleworth), Mr. E. B. Hartley (Willesden), and Mr. F. H. Hicks and Mr. C. Brasier (Rotherfield, Sussex).

Three new members were elected—Mr. R. C. Cressy and Mr. Francis P. Gato, of Immanuel Church, Streatham, and Mr. John R. Davison, of Mitcham Parish Church.

There being no further business, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to Mr. W. Hardy for having everything in readiness in the tower and arranging the meeting, and to the ladies for the catering.

A return to the tower was then made, where ringing continued until 7.30 p.m., when evensong was said. Further ringing took place from 8 o'clock to 8.30 p.m., when another happy meeting terminated. The total attendance was 43, representing most of the towers in the district.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

HAWKHURST, SUSSEX.—For harvest festival on October 3rd, 1,280 changes of Bob Major: F. Chapman 1, G. Maskell 2, A. Kemp (first quarter-peal) 3, A. Stevenson 4, L. Jarvis 5, A. Goldsmith 6, W. Gorringe 7, J. G. Powell 8.

HOLLOWAY.—For morning service on October 17th at St. Mary Magdalen's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Charge 1, R. Newman 2, H. R. Boyce, Lowestoft (first quarter-peal) 3, H. Franks 4, G. Charge 5, A. Turner (conductor) 6, E. W. Pye 7, A. Johnson 8.

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THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1937.

The following towers will be open from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.:—

St. Mary-le-Bow	...	12 bells.
St. Giles, Cripplegate	...	12 "
St. Magnus, London Bridge	10	"
St. Clement Danes	...	10 "
St. Lawrence, Old Jewry	...	8 "
St. Andrew, Holborn	...	8 "

3.00 p.m. Unveiling of tablet on the tombstone of Sir Henry Tulse, Lord Mayor and Master in the year 1684, in the churchyard of St. Dionys, Backchurch, Lime Street, E.C.

3.30 p.m. Three courses of Stedman Cinques, to be rung at St. Paul's Cathedral by the members of the St. Paul's Cathedral Band.

4.00 p.m. Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. Seats will be reserved under the Dome for members and their friends and relations. All members of the general public will be welcome. There will be a special hymn and anthem, and a course of Stedman Triples on handbells. Preacher: The Venerable The Archdeacon of London. There will be a collection for the A.S.C.Y. Benevolent Fund and St. Paul's Cathedral.

5.15 p.m. At the Cannon Street Hotel, the Master will receive the members and guests for dinner at 6 p.m. (The reception room will be suitably furnished.)

THE LADIES' GUILD.—Arrangements for the Jubilee Dinner, Saturday, October 23rd. The bells of St. Clement Danes' Church, Strand, will be available from 2.30-4 p.m. Special service for Guild members and friends at the same church at 4 p.m. Reception at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street, from 5.30-6 p.m. Dinner will commence at 6 o'clock precisely, and all ticket holders are asked to be in their places by this time. On Sunday, October 24th, Corporate Communion will be celebrated at the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry, London, E.C., at 9.15 a.m. All visitors staying in London are cordially invited to attend.—E. K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec., 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting will be held at Hugglescote on October 23rd. Good bus service from all parts to Coalville, and then every few minutes from Marlborough Square. Big belfry; please fill it. For tea, postcard to H. O. Over, Hon. Dis. Sec., Hugglescote.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, October 23rd. Bells available 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Swalcliffe on Saturday, October 23rd. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and short business meeting. For tea, please let me know.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Charlton Mackerell on Saturday, October 23rd. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting following. Please advise for tea.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil, Somerset.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Somersham on Saturday, October 23rd. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Gt. Staughton, St. Neots.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN.—Bath Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Bathwick, on Saturday, October 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15.—Theo. Grant, Hon. Sec., Swainswick, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart Church (R.C.), Talbot Road, on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing on the eight bells from 4 to 6 p.m. only. Business meeting to follow.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool, S.S.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A special meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland on Saturday, October 23rd, by invitation of the Vicar, when a peal board will be unveiled. Bells available from 2 p.m.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Horwich on Saturday, October 23rd, instead of October 30th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 o'clock.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing for service at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Sunday, October 23rd, commencing at 5.30 p.m. Usual monthly practice on Thursday, October 28th, commencing 6.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—N. Summerhayes, Acting Hon. Sec., 28, Bear Road, Bexleyheath.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on the 28th; *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 26th (nomination night), at 7.30. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—A meeting will be held at March, Cambs, on Saturday, October 30th. Bells (six) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Service, if arranged. Please inform Mr. H. W. Giddings, 2a, Church Street, March, Cambs, numbers for tea. I beg members to make effort to attend.—F. Warrington, Cox End Lane, Over, Cambs.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Trull on Saturday, October 30th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea, etc., in the Club. Will those requiring tea please inform me by the previous Tuesday?—P. Merson, Bishop's Hull.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual dinner at Blackpool on Saturday, October 30th. Owing to the large demand for tickets the County Hotel cannot find the necessary accommodation. The dinner will therefore be held at The Imperial Hydro, North Promenade, Blackpool (a penny tram fare from Talbot Square). Tickets 4s. each. A special room is being reserved for ticket holders from 5 p.m. onwards.—C. Sharples, 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th.—Herts meeting at Oxhey. Bells (8) open from 3.30. Tea at 5.30. Excellent train and coach service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Carisbrooke on Saturday, October 30th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., at the Eight Bells Hotel, followed by business meeting. All requiring tea please notify by October 28th.—H. P. James, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Portland Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting, Tonbridge, Saturday, October 30th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at the Carlton Cafe, High Street, 5.15. It is *your duty* to see that your tower is represented. Half fares up to 2s. will be allowed members. Please notify me for tea by Wednesday, October 27th.—Alec. E. Richardson, Laurel Cottage, Victoria Road, Southborough.

LADIES' GUILD AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Joint meeting at Aldershot on Saturday, October 30th. Book the date!—(Miss) H. F. Mills and C. W. Denyer, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Evensong at 4 p.m. Tea, at the City Cafe, at 5 p.m., only for those who notify the secretary. Business meeting afterwards for the election of district officers, etc., and members are particularly urged to attend.—Stanley J. T. Shellock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 162, Barnsole Road, Gillingham, Kent.

HASTINGS AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Battle on Saturday, October 30th. Tower open 3 o'clock. All ringers are welcome.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Sec., 238, Priory Road, Hastings.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Gloucester Branch will be held on Saturday, October 30th, at Witcombe. Bells open at 3 p.m. (Special bus from Worcester Street, 2.45 p.m.) Tea free. Kindly notify me for tea not later than October 27th.—W. H. Harris, Hon. Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next meeting has been arranged at Hughenden (8 bells) on Saturday, October 30th, at 5.15 p.m. Tea at Lyons', High Wycombe, 4 p.m. No names this time.—A. D. Baker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Wroxeter (6 bells) on Saturday, October 30th. Bells available 3 p.m. Business after tea. For tea, please advise W. A. Farmer, 6, Mayfield Terrace, Mountfields, Shrewsbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Bramshott on Saturday, October 30th. Bells (6) available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Parish Room 5.15, followed by business meeting. All requiring tea, please let me know by Wednesday, October 27th.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

BARKWAY, NORTH HERTS ASSOCIATION.—These eight are still capable of producing everything from Rounds to London—it's the ringers 'at the bottom' that are required. So book the date, Saturday, October 30th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Mr. C. Bysouth, High Street, Barkway, is kindly arranging a tea, to be prepared at the Wheatsheaf, so I think we ought to let him know the number, don't you?—Don Mears, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Winscombe on Saturday, October 30th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Divine service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—H. Minifie, Hon. Sec., Royston, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Bentley on Saturday, October 30th (Aldwick bells not available). Bells ready at 3 p.m. Tea provided for those who let me know by Wednesday, the 27th, all the proceeds to go to the bell fund. Make this meeting a success.—Ernest Cooper, 1, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Rippingale on Saturday, October 30th. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Service 4.30, followed by tea in the School, which will be free, kindly provided by the Rippingale ringers, for those who notify Mr. S. Laxton, Rippingale, Bourne, by Wednesday previous. Business meeting after tea.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Lincs.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, October 30th, at Pucklechurch and Abson. Bells (6) open from 3 to 4.45 at Abson. Service 5 at Pucklechurch. Tea and business to follow. Further ringing at Pucklechurch until 9 p.m. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., Frampton Cotterill, near Bristol.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at East Ardsley on Saturday, October 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the church. Business meeting in the tower 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

WENDRON, NEAR HELSTON, CORNWALL.—The dedication of the bells will take place on Sunday, October 31st, at 6 p.m., by the Archdeacon of Cornwall—five bells restored in new oak bell frame and augmented to a ring of six by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

SOUTH BRENT, DEVON.—The bells will be re-dedicated on Wednesday, November 3rd, at 3 p.m.—a ring of six, tuned and rehung in new bell frame by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-West Division.—A meeting will be held at Wendon on Saturday, November 6th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Those intending to be present kindly advise me.—H. A. Wacey, Hon. Sec., 69, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Brede on Saturday, November 6th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock, 1s. per head. Will members intending to be present kindly let me know Wednesday previous to meeting.—A. C. Pankhurst, Hon. Div. Sec., 13, Bradford Street, Eastbourne.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting. Will those intending to be present oblige by letting me know not later than Wednesday, the 3rd.—F. Ridgwell, Dis. Sec., Queen's Road, Earls Colne.

BISHAMPTON, NEAR PERSHORE, WORCS.—The bells will be re-dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester on Sunday, November 7th, at 6.30 p.m.—a ring of six, tuned and rehung in new framework by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The jubilee dinner and concert will be held at the Stafford Hotel, City Road, Chester, on Saturday, November 20th. Dinner at 6 p.m. prompt. Tickets 2s. 6d. each. Application for tickets (enclosing remittance) to H. Parker, 3, London Road, Davenham, Cheshire, or the branch secretaries, before November 13th.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Worcestershire and Districts Association.—Will all Western Branch tower secretaries please note that the address of George E. Large is now 1, Windmill Cottages, Lower Town, Claines, near Worcester?

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DEATH.

MARRIOTT.—On October 12th, 1937, Emily Jane, the beloved wife of Ernest Marriott, Wymondham, near Oakham, aged 57 years.

HARVEST FESTIVAL TOUCHES.

LONDON.—For evening service at St. Olave's, Hart Street, City, on October 17th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples from 'Thurstans': G. Parsons 1, Miss M. Prockson 2, J. Bennett (conductor) 3, G. R. Pye 4, W. R. Madgwick 5, C. T. Coles 6, E. C. S. Turner 7, H. Willson, jun. 8. Rung for the harvest festival.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.—On Sunday, October 3rd, for morning service at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): D. Hayes 1, E. J. Ayliffe 2, B. D. Elliott 3, Mrs. F. Bowden 4, J. McDermott, R.N. 5, H. Smithers 6, F. Bowden (conductor) 7, R. Hayes 8. Rung for the harvest festival and the fourteenth anniversary of the opening of the bells.

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