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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1940.

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REBUILDING OF DEPLETED BANDS.

The success of the annual dinner of Bristol United Ringing Guilds should encourage others, who are in the habit of holding a similar event, to continue to do so as long as conditions make it possible. An attendance of about two hundred, when wintry weather was coupled to the difficulties of black-out and curtailed transport difficulties, was a result beyond what the most optimistic could have expected. There may be more difficult and even more desperate times ahead, but, while circumstances allow it, there is justification for keeping up the social side of ringing as well as the practice of it in the towers. It needs only courage and energy to make a success of such reunions as that at Bristol, and the officers of the B.U.R.G. had their reward on Saturday.

It was not inopportune that occasion should be taken at this gathering to emphasise, as one speaker did, the increased, indeed the imperative, importance of immediate recruiting for the belfry. In addition to the natural losses which take place, there is now an abnormal drain upon the man-power of the towers. The call to arms is taking away from the belfries some of the best material, and as time goes on these losses will be accentuated as class after class of men is drafted to the colours. Towers where there are men liable to military service should not wait until the call comes, but should lose no time in seeking suitable recruits, who can be trained in readiness to take the vacant places when they occur. In the meantime they will give an added strength to the band, but if the steps to replace them are left until the men depart, it may be too late. The bottom may have dropped out of the ringing before new material can be moulded into shape, whereas if the losses are anticipated now, and training begun without delay, there may at least be sufficient numbers to keep the bells going, even though the standard of ringing suffers a setback.

The speaker who took up the theme on Saturday put forward, in connection with it, a point which we commend to the renewed attention of associations. It was that the associations should spend their funds in assisting instruction. This is a matter which, from time to time, has come under discussion. Certain associations, of course, already provide instructors to help local bands, and now, more than ever, they and every other ringing organisation ought to turn their attention to increasing the facilities. It is not merely the raw band, just on the verge of change ringing, that can benefit from the help of a competent instructor. There will probably be many bands in the future that would profit by such help, not to

(Continued on page 38.)

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drag them through the elements of change ringing, but to assist in restoring the strength of what was previously an independent company now depleted by the claims of national service. Associations will find many cases, we believe, where it would be of advantage in the maintenance of the art, to supplement local effort by arranging voluntary assistance and paying merely the necessary out-of-pocket expenses. Indeed, where funds are limited, this would be even more in the interests of the associations than the publication of an elaborate and expensive annual report. Few ringers want a fee for the assistance they can give in training others, but it is only fair that, if they need it, they should be reimbursed their travelling expenses. In these days, money spent in this way might prove to be a good investment. Wherever the remnant of a band can provide new material, an association should be ready to supplement the local effort by outside help, and in every district there are ringers who would willingly give it, if they were assured of their bare expenses. Not every man can afford to pay out a weekly sum for the purpose, but there are few, if they could be sure of reimbursement in respect of travelling expenses, who would not readily assist, even at some inconvenience, in rebuilding a band depleted by the call upon the manhood of the nation.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

DENNIS HOLLOS Treble	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER 2	IVAN KAY 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN... .. 3	HARRY BYROM 7
FRANK REYNOLDS 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY... .. Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by HARRY BYROM.

First peal in the method as conductor. Rung as a farewell to the conductor, prior to his joining H.M. Navy.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ALBERT E. LOCK Treble	ALFRED H. WEBB 5
MARIE R. CROSS 2	WILLIAM LAMBELL 6
MRS. A. E. LOCK 3	*HARRY WHITE 7
ROBERT H. BLOND 4	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal and rung at the first attempt.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. E. B. JAMES' TEN-PART. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

ARTHUR A. HADLEY Treble	JOHN HOYLE... .. 5
JOHN BEAMS... .. 2	ALBERT J. ADAMS... .. 6
HARRY E. GOOD 3	WILLIAM G. NEWBERRY 7
JOHN E. BEAMS 4	HARRY SCOTCHER... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. BEAMS.

Rung on the 50th anniversary of the conductor's entry into the above association.

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SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

WEST DEEPIING LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent, Oxford, Double Court and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

HARRY GIBBARD 1	WILLIAM OLDMAN 4
CHARLES WOODS... .. 2	FRED BRIGHTMAN 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... 3	HORACE M. DAY Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

This peal was specially arranged to enable Mr. Brightman to score his first peal in five methods inside.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 12 cwt.

THOMAS W. NASH 1	HUBERT JONES 4
JAMES HUGHES 2	ARTHUR C. NASON 5
LESLIE EVANS 3	E. RICHARD BALDWIN... .. Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

Rung on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. L. E. A. Davies (member of the Ludlow Guild of Bellingers) and Miss K. M. Corbett, of Craven Arms. The conductor's 50th peal for the Hereford Guild.

LLANBEDR, BRECONSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes.

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 21 differently called 240's. Tenor 9½ cwt.

DAVID E. GRIFFITHS ... 1	ALBERT E. JONES... .. 3
JAMES P. HYETT 2	BERNARD H. DAVIES 4
DAVID H. BENNETT Tenor	

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

First peal on the bells.

KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 15 cwt.

*HAROLD WILLIAMS ... 1	DOUGLAS F. ELLENDER ... 4
†ROY D. HAYNE 2	WILLIAM T. COX 5
GEORGE F. CANTRILL ... 3	FRANK E. PERVIN Tenor

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* First attempt for a peal. † First peal 'inside.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Five Minutes;

At 20, ABERDEEN CRESCENT,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES 1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY... .. 5-6
HAROLD JACKSON 3-4	PETER LAFLIN 7-8

Composed by S. THOMAS. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. A. F. Bailey, who witnessed the peal

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*J. A. BULLOCK (aged 15½) ... 1-2	J. BULLOCK 3-4
*T. H. BULLOCK (aged 13) ... 5-6	

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—Jeane Bullock.

* First peal. A birthday compliment to Mrs. J. Bullock, Miss Jeane Bullock and Leonard W. Bullock, aged 10.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 21, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
*DEREK M. SHARP 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

DEATH OF AN EXETER RINGER.

AN EARLY MEMBER OF DEVON GUILD.

The death occurred on January 6th after a short illness of Mr. Elias Truman at Kenn, near Exeter, where he had lived all his life. He was 78 years of age and was one of the oldest surviving members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, having joined that society in 1885.

Mr. Truman learnt his ringing at Kenn and St. Sidwell's, Exeter. He was not keen on taking part in peal ringing, but stopped and listened throughout many a peal. He was a good ringer and would always insist on good striking.

At the funeral, which took place at Kenn on January 10th, the bells were rung half-muffled. Those taking part in the ringing were six members of the Exeter (St. Thomas') band, of which deceased was a member, and other members of the Guild. Among the many wreaths was one from the Exeter (St. Thomas') band. His passing will be keenly regretted by all who knew him, for, quiet and unassuming in character, he was much respected by his belfry colleagues.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING AT MORRISTON.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild was held recently at Morriston, where about 14 members attended.

The bells were raised at half-past two and kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor until about 4.30, when they were lowered in peal. No service could be held, as the church had not been blacked out. Mrs. Williams, the mother of the brothers Williams, of Morriston, kindly provided tea at her house and invited the ringers there. Full justice was done with all the good things provided, and Mrs. Williams was heartily thanked for her kindness. The Rev. O. J. Rees took the chair at the meeting, at which Mr. E. Stinch was re-elected district secretary and Mr. D. G. Williams auditor.

Aberavon was chosen for the next meeting. All members were urged to keep the bells going for Sunday service, and it is hoped to renew the monthly practices this year, but to have them on Saturday afternoons.

TUNSTALL TOWER REOPENS.

THE LOCAL BAND CARRIES ON.

Although at the outbreak of war the band at Tunstall were barred by the Rector and Chief Constable from ringing, even for Sunday services, after persistent and tactful pleading with those gentlemen, they were successful and are now carrying on normally.

On Christmas Eve, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by Miss Hollands 1, G. H. Spice 2, Miss B. Spice 3, W. E. Spice 4, J. Webb 5, John E. Spice 6, W. Spice, sen. (conductor) 7, G. Webb 8. On Christmas Day, touches in various methods were brought round, and on Boxing Day an attempt for a peal of Stedman, conducted by John E. Spice, failed after two hours' ringing owing to a shift course.

On handbells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, ten different callings: Miss Betty Spice 1-2, John E. Spice (conductor) 3-4, 'Grandfather' 5-6. Also 168 of Triples, courses of Plain Bob and Kent Minor, with Mr and Mrs. G. H. Spice taking part.

CHELSEA.—At St. Luke's Church on Sunday, January 7th, for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): H. G. Andrews 1, C. W. Ottley 2, F. Howson 3, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 4, E. A. Reeve 5, F. Udall 6, W. Essery 7, C. Bartlett 8.

DEATH OF MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY, AN OUTSTANDING FIGURE IN LONDON RINGING.

Some Great Records Recalled.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Challis F. Winney, one of the outstanding figures in the Exercise, who passed away on Tuesday of last week at the advanced age of 81 years. Mr. Winney had been in failing health for some little time, but his passing leaves London ringing circles in general and the Ancient Society of College Youths in particular a great deal poorer for the loss of a highly esteemed member and one whose efforts through two generations added lustre to the annals of the society.

Challis Winney was an extraordinary character. He was a gifted ringer and conductor, reticent of his own great capabilities, often blunt in his criticisms, and yet a man who not only won esteem, but even the love of those who knew him best. He became one of the finest exponents of the art of ringing in London, took part in many famous performances, and, as one of the leading conductors of the College Youths, held a position among ringers far beyond that to which the majority can aspire. He was a stern master in the belfry when he was in charge of the ringing; he brooked no slovenliness or carelessness in ringing; would stop a peal because he was dissatisfied with the striking when most other men would have allowed the ringing to proceed. Many men have learned a few home truths from Challis Winney's lips as to their ability at the end of a rope, but praise from him was praise indeed. Yet behind it all he was the gentlest and most kindly of men, a devout churchman and one whose friendship was something to be cherished.

Mr. Winney was born at Nayland, Suffolk, on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), 1858—the year of the great comet, he would remind you, and believers in astrology might be tempted to associate with it his genius as a ringer. Both his father and grandfather were well-known ringers in the village. His father was also organist and choir-master.

The family came to London when Challis was about 14 years old, and he began his ringing at an early age at St. John's Church, Wilton Road, when a new peal of bells was put in. His tutors were those austere masters of the old school of College Youths, and among them were such men as John Murray Hayes, Ted Horrex and Dick French, but, with ringing in his veins, Challis Winney took to it as a duck to water, and his outstanding ability soon brought him into prominence. J. M. Hayes conducted his first peal, which was Grandsire Triples rung at St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, on October 2nd, 1880. He rang his first peal of Stedman Cinques only a fortnight later. This was conducted by James Pettit at Southwark Cathedral. In 1883 he took part in the then record length of Stedman Caters, 11,111, rung at Fulham, and of this famous band Mr. F. E. Dawe is now the only survivor.

MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES.

Mr. Winney's exceptional gifts led him to take up handbell ringing, and the first peal he called was Holt's Original 'in hand' on March 21st, 1884. It was rung by Edwin Gibbs, F. T. Gover, C. F. Winney and G. T. McLaughlin, and, it is interesting to note, was umpired by John Cox. In the same year Mr. Winney took part in the same composition rung non-conducted at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. Mr. Winney was a truly great ringer and conductor on handbells, and his skill and enthusiasm led to a memorable performance—no less than the ringing of Holt's Original on handbells non-conducted for the first time.

The bright idea that this should be attempted came from Mr. Winney himself, when he was practising handbell ringing with George McLaughlin, who also lived in London, and John C. Mitchell and William Buckingham, who both lived at the time at St. Albans, but were in business in London. They used to meet at all hours of the day—and night—often at Mr. Winney's home. On one occasion, when Mr. Mitchell was detained at his office until 10 p.m., they started for a peal at nine minutes past eleven and finished at twenty minutes past one in the morning. This peal was rung without bobs being called, but trips were corrected. This was on February 25th, 1887, and enthusiasm by this time had reached fever heat. On February 28th over half a peal was rung in strict silence; on March 2nd two-thirds of the peal was accomplished under similar conditions before it came to grief, and on March 8th, 4,600 changes were rung. Next evening nearly half a peal was rung, and then on March 11th triumph was achieved and the peal brought round in 2 hours 39 minutes. It was rung at the old headquarters of the College Youths, the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard. It was listened to by many ringers gathered in an adjoining room, who testified to the perfection of the performance, which stands out as one of the memorable handbell achievements of all time.

Among the other great performances in which Mr. Winney shared were 12,096 of Double Norwich Major at Maidenhead on December 31st, 1892, the first peal of Maximus at Bow, Cheapside, on January 19th, 1907; the then record of 12,160 Bristol Surprise Major at Knebworth, Herts, on April 8th, 1912; the first non-conducted peal of Stedman Cinques on tower bells, rung at Cornhill on February 22nd, 1913; the still unbeaten record of 21,363 Stedman Caters at Appleton, Berks, which occupied 12 hours 25 minutes, on April 22nd, 1922, when, let it not be forgotten, Mr. Winney was 64 years of age. In the

following year Mr. Winney also took part in the great performance at Southwark Cathedral, when 12,675 Stedman Cinques occupied 9 hours 47 minutes, and a few years later was found to be false.

Two other notable performances in which Mr. Winney took part may be mentioned here. In 1917 he rang 5-6 to Carter's Odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples on handbells non-conducted, the first and, if memory serves, the only time the composition has been thus rung. The other ringers were Herbert Langdon, Harry Pasmore and William T. Cockerill. At St. Olave's, Hart Street, on October 21st, 1933, Mr. Winney called the peal of Stedman Triples rung by the oldest band



THE LATE MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY (seated), photographed with Messrs. J. C. Mitchell (left) and W. H. L. Buckingham, on the fiftieth anniversary, in 1937, of the silent Original on handbells.

that ever took part in a 5,040. The ages of the eight College Youths aggregated 612 years, or an average of 76½. Messrs. James George (Birmingham), F. E. Dawe (Woking) and W. Smith (Reading) are left of the company of veterans.

Throughout his ringing life Mr. Winney devoted himself to London ringing. Although purely through his own retiring nature he had never passed through the chair of the Ancient Society of College Youths, he was an honoured member and was for many years one of the trustees. He had been Master of the London County Association, but his main interest was his service to St. Paul's Cathedral, where he was long a member of the 'scroof.' Mr. Winney took part in the opening of the bells at the Imperial Institute on May 10th, 1893, and conducted the first peal on the bells there on August 9th, 1902, in honour of the Coronation of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra.

Mr. Winney, we believe, did not keep a record of the peals he rang, but they were somewhere in the region of seven hundred. His great forte was calling Stedman Triples and the 'Original.' When he rang handbells he seemed to be oblivious of everything and often appeared to be asleep—until a hesitation on the part of one of the other ringers occurred. Then, instantly, he sprang to life and it was clear that despite appearance he knew all that had been going on.

In his personality he seemed to reflect a period that was already aged and passing while he was yet young. There was an old-world

(Continued on next page.)

DEATH OF MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

(Continued from previous page.)

touch in his simple and fearless piety, too. He was courageous in his opinions, but not combative, and in his youthful days he joined the volunteers, serving in the Queen's Westminsters.

In the family ringing history there was a unique connection with a celebrated murder case—the murder of Maria Martin, at the Red Barn, Palstead, in 1827. When William Winney, Challis' grandfather, was married at Neyland, William Corder, son of a former churchwarden at Palstead, was one of the ringers at the wedding. The murder had already been committed, and soon afterwards William Corder was arrested, found guilty and paid the penalty of his crime. It is probably the only instance of a murderer ringing for a wedding. John, William and George Winney were all good double-handed ringers and often rang 720's together. It was not surprising, therefore, that Challis should follow in their footsteps, or that he should outshine his progenitors through three generations.

Mr. Winney's services to the College Youths were recognised in 1924, when he was presented with a cheque and an illuminated address in appreciation of his valuable work for the society and ringing in general, also of the high standard he had always set throughout his ringing career. In the closing years of his life, also, Mr. Winney received from an intimate group in the society a tangible expression of their esteem and regard.

The funeral of Mr. Winney took place at Brompton Cemetery on Friday. After the committal a course of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells over the grave by H. Langdon, T. H. Taffender, W. E. Judd and H. G. Miles. In addition to the family mourners, the following ringers were also present: Dr. Flaxman, Messrs. A. A. Hughes, E. A. Young, A. R. Macdonald, G. N. Price and H. Hoskins.

'RING OUT THE OLD.'

CUSTOM REVIVED AT IBSTOCK.

In at least one place the black-out may be thanked for being able to ring out the old year, for at Ibstock, Leicestershire, the custom of ringing out the old year was discontinued some time ago owing to the Rector holding a watch-night service.

This year, however, as the church is not blacked out, service could not be held, and the ringers at once seized the opportunity once again to do their bit.

After the usual proceedings the bells were lowered in peal at 12.45 and the ringers were kindly entertained by Mr. D. Mee, the secretary of the Church Council, and Mrs. Mee. They wish to express their kind appreciation of this thoughtfulness and generosity.

DONINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAMPANOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

HOW IT STARTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read Mr. E. A. Barnett's encouraging remarks about our society in 'The Ringing World' of January 12th, and thank him very much for his very kind wishes. However did a 'Doningtonian Magazine' reach Mr. Barnett?

In 1938 our newly-appointed headmaster, Mr. S. E. Taylor, of Godalming, asked me if I knew anything about handbells and whether I would be willing to start a bellringing society in the school. I told him that, though my experience on handbells was very limited, I knew a little about change ringing and that I should be only too delighted to start such a society. Mr. Taylor then told me the history of our bells. His grandfather, Mr. Samuel Fowler, was in a church choir in Canterbury, where Canon Helmore started a band of handbell ringers, which Mr. Fowler joined. The band of ringers broke up and the bells were stored for over 50 years. Mr. Taylor had tried without success to find handbell ringers in all the schools in which he had taught.

The Handbell Ringing Society is held, like other school societies, after school each Thursday afternoon, and these practices last about an hour and a half. Most of the members would like a practice every evening! Several of the boys were able to handle a bell in their local church, but, with the exception of one boy, John Firth, none of them knew anything about changes. Thus, having rung many courses of Bob Minor, much credit is due to the boys for their keenness and perseverance.

I am delighted to add that boys belonging to our society are attached to the following local churches: Wigtoft and Donington, Swineshead, Bicker, Billingborough and Gosberton. JOHN E. ALLEN.

FOUR-PART PEALS OF BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In Mr. C. Fenn's letter of December 29th, 1939, he gives the figures of a peal of 5,056 Bob Major under the name of Mr. A. C. Hardy. This was composed in the year 1886 by Mr. J. J. Brierley, and the figures may be found in the Central Council's Collection of Peals, where they appear as the reverse variation of peal No. 107, together with several other four-part peals on the plan by the same composer.

The calling of Mr. Hardy's peal is identical with that of Mr. Brierley's, except that the former peal is started from the sixth course-end of the latter one, thus giving 32546 as the first part-end, instead of 54326.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

John Taylor & Co.

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.....

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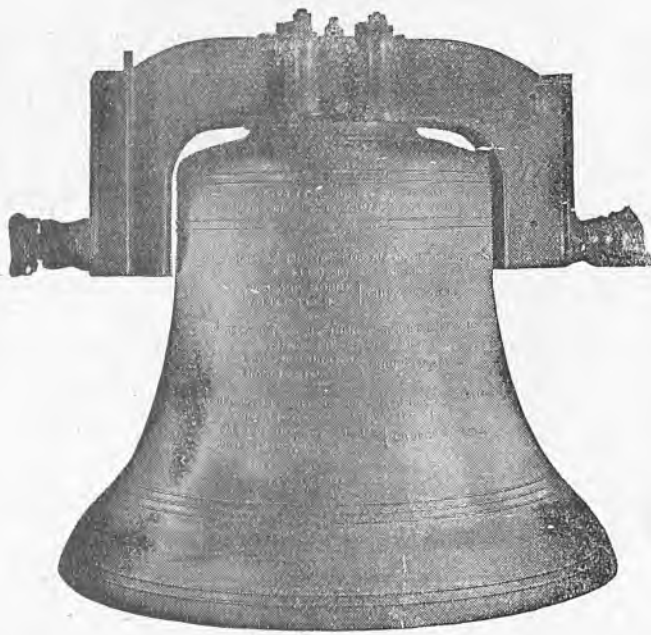
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HANDBELLS

in sets of any number.

BELL ROPES MUFFLES: &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Some of the ringers who travelled to Bristol for the B.U.R.G. dinner on Saturday had long train journeys. One Sheffieldite was about seven hours on the rail; the visitors from Manchester took nearly as long, but the tedium of the travelling did not rob the ultimate reunion of any of its pleasures.

The dinner itself was timed to begin an hour earlier, presumably because black-out conditions made it difficult to get home, but some of the brighter spirits kept it up just as late as ever.

A few of the regular visitors were missing—notably one of the Birmingham contingent. They could not be there in the flesh, but they were probably present in the spirit.

Several of the N.U.T.S. were present at the dinner and took the opportunity to 'snatch' a few more towers both on Saturday and Sunday.

A pair of spectacles and a pipe were found after the dinner. The owners can have them on application to the hon. secretary (Mr. E. Guise).

A handbell peal by Mr. James Bullock and two of his boys was rung at Dagenham on Saturday. One of the boys is 15½ and the other 13, and they both scored their first peal. The peal was a birthday compliment to Mrs. Bullock, Miss Jeane Bullock and Leonard Bullock. The last named is 10 years of age and rang 5-6 to a quarter-peal of Doubles on the following day.

Mr. J. E. Davis informs us that owing to the numerous meetings arranged in London, the next practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, will be on February 10th.

On January 19th, 1725, the College Youths rang their first peal, one of Grandsire Cinques, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. It was the first on twelve bells and was conducted by Matthew East. Benjamin Amable rang the second.

On January 21st, 1788, the Cambridge Youths rang at Great St. Mary's 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus, which still remains the record length in the method. On the same date in 1898 the St. Michael's Juniors Society of Gloucester rang 5,040 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Cheltenham. At the time it was claimed as the first peal in the method, but actually as far back as October 26th, 1822, the Wakefield men had rung one.

James Motts died on January 21st, 1923. For many years he was one of the leading ringers and bob callers at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and the leading position that band now holds in the Exercise is in no small degree due to him. He took part in many famous peals, including 16,608 of Treble Bob, 14,112 of London Surprise and the first peal of Cambridge Maximus.

PENTRE RINGER'S DEPARTURE.

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. J. HAMLIN.

The Llandaff and Monmouth Association has suffered a real loss by the departure from Pentre of Mr. T. J. Hamlin, whose connection with the St. Peter's Society covers a period of 45 years. Coming to the Rhondda Valley nearly 50 years ago, he was employed at the Pentre Colliery until it closed down in 1935.

His church activities extended far beyond ringing. He was for many years a member of the C.E.M.S., a sidesman for over 40 years, Sunday School teacher, verger and secretary of the local C.E.T.S. He had charge of the tower clock for 38 years, and the inhabitants of Pentre remember with gratitude these many years of voluntary service.

On Sunday, January 14th, before evensong, the local band rang a farewell quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. The band included one ringer with whom Mr. Hamlin had been associated for 45 years, most of the rest having been regular Sunday service ringers for over 25 years.

Amongst the notable accomplishments which Mr. Hamlin helped the band to perform was the ringing of the first peals of Erin Triples and Oxford Bob Triples in Wales by a local band; also the first peals of Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association by a local band. Altogether Mr. Hamlin has rung nearly 40 peals, the last being for the Coronation of King George VI.

On Wednesday, January 17th, a suitably inscribed framed photo of the St. Peter's Society was presented to Mr. Hamlin by the Rev. D. Spenser Jones, Vicar of Ystradyfodwg, on behalf of his fellow-ringers.

Fitting tributes were paid to Mr. Hamlin's unique record and his sterling qualities by the Vicar and members of the society.

A native of Congressbury, Somerset, Mr. Hamlin will reside at Yatton, Bristol, with the best wishes of his fellow-ringers in his retirement.

THE N.U.T.S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am afraid that the worthy inhabitants of Chinnor were indulging in a gentle leg-pull when they told the N.U.T.S. that the bells had not been rung up for a year, since on July 29th, 1939, certain local bumpkins looked in at that tower and rang a course of London Surprise Minor. I am almost sure that the bells were rung up beforehand.

All power to the N.U.T.S., and may their wheels turn on merrily still in 1940, in spite of these unmannerly interruptions from the mainland.

Chearsley Vicarage.

ELLIOT WIGG.

BRISTOL UNITED GUILDS' DINNER. GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE WAR-TIME CONDITIONS.

The nineteenth annual dinner of Bristol United Ringing Guilds, held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on Saturday, was, despite the handicap of war-time conditions, a great success. Although the numbers were not quite so great as last year — which was to be expected—there was, nevertheless, an attendance of some two hundred and among the visitors were those who came from as far afield as London, Sheffield, Manchester and Birmingham.

Ringings took place during the afternoon at various Bristol churches and the hour of the dinner was advanced to five o'clock. This year's chairman was Mr. William Abraham, of St. Thomas' Guild, and the vice-chairman Mr. Brian Huddleston, of Westbury. Among those present were Mrs. Abraham, the Rev. Canon A. R. Millbourne, the Rev. M. Paterson (St. Thomas'), the Rev. Dr. Stock, the Rev. F. S. Lee (St. Ambrose's), the Rev. C. K. Davis, Messrs. S. F. Palmer, C. Hewitt, J. W. Jones, G. Popnell, Wilfred Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. Read, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stinch, Mr. and Mrs. Shuker, Mr. and Mrs. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood.

During dinner light instrumental music was played by 'The Ringers' Sextet,' and afterwards the Chairman proposed 'The King.' He then submitted the toast of 'The Church.' After having first expressed his appreciation of the honour of being elected chairman of the United Ringing Guilds for 1940, Mr. Abraham went on to say that the toast had been proposed at many functions in past years because people realised that the Church was a great power for good in England. At a time when the country was at war they had special reason for remembering the Church. Those who served in the last war would not easily forget the splendid services rendered by the chaplains and the Church Army. He could speak from personal experience and had many pleasant recollections. They took it for granted that the Church would not forget its duty to those serving with the Forces during this present struggle. They welcomed as their guest that evening Canon Millbourne, who until recently enjoyed the distinction of being head of the famous Colston Boys' School, and they felt sure he would continue to be prominent in the city and in the service of the Church (applause). In past years that dinner had been honoured at different times by three Bishops, two Archdeacons and other eminent clergymen and they were grateful to Canon Millbourne for his presence that night. Ringers served the Church in its towers and were pleased that the clergy recognised them. Mr. Abraham added a personal appreciation of their friend, the Vicar of St. Thomas', for his kindness and consideration at all times. Continuing, he said that, whatever the future activities of the Church, ringers would support the Church in giving a clear lead towards removing many of the causes of war. No one could fail to respond to such a call, and the probable result would be a much better understanding between the nations of the world.

MAKING A GREAT NOISE.

Canon Millbourne, who responded to the toast, brought a message from the Dean of Bristol, who, he said, was very sorry not to be able to attend. They, on their part, were also sorry he was not present, but were glad to know that the Dean was taking two or three days of the summer holiday he lost last year. He (Canon Millbourne) confessed he felt one up on the Dean, for he was very glad and grateful for the privilege of coming to the dinner. The Dean had the better claim to be there, because he knew something about bellringing, whereas the subject was a closed book to him (the speaker). He hoped, however, that some day he might be allowed the privilege of seeing the ringers at their job. They were people who created a great volume of sound. When he was young he wanted to make a great volume of sound, but he took the wrong turning and learned to play the trombone (laughter). If, when playing that instrument, one made a mistake, one could not pass it off with a cough (laughter). But ringers either did not make mistakes or else they knew perfectly well that the average layman would not know that they had made a mistake (laughter).



MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM.

Continuing, Canon Millbourne said he thought he might sum up everything that might be said in response to the toast by quoting some words he once saw:—

'As long as bells do ringe
Shall alle menne singe
Praise to our Heavenly Kinge.'

The voice of the bells was, he said, the voice of the Church and the ringers were an essential part of the Church. The Church could afford to be grateful to the ringers whenever bells were being rung. He trusted that they would soon hear the voice of the bells in such volume as they had never heard before, ringing for peace, and that in those bells they would hear the voice of the Church. But come it soon or come it late, the bells would be the voice of the Church, and the Church was grateful for the toast which the ringers had honoured that night (applause).

A WELCOME RETURN.

The Rev. M. Paterson, who proposed 'The Ringing World,' said when he spoke on the same toast at that dinner last year he told them he was making his farewell speech. He told them he had been present at sixteen of those dinners, that he had made a number of speeches, that he had given them a great amount of good advice; he had told the ringers how they ought to behave to raw recruits; how they ought to behave to the clergy; he had told the clergy how they ought to behave to the ringers—alas, there were so few clergy present—and he had also told ringers how they ought to behave towards themselves. Having said farewell to them last year, he ought to apologise for being present that night, but he was there for three reasons. The first was that he was Vicar of St. Thomas' Church and one of St. Thomas' ringers was their chairman (applause). It would have been singularly ungrateful if he had not been present when he was in the chair. The senior churchwarden of St. Thomas', who had been present at many of those dinners, would also have been with them but for the illness of his wife. The second reason why he (Mr. Paterson) was present, despite his speech last year, was that the Editor of 'The Ringing World' expressed his regret at the farewell and he felt that that was a very good reason for making another speech (laughter and applause). The third reason was a purely selfish one; and that was that he would not have to go home in a Bristol bus. Mr. Paterson offered some amusing but pungent criticism of the Bristol buses and said he would rather have had the old trams, but he praised the skill of the bus drivers and the courtesy of the conductors.

Preceding, Mr. Paterson said he owed a debt of gratitude to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' because on the last two occasions he had flattered his vanity, not only by reporting his speeches in full, but by writing on each occasion a leading article about what he had said. The Editor was present with them on that occasion for many reasons: one was to remind ringers that there existed a paper devoted entirely to their interests. He (the speaker), as a citizen, read a daily newspaper, and as long as Sir John Simon left him a few pennies (laughter), he hoped to continue to read a daily paper. As a churchman he also read a Church paper; if he were a ringer he should most certainly also feel it his duty to take in one more paper, and that paper would be 'The Ringing World' (applause). He thanked the Editor for the great courtesy he had shown to him personally on many occasions, and in the name of the ringers he thanked him also for the great work he had done, was doing and would do for all those who found their pleasure in the towers of the churches throughout the land (applause).

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, in thanking the Rev. M. Paterson for his kindly speech, expressed the pleasure all the company present must feel that they had the Vicar of St. Thomas' once more with them and that his name was again on the toast list. He drew attention to the fact that Mr. Paterson had not, on this occasion, mentioned that it was his farewell speech, and they would all hope he would long be spared to come among them on the occasion of the Bristol Guilds' dinner (applause). Continuing, Mr. Goldsmith said when the war started it looked as if ringing would collapse, and there was, in the early weeks, the definite possibility that 'The Ringing World' would have to pull down the blinds. Happily they had tided over those particularly difficult days, and, partly at any rate, through the lead given by 'The Ringing World,' ringing activity had been resumed and was increasing. He congratulated the Bristol United Guilds upon their courage in holding that dinner in the face of many obstacles, and congratulated them also upon the success of the gathering.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood proposed the toast of 'The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Bristol United Guilds.' The name of the association, he said, conjured up the names of many famous ringers connected with it, among them those of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, the brothers James, Jim Hinton, Jack Wilkins and many others. He thought it was a great thing that at those gatherings they should remember the stalwarts who had contributed so largely to the building up of that society. He could claim to have a definite link with the association, because, about 30 years ago, one of its members, Adolphus Roberts, called his first peals of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich. In return he taught Adolphus Roberts to ride a bicycle (laughter), and those who knew Adolphus Roberts could imagine what a task that was, for he stood about 6ft. 4in. in height and weighed about 16 stones (laughter). The Gloucester and Bristol Association had played a considerable part in the building up

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BRISTOL UNITED GUILDS' DINNER.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the Exercise as they knew it to-day, and he was astonished recently to find that in the last war, out of a resident membership of 600, the association yielded 350 members to His Majesty's Forces, 60 of whom did not return. He thought that was a wonderful record. It was, he continued, fairly safe to assume that in the difficult days that lie ahead a somewhat similar position would arise. The younger members would once more be called upon to serve the country. Last year he put in a strong appeal for recruitment to make up the losses which naturally occurred. Now, it seemed to him, with the greater loss which would have to be faced, it would need a greater effort than ever. It was really up to the clergy to provide them with the suitable material to fill their ranks, and then it was up to the ringers to make the best use of that material. There was always a good deal of wastage. Young men took up ringing, found there was a job of work in it and gave it up when they were on the point of becoming a success. He thought the associations should give more careful study to the questions of proper training and the prevention of wastage in the future. In Bath they had been very successful in holding combined practices on Saturday afternoons. He commended this to his Bristol friends and other towns. It was better for a few towers to combine and have one good practice than for all the towers to give up practice because they could not get enough ringers. He thought it was up to the associations and guilds to take a more definite interest in the training of ringers. Associations occasionally devoted guild funds to grants for bell restorations, which seemed to indicate that there was money about, but he personally would sooner see money devoted to training ringers than to bell restorations. It was up to the Church authorities and the parishioners to keep their bells in order; they, as ringers, should use their money for the proper training of ringers. He was very much opposed to building up large surpluses in association funds. He did not think they should regard a ringing society as a sort of savings association, but devote their funds to the art they all loved. He would even say that if money was short, they might voluntarily pay an increased subscription to their societies. With regard to the Bristol United Guilds, ringers had come to expect the unexpected. He had in his pocket the menu card of the first dinner held 18 years ago. He attended that dinner and had not missed many since, and he was glad to see that his friends in Bristol had stuck to the event. Looking at that gathering, he thought all would agree that it was fully justified, and he congratulated the committee upon their courage in going on with the organisation of the dinner. What Bristol did to-day Birmingham thought to-morrow. Birmingham had taken courage from Bristol's action and was going to keep its Johnson dinner going. He congratulated Mr. Guise and the committee on the success of the gathering (applause). In the absence of the Master of the association, he coupled with the toast the name of Mr. J. Gould, who had been a member for over fifty years.

Mr. Gould, in a brief but fitting reply, also recalled the names of many past members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association who had helped to build up the fortunes of the organisation, and hoped all the members would do their best to keep ringing going in these difficult times. He said he had been a member for 56 or 57 years and had always met good company (applause).

A WELCOME TO THE VISITORS.

The Vice-Chairman submitted 'Kindred Guilds and Associations,' and warmly welcomed the visitors and the representatives of other associations. Such gatherings as that, he said, marked the great bond of friendship that existed among ringers. Some men, however, were content to climb the same old belfry steps week after week, pull the same old rope, ring the same old bell to the same old method. That was not the spirit of the true bellringer, who should be glad to visit neighbouring towers and lend a hand wherever help was needed.

Mr. E. Stitch (Swansea and Brecon Guild) responded and thanked the Bristol United Guilds for arranging that most enjoyable gathering. The gathering helped to make for sociability and friendliness among ringers and without these things it was not worth having. He had been coming to Bristol for twelve years, and whenever he came there, or, indeed, wherever he went in any part of the country, he met with the greatest friendliness from ringers. He congratulated the Bristol Guilds upon holding the dinner and said the visitors greatly appreciated what had been done for them (applause).

Mr. Emery, the pro-vice-chairman, proposed thanks to the artistes. It was a toast, he said, to which he responded 19 years ago, and on the 21st birthday of that gathering he was looking forward to occupying the chair. The great feature of that dinner was the musical programme. The standard was very high and they deeply appreciated the kindness of the artistes.

Mr. Vaughan Colman acknowledged the vote and said it was always a pleasure to reciprocate the kindness shown by Mr. Read and Mr. Guise as well as to perform before an appreciative audience.

The musical programme which had been arranged fully upheld the reputation established in past years and included items of great variety. The music during dinner was greatly enjoyed, and among the items which followed was the singing of Master Butler, a chorister at St. Thomas' Church, who gave beautiful renderings of such songs as 'Pipes of Pan,' 'Where'er you walk,' 'Smilin' through' and 'Bird songs at Eventide.' He was accompanied at the piano by Mr. Clifford Hensley, the organist and choirmaster. Music and song were

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ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**BROADCASTING TO BE RENEWED AT ST. MARTIN'S.**

The annual general meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths was held on Saturday, January 20th, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The bells were available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 o'clock, and many members and friends took the opportunity to have a pull. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Deal, Mr. J. Armiger Trollope, Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, Mr. Stafford H. Green, Mr. Horace Belcher and Mr. William Hewett.

Considering the severe weather and war conditions prevailing, the attendance was very gratifying, well over 50 people putting in an appearance in the course of the day.

At the business meeting, held in the Vestry Hall, the Vicar (the Rev. Pat McCormick) welcomed the gathering and congratulated the society on having such a good meeting. He said he expected the Sunday evening broadcast services to be resumed at St. Martin's on April 7th, but instead of being monthly the service would only be held quarterly. He hoped the ringers would be able to continue their part of the programme as before the war. He also stated there was to be a service broadcast monthly to the Empire on the third Sunday, commencing with February 18th. The time fixed for the service, however, was so early—namely, 8.30 a.m.—that he feared he would have the greatest difficulty in getting a congregation to support him. He asked the ringers to bring the service to the notice of anyone who might be interested and who could attend. So far nothing had been heard that the bells would be required at these broadcasts.

The balance sheet was circulated to the members and showed a slightly decreased balance on the year's working.

It was pointed out by the secretary (Mr. G. W. Steere) that in some cases the collection of steeples had been overlooked, and asked the members to keep the matter in mind for the future.

The secretary announced apologies for absence from Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, Mr. James Parker, Mr. A. H. Pulling and Mr. W. J. Robinson.

The company was then asked to stand in silence for a few moments to the memory of those who had passed away since the last meeting. These included Mrs. William E. Taylor, Mr. Harold N. Davis, Mr. Alfred Pye and Mr. John H. Cheesman.

The hon. secretary reported that ten peals were rung by the society during 1939, including Stedman Cinqes 4, Stedman Caters 1, Superlative 1, Bob Major 1, Spliced Minor in 30 methods 1, Minor in seven methods 2. The Master, Mr. G. H. Cross, had conducted six of these, Mrs. Fletcher one, Mr. G. Gilbert one and Mr. R. Bird one. By far the most interesting peal the secretary stated, was the Bob Major, rung entirely by a band of ladies. Very few societies outside the ranks of the Ladies' Guild could boast such a performance, and the society owed a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. J. E. Davis and Mrs. E. K. Fletcher for arranging and conducting the peal respectively.

Mention was made of the great disappointment felt by the members in the cancellation of the proposed joint meeting with the Ancient Society of College Youths, arrangements for which were almost complete when hostilities commenced. It is hoped that this meeting will be held when the war is over. Another joint meeting which had to be dropped was that which was scheduled to take place in October at Waltham Abbey with the Essex and Middlesex Associations.

The following officers were all re-elected: Master, Mr. G. H. Cross; hon. treasurer and secretary, Mr. G. W. Steere; senior steward, Mr. T. Bevan; junior steward, Mr. R. C. Heazell; trustees, Mr. A. Hardy and Mr. C. J. Matthews; auditors, Mr. A. W. J. Hughes and Mr. F. G. Symonds.

Mr. J. A. Trollope and Mr. A. Everett were proposed for the post of junior steward, but both withdrew. Mr. A. J. W. Hughes' name was also put forward, a ballot resulting in Mr. Heazell's re-election by one vote.

Twelve new members were elected, viz.: Mrs. K. B. Jones, of Bexley; Mr. R. C. H. Conolly, Watford; Mr. J. M. Gayford, Little Waltham; Mr. N. F. Grinham, Boreham; Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, Thames Ditton; and Mr. Frank Mitchell, Mr. Alan Hall, Mr. Alan Ball, Mr. Alfred Williams, Mr. Kenneth Medhurst, Mr. Robert Holden, all of Bexley; and Mr. A. J. Carter, of Hampstead.

It was decided to arrange a meeting at Bexley in June, at the invitation of Mr. Herbert Holden, and to explore the possibility of a combined practice at Shoreditch in March, in conjunction with St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

On the motion of the Master, it was decided to hold the dinner in abeyance until peace is restored.

The election of the following members at Christchurch on August 12th was confirmed: Mrs. F. T. Marshall, Mr. William E. Cheater and Mr. Harry J. Gillard.

Mr. C. J. Matthews proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and the Vestry Hall.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the secretary, moved by Mr. A. Hardy.

(Continued from previous column.)

provided by the Dallin Brothers; there was a 'Cabaret Fraction' under the direction of Miss Edie Ryan; comedy was sustained by Mr. George Cooper, while Mr. E. Vaughan Colman mystified the audience with some very clever conjuring tricks. Last but not least Mr. Charles Thomas entertained the audience with some good stories.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**MACCLESFIELD BRANCH AND EFFECTS OF WAR.**

Despite the fog and severe frost, more than 20 stalwarts from Macclesfield and the outlying districts met at Christ Church on January 13th for the general meeting of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild. The first comers arrived about 3 p.m., among whom were the Rev. Benson and Mr. W. Dean, both welcome visitors, who are connected with the North Staffs Association. The bells of Christ Church, a melodious peal of eight, are notorious for their strange antics, especially to the uninitiated in their pranks, and, apart from some of the local company, many of the visitors were in 'trouble' quite early. Notwithstanding this, courses in several standard methods were successfully brought round.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. S. J. F. Sharples (Vicar), who gave a very interesting address touching on the different ways in which the sound of the bells is interpreted by various people.

At the business meeting which followed the secretary's report on the activities of the branch during 1939 and the balance sheet were unanimously adopted.

The Rev. S. J. F. Sharples was elected chairman of the branch and Mr. T. Taylor vice-chairman.

The following retiring officers were re-elected for a further term of office: Ringing Master, Mr. J. Worth; secretary, Mr. J. Tipper; treasurer, Mr. J. Norbury; representative on the Guild Committee, Mr. T. Taylor; instructors to the branch, Messrs. W. Gayes, T. Taylor and J. Worth; whilst Mr. J. Worth was also nominated as change ringing member on the Guild Committee.

Ringings were provisionally arranged to take place during 1940 at Bosley, Gawsworth, Chelford and Bollington, subject to the consent of the incumbents concerned.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding at the meeting, for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to the Rev. L. Copestake for officiating at the organ during the service, and last, but by no means least, to the ladies who had made all arrangements for the very enjoyable tea.

The Vicar responded with a happy little speech, after which further use was made of the bells until 7.30 p.m.

YOUTH SHOULD BE ENLISTED.

The secretary's report stated that cessation of practice nights during the winter months due to the national emergency had presented a real difficulty, and this feature had to a very large degree caused lack of interest. In consequence poor attendance on Sundays for service ringing had resulted in some instances. He sincerely hoped that practice nights would be resumed during the summer months, also that full advantage would be taken of them to bring interest back again. It was pleasing to note that practice nights had recently been resumed at Christ Church and the Parish Church, thanks to the valued co-operation of the Vicar of Christ Church. Seventeen members had taken part in 23 peals during the year, of which five were rung at towers connected with the Macclesfield Branch. A decrease of 21 was revealed in the number of peals rung during 1939 compared with 1938, whilst further decreases of four are shown in the number of members taking part and eight in the number of peals rung in the Macclesfield Branch. It should be borne in mind, however, that owing to the outbreak of war very few peals had been rung since September 3rd, whereas peal ringing activity was at its height during this period in 1938. There were now seven honorary members, 58 ringing members and three junior members, making a total of 68, a decrease of one compared with 1938. Of this total, five had already been called to the colours, and in this respect the membership may be further reduced by the calls of military service. They must, therefore, attempt to persuade youths to take up the art of change ringing to ensure the full number of bells being rung every Sunday for service. It had been suggested in 'The Ringing World' that suitable recruits would be found in the youth leaving the choir owing to change of voice, as it had been found that youths of this age often tended to leave the church thinking there was not a job for them. Here then was the opportunity to retain them in further useful service. The Vicar of Bosley had drawn attention to the fact that the bells at that place had been rung only once since the outbreak of war. Two of the Gawsworth band had been called to the colours and chiming of the bells had been resorted to for service in this case. It was, of course, only to be expected that their activities would be subject to a certain amount of dislocation under present-day conditions, but it was felt that every effort should be made, entailing the co-operation of each member of the branch, to carry on as well as possible, as only by so doing could the spirit of the Guild be kept alive.

PENSHURST RINGERS ARE CHOIRMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At Penshurst Church in the quiet weald of Kent on Christmas morning the ringers met under the direction of the Rector at 6.30 a.m. (without black-out) and rang for early service at 7 a.m. Following that they rang for morning service at 10.30 a.m., ceasing the full octave in peal. Then the whole eight of the band went to robe up in the vestry to take their places in the procession and in the choir stalls. This, I think, has been achieved through roping in the choirboys at the time their voices break and before they drift away. I have never been successful in persuading a ringer to join the choir or vice versa. In my early days, while living in the adjoining parish of Chiddingstone, there were six of us interested in both.

GEORGE EDWARDS.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, a large and representative attendance is hoped for. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.45. Tea in the Village Hall at 5.30, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Western Division will be held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Mr. Settabee's, 1s. per head. Business meeting to follow to discuss future arrangements. Half rail fare (maximum 1s. 6d.) to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northwich Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Hartford on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing till 5.30. Service 5.30. Tea 6.15. Meeting after tea. All ringers are welcome.—H. Parker, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Yeovil on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (10) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the meeting. Usual arrangements.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Basingstoke on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Michael's Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in Church Cottage. Business meeting follows.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Tilsworth on Saturday, January 27th. The six bells (a delightful peal) will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All ringers are invited. Buses pass the church.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cirencester, on Saturday, January 27th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30, and service at 5.30.—W. H. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting of Northern District at St. Mary's, Hitchin, Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Annual meeting 5 p.m. in tower. Tea interval until 6.30 p.m. Further ringing till 9 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Black out the blues and enjoy some good ringing. Don't forget, members of this district. Election of officers for 1940.—R. T. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hertford on Saturday, January 27th. All Saints' (10 bells) from 2.30 to 4.45 p.m. Bengoe (8) from 5 to 7 p.m. Service at All Saints' at 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting at the May Flower on the way to Bengoe. Will all committee members make a special effort to attend to elect a district secretary on my retirement owing to circumstances.—A. Laurence, Dis. Sec., Hatfield.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3-5 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8, tenor 19½ cwt.) available during afternoon and evening. Short service.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, January 27th, this tower being blacked out. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at Imperial Cafe. Come and make this our final meeting a success.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Lincs.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ditchheat on Saturday, January 27th. Bells 2.30 to 8.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting following.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at All Saints', High Wycombe, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (12) available 4 to 7 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. Those accepting the invitation to tea must advise the undersigned not later than January 30th. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. Owing to the prevailing conditions, it is essential that notice should be sent to the undersigned not later than February 1st, as the caterer will not guarantee tea for any who have not sent in names. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Coalpit Heath on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (6) open from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec.

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ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please let me know definitely by Wednesday, January 31st?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

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

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oundle Branch.—The 41st annual meeting will be held at Elton on Saturday, February 3rd at 2.30. Service 4.15. Meat Tea, 2s., at 5 p.m. Will those needing tea write to the Rev. A. P. Symes, Warrington, Peterborough, by Jan. 30th?

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The annual district meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd. Ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, from 3 p.m. until 'black-out' time. A good attendance is requested, as several of the present officers will not seek re-election.—J. G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

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

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All those intending to be present must let me know by January 30th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Bromham on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Owing to catering difficulties, tea can only be provided for those who notify me by February 2nd. All very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

BRIGHTON.—The next practice meetings will be held on Saturdays, at 3 p.m., as follows: February 3rd, St. Peter's; February 17th, Good Shepherd; March 2nd, St. Nicholas; March 16th, St. Peter's—S. E. Armstrong, 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

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

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

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

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting February 10th. Ringing: St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 3 to 4.30 p.m.; St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Perdy's Restaurant, Essex Street, Strand, followed here by business meeting 6 p.m. Names for tea to me, please, by February 7th.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.20.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Apsley on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Business: Committee, and arrangements for 1940. Usual arrangements, but tea only provided for those who let me know by Tuesday, January 30th.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

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ANOTHER KENT RINGER'S DEATH.

The Kent County Association has lost by death another ringer, Mr. Charles R. Goodburn, of Milton-next-Gravesend, who passed away at the early age of 43 years. He was a native of Newington, Folkestone, where his father was verger and sexton for over 30 years.

Mr. Goodburn served in the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1916-1919, and there is no doubt that an illness contracted during that period hastened his end.

He was most regular in his attendance at ringing when his duties permitted and will be missed in Milton tower, where he had been a member for 10 years. He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The funeral took place on Thursday, January 11th, the service being held in Milton Church and conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. J. Powell, an hon. member of the association. He afterwards performed the committal rites at Gravesend Cemetery. Mr. F. M. Mitchell (leader of the tower and hon. secretary of the County Association) and Mr. J. Burles (deputy leader) represented the ringers. A widow, three sons and four daughters are bereaved.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—At St. Nicholas' Church on Sunday, December 31st, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): George Paston 1, P. Newstead 2, R. Davey (conductor) 3, J. G. W. Harwood 4, Bdr. C. Milton, R.A. (Exeter) 5, A. Wigmore 6, A. Moy 7, H. Jermy 8.

ASHFORD, KENT.—At the Parish Church on Tuesday, December 26th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: T. Tabrett 1, H. G. Castle 2, W. Ring 3, P. Page 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, W. Prior 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, Dan Godden 8. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Nora Swaffer, daughter of Mr. George Swaffer, late ringer of Ashford, now of Canterbury.

CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.—On Sunday, December 17th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): J. H. B. Hesse 1, E. J. Ayliffe 2, F. Bowden 3, A. E. Brown (first in method) 4, M. Smither 5, H. Wootton (first in method) 6, A. J. Bartlett (conductor) 7, H. Mullard 8.

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