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## RINGING AFFAIRS IN LONDON.

The handling of the affairs of the London County Association has frequently given rise to criticism, and the annual meeting last Saturday provided another occasion for disagreement on a question of policy. This time, however, the grievance was not created outside the association, as it was, for instance, last year, but arose internally between the principal officers. What, briefly, had happened was that the Master, disagreeing with a proposal to include a certain tower in the ringing arrangements for the day, took it upon himself to cancel that part of the proceedings, after the secretary, acting on the wishes of the members, had sought and obtained permission to use the bells in question. It was rather an unedifying dispute, but there was sufficient feeling in it to result in the secretary, despite pressure, declining to continue in office. Indeed, it had gone even deeper than this, for it was revealed that the Master had himself previously informed the secretary that, if the arrangement to ring at this tower was persisted in, he should himself resign before the day of the meeting, rather than be responsible for the ringing there.

Apart from individual expressions of opinion, the meeting took no decision on the dispute, but there was a general, and not unnatural, view that personal feelings should not be allowed to stand in the way of the activities of the association. That is an important principle in the management of all societies, and, unless it is observed, success cannot be assured. Nothing is more likely to lead to the disintegration of any organisation than disagreement between the officials, whose first duty should be loyalty to the members. This latest trouble in the association is the echo of some rather distant dispute, and one can well understand the desire of some of the younger members that the hatchet should be buried. Those who know the history of the London County Association know how often personal feeling between individuals has led to friction in relations with other organisations which cover London and the area on the fringe of it, and there are still those among the older ringers who regret the change of its status from the days when it was the St. James' Society. But be that as it may, it is too late to go back; what should be the aim of this and the other ringing organisations is a spirit of greater co-operation. The first step towards that must be the sinking of old quarrels and the avoidance of new ones.

There is, as has been so often pointed out, great scope for the greater development of ringing in the vast area of London, where so many rings of bells hang neglected

(Continued on page 74.)

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in the towers. Instead, it seems to have been one of the objects of some ringers to get a foothold in towers already manned by others. That may be easier than opening up towers which, in a ringing sense, have fallen into decay, but it does not necessarily advance ringing. It may, in fact, have the opposite effect by creating friction. Greater London has too many ringing organisations and too little co-operation among the ringers, but there can be little hope of any improvement while petty jealousies are allowed to hamper activities. A great deal might be done if all the remaining hatchets were interred deep in the ground. It might be the first step towards that better understanding which is so necessary to the success of ringing in the Metropolis. If there is to be unity of purpose there are still barriers that need breaking down and jealousies that should be forgotten. Mutual helpfulness between such towers as possess bands should be fostered to a greater extent than it is, and the gradual 'rescue' of neglected bells should be made a matter of combined effort. There is a long, long furrow to plough before that stage is reached, which a recent correspondent seems to fear, when so many peals of bells in inner London will be ringing together to such an extent that all the caretakers living in the top storeys of London's business houses will find life intolerable. We need not worry over that contingency; what is more likely is that, unless in the future the societies who profess to cover the London area determine to work with a greater unity, ringing in London may fall away rather than progress.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM HENLEY ... .. Treble	*JAMES D. TAYLOR ... .. 5
*RONALD C. FOWLER ... .. 2	†WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM ... .. 6
PETER A. BLAMEY ... .. 3	CYRIL A. BURGESS ... .. 7
GEORGE H. LIMMER ... .. 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... .. Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH.

Conducted by GEO. GIBBERT.

\* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal in the Oxford Variation.  
Arranged for Messrs. Fowler (Marlow) and Birmingham, of Slough.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

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

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

REGINALD C. THRIFT ... Treble	LESLIE J. CLARK ... .. 5
GEORGE GREEN ... .. 2	PERCY GREEN ... .. 6
GEORGE M. RASHBROOK ... 3	DAVID ELLIOTT ... .. 7
ERNEST J. RUNTER ... .. 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by PERCY GREEN.

Rung with bells half-muffled in memory of the late Charles H.  
Howard, some time Master of the Essex Association.

## SIX BELL PEAL.

BRAMLEY, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

JAMES R. MACKMAN ... Treble	ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. 4
JOHN HYDE ... .. 2	WILLIAM T. BEBSON ... .. 5
PETER DAVY ... .. 3	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. J. ROBINSON.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****BADGE FOR THE PRESIDENT.****Belfry Repair Fund Established.**

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Hunslet, Leeds, on Saturday, January 27th, but on account of the very inclement weather, supplemented by the black-out, the attendance was much below the average. Ringing commenced in the early afternoon and continued until 4 p.m., when service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. M. Gresford Jones), who, in his address, welcomed the association to Hunslet, and thanked them for the services they had rendered in providing ringers for the dedication ceremony of the recently restored bells.

Afterwards a sumptuous tea was served in the Parish Room, but unfortunately, again due to the very poor weather, coupled with transport difficulties, much more was provided than necessary. As the Vicar was unable to stay until the business meeting, the president (the Rev. Canon Marshall) moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells; for inviting the association to hold their meeting at Hunslet; and to the local company for their excellent arrangements.—This was carried with applause.

The Vicar, in reply, said he regretted he was unable to stay, and, while wishing them every success, said he was sorry that the weather had prevented a larger gathering. He was grateful to the association for providing them with assistance to teach a local band of ringers, and hoped that before long the bells at Hunslet would be regularly rung.

An adjournment was then made to the Schools, where the business meeting took place, presided over by the president, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the hon. treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer) and the hon. peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton). Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, the President reported that on account of the outbreak of hostilities, the September general meeting, due to be held at Ripon, and the Snowdon Dinner, which was to have been held at York in October, had had to be postponed.

The President referred to the loss the association had sustained since its last meeting in the passing of three of its oldest and best known members: Mr. C. D. Potter, of Barnsley, who had been a member since 1893, and was largely responsible for founding the Barnsley and District Society, and was its president up to the time of his death. At the same time he was a most loyal supporter of the County Association, and very regular in attending its meetings. Mr. Arthur Walker, of Pontefract, also joined the association in 1893. He was a member of the General Committee at the time of his death. Mr. Abraham Haigh, of York, had been a member of the association since its inception in 1875.—As a tribute of respect the meeting stood in silence.

No invitations had been received for the next meeting, but it was pointed out that the Huddersfield members had invited the association to hold the annual general meeting at Huddersfield and that the committee felt it preferable to postpone acceptance until weather and transport conditions had improved. As the next meeting was due to be held in May, Mr. P. J. Johnson proposed and Mr. H. S. Morley seconded that the meeting be held at Huddersfield, if suitable arrangements could be made. This was agreed to.

**HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION.**

The President, in presenting the association's sixty-fourth annual report, drew attention to the fact that whilst the report dealt mainly with the affairs of the association before the outbreak of war, it was gratifying to know that by Order in Council the ringing of church bells is to continue uninterrupted as part of our national life, and in consequence the committee urged that, as far as possible, every effort be made to hold meetings and in particular district meetings during the war period, as the value of such meetings in keeping alive the interest in change ringing cannot be over-estimated.

Extracts from the report were published in 'The Ringing World' last week.

Mr. P. J. Johnson paid tribute to the work put in by the officers and formally moved the adoption of the report.—This was seconded by Mr. H. Luffhouse and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer, in presenting the balance sheet, said that he was pleased to show a net gain on the year's working of £11 15s. 6d. and that the worth of the association now stood at £324 19s. 3d. He wished, however, to draw attention to the need for the prompt payment of subscriptions, as lack of attention to this matter had resulted in his having to write to no less than 188 members in arrears. He was glad to say that the response had been good, but he thought that a little consideration on the part of the members concerned would at once reveal the extra amount of work involved.

The balance sheet was adopted and the hon. auditors thanked cordially.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood reported that since the last meeting the presidential badge had been obtained and he had very great pleasure on behalf of the members in presenting it to their worthy president. It had been designed and executed by the Leeds School of Art and he felt sure that both the design and appearance would meet with approval.

Canon Marshall, in reply, thanked Mr. Sherwood, the sub-committee

(Continued in next column.)

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING.**

The thirteenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Owing to poor transport facilities, illness and the fact that several members had been called up, only 35 members were present. The fine ring of eight were made good use of before and after the meeting, Davis silencers being used to soothe the local shopkeepers.

A coach was provided to take the company to St. Barnabas' Hall on the outskirts of the town, where an excellent tea was soon disposed of. At the meeting the chair was taken by the president of the Guild, the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird, whose witty remarks kept the company in fits of laughter throughout the proceedings.

The secretary, Mr. B. Saunders, read the committee's report for the past year. During the past year ringing had received a severe blow, but, having weathered the storm, the Guild was now as strong as ever. With the exceptions of September and October, the monthly meetings had been held as usual, the average attendance being just over 30. Thirty-one new members had been elected during the year. The balance sheet showed a very satisfactory state of affairs, expenditure was up by £1 3s. 2d., but the balance had risen from £26 5s. 9d. to £29 19s. 9d. Nine peals had been rung, and these included the first handbell peal for the Guild by the West Grinstead band. The report concluded with the hope that all members would strive hard to uphold and advance the art of change ringing in these dark days and do all they could to fill the gaps as members left for military service.

The officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. V. Wood, who, being away on military service, relinquished his seat to Mr. A. Laker, of Balcombe. This was the tower chosen for the March meeting, Uckfield being the venue for April.

Mr. A. Batten rose at the close of business to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the president for the use of the bells, for providing the excellent tea and for presiding at the meeting.

Before returning in the coach to the tower, handbell ringing was indulged in, the high spot being a well-struck course of Grandsire Doubles by Edgar Rapley 1-2-3-4 and Cecil Longhurst 5-6.

**MUFFLED RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.**

On February 9th, at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, half-muffled touches were rung in memory of Dr. Leonard Hedley Burrows, father of the Vicar of Bournemouth, and first Bishop of Sheffield, who died on the previous Tuesday at the age of 82 years.

In deference to the wishes of the local A.R.P. and police, only short touches were rung. The ringing was concluded by rounds in slow time, the bells being set in turn at three whole pull intervals.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous column.)

and members, remarking that the badge lent a dignity to the office which would be handed on to posterity.

The General Committee made a recommendation relative to members serving in H.M. Forces to the effect that the names of members serving with H.M. Forces be retained on the books without payment of subscriptions until their return to civilian life, but that in such cases a charge of one shilling be made for copies of the annual report if they are required.—Mr. W. H. Senior moved and Mr. H. N. Imeson seconded the adoption of the committee's report, which was carried.

**VOLUNTARY FUND FOR RESTORATIONS.**

The report of the sub-committee set up to go into the matter of instituting a belfry repair fund was next considered. Following a long discussion, it was moved by Mr. W. Barton and seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood that a belfry repair fund be inaugurated. This was carried with one dissident.

After a further lengthy discussion on the modus operandi, it was eventually moved by Mr. P. J. Johnson, seconded by Mr. W. O. Talbot, that clauses a and b of the sub-committee's recommendations be adopted. They read: That in view of the fact that this must always be looked upon as a purely voluntary effort, a collection for this fund be taken at every meeting of the association, whether district or general. (b) That this collection be taken at the tea tables by means of a specially made collecting box, labelled 'Belfry Repair Fund.'—This, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

Mr. W. Barton moved and Mr. P. J. Johnson seconded the re-election of Mr. S. F. Palmer as treasurer for a further period of three years, and he was thanked for his valuable services.

This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Palmer, in reply, thanked the members for re-electing him, and saying how pleased he always was if he was able to further the interests of the association.

The following new members were elected: The Rev. F. M. Gresford Jones, Vicar of Hunslet; Messrs. E. J. Taylor, Bradford; R. Ford, Felkirk; and J. Titmarsh, of Ilkley.

Mr. A. Staveley, of Doncaster, thanked the association for their kindness in taking a collection in connection with the restoration of Doncaster Parish Church bells. He was glad to say that the work was nearing completion, and he hoped he would shortly be able to announce through 'The Ringing World' the opening date.

This concluded the business, after which handbell ringing was indulged in, but most members left much earlier than usual on account of the uncertainty of transport facilities.

## LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### HON. SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION.

#### Dispute Over Meeting Arrangements.

Disagreement between the Hon. Secretary and Master of the London County Association and North Southwark Diocesan Guild in connection with the arrangements for the annual meeting led to a sharp discussion and the resignation of the secretary (Mr. T. W. Taffender) on Saturday. The subject came up when the secretary complained that the Master had cancelled the announcement of the ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. The discussion finally ended when a motion to pass on to the next business was carried, but afterwards the secretary refused to reconsider his decision to resign from office.

The meeting was attended by some 50 ringers and was held after tea at Perdy's Restaurant, near St. Clement Danes. The Master (Mr. T. H. Taffender) presided, and was supported by the principal officers.

The ratification of six new members, elected prior to peals, was agreed to, two of the elections having been previously ratified in July at a meeting, the minutes of which, it was announced, appeared to have been lost before confirmation.

Master J. A. Bullock, of Dagenham, whose age is 15½ and who has just recently called a peal of Doubles on handbells, was elected a member, and the name of T. J. Prideaux, who had not paid his subscription and who has retired from ringing, was removed from the membership roll.

The balance sheet was presented by the hon. treasurer (Mr. E. A. Young). The year began with £56 7s. 4d. in hand and the receipts included £5 11s. from 23 new members, £2 2s. from peal booking fees, £1 8s. 4d. from interest, 4s. profit on sale of annual reports, £1 8s. 6d. balance on steepage account, £1 1s. hon. member's donation, and 7s. 1d. from the funds of the Northern District. The expenditure amounted to £16 12s. 10d., including £3 12s. for writing the peal book, £4 19s. 6d. for new certificates, and 7s. to make good the deficit on the Southern District's working for the year. The balance in hand is now £51 16s. 5d., which includes 36 National Savings Certificates, valued at £37 18s. 5d., £8 14s. 5d. in the Post Office Savings Bank, £1 13s. deposited with the Central Council for copies of the Surprise Major Methods book and £3 10s. 7d. in hands of the treasurer and secretary.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The balance sheet was adopted, as was also the annual report, which was presented by the Master.

This stated that on the outbreak of war ringing practically ceased for a few days until the Civil Defence (Noises) Order was more fully understood by the police. He wrote to the Home Office on September 10th and received a reply on the 12th that the ringing of church bells could be carried on as customary, but in several instances police and wardens had interfered with ringing. The officers of the association considered a new programme of meetings was necessary and practices were now being held at headquarters on the first Saturday in each month. District meetings were being held wherever it was possible to resume them.

During the year, continued the Master, they had lost by death Messrs. John H. Cheesman, W. T. Cotter (hon. member), Harold N. Davis, William F. Ellingham, W. Pye English, Harry Mance, Alfred Pye, Ernest F. Poppy, John C. Truss and B. E. Clark.

As a mark of respect the members stood in silence for a minute. Proceeding, the Master said that during the year they elected 22 new members and rang 18 peals, in which 63 different members took part and two rang their first peal and one his first as conductor. There were six conductors and the methods were: Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Treble Bob Major 2, Treble Bob Royal 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Royal 1, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 6 and Cinques 2.

Headquarters practices had been well maintained up to the outbreak of war and the districts had carried on their good work. The Northern District inaugurated monthly practices at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. When war broke out the valuable property of the association was distributed among certain of the officers and members for safe custody, an inventory having been prepared. Some of the officials and members had already been called to serve in the armed forces of the Crown, others were performing national duties. It was hoped they would all be preserved and have a safe return.

#### AN APOLOGY REQUESTED.

The Hon. Secretary raised the question of the cancellation of part of the arrangements for the day. According to the minute book, he was authorised to make the arrangements and accordingly arranged for ringing at three towers and advertised them in 'The Ringing World.' After the first week's publication he received a letter from the Master and the reference to the ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was deleted from the advertisement without any notice having been sent to him (the secretary). He also had a number of postcards printed, which were given to the Master for distribution, but the Master took upon himself to rule out in red ink the item relating to St. Botolph's. He understood that the deletion from the advertisement in 'The Ringing World' was also on the instructions of the Master. The secretary alone was authorised to make arrangements for the meeting, and how, he asked, were they to get along and make progress if they got interference of this nature? Could anyone write to 'The Ringing World' and cancel a notice without first

informing the general secretary, who had to shoulder the blame if anything went wrong? If there had been any friction in the past with regard to this tower, surely there was no need to nurse old grievances. If they were continually digging up the past they would get nowhere and he contended they should let sleeping dogs lie. He requested an apology for such interference with the secretary's work.

Mr. T. W. Wyatt said he gathered that the interference came from the Master; if that was so, he (the speaker) thought the Master was within his rights in a case of emergency.

Mr. E. Holman said he was responsible at the last meeting for the proposal to go to Bishopsgate, and, if there had been anything in the past that had caused squabbling, they should let it go by. When he found from the notice there was to be no ringing at Bishopsgate he felt cold shouldered, but he went to the tower that afternoon and found some ringing going on. They did not want to claim Bishopsgate as one of their towers—no tower was the property of any association—but if they could co-operate with all sections, life would be much smoother to-day than it was.

Mr. Heazel said it was up to the secretary to do his job, and if he endeavoured to do it the association should support him, if it had been taken out of his hands.

The Master: It was not taken out of his hands.

Mr. Heazel: If it was done without his having been asked, it seems to me very much as if it was taken out of his hands. I feel he should have been notified.

#### MASTER'S THREAT TO RESIGN.

The Master said he sent two letters on the subject to the secretary, in sufficient time to withdraw the notice, pointing out the reasons why this course should be adopted. At the last meeting it was only a suggestion and not a motion that they should apply for Bishopsgate. He had explained the matter in a long letter to the secretary some time before the notice came out, and when the notice appeared he sent another letter giving him sufficient time to write to 'The Ringing World' and withdraw it. In the same issue of the paper it was stated there was to be a practice at that tower by another society. How was it possible for their association officers to take charge of the ringing when a local practice was being held there? He told the secretary that he was not prepared, as Master, to agree to a practice being held at Bishopsgate that day, and if it were he would cease to be Master at and from twelve noon last Friday week. The secretary preferred to ignore the letters and never answered him.

Mr. Heazel: As you have explained that you wrote to the secretary, I will withdraw what I said.

Replying to a member who asked if permission to ring at St. Botolph's was obtained, the Secretary said it was. He added that after the meeting, at which it was decided to apply for the tower, he (the secretary), the Master, the assistant secretary and the steward had an argument over the matter for about an hour. What he wanted to know was whether they, as an association, were to be guided in their decisions by jealousy and bad feeling created between individuals in the past.

Mr. Wyatt said if they had permission to ring at the tower the Secretary should have answered the Master's letters.

The Master said if they were going to ignore what had happened in the past he was not going to be responsible for the proceedings. Therefore he had intimated to the secretary that he tendered his resignation and would cease to carry on the office. The secretary, however, did not answer him.

Miss O. Ashbrook (assistant secretary) said if they were to keep members out of a tower because of a dispute between one of the officers and someone connected with the tower, it was perfectly silly. It was ridiculous to keep the members away from a tower because of something that happened years ago. The association would never get on in the future unless they buried the hatchet over quarrels that took place a long time ago (hear, hear).

After some further discussion the matter was closed with a motion 'that the statements of the secretary and Master be received and the meeting proceed to the next business.'

#### SECRETARY DECLINES TO CONTINUE.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and the following nominations, made at the last meeting, were adopted: Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender; hon. treasurer, Mr. E. Alex. Young; senior steward, Mr. T. W. Wyatt; junior steward, Mr. H. W. Rogers; trustees, Messrs. A. H. Keighley and H. H. Peters.

With regard to the other offices, the Master said Mr. T. W. Taffender had refused to stand again for the secretaryship; Mr. N. H. Manning, one of the assistant secretaries, they had promised to find a successor for, on account of his being also secretary of the Southern District. Miss Ashbrook, the other assistant secretary, was not re-nominated, as she was uncertain how long she would remain in London.

Mr. Young pressed Mr. T. W. Taffender to reconsider his decision. He had himself been secretary of the society and knew some of the difficulties. He assured Mr. Taffender that they appreciated all he had done for them.

Mr. T. W. Taffender said he joined the association seventeen or eighteen years ago and had continually held office almost ever since. He had held every office except that of Master, and it was not as if he did not know what was wanted or not wanted. Many people had held the office of secretary before him and some had left it in a condition that was a disgrace. They had had people who had held

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**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous page.)

the office for the purpose of collecting wedding presents (laughter). The association had given him (the secretary) no thanks whatever. All he got was interference, and he asked those who wanted him to carry on in these difficult times what they would do if they were in his position? Since he had been secretary many things had been done. He had brought into being a printed annual report that had always shown a profit, they had revised the service books and they had issued a new certificate. When he made arrangements for that meeting, they were altered without his consent. Now the meeting had turned him down, but expected him to carry on. He was afraid he could not do so.

The Master said he did not agree that the secretary had never received thanks. At every meeting they voiced their thanks and they were all very grateful to him. They had had their troubles, but had got over them.

Mr. Rogers proposed and Mr. Bish seconded a motion that the association ask Mr. Taffender to carry on and this was agreed to, but Mr. Taffender refused to alter his decision.

It was then decided to leave the selection of a successor to the next quarterly meeting.

Miss Ashbrook was elected first assistant secretary and Mr. Bryan Wayman second assistant.

The association now being entitled to four representatives on the Central Council, Miss Ashbrook was elected to serve for the next two years.

Thanks were accorded to the authorities at the various churches and to the officers for their services in the past year.

After the meeting the usual handbell contest for the Dawe Cup was held, two teams competing, both from All Saints', Isleworth. The first team rang a course of Bob Major and the second a course of Grandsire Triples. The award went to the second team, whose average age, it was announced, was 14½ years. The judges were Messrs. J. Thomas, J. S. Goldsmith and T. W. Taffender.

**5,088 TREBLE BOB MAJOR.**

BY E. TIMBRELL.  
23456 M B W H

52364	—	2	2
63254		2	2
62534		1	2
63425	2	1	1
25346	1	2	2

Twice repeated. The composition contains no 8-2's, and was, it is believed, rung for the first time at Chorley on January 27th, 1940.

**THE GREAT BELL OF TALLEY ABBEY.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very kind of Mr. F. C. Smale to reply to my query re the Great Bell of Talley Abbey, and I wish to thank him for his kindly thought.

In my letter which appeared in your issue of October 13th, 1939, I gave the material date of the great bell leaving Carmarthen as 1772 and 1773. One thing is certain, and that is that this bell is not in Exeter Cathedral. As recent as three weeks ago the 'Western Mail' in its column, 'Wales Day by Day,' stated that the 'Great Bell of Talley Abbey is now in Exeter Cathedral.'

I expect that the five bells from Exeter mentioned by Mr. F. C. Smale in his interesting letter are the second peal of Exeter Cathedral as mentioned in the Edwardian Inventories of 1552. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe made an unsuccessful search for these documents, and I believe they were found after his death.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

The Edwardian Inventories of Church Goods and Ornaments are preserved at the Public Record Office. They are not, however, available during the present war times.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

**DERBY DISTRICT MEETING AT DUFFIELD.**

Wintry conditions and illness probably prevented many members from attending the meeting of the Derby District at Duffield on Saturday last, but good use was made of the bells by the faithful few. Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Kent Treble Bob Minor, Spliced Treble Bob, Bob Minor, Stedman Triples without a covering bell and finally a course of Cambridge Minor were all brought round.

It was suggested to hold the next meeting at Belper on Saturday, March 9th, when summer time will be in vogue. Votes of thanks for the use of the bells were carried unanimously and the meeting ended about 5 p.m.

**DEATH OF AN OLD HASLEMERE RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter Eldridge, of Haslemere, who died on February 3rd at the age of 80 years after a long illness. He had been a ringer at the Parish Church for more than 30 years. The funeral took place on Wednesday, February 7th, when the local band rang after the service.

On Saturday last, after an attempt for a peal, 1,409 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung half-muffled in 65 minutes: Richard Hayes 1, James Bartlett 2, Ernest C. Smith 3, Douglas Hayes 4, Barry Elliott 5, J. H. B. Hesse 6, Ernest J. Munday 7, Ernest J. Aylife 8, Frederick J. Rogers (conductor) 9, H. Mullard 10.

**John Taylor & Co.**

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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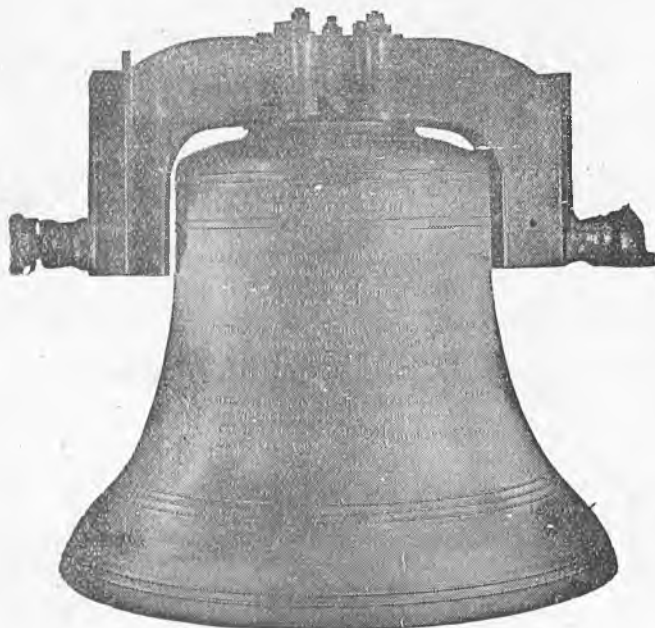
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The two Sittingbourne ringers whose belfry election to the London County Association were ratified last Saturday have surely been well and truly enrolled. They were elected in the belfry before a peal, confirmed in their membership at a quarterly meeting last July, and, because the minutes have presumably been lost, had a ratification of their election on Saturday. Thus three times their membership has been put to the vote.

A peal of Double Norwich had been arranged at Great Baddow as a compliment to Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, on his 84th birthday, and it was hoped that he would have taken part himself, but that was prevented by indisposition. Meanwhile the death of Mr. Charles H. Howard had occurred, and to show their respect and sympathy the ringers rang with the bells half-muffled. It was also a last tribute to Mrs. Thomas, a much respected parishioner and churchworker. It was the 50th anniversary of the conductor's first peal.

On February 13th, 1848, 5,004 changes of Kent Treble Bob Caters were rung at Aston. Thirty-one years earlier the same length of Oxford Treble Bob Caters had been rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham. On February 14th, 1731, the College Youths rang 7,018 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill. Three men were needed for the tenor, one being Benjamin Amable, the conductor. The other two were Matthew East, who called the first peal of Cinques ever rung, and William Coster, who was the first man to turn a tenor in to a peal of Major.

On the same date in 1920 the record peal of Grandsire Cinques, 13,001 changes, was rung at Painswick.

Many long lengths were rung at Painswick on various dates, one being 8,448 of Stedman Cinques on February 16th, 1858. This beat the 7,524 rung at Cripplegate by the College Youths in 1851.

The ring of twelve bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire on February 17th, 1836, and on the same date in 1856 Henry Johnson conducted at Aston the first peal of Stedman Major.

Nathan J. Piistow, one of the leading composers of 40 years ago, died on February 18th, 1914, aged 67 years.

## ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER

### RESTORATION OF THE RING OF TEN.

A test of the rehanging and recast bells of St. Margaret's Church took place on a recent Saturday. The treble, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and tenor have been recast and all rehanging on ball bearings with new stocks, wheels, pulleys, etc. The old tenor weighed 25 cwt. 19 lb., the new tenor is a few pounds heavier and is a fine bell. The opinion of everyone was that Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have done good work. The bells go extremely well and they are now a very fine peal.

The louvres have been boarded right up to the springing of arches and on the Abbey side completely. Also some improvements have been made in the ringing room, notably a big old clock weight case has been entirely removed.

The dedication has not yet taken place, but after this has happened it is hoped to have the tower open one Saturday evening for all those who care to come and try the new peal.

## BLAME IT ON TO THE FROST.

John Shephard Walwyn, the blind son of a former Vicar of Twerton, obviously was hoping to gratify a desire to ring a peal on the bells with which he had so closely been associated in childhood, and those of us whose privilege it was to make up the band were also eagerly looking forward to the attempt which on February 3rd had been arranged at St. Michael's for Bob Major.

On the appointed day the majority of the ringers had had colds, but all were determined to maintain the high standard of striking that is absolutely necessary in such circumstances. The District Ringing Master, Mr. W. J. Prescott, was chosen to conduct the peal.

Unfortunately two of the bells were on their very worst behaviour, the ropes slipping the wheel in the first course; in spite of rearrangement at the ropes, the fifth repeatedly gave the same trouble, and the loss of time, together with the limitations of the black-out, necessitated the abandonment of the attempt.

A quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was subsequently rung and the opportunity for a practice at Double Norwich was taken. Although we were all disappointed by not scoring a peal, it was some compensation to have provided an opportunity for John's first quarter of Stedman Triples.

The following members of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association took part, standing in the order given, for the Stedman: T. F. King 1, W. J. Prescott 2, Mrs. A. Evans 3, Miss N. G. Williams 4, G. Temple 5, J. Shephard Walwyn 6, S. J. T. Shellock (conductor) 7, S. S. Woodburn 8.

We all congratulate John on his triumph over adversity, wish him the very best, both in the belfry and later we hope at the altar; maybe a second attempt can be arranged in the near future.

Thanks are extended to the Vicar, the Rev. H. A. Barnett, for granting permission for the peal attempt and also for his personal attendance before the start of the peal to say a prayer and wish the band the best of luck.

S. J. T. S.

## DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. HOWARD. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS MASTER OF THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### Great Work for Ringing in his Native County.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Harry Howard, of Braintree, Essex, who passed away, after a protracted period of ill-health, on Sunday, February 4th.

For twenty-five years Mr. Howard was Master of the Essex Association and his services to the cause of ringing in that county were invaluable. He stimulated and influenced the association's activities and never spared himself in its interests. Throughout his Mastership he rarely missed a district meeting and he held the confidence and esteem of the members. A serious illness about six years ago caused his resignation from office, and he had not since been actively able to take part in ringing.



THE LATE MR. CHAS. H. HOWARD

Mr. Howard had devoted the whole of his life to church work. Born at Great Baddow in 1868, he joined the choir at the church of his native village when he was only nine years of age. A few years later he learned to pull a bell. At that time there was no change ringing at Great Baddow, but when in 1885 he went to Braintree he began the study of change ringing under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Hammond.

In 1899, when the 700th anniversary of St. Michael's Church, Braintree, was celebrated, the event was marked by adding two trebles to the existing ring of six. Mr. Howard took a prominent part in raising the necessary funds and carried his task to a successful conclusion.

He joined the Essex Association about 55 years ago, and was elected to the Mastership in 1909, on the retirement of the late Canon T. L. Papillon. During the occupancy of the office he did a vast amount of work for the association and in the promotion of the art of change ringing in Essex. To his efforts indeed the great growth of the association during that quarter of a century was largely due. He devoted his energies very extensively to the restoration of the church bells of the county in which he was intensely interested, and his activity in this direction was productive of great results.

When the association celebrated its jubilee in 1929 and Mr. Howard had completed just 20 years as Master, the members presented him with a silver tea and coffee set in recognition of his services. It was

(Continued in next column.)

## CHALLIS F. WINNEY—AN APPRECIATION.

'So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.' Such a welcome I believe our brother has received, for he was a good man, thorough in all that he did, both in his expression of the Christian principles so dear to him, in bellringing and at his trade. Many of his friends may have thought him at times an 'odd number,' but on a closer acquaintance found that he possessed a quaint, lovable, childlike simplicity, which made him numerous friends, and enabled him to enter realms which were denied to more forceful characters. He spoke courageously, and saw no danger in duties' calls. I first met him about the year 1884, when, through the energy of Mr. N. N. Hills, the Cathedral Society was formed and change ringing revived in St. Albans. Handbell ringing was seriously taken up, and Challis became a frequent visitor to our practices, and under his tuition, on April 23th, 1886, he called the 'Original' as our first handbell peal. The history of ringing the Original and the St. Albans boys needs no further comment.

His interest in the Herts Association and its annual meeting at Easter, with its service in the Cathedral, never flagged. We shall ever remember him with gratitude. Now he has gone, but the influence which emanates from a Christian life will remain with us. Good-bye, Challis, we will meet again. God grant that there may be no 'meeting short' in our band on that day. G. W. C.

Duffield, St. Albans.

## RINGERS AND CHOIRMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read Mr. George Edwards' letter about the Penhurst ringers and their connection with the choir.

At Staunton-on-Arrow Church in a quiet corner of Herefordshire, with a small, scattered population, we have a band of nine ringers, all members of the choir, and four attending Sunday School. The usual programme on Sunday morning is Sunday School at 10 o'clock in the children's transept in the church, in the tower at 10.30, and in the choir stalls at 11. We ring for two services each Sunday and for early service at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. Six of our band are under 16, four of them girls.

I often see in your paper about the difficulty of getting recruits for the belfry and roping in the choirboys when their voices break, but why wait for that? I have for some years got boys at 10 and 11 to join. Six years ago there were five boys in the choir aged 10, 11 and 12 years; two of them joined the ringing, and soon the others wished to become members.

As they became old enough to leave school three left the village to earn their living and there were no boys to take their place. About that time my daughter, aged 10 years, wished to learn to ring, so I gave her a start. Soon three other girls, members of the choir, aged 12, wished to learn, so we practised every week till on Whit Sunday, 1938, four girls, aged 10 and 12, and two boys, aged 11, took part in the service ringing with two more aged 15 and 17. I daresay it was not very good striking at first. We practised regularly last winter, but owing to black-out regulations have had no practice this winter. I may say that we have had one or more schoolboy ringers in the band since 1911.

JABEZ PREECE.

P.S.—We have a ring of six bells, tenor 6½ cwt.

## THE LATE MR. C. H. HOWARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

remarked on that occasion that in the course of his duties he had visited every church tower in Essex, and had only missed one annual meeting of the association since he joined it. When he retired from the position in 1934 the members honoured him by electing him a vice-president.

Although Mr. Howard was an excellent ringer and a capable conductor in standard methods, he had rung only a few peals. He had, however, devoted himself to service ringing and was very seldom absent from the belfry on Sundays. Mr. Howard was for a great many years one of the representatives of the association on the Central Council.

Apart from his great work for ringing in Essex, Mr. Howard was one who, having realised his responsibilities as a churchman and a citizen, threw himself wholeheartedly into the affairs of the Church and of his town. In addition to being the head of an important business, he served first as sidesman and afterwards churchwarden; he was for a time secretary of the Euri-Decanal Conference and a member of the Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Board, upon which he ably represented the views of ringers in matters connected with bell restoration. He was a member of the Braintree Urban District Council and filled the onerous office of chairman for many years. He was also a magistrate, a director of the Braintree and Bocking Building Society and a director of the Braintree Penny Bank.

His death will be deplored, not only by the ringers of Essex, but by a large number of his fellow-townsmen, for whom he laboured so long and so assiduously.

On the Saturday following Mr. Howard's death a half-muffled peal of Double Norwich was rung at Great Baddow, his native village, and on the Sunday following a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at Sible Hedingham.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. ANDREW'S, KINGSBURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The ancient Church of St. Andrew, Kingsbury, is a small and not very interesting building, which stands in one of the new residential districts of North Middlesex. It has three small bells. One of them, the oldest in the county, was cast about 1350 by Peter of Weston; the second, by James Butler, dates from 1604; and the third, by Samuel Newton, from 1708.

Alongside the old building now stands the Church of St. Andrew, which formerly was in Wells Street, a turning out of Oxford Street in the West End of London, whence it was removed, stone by stone, and re-erected in its present position in the year 1934.

It is an excellent building, one of the best examples of nineteenth-century Gothic architecture in existence, and it has gained enormously in appearance by its removal to its present open site.

In the steeple is a very fine ring of eight bells, which have an interest all their own, and which hold a special place in the history of English bell casting and tuning.

The founder was Thomas E. Lewis, of Brixton, who was a builder of organs and a maker of pianofortes, as well as of bells. He was a man who held very definite views as to the qualities of tone and an artist who would not sacrifice æsthetic ideals to commercial or financial interests.

In bell founding he held two opinions strongly, both of which are denied or ignored by modern founders.

The first was that a bell should be cast in the form and with the note that it is intended finally to produce. After it has come from the mould it must not be tuned in any way. The second was that the system of tuning which is usually associated with the name of Canon Simpson is a wrong and mistaken one.

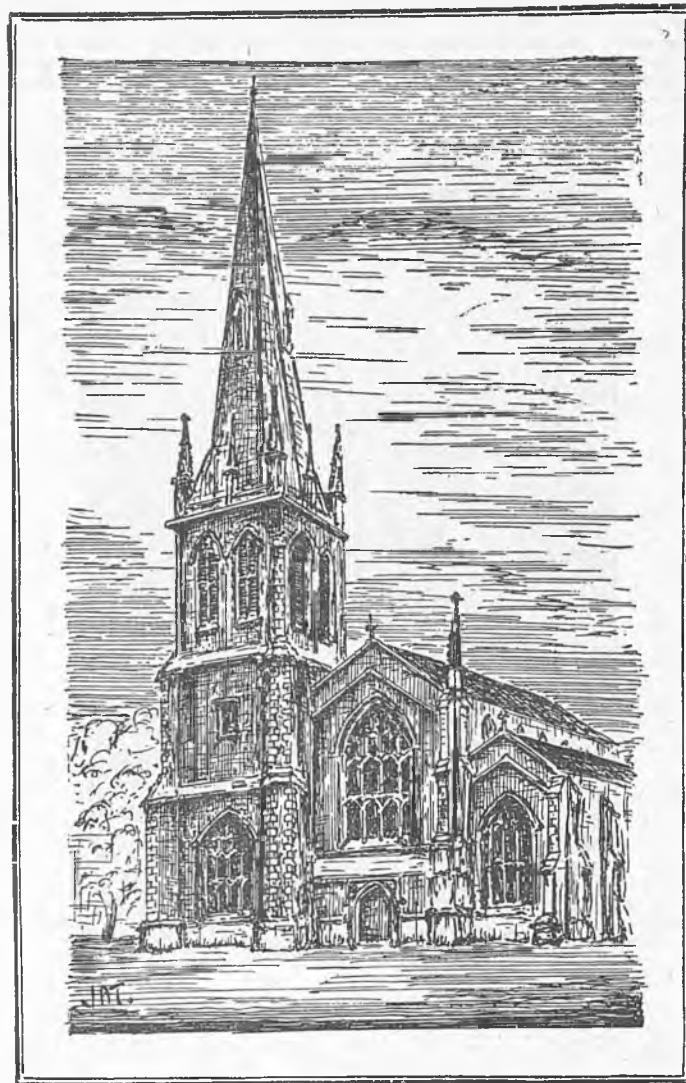
To cast a 'maiden' bell, one which from the very first was perfect and needed no tuning, was always an ideal of the old founders, and the better the craftsman the nearer he got to the ideal. But there was always the temptation to leave a bell in a defective state and slightly out of tune, so that it could be claimed as a maiden casting.

Lewis did not tolerate defects of tune. If a bell did not come out of the mould with the exact note that was required, he broke it up and cast another. It is said that he cast more than twenty bells before he produced for St. Andrew's, Wells Street, eight that satisfied his ear. Such conscientious devotion to an artistic ideal is beyond praise, but unfortunately it did not pay, and Lewis was compelled to give up bell founding after he had cast a few rings.

The reason given for not tuning a bell was that a casting, when it comes from the mould, possesses a 'skin' which is tougher than the interior of the casting, and if this skin is removed by the tuning lathe the bell suffers in tone and resonance. Modern founders design their bells so that a certain amount of metal can be removed by the lathe and the required notes exactly produced.

Every bell gives out not one note, but a combination of notes, varying in power and prominence. Following Canon Simpson, the modern founder recognises five distinct notes in a bell—the strike note, the hum note or octave below, the nominal or octave above, the third, and

the fifth. For some mechanical reason the third is usually a minor third. If all these notes are produced correctly, the bell will be true to itself, and (say the advocates of this system of tuning) it must be obvious to anyone that a bell which gives a common chord (or very nearly a common chord) will be far more musical than one which gives a number of notes out of harmony and discordant with each other.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KINGSBURY

The argument seems unanswerable, and, indeed, it is now very generally accepted as sound. It is the principle on which all bells to-day are tuned. But it was flatly contradicted by Thomas E. Lewis, and the opinions of such a man are at least worthy of consideration.

There are, he said in so many words, only two notes that you need bother about, the tap tone (or strike note) and the hum tone. 'There are many harmonies heard, but these we pass by as they are quite subordinate in strength.' The first supposition would be that the two principal tones should be in the relation of octaves, but experience does not always teach the same thing as theory and, as a matter of fact, when in a large bell the octaves are true, the note produced is a poor one and the



bell gives unsteady sounds, confused and wavering. 'In defiance of seeming harmony, a fine bell with the percussion or tap tone, say E, should have its lower or hum tone a major seventh below, but flatter to the extent of about a quarter of a semi-tone,' and 'this major seventh best steadies the bell sounds and seems in some way to absorb discordances.'

One who has listened to modern tuned bells, and especially to old bells which have had their hum tones corrected, can in many cases easily recognise what Lewis calls unsteady sounds, confused and wavering, but whether the defect is incidental to five-tone tuning, whether the seventh hum tone is the best way to avoid it, or whether it is due to other and entirely different causes, are questions for an expert to answer.

Lewis himself did not in all cases recommend a flattened seventh hum tone. He pointed out that in small bells with a note higher than E 'the hum note makes itself as powerfully noticeable as the tap tone, and it is at this point quite obvious that the smaller bells should hum their octaves and in this way content the ear.'

The tuning of bells has led to a great amount of controversy and differences of opinion, and probably always will do so, though the decisive word is obviously with the bell founder. One thing should be noticed, which is that when in a ring of older bells the hum notes, either by accident or design, are flattened sevenths, those notes are seldom in accord with each other; and the other overtones—nominal, third and fifth—usually vary enormously, some being sharp and others flat. Nevertheless they do not obtrude themselves on a musical ear which does not deliberately listen for them, and, as Lewis wrote, so far as the outside public is concerned, they may be ignored.

But when the bell is tuned true to itself, the overtones are often distinctly prominent, and the effect is that of a number of notes in a chord and not of a single note. This is a defect.

Any system of tuning must, in the long run, be a matter which concerns the bell founder only. What we want in our towers are good toned bells, each of which appears to give out one single note in tune with the notes of the other bells, and if the founders can produce bells like that they may tune them as they please.

The bells of St. Andrew's, Kingsbury, are interesting as being a deliberate challenge to modern ideas of bell founding and tuning. They are a splendid ring, quite good enough to show that their founder had some reason for the faith that was in him.

St. Andrew's bells have played but a small part in the history of the London Exercise. When they were in Wells Street, three or four peals in different methods were rung on them. Since their removal, one peal of Cambridge Surprise has been accomplished in the steeple.

#### THE LATE MR. HARRY BARTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with deep regret that I learn of the passing of an old friend, Mr. Harry Barton. When he lived at Deal we both belonged to the Upper Deal ringers and choir, and I had the pleasure of ringing in his 100th peal at Quex Park on August 4th, 1906.

He was a safe conductor and could put a man right without shouting. I rang 18 peals with him, and on Saturday, June 21st, 1907, we rang a peal of Bob Major at Lyvinge, Kent, which finished five minutes after the last train had left. So we had to walk to Deal, 20 miles away, arriving home at 3 a.m. very tired.

HENRY C. CASTLE.

Ashford, Kent.

#### YORK MINSTER RINGER'S DEATH.

##### MR. T. HODGSON'S LONG SERVICE.

The death took place at York on February 4th of Mr. T. Hodgson, who for the long period of 60 years was a regular member of York Minster Society. He is the third member of the society to pass away within the last twelve months.

Mr. Hodgson, who was born in 1856, learned to ring when quite a young man, at the six-bell tower at Clifton Church, and in 1877 was admitted a member of the Minster Society. He continued his membership until 1937. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1883, and his peals for the association number 20.

He was first and always a service ringer, and for a number of years he never missed a Sunday at York Minster. Numbered among his 20 peals were four 'last' ones.

In 1888 he rang in the last peal at St. Martin's, Coney Street, York, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, conducted by George Breed, one of York's notable ringers of his day and also a well-known York cricketer. In 1892 Mr. Hodgson took part in a peal at Clifton Church, which caused much controversy, and no peal has been rung there since, though the bells are still rung for service.

In November, 1892, Mr. Hodgson took part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at York Minster. This was the last peal rung at the Minster. The presence of the Purey-Cust Nursing Home just beneath the Minster towers puts the veto on the bells being rung for any long period.

In September, 1906, he rang a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells of Selby Abbey. This was the last peal on the ring of eight there, as the great fire took place in the following month, and the bells and tower were destroyed. When the Abbey was restored the bells were made into a peal of ten.

Mr. Hodgson's three sons were in the Minster choir, and for a short period were in the choir at the same time. All three served in the Coldstream Guards during the Great War (1914-1918). The eldest, Horace, was killed in 1915, and the other two were badly wounded. Mr. Hodgson was himself a good singer and was a member of Clifton Church Choir for 50 years. He was also a member of York Male Voice Choir.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, February 7th, a service being held at St. Paul's Church and the interment taking place at York Cemetery. Among the many wreaths was one from the Minster Company, who attended to show their regard for their esteemed colleague.

#### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

##### ROCHESTER DISTRICT'S FIRST WAR-TIME MEETING.

Notwithstanding the war and the black-out, a much enjoyed and well-attended meeting of the Rochester District of the Kent County Association was held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. About fifty members from various parts of the district, and including one very keen ringer from Dover, took advantage of the opportunity of meeting familiar faces for a ring and a 'chin-wag,' and if this meeting (the first quarterly held in the district since the outbreak of war) can be taken as a criterion, the success of war meetings is assured.

Thanks to the efforts of the Rainham ringers, police sanction was obtained to ring the bells after dark, and this meant that from soon after 2.30 until 8.45, with a break for service, tea and meeting, the bells were kept going to methods suited to the taste and ability of the ringers.

The service was well attended. Hearty singing was led by the choir, and an address, by the Vicar of Rainham, was very much enjoyed. Tea was kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, an excellent meal including peace-time delicacies and sweetness in plenty.

Three sets of handbells were in evidence between tea and the business meeting, and although the experts were not available in sufficient numbers to put over the 'quality stuff,' courses of Triples were successfully brought round and a course of Caters, almost!

The business meeting, presided over by the Vicar of Rainham, consisted of usual routine matters such as reports, accounts, election of district representatives and secretary. The officers were all re-elected. —Following the meeting, ringing was resumed on the tower bells.

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**NOTICES.**

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**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday afternoon, February 17th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the belfry at 5 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—North Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wroxham on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. till black-out. Meeting in belfry. Make own arrangements for tea. Bus leaves Norwich bus station at 2.15 p.m., returns from Wroxham at 5.52 and 7.27.—Henry Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ludlow on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (8, recently overhauled) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Royal Oak Cafe 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—W. J. Beniams, Hon. Dis. Sec., Ben-All, Henley Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden Parish Church on Saturday, February 17th. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Barwell on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing until 7.30 p.m. A very short meeting after supper.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged for Saturday, Feb. 17th, at Kenilworth. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Tea in the Parochial Hall at 5 o'clock at a moderate charge. Visitors welcomed.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hindley on Saturday, February 17th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 p.m., for which please notify the undersigned.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Owing to the present catering difficulties, will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as early as possible in the week?—A. H. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe (6 bell-) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 3—8 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1/3) 5 p.m., opposite the Church. Please notify me by February 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided in Welfare Hall at 4.30 for those who notify me by Thursday, February 22nd. Special invitation to Derby District members.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on February 24th. Names for tea by previous Monday to Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough, Leics.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—A meeting is arranged for Whitwick on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 followed by tea (1s. each) and meeting. Arrangements are being made to black out the belfry to enable ringing after the meeting. In view of catering difficulties, it is essential that all those requiring tea notify me by Wednesday, February 21st, at the latest. Please come if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30. Service 4.15, followed by tea in the Refectory. It is essential that those who require tea notify me not later than the previous Thursday morning. (Sugar cannot be provided.)—J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to black-out time. Business meeting will be held in the Schoolroom (adjoining the church) at 5.30 p.m. for the issuing of new reports, etc. Owing to catering difficulties, the local company regret that tea cannot be provided, but accommodation can be found at the town cafes. Full moon will be on. All ringers and friends cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, New Sheffield.

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**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Woodbridge District.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woodbridge, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells available from 2.15 p.m. till dusk.—Charles E. Fisher, Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Werburgh's on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) open from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells available from 2.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting in the tower after ringing.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—Owing to the annual meeting being abandoned on January 27th, on account of weather conditions, a meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by business meeting and tea at Imperial Cafe for those who notify, by Wednesday previous, Mr. H. M. Day, Market Deeping, Peterborough.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Hornchurch, on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Dis. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch (Newport Pagnell Deanery).—A meeting will be held at Lathbury on Saturday, February 24th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Lawley (8 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30 until 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Reading on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.15 p.m. at St. Laurence's Church. Tea at 5 p.m. (1/- per head) at Palm Lodge, West Street, followed by meeting. Ringing at St. Mary's and St. Laurence's during afternoon. Please let me know by Wednesday, February 21st, how many for tea. A collection will be taken during the service for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Secretary, 401, London Road, Reading.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Stoke Poges on Saturday, February 24th, at 3 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Willoughby (6 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4 p.m. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, February 21st.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 27th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting will be held at Church Kirk on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2 p.m. until black-out. Meeting to be held after. Everybody welcome. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6/6 each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 28th inst. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of the division will be held at St. Mary's, Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 2nd. Tower open 2.30. Tea and meeting at 4.45. Service at 6. Will all members intending to be present kindly let me know by Wednesday before the meeting.—A. C. Pankhurst, Div. Hon. Secretary, 11, Salehurst Road, Eastbourne.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Aberavon on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Service at 5.30 p.m., with meeting to follow. Make own arrangements for tea. Bells not available after meeting. All ringers welcome.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

**ST. CLEMENT, TRURO.**—The bells will be rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Truro on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m. A ring of four bourne and the tenor recast by John Taylor and Co.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E.1. (nearest station Stepney Green), on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea to follow, names for which I must have by the previous Wednesday. Handbells, etc., in the evening.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**WEM, SHROPSHIRE.**—On Saturday, February 10th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. V. Rodenhurst, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Parker's Twelve-Part): E. D. Poole 1, T. Price 2, W. Saunders 3, P. A. Corby (conductor) 4, W. J. Chester 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, H. Vickers 7, E. Smith and J. Grocott 8.

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