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FIRST THINGS FIRST.

When you are teaching beginners, which is the best method to start them on? This is a question much debated by ringers in the past, and to-day one of more than usual importance. Some there have been who have advocated Stedman, and have offered to back up their opinion with copious arguments, though we have never heard that they could show any practical proofs. But for ordinary purposes and for ordinary people we may say that the choice lies between Plain Bob and Grandsire, which really means between the simplest even- and the simplest odd-bell method.

For either of them there is a lot to be said, but what, we fancy, usually decides the matter is not any deliberate decision of the instructor, but habit and force of circumstances. And, indeed, in many cases the instructor has very little choice: he has to take what comes readiest to his hand.

Yet, as we have urged before, the task of teaching would be easier and more successful if both the instructor and the learner consciously considered and understood why they were trying to do certain things and what the object of the teaching really is. For instance, the aim both should have in mind is not primarily that the learner should be able to ring Grandsire or Plain Bob, but that he should become a competent ringer. And what makes a competent ringer? Three things mainly. First, he must have complete bell control, so that he can handle any bell, within limits, and be able to strike it with an accuracy of at least a sixteenth part of a second. Secondly, he must be able to find his way unerringly through the other bells according to any definite path he may have in his mind. And thirdly, he must have acquired a sense of rhythm without which good striking is impossible.

Now, all good ringers have these qualities, though, of course, in varying degree; but in far too many instances they are acquired subconsciously as the result of long practice, and not deliberately. Men are too much concerned with ringing what are called the higher methods to pay proper attention to things which are more important and should come first, and which, when they do come first, make the higher methods quite easy to ring.

A man can learn to be a competent ringer by means of either Plain Bob or Grandsire, and many a good ringer (especially in the past) has had few opportunities of practising any of the more advanced methods, while it is quite a common thing to find those who think themselves able to ring even Surprise who have

(Continued on page 298.)

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not yet acquired either full bell control or the art of striking.

First things should come first, and a good instructor will see that they do. However eager the novice may be to ring changes, and however anxious his instructor may be for him to make rapid progress, both should realise that time spent with a lashed clapper gaining bell control is not time wasted, but will save much time in the future, and that before long.

The next thing—the very next thing—is to acquire a sense of the rhythm of the bells. It should be done consciously and deliberately by round ringing, by listening carefully while others are ringing, and, if possible, by handbell ringing.

And here comes in an important point, far too often ignored by instructors. Never try to teach a band or a single novice on eight bells, not even to ring rounds. What the learner has to acquire is not merely the facility of pulling his rope steadily and regularly after another rope, but a sense of the rhythm of all the bells. For that eight are too many. Six are better and five much better still. When his ear has got attuned to the rhythm of the bells half the difficulty of hunting has gone before ever it is attempted. It will be a smooth and easy path he will have to tread from front to back and back to front, whereas if he has no sense of the rhythm he will stumble and flounder among rocks and morasses and inevitably lose his way.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM J. JEFFREYS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William J. Jeffreys, which occurred last Saturday at the County Hospital, Farnborough, Kent, after an operation. Mr. Jeffreys, who was 73 years of age, was well known as a ringer and conductor in the south-eastern suburban district of London and among members of the Kent County Association.

DEATH OF MR. W. H. ANDREWS

By the death of Mr. W. H. Andrews, which occurred on June 24th, the band at Canterbury Cathedral has lost its oldest member.

The funeral was at St. Stephen's, Hackington, on Monday, June 28th, and was attended by Messrs. J. W. Unwin, F. G. Brett, P. J. Small and F. Wells, members of the band. Among the floral tributes was one from the ringers.

During the evening the Cathedral bells were rung half-muffled, and at the same time mention was made of five other members who had died, and in whose memory no muffled bells could be rung owing to the ban. They were R. A. Baldock, E. E. Trendell (president), G. G. Jenkins, G. H. Simpson and W. E. Pitman.

Mr. Andrews joined the band in 1885. For several years he had been unable to climb the many steps to the belfry, but he regularly met the ringers at Christchurch Gateway before service or practice ringing. He was treasurer to the company.

SOUND CONTROL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Owing to the utterly dwindling effect that it will have on clock chimes and carillons, I look with horror at the idea of belfry windows being drastically built up in order to minimise the nuisance of ringing bells. It seems like robbing Peter to pay Paul. The number of churches that can boast extra bells for the chimes can literally be counted on the hands—the great majority have to use the ringing peal for the chimes.

Therefore, if the sound of the bells is to be so reduced for ringing when they are employed for chimes they become so inaudible as to be useless. In a great proportion of our towers, instead of such a permanent blocking-up, the louvres might be worked on the shutter principle—these could then be closed when ringing is in progress and opened afterwards for the chimes.

In many cases, if the present slant of the louvres was simply reversed, no doubt the desired modulation would be obtained and be suitable for ringing or chimes.

When deciding on this question of sound control let us have a fair deal, remembering that bells give pleasure and usefulness, apart from the ringing use, a fact, I fear, that many ringers are apt to forget.

SYDNEY L. MARSHALL.

9, Grove Avenue, Wadsley, Sheffield.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5103 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb. in F sharp.

STAFFORD H. GREEN 6	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 2	EDWARD R. COLES 7
ARTHUR J. BARTLETT 3	JAMES R. MACKMAN 8
C. ERNEST SMITH 4	CHARLES HAZELDEN 9
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 5	ERNEST J. MUNDAY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Rung on the eve of Independence Day.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ARKLOW.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(ARKLOW CHURCH RINGERS' GUILD.)

On Sunday, June 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

*HENRY H. ANNESLEY Treble	JAMES FLIGHT 5
*MRS. F. E. DUKES 2	*MISS M. ALEXANDER 6
WILLIAM T. SHAW 3	SAMUEL J. EVANS 7
FRED E. DUKES 4	JOHN W. NUZZEM Tenor

Conducted by FRED E. DUKES.

Rung on front five, with 7, 6, 8 covering. * First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

*MILES A. BEAUCHAMP Treble	THOMAS G. BANNISTER 5
WALTER SPARROW 2	NORMAN V. HARDING 6
WILLIAM WELLING 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
†G. WILLIAM MORRIS 4	TONY PRICE Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

STAFFORD ARCHDEACONRY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, on June 26th, and was attended by over 60 members.

Service in church was conducted by the Rev. I. F. Parker, who gave an address. The lesson was read by the Rev. C. H. Barker, and Mr. A. E. Hodgkinson was at the organ. Mr. Wallater presided over the business meeting. The report and statement of accounts were accepted, the accounts showing a balance on the right side of £8, bringing the total to £43 16s. 6d. All the officers were re-elected.

The following places were selected for the coming meetings: All Saints', West Bromwich, in September, and Willenhall in April. It was decided not to hold a meeting in January. A sum of one guinea was voted to the Gabriel Lindoff Memorial Fund.

A vote of thanks to the Rector (Canon Brierley) for the use of the bells, to the Rev. J. F. Parker for his address, to the organist, and to the ladies who provided and served cups of tea, brought the meeting to a close.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CHADWELL HEATH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 29, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-One Minutes,

AT 9, PARK VILLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

L. W. BULLOCK 1-2	J. BULLOCK, SEN. 3-4
T. H. BULLOCK 5-6	

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpires—G. R. Pye, J. George and E. W. Pye.

A birthday compliment to Mr. G. R. Pye.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	JOHN E. ROOTES 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 39, ALBANY STREET,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE 3-4	*WALTER H. DOBBIE 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, July 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 18 in G.

WILFRED WILLIAMS 1-2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter of Mr. F. C. W. Stevenson recalls to mind the efforts I made to get the louvres of St. John's Church, Blackpool, built up. I approached three different vicars of the church on the subject at various times and in each case the clergy were strongly in favour after I had shown them the great advantages to be derived. Every time the local church council strongly objected. In one case because of the expense. The ringers offered to brick up the louvres for the cost of materials only, one of the ringers being a bricklayer.

I tried again when the present Vicar took charge of the church and parish: this time to strengthen my case I applied for and got a very helpful letter from the president of the Central Council. The local Church Council got the advice of the town architect, who declared that if the sound waves were not allowed to escape at once there was danger of the inner lining of the bell chamber being affected. At the following Central Council meeting the subject of blocking or building up louvre windows was under discussion, and, needless to say, the view of Blackpool's town architect caused much amusement.

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ABBEYS AND PARISH CHURCHES.

DISPUTES ABOUT BELL RINGING.

During the Middle Ages disputes between monastic houses and parish churches were very frequent, and they usually arose about the ringing of bells. The parish churches in question were either parts of the abbey churches, or they were buildings erected just outside. They were intended for the use of the laity connected with the abbey, for the abbey church itself was reserved for the monks. There are many such churches still in existence. St. Margaret's at Westminster is a good example, and most of the cathedrals have a parish church either actually within the building, as at Norwich, Ely, and Old St. Paul's, or immediately adjacent, as at Exeter and Rochester. Originally the abbey built or provided the parish church; it held the patronage; and either served its altar or appointed a vicar. The parish church was treated as a humble dependant on the great abbey.

But the parishioners, especially as time went on and new ideas arose, were not content with such an inferior status. They claimed that their church was independent of the abbey, and here, no doubt, they had the backing of the diocesan bishops who regarded with jealousy the privileges and exemptions of the monastic bodies.

The sign of independence was the ringing of a bell which thus became the centre of dispute. The abbey was willing to ring their bells for the parochial services, thereby showing overruling position; but the parishes determined to assert their independence, to have their own bells, and to ring them how and when they pleased.

That seems in most cases to have been the real dispute, but the abbey found, and made much of, another grievance in the fact that the ringing of the parochial bells disturbed and hindered the performance of divine service in the abbey churches. I imagine that when relations were strained, the parish bells were often rung with the deliberate intention of annoying the monks. Two centuries later, when the puritan and anglican parties were contending within the Church, it was a common thing for sermons and services to be disturbed by the 'untimely ringing of bells,' and orders and canons were issued to stop it.

It was at the beginning of the fifteenth century that the disputes between monasteries and parish churches became frequent, the time when the general public began to take a great interest in their bells and bell towers. The best known is that between the priory and parish of Wymondham in Norfolk, which was brought before the King's Courts; but generally the matter was settled by the arbitration or intervention of the diocesan bishop, or, if that failed, by an appeal to Rome.

At Spalding the prior and convent turned one of their chapels into a parish church, but laid down restrictions as to bell ringing. These the parishioners tried to set aside, and on November 9th, 1400, they obtained a papal licence to ring whenever they pleased 'the bell in the chapel of St. Thomas in their parish, which had been converted, at no small expense to the prior and convent of Spalding, and with the consent of the parishioners, into the church of St. Mary. Notwithstanding the agreement made at the time of the building that the parishioners should not ring the bells while the convent was in dormitory, except on certain solemn feasts, and at divers seasons.'

The priory appealed to Rome. The monks did not intend to have their sleep at night disturbed by the bell ringing of zealous laymen if they could help it. It may be, though we have no direct evidence, that the parishioners already were amusing themselves with bell ringing after their day's work was done.

The licence was cancelled, and on July 2nd, 1401, the Pope ordered that hereby in future after the ringing of the priory bell, wont to be rung for the curfew until in the morning it is rung for prime, the bells cannot, and shall not, without evident necessity, be rung in the said church.

To end the dispute the prior and convent were to build a new parish church, away from the priory, on the other side of the river Welland. The parish was to build its own bell tower, but the prior and convent were to give them two bells price £20. 'The parishioners shall not ring in their church at such times as the convent is reposing in dormitory, except on Christmas day and night, or for fire, flood, or other grave misfortune.'

In the year 1401 the Pope wrote to the Abbots of Pershore and Evesham, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester that 'having recently learned that the parish church of St. Peter Wynchecumbe and the Benedictine monastery of Wynchecumbe are almost contiguous, so that it often happens that by the ringing of the bells of the said church the abbot and convent and others celebrating divine service in the monastery are hindered and disturbed in saying the canonical hours and in celebrating such offices,' the matter was to be inquired into, and 'if they find the above to be the case, to ordain that at night, namely, after the ringing of the monastery bell for the curfew, until in the morning the bell is rung for prime, the bells shall not without evident necessity, be rung in the said church, and that even at other times and especially during such divine offices, they shall be rung moderately; and the vicar and parishioners were to be inhibited from acting otherwise.'

For many years before the Reformation the see of Worcester was held by a succession of Italian ecclesiastics who performed their duties by deputy. Whether this was so as early as 1406 I do not know; but on February 5th in that year Pope Innocent the Seventh issued a commission, not to the bishop, but to the Abbot of Pershore 'to cause by excommunication and other censures, inviolable observance notwithstanding, its interruption for some years past by bold despisers of the ancient custom whereby after the daily ringing commonly called curfew of the evening bell in the cathedral church and, also in the morning before the ringing to prime, no bell can or ought to be rung in other churches of the city, which interruption is to the no small disturbance and injury of the prior and chapter and other religious bound to be present at matins and prayers and the night offices.'

In the City of London, the parish church of St. Katherine, Creechurch, in what is now Leadenhall Street, stood alongside the great priory of the Holy Trinity at Aldgate, and in the course of time disputes arose between the prior and the parishioners, one of the grievances being that the parish bells interrupted the priory services. In the year 1414 the Bishop of London made an agreement between them, and among other clauses was one which said that there was to be no ringing to the Office of the Resurrection in the church or chapel until such office in the conventual church at the

usual time was finished. This agreement was confirmed by the Pope no doubt in order to safeguard the extra-diocesan rights of the priory.

The Prior of Bath Abbey claimed the right of ringing the Abbey bells first and last in the city, and none of the parish churches were allowed to ring before those of the convent in the morning or after the curfew at night. This the citizens, headed by the mayor, resented as derogatory to their dignity; and they caused the parish bells to be rung when they pleased. A bitter dispute resulted, lasting many years, with insults and invective on both sides. In the ninth year of King Henry the Fifth an inquisition was held at Frome, and judgment was given in favour of the Abbey.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Whit Sunday for evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: Trooper G. Swainton (of Catterick) 1, G. H. Harding (conductor) 2, W. Loud 3, R. Amor 4, S. J. Hector 5, J. Francis 6, E. Parker 7, S. Francis 8.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, June 13th, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, *W. Redrup 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, Sgt. J. Berry, R.A. (Berkshire Yeomanry) 5, R. Buckland 6, H. Wingrove (first in method on tower bells as conductor) 7, †Sgt.-Major J. Pryor, R.A. (Berkshire Yeomanry) 8. * First quarter-peal in the method. † First quarter-peal.

PRITTLEWELL.—On Sunday, June 20th, 1,264 Bob Major: Philip Sadler (first quarter-peal) 1, William James 2, Cyril E. Smith 3, William Perry 4, Jack Belcham 5, Frank B. Lufkin (conductor) 6, C. W. Lawton 7, E. J. Taylor 8.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, June 20th, at St. Mary's-without-the-Walls, 1,344 Bob Major: George Lee 1, John W. Griffiths 2, Harry Lewis 3, Harry Pye 4, James Swindley 5, Arthur Close 6, Thomas Griffiths 7, Percy Swindley 8. Rung for the 56th anniversary of the church.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Trinity Sunday, at All Saints', 1,344 Bob Major: B. Norman 1, R. Smith 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, M. Ginn 5, A. W. T. Ginn 6, W. Seekings 7, C. Robinson 8.

WEIGHTS OF BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are no doubt hundreds of instances up and down the country of differences in the weights of the bells in a ring besides those quoted by Mr. Hartley. Here are a few.

The second of the ring of eight at Stoke Coventry is seven pounds lighter than the treble. The fourth and fifth of the ring of six at Swalcliffe, Oxon, are exactly the same weight. The treble at Kineton, Warwickshire, is heavier than the second, third or fourth, and this despite the fact that all were cast by the same founder—Abel Rudhall—at the same time.

At the opening of the ring of eight at Wellingborough, Northants, I was informed by the bellhanger that the weights of the bells went 'down and up,' which means that going down the scale several bells are lighter in weight than the one immediately preceding them. At one time the tenor at Bromham, near Bedford, was much lighter in weight than the fifth—the seventh of the present grand ring of eight.

These examples, together with those given by Mr. Hartley, make it quite plain that to judge the weight of a ring by that of the tenor would indeed be unreliable.

Referring to the question raised by Mr. Amos about the heaviest ring of five, I would like to ask if the five at East Bergholt, Suffolk, are to be included? These hang in a bell-house in the churchyard and are rung by men standing on the frame and turning the stocks. Mr. Ernest Morris, in 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' gives the weight of the tenor as 25 cwt.

I was told some years before the war of a ring of five at Bredon, South Worcestershire, with a tenor of 28 cwt. These bells have been unringable for some years and the weight given is possibly an exaggeration. Despite this there is no doubt these are a heavy ring and I would welcome particulars of weights, measurements, etc., from anyone who has rung on them.

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

47, Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry.

'THE HIGHEST POINT.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The paragraph in Belfry Gossip in this week's 'Ringing World,' which says that 'The highest point, so far, in method ringing was reached on July 1st, 1931, when a peal of Surprise Major in twelve spliced methods was rung,' is open to question.

I think that most ringers will agree with me that the two peals rung at Bigby, Lincolnshire, on July 19th and 26th, 1939, exceeded everything that had been rung before. In these peals 104 and 125 methods were rung.

A. RELFE.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Major J. H. R. Freeborn has retired from the Army and his permanent address is Combe House, St. Thomas', Oxford. He is temporarily engaged in his professional capacity on Government work in Northern Ireland.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Tom Miller, of Birmingham, reached his 85th birthday. He is in fairly good health and is now living at Quinton Hall, Quinton, Birmingham.

It is good to hear that though All Saints' Church at Isleworth was completely gutted by the recent fire, the tower and bells have escaped damage. The architect has decided that the bells may be rung, and the local band has arranged a meeting for July 17th, particulars of which will be found in our notice column.

As a general rule ringers do not like to hear gramophone reproductions of bells from churches—they are too much like shams—but it was an excellent idea to broadcast the sound of the famous old Bow Bells when, last week, a service was held in the ruins of the church in Cheapside.

Fifty years ago yesterday Mr. George Williams called a peal of Stedman Triples at Steyning. Mr. Keith Hart rang the second and Mr. Frank Bennett the third.

The first peal of Ashbourne College Bob Major was rung at Staines on July 6th, 1938.

The first peal of Beddington Surprise Major was rung at Beddington on July 7th, 1932: and the first peal of Whitminster Surprise Major at Bolsover on July 7th, 1934.

A peal of Spliced Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob Major was rung at Crayford on July 8th, 1926.

GABRIEL LINDOFF.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL.

The following appeal has been issued by the Irish Association to its members and the Exercise generally:—

'It was decided at our recent annual meeting to erect a memorial tablet in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, to the memory of Gabriel Lindoff, who died in November, 1941.

'Gabriel Lindoff's work for the Exercise is too well known to be enlarged upon here. He was joint founder and hon. secretary of the Irish Association of Change Ringers from 1898-1941. For almost half a century he acted as keeper of the belfry and instructor to St. Patrick's Cathedral Society of Amateur Change Ringers. His death has removed from the ringing world one of the greatest figures bellringers have ever known. It is almost true to say, wherever a peal of bells was rung in the United Kingdom, Gabriel Lindoff visited that tower. Bellringing was one of the passions of his life.

'The estimated cost of erecting the memorial is about £50 and the committee feel that your members would very much wish to be associated with it. Subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the hon. treasurer of the Memorial Fund, Mr. W. H. Wilson, 6, Ashfield Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin, before July 31st, or by the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, M.A., St. George's Rectory, Drumcondra, Dublin, Canon of St. Patrick's and president of the I.A.C.R.'

DEATH OF MR. E. CLAPSHAW.

One of the oldest ringers in the country passed away on June 24th, when Mr. E. Clapshaw, of Farnham, died at the age of 98 years and 5 months.

The funeral was at Farnham Cemetery on June 28th and was attended by Messrs. C. Edwards, A. E. King, R. Hasted and T. Upshall, of the local ringers.

Mr. Clapshaw had been a member of the Farnham band since 1866 and captain for about 37 years. He was a life member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, and a foundation member of the Guildford Guild. He had rung about 25 peals, mostly Grandsire Triples.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT UPPER HARTFIELD.

On June 25th about 25 members of the East Grinstead and District Guild were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield. Tea was served on the lawn and handbell ringing included Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Minor and Major. Meetings were arranged at Balcombe (July 10th) and Rotherfield in August. The Hartfield band rang some tunes on the handbells.

LAVENHAM RINGING ANNIVERSARY.

The 132nd ringing anniversary was celebrated at Lavenham on June 19th and a meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at the same time. Ringers were present from Groton, Cornard, Newton, Long Melford, Little Waldingfield, Sudbury, Hurst (Sussex), Coggeshall and Goldhanger (Essex) and the local band. The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Superlative Surprise.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BARNSELEY.

The Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society and the Barnsley and District Society, held a joint meeting on Saturday, June 19th, when ringers were present from Arksey, Felkirk, Eckington, Sandal, Wath-on-Dearne, Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Hoylandswaine, Rotherham, Cawthorne, Shelley, South Anston, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's). Welcome visitors were Messrs. C. J. Woolley and H. Chant, now serving in H.M. Forces.

The bells of the Parish Church were available from 2 p.m., and many touches in various methods were brought round. Some good ringing was heard.

Over 40 members sat down to tea in the Royal Hotel.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. George Lewis, vice-president. An apology for absence was received from Canon W. E. Wilkinson.

Mention was made of the late Charles Haynes, Ranmoor; W. Bugar and W. Hammond, Sheffield, and John Flint, Bolsover, the company standing in silence as a token of respect. On the invitation of Mr. T. C. Ryder, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rotherham on the first Saturday in September. Mr. Kenneth Bryant, Felkirk, was elected a member of the association.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and the local company for the use of the bells and making all arrangements.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund amounted to 16s. 6d.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT NUNEATON.

Members and friends from widely separated places attended a meeting of the Warwickshire Guild at Nuneaton on June 19th. Among those present were Mr. Oswald J. Hunt from Manchester, the Rev. Malcolm Melville from Lichfield, Mr. F. W. Perrens and Mr. Nolan Golden. The methods rung included Superlative, London, Bristol and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Tea in the Parish Hall was arranged by Mrs. D. H. Argyle, assisted by Miss G. Bass. The Vicar, the Rev. Marcus Knight, presided and welcomed the members to Nuneaton. Various methods on handbells were rung by Messrs. F. Pervin, F. W. Perrens, D. H. Argyle, W. Stote and M. Melville. Tower bell ringing continued until 8 o'clock.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT SHEDFIELD.

A meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was at Shedfield on July 3rd, and the recently augmented ring of eight attracted nearly forty ringers and friends from Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge, Fareham, Portsmouth, Titchfield, Soberton, Shedfield, Bishopstoke, North Stoneham, Micheldever and Winchester.

Service was conducted by the Vicar and an address given by the Archdeacon of Portsmouth. Tea was served in the Shirrell Heath Hut, after which the business meeting was held, the Vicar taking the chair, supported by the Archdeacon, the Master (Mr. G. Williams), hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter) and district secretary (Mr. R. J. Stone). The Vicar was elected an honorary member of the Guild.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Soberton on September 4th and to arrange inter-tower practices among the country parishes as convenient.

An appeal was made to members to pay their subscriptions so as to start the districts financially and to ensure the success of future meetings. The general secretary said the members were keen to start meetings and they realised that to get anything out of ringing they must put something into it.

Votes of thanks were accorded the ladies for the tea, to the Archdeacon and to the Vicar. Ringing included rounds for beginners, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

A combined meeting of the Tonbridge and Maidstone Districts of the Kent County Association, held at East Peckham, on June 26th, was attended by members from Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Leigh, Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Cranbrook, Linton, Maidstone (All Saints), West Malling, Nailsea, Bristol and the local band. Mr. T. E. Soue, of Paddock Wood, and Mr. C. A. Bassett, Wadhurst, were also present.

After service in church and tea, the business meeting was held with Mr. R. Collins in the chair. The death of Mr. H. Seal, of the Penshurst band, was referred to. Mr. N. Bourne was elected a member, and the next meeting was fixed for Leigh on July 17th. Mr. H. Goodwin expressed the thanks of the meeting to those who had made the arrangements.

BURFORD, OXON.—On Monday, June 14th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: W. F. Judge (conductor) 1, T. Bond 2, L. Leach 3, B. S. Nichols 4, J. E. Spice 5, W. Dixon 6, Major J. H. R. Freeborn 7, C. G. Calcutt 8.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

SOME TUNES AND SOME ADVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Change ringers as a body take a poor view of chiming, but in places where it is not possible to have the bells rung properly, perhaps the use of the chiming apparatus is better than having no sound of bells at all. Maybe the following will help your correspondent, Mr. A. C. Webber.

'Hymns A. and M.' gives plenty of good five, six, seven and eight tunes, which can be legitimately got without resorting to such devices as Mr. Dyer suggests for 'Fight the good fight.' The public is apt to be more critical of tunes than of change ringing, since many know so much more of the former than of the latter, and to hear a grand old tune mutilated is likely to annoy rather than to please. In any case, 'Duke Street' is a far better tune for this hymn, as Mr. Smith points out, and it has a grand swing to it.

In the four or five principal hymn books there are hundreds of tunes for all numbers of bells from five to twelve, requiring only the notes of the diatonic scale. Here are a few from 'A and M.' for eight bells or less (there are very many more for nine, ten, eleven and twelve bells):—

Nos. 17, 25, 26, 29, 51, 125, 160, 164, 175, 177 (first tune), 178 (second tune), 181, 182, 208, 236, 242, 247, 261, 266, 268, 269, 274, 279, 283, 285, 297, 306, 346, 355, 373, 395 (first tune), 479, 527, 565.

No. 266 ('Lead, kindly light'), although only a six-bell tune, will require particular attention as to time, or the effect will be easily ruined. In this case, as in one or two others, the fifth of an octave or the third of a six is the tonic.

Undoubtedly the best way to chime hymn tunes is to do so from the actual scores, and very little musical knowledge is required for this. It is difficult to convey the full effect of expression by means of numbers. The fact that the tenor is in one key and the hymn is scored in another need make no difference for the purpose of chiming since only the 'open' notes of the diatonic are used. If, for example, the tenor is in F and the tune required is scored in G, then for the purposes of that tune consider the tenor as a G bell and go right ahead. This will be found much more simple for a performer with only slight musical knowledge than the orthodox method of transposing from one key to another.

If it is desired to run off a few changes in between the hymn tunes, the plain hunting lead is quite good to begin with, after which the performer may graduate to three leads of Grandsire Triples. This length is usually ample for all ordinary purposes.

If your correspondent requires any further information which it is in my power to give I shall be pleased to supply it.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SOME BELLS ARE NOT SUITABLE.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles Green's advice in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' on this subject was very good, and I hope wherever it is necessary to use a chiming apparatus it will be followed. There is nothing more annoying than to hear tunes with wrong notes here and there. The composer never intended it should be altered in any way.

My personal opinion is that chiming of hymn tunes should only be attempted on really musical rings of bells, which are strictly in tune. It is quite obvious that bells installed for ringing do not give the same effect when hit with a chiming hammer, with disastrous results to the musical ear. One instance I will quote. I recently heard the familiar hymn tune, 'Holy, Holy, Holy,' being chimed on a ring of bells which, although not in Class A regarding tone, sound quite decent when rung in changes well struck. The last note of this tune ended on the tenor, which sounded a semitone down.

This sort of exhibition is enough to put anyone against bells and bellringing. If the general public like to hear hymn tunes on the bells, then give them only on the best musical rings. Perhaps if the public were so keen on listening they might be induced to subscribe towards recasting and hanging the unmusical rings.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

UNSUITABLE TUNES.

Dear Sir,—I know a lot of tunes can be played at, but not played properly on an ordinary octave. I once heard 'Rock of Ages' on our bells in exactly the same way as Mr. Dyer's 'Fight the good fight.' I heard the first verse and hopped it. 'Pleasant are Thy courts,' 'How sweet the Name' and many others can be got in this way, but I could not do it. I fancy I should stop when I got there and think. 'Shall I or not?' This, I think, is quite an interesting subject, and I hope for useful information on what to do and perhaps what not to do.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

F. SMITH.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—At St. Mary's on July 1st, 1356 Bob Major: J. H. Brothwell 1, Miss L. Kelly 2, J. G. Brothwell 3, R. Birch 4, W. Taylor 5, Mrs. J. L. Haywood 6, F. Cardwell 7, J. L. Haywood (conductor) 8. Rung to the memory of the men of the Sheffield City Battalion who fell at the Battle of the Somme.

THE TUNING OF BELLS. CONCERNING THE 'HUM-NOTES.'

(Continued from page 289.)

In the last extract we gave from Canon Simpson's book he was explaining how, in his opinion, the two principal tones, the nominal and the fundamental, can be brought into unison. He continues:—

Of course, in all this I am speaking generally. There are many bells so radically wrong that there is nothing to be done with them except put up with them or send them to the melting pot. And there are numberless cases of treble bells which, in order to make their leading tones powerful enough, have been made of a disproportionate thickness, with the inevitable result that their tones have been thrown very far out of due relation to each other. I fear that there is no help for this, and no effective method of dealing with such cases. There must be a compromise somewhere, and we have a tolerably clear idea as to what had best be sacrificed in order to effect it. All that I care to say here is that the compromise must not be at the expense of the nominal. Whatever else has to give way, the nominals of these trebles must be in tune with those of the rest of the peal.

And now, with due allowance for exceptional cases, I hope I have made out at least a very strong case to justify my appeal to the musical public—and especially to such as are incumbents or churchwardens—to demand from bell founders a more perfect harmony in the bells supplied to them or tuned for them.

Why are we to submit to listen all our lives to a church peal which gives out two (not to say three) series of sounds, which ought to be in octaves, but which, all through the peals, are about a quarter of a tone apart? And I emphasise that word 'about,' because if the error were constant, each of the series would be at least true in itself, though false to the others.

Are we to be told, 'Oh! never mind the fundamentals—the nominals are all right, and that is all that is necessary'?

Well, but here is all Europe (practically) telling us to 'never mind the nominals if the fundamentals are in tune.'

They may be wrong in bidding us be indifferent to the nominals, but surely it savours of ignorance, or if insular arrogance to dismiss in this summary fashion the consensus of European opinion on the value of the fundamentals.

If the result of doing so were satisfactory we might be content. But it is not so. No one who pays any intelligent attention to English peals can be satisfied with them as they are.

If the dissonance were unavoidable we might submit to it. But it is not so. I am *certain*—and I think I have justified my opinion—that in most cases, probably in all important cases, it might be corrected.

Let incumbents and churchwardens, in particular, insist on a greater accuracy of tuning, and in time they will get it. Tuners will find out how to alter bells, if necessary, so as to bring about the unison between nominals and fundamentals, and then founders will learn experimentally how to alter their designs so that they should come out more nearly right at first.

Of course, this means a good deal of painstaking and some little expense. But is not the object worth it?

We may be sure of this, that the founder who first has the courage to grapple with and the perseverance to solve this problem will get a name and reap a harvest which will amply repay him, and he will, further, earn the gratitude of all lovers of music.

And here I must add a word in justice to myself, as well as to the foreign professors of bell-tuning. I should be sorry to be thought ignorant of the intelligence and pains which many of them have bestowed on the regulation of the subordinate tones in their bells, and especially the larger ones. I believe that they know a great deal that I am ignorant of. But I am certain that they make a great mistake in underrating the importance of the tone which I have called the nominal, especially in the case (so common with us) where it is sharper than the fundamental.

I believe that if they would only recognise the conspicuous importance of this tone—in such cases especially—even at the comparative neglect of some other tone, they would leave little to be desired in the carillons which are their peculiar pride.

It was no part of my original intention to enter upon the consideration of 'thirds' and 'fifths.' But I may just say in passing that the third is far too important a tone to be ignored in the tuning at least of a large bell. When once its strident sound has caught the ear it almost obliterates the other tones, and is sometimes indeed mistaken for the principal tone.

All that I can say about it here is—

1. That some bells are cast with major thirds (more or less imperfect) and some with minor.

2. That a third cannot be sharpened; but may be flattened by thinning the bell all round, from G towards B.

3. That in a peal of (say) eight bells the thirds should all be major or all minor. This is considered correct; but we should rather like to hear a peal in which the thirds of the treble, 4th, 5th and tenor are major, and those of the rest minor.

The fifth in like manner cannot be sharpened, but may be flattened by thinning the bell all round from B towards G.

And now a word about the tone we have called the 'hum' note—the deepest and most persistent of all the tones in a bell.

I have said that this tone should be a true octave below the fundamental, and a double octave, therefore, below the nominal, thus forming the bass note of the whole system. That it was really intended to be so is surely manifest from the fact that it is found nearly to fulfil these conditions in almost any bell; and that in most cases it is not more than half a tone sharper than the fundamental and a quarter of a tone sharper than the nominal.

I believe also that I shall be supported in my contention by Belgian experts, and, moreover, we have the authority of Helmholtz for the following statement:— 'According to the observations of the organist Gleitz, the bell cast for the Cathedral at Erfurt in 1477 has the following proper tones—E, e, g sharp, b, e, g sharp, b, c sharp.' And 'Hemony of Zutphen, a master in the seventeenth century, required a good bell to have three octaves, two fifths, one major and one minor third.'

This, I think, should settle the question, not only of the hum note, but of the whole theory of bell tones as set forth in these papers.

Before speaking of the method of altering the hum note, so as to bring it into line with the other tones, I should like to say a word as to its practical importance.

The fact that it is the bass of the whole system of tones, in any perfectly attuned bell, ought to be sufficient. And though it is not so loud as the fundamental, nor so clear as the nominal, it is impossible that any want of agreement with these should not injure the general effect, especially if in a series of bells these great booming tones do not rise and fall fairly evenly with the others. In the case of large slow striking bells of clocks, or carillons, this want of agreement with the other tones must be specially objectionable as the hum-notes are, as we have said, the most persistent of all.

But their general importance may be made clearer by the following illustration:—

Sitting in my dining room with outer and inner doors shut, I was struck by the singularly sweet sound of our six little Fittleworth bells as heard down the chimney. On opening the doors, so as to hear them directly, I observed with surprise that the scale was different; and I finally discovered that what I had heard down the chimney were the hum-notes, which alone found their way to me by this devious course.

After this experience, we cannot dismiss the hum-notes as unworthy of careful attention.

How to govern them and bring them into unison with their proper fundamentals and nominals? is a question which I am not prepared to answer with quite the same certainty as in the case of the other tones. To be able to do so, we must first determine on what proportions of the bell its pitch mainly depends.

Now, in the case of the other tones, this is sufficiently known; and it is from this knowledge that we are able to deduce the rules for altering them, as given above.

But there is a mystery about the production of the hum-note which has not yet been quite cleared up. I give here my own belief founded on observations which I cannot here describe at length. I believe, then, that whereas each of the other tones may be referred principally to some particular portion, or zone, of the bell, the hum-note is, in a peculiar sense, the tone of the whole mass of the bell. And I have come to the following conclusions as to its government:—

1. That this tone can never be sharpened.
2. That it may be flattened to any reasonable extent by thinning the walls of the bell near the crown.
3. That possibly the proportion of the length of the bell to its width may have some bearing on the relation of the hum-note to the other tones; any shortening of the length in proportion to the other dimensions having the effect of sharpening the hum-note.

(To be continued.)

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, July 4th, 720 Cambridge Minor: E. C. Ayres 1, Sgt. J. W. Berry, R.A. 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Edwards 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

PILOT OFFICER DEREK M. SHARP.

A BRILLIANT YOUNG RINGER.

The news that Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp has been reported missing has brought us several letters showing the esteem in which he was held among his friends and the great loss to the Exeter.

Derek Sharp was born in July, 1917, and learnt to ring at Sutton, near Hull in Yorkshire, under the tuition of the late Mr. West. In September, 1936, while on holiday, he paid a visit to Crayford in Kent, where two peals, one of them on handbells, were arranged for him by Mr. Edwin Barnett. He was so pleased with his experience that he decided not to return to Yorkshire, but got a job at Dartford and joined the Crayford band.

His first Surprise peal (Superlative) was rung at Dartford on December 31st, 1936, his first peal of Cambridge in January, 1937, and his first peal of Lincolnshire at the same tower a week later. During February of that year he called his first peal on tower bells (Parker's Twelve-Part), and on March 9th he rang 7-8 to a peal of Bob Maximus. In this peal all were members of the local band. A month later he called his first peal of Major (Plain Bob). These were followed quickly by his first peals of St. Clement's Bob, 'Real' Double Norwich and Reverse Bob, all at Crayford. In July he rang his first peal of Kent Treble Bob as conductor on his 21st birthday, and took part in the first peal of Painswick College Bob and a peal of Dartford Little Bob.

MANY PEALS.

Derek Sharp's first peal of Maximus on tower bells was at Canterbury on August Bank Holiday, 1937. For this peal he gave up three days of the holiday he intended spending at his home in Yorkshire. With Mr. Cullum he took part in the first peal of Wheatley Surprise at Erith a fortnight later, and in September he took part in the first peal of Pulford Bob Major. During October and November he rang his first peals of Hereward Bob and Erith Little Bob. In December Mr. Cullum called his first peal of London Surprise, and Mr. Sone his first peal of Royal on tower bells.

During 1938 he rang many peals in tower and hand, including 3-4 to his first peal of Maximus as conductor and his first as conductor of Double Norwich and Little Bob, finishing third on the list of those who rang most peals during the year.

In 1939 he rang 40 peals for the Kent County Association, including his first peals of Grandsire and Stedman Cinques. Of these he conducted 18. His last peal on tower bells was on December 26th at Crayford.

In 1939, with Messrs. E., E. A. Barnett and G. V. Murphy (now unfortunately a prisoner of war), he practised Double Norwich in hand with a view to ringing a peal together, but with the outbreak of war and subsequent joining the Forces by E. A. Barnett and G. V. Murphy, this had to be abandoned before the attempt could be made. It was a great disappointment to him, but in January, 1940, Mr. C. W. Woolley called for him at Bushey with E. and E. A. Barnett in the band. That was his last peal.

LIKING FOR THE AIR.

A good striker and method ringer on both tower and handbells, Derek Sharp was a valuable acquisition to Crayford, and quickly made many friends, particularly with 'Pat' Murphy, now a prisoner in Italy. Pat and Derek were always together and their enthusiasm was unbounded.

Derek Sharp's peals numbered about 150, of which 60 were rung at Crayford in the short space of three and a quarter years. His best year was 1938, when his total was 61. They ranged from Doubles to Maximus on tower bells, and Doubles to Maximus, excluding Caters, on handbells, nearly all the latter, of course, in pre-war days when much less handbell ringing was done.

His liking for the air was aroused in peace time, when his employment involved a few flights. As soon as men in reserved occupations were permitted to volunteer for flying duties he joined the R.A.F., and the episode in America, which earned him considerable renown—even to broadcasting three times in that country—will not easily be forgotten; his friends all agreed that 'it was just typical of Derek.'

On July 2nd, 1937, he called his coming of age peal, so by a sad coincidence the announcement last week appeared either on or very near to his 27th birthday. We can ill afford to lose ringers like Derek Sharp, and all ringers will join in hoping that he may yet be safe and well.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—On Festival Sunday before evensong, 1,320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Smith 1, A. W. T. Ginn 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, R. Thoday 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5, C. Robinson 6.

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BELLS IN NORTH AFRICA.

Private C. W. Munday, of the R.A.O.C., in a letter from North Africa, sends us some particulars of the bells there, which will be read with interest.

It may interest your readers to know, he says, that the daily news-sheet published by this headquarters always contained a note of any debate in the House or any statement by a Government spokesman concerning the ban on ringing.

There are a fair number of bells in this country. Most churches possess up to three bells and the following notes on the church and bells at Tabarka may be of interest. The church is a very ancient building of rectangular shape and has an arched roof supported by many pillars. I presume it is of Roman origin, but, not being an archaeologist, I cannot say. It possesses a few small windows high up in the walls, and, if it had not been for the large opening where the door should have been, would have been very dark inside. The building had been sadly neglected in recent years, but at the time of my visit was spotlessly clean and some attempt was being made to put it in order again.

The bells, three in number, were housed in a wooden shed-like structure built on a flat ledge about 5ft. wide, which ran along one side of the building, a few feet below the level of the main roof. Particulars of the bells are as follows:—

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. (approx.). 1893. Inscription: Farnier—Freres Fondateurs de Cloches Robecourt Vosges.

2. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. (approx.). 1893. Inscription: La Population de Tabarka Tunisie a son Eglise 1893—Gassagnes—Curé. Farnier Freres Fondateurs a Robecourt Vosges France.

3. 6 cwt. (approx.). 1897. Inscription: Marie—France—Tabarka; F. Cassagne—Curé; Ferdinand Farnier Fondateur a Robecourt Vosges.

The largest bell was fitted with a wheel and a very thick rope, but it appeared that clocking was the only means of ringing the others. At that time all the bells were being clocked and were used as the local air-raid warning. A native soldier was the appointed bellringer, and he rang the large bell for an 'alert' and jangled the two smaller ones for the 'all clear.' The bells were also rung for services, all three being jangled together in the usual Continental style.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ABBOTSBURY.

The following towers were represented at a meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Abbotbury on June 19th: Abbotbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester (St. Peter's), Fordington (St. George's), Stratton, Upwey and Wyke Regis. Three members of H.M. Forces came from Buckfastleigh and Torrington, Devon, and Binegar, Somerset.

Ringing in the afternoon, and tea at the Vicarage were followed by a short business meeting, presided over by the chairman, Canon A. W. Markby. Apologies were received from the Rev. R. P. Farrow, Canon D. F. Slembeck and Mr. Honeyburn. The hon. secretary reported that arrangements were well in hand for the next meeting at Stratton on July 24th at the invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Godley.

The Chairman announced that Wyke Regis bells were to be restored as a memorial to the late Rector, the Rev. E. de B. Thurston. It was decided to vote a donation of £2 2s. from the branch funds to the appeal, and two or three members also gave a donation. Four young men belonging to the Wyke Regis Church Fellowship, who have started to learn ringing and are very keen, were present at the meeting.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, the Rev. W. G. E. Squire; to the organist, Mrs. M. White; to Mr. J. W. Hayne, the local secretary, and the ringers' wives who had provided the tea.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who gave the address.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. JOHN'S, BURGESS HILL.

At a meeting of the Sussex County Association, held at St. John's, Burgess Hill, on Saturday, June 26th, about 36 members attended.

Ringing began at 3 p.m., and the methods ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise, several beginners having a touch of rounds.

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, followed by a meeting, at which the Vicar, the Rev. Eric Marsh, presided. He is himself learning to ring.

A service was held in the church, at which the Vicar gave an address, and the organist (Mr. T. Sharp) and full choir led the singing.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, June 20th, for evening service, at Ho's Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes: A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, A. Painter 3, H. L. Cooke 4, W. A. Godwin 5, Pte. F. J. Lewis (Dorset Regt.) 6, W. H. Hayward 7, L.A.C. D. J. Lothian, R.A.F. (Twickenham) 8. Rung for the patronal festival.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On Saturday, July 3rd, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss L. Wickens 1, J. Garrett 2, P. Page 3, H. C. Castle 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting Saturday, July 10th, at Oswaldtwistle. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—F. Hindle, Branch Secretary, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North-West District.—Meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Service ringing at St. James', Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Sunday, July 11th, will be arranged if enough visiting ringers are able to complete the band. — T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts; G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Meeting at Balcombe, July 10th. Names for tea to Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottage, Balcombe. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —Meeting at Halewood on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 5, followed by meeting. Cups of tea provided; bring own food. Buses leave Pierhead every two hours, starting at 2 p.m. Another service leaves Pierhead every half hour to Wood Road, Hunt's Cross, a quarter of an hour's walk from there.—G. R. Newton, 57, Ampthill Road, Liverpool 17.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of Grimsby District at Barton-on-Humber, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. in Church Institute.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting Ulverston, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting after service.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On Saturday, July 17th, Longton tower (8 bells) will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Leigh on Saturday, July 17th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who let Mr. B. Pankhurst, The Chestnut, Leigh, know by Tuesday, July 13th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea at 1s. 6d. for all members who apply, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 10th. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bottesford on Saturday, July 17th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must reach me by Wednesday, July 14th.—T. Groombridge, 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Goldhanger, Saturday, July 17th. Buses leave Maldon 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., and Goldhanger 7.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea to Mr. J. D. Buckingham, Rectory Cottage, Goldhanger, near Maldon, by Wednesday, July 14th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Bexley, on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mr. H. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, by Monday, July 12th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Kinver, Saturday, July 17th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Woden Cafe, High Street. Numbers to me by Wednesday, 14th, please, or caterer will not provide tea.—Bernard C. Ashford, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting in the Singing Men's Vestry at Durham Cathedral on July 17th. The Dean invites those attending to evensong at 3 p.m. and the meeting will follow immediately. A purely business meeting, no ringing. No catering arrangements.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Sturry, July 17th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 1s. 6d. for those who notify Mr. H. F. French, School Hill, Sturry, near Canterbury, by July 14th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Hamstead on Saturday, July 17th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea only for those who notify me by Tuesday, July 13th. Buses from Dunstable and St. Albans—route 369. Get off at Hamstead Turning.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Stoke-in-Coventry, Saturday, July 17th. Bells (8) from 3.30. Service in church 4.30. Tea, 5.15, in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road. Business meeting to follow. Keresley bells (5) from 2.30-4 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Quarterly meeting at Long Ashton on Saturday, July 17th. Bells 3 o'clock. Tea and business meeting 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bolton, Saturday, July 17th. Bells 2 p.m. Business 7 p.m. for nominations.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Twickenham, July 17th, 3 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Tel. Perivale 5320.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Raunds, Saturday, July 17th. Service 3.45. Tea 4.30. Names to secretary by Tuesday, July 13th. Buses leave Thrapston 2.20, 3.20.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Woodview, Brigstock, near Kettering.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Bishopstone (8 bells) on Saturday, July 17th. Bring own refreshments.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 17th. Service, Great St. Mary's Church, 4 o'clock, followed by business. Great St. Mary's bells 3-4 p.m. and one hour during evening. St. Benet's 2.30-3.50 p.m.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.—Meeting on Saturday, July 17th, St. Paul's, Bath Road, Hounslow (8 bells), 2.30 p.m. Three minutes from Hounslow West Tube Station. All Saints', Isleworth (10 bells) after tea. Tea at Blue School, North Street, Isleworth, 4.30. Names to H. W. Rogers, 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—Meeting at Disley, Saturday, July 24th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Edenham, Saturday, July 24th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea, only for those who notify Mr. A. Holmes, Edenham, Bourne, by July 19th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Anstey, July 24th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea at cafe 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Names to Mr. R. Elkington, 24, High Street, Anstey, before July 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Service ringing, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, every Sunday, 9.45 a.m. and 11 a.m., except third Sunday in month, when 9.45 only. Skoreditch, 10.15 a.m., third Sunday in month.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

BIRTH.

FARN.—On June 29th, to Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fearn, of 92, Etwall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, the gift of a daughter.

DEATH.

HARRIS.—July 28th, at Lydney District Hospital, Maud, the dearly beloved wife of W. H. Harris, passed peacefully away, aged 72 years.

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