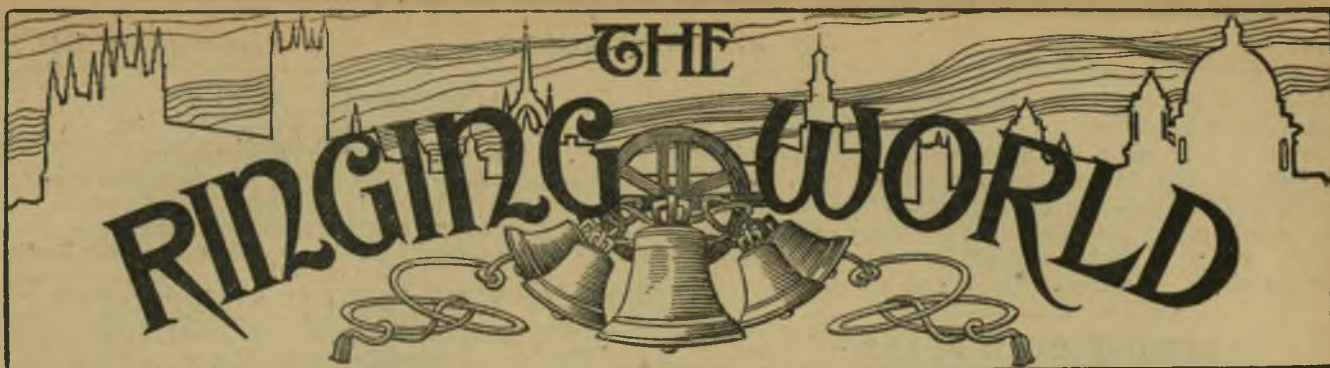


THE RINGING WORLD



No. 1,705. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

'NEED FOR DISCUSSION.'

Last week we published a letter from a correspondent who called attention to the variety of opinions and customs in different belfries, and suggested the desirability of a full discussion so that uniformity on the best lines may bring improvement. Our friend is a member of His Majesty's Forces, and no doubt, like many another soldier and airman, has had very varied experiences among the belfries of the country.

Whether or not we consider uniformity of custom and opinion a good thing, we have not the slightest doubt that full and free discussion of debatable points is essential to the life of the Exercise. If ringers were to get into the habit of accepting opinions and following customs just because other people have done so, the result would be stagnation. Life and progress in such a thing as the art of change ringing depend to a large extent on testing and challenging the ideas and usages which have come down from the past. It by no means follows that those ideas and usages need to be altered. In fact, in the majority of cases they will stand the test and be all the more valuable because ringers understand what they mean.

It might seem that, after two or three centuries of experience, the Exercise has tested every vital principle connected with the art and practice of change ringing, and that there is nothing more to be said about them. Even if it were so, discussion about the reasons for this or that thing would do good, but it actually is not so. There is still abundant scope for variety of opinion on most things connected with our art, and we should be thankful it is so.

For that reason the columns of 'The Ringing World' are always open to anyone who wishes to express any opinion about anything in any way connected with bells or bellringing. It does not greatly matter whether such opinions turn out to be really sound or not. If they create opposition, and so stimulate thought, they will do good.

Anything like a dead uniformity of usage and custom is not desirable. Where local customs have come down from the past they should, unless they are in themselves objectionable, be retained, even though ringers in other belfries act differently. Like, for instance, the custom at Norwich and the Eastern Counties of concluding a muffled peal by setting the bells one by one beginning with the treble until the tenor alone is left. It is a custom which is followed nowhere else, and there is no great reason why it should be, though it is quite effective in its way.

(Continued on page 514.)

Where in recent times usages have been adopted but have not yet hardened into custom, it might be good to consider if they are really worth while. In some places the bells are rung half muffled on Armistice Day. Is that well? Muffled bells are for regret and for sorrow, but why should regret and sorrow be expressed on Armistice Day? Surely it is an occasion for restrained triumph and joyfulness, and especially for thankfulness.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours and 1 thirteen Minutes,
At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHEROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 22 cwt.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	LEONARD TREVOR 5
EDGAR H. VALLANCE 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD 6
JOHN GIBBONS 3	*FRANK TROTMAN 7
JAMES DRAYCOTT 4	BERT RIDGEWAY Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal. The ringers of 3rd, 4th and 7th were elected members of the association before starting.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, November 18, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Martin and All Saints,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 8 cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	† WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 2	BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... 6
* BETTY SPICE 3	† JOHN E. SPICE 7
* MARGARET L. TUTT ... 4	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method on tower bells. * † First peal of Stedman Triples.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

GEORGE H. SPICE ... Treble	STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 5
JOHN W. UNWIN 2	WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 6
GEORGE KENWARD 3	LOUIS HEAD 7
GEORGE EASTMAN 4	FRANK BOORMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by LOUIS HEAD.

Rung to celebrate the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. Spice, of Tunstall.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

JAMES MARSH ... Treble	NORMAN HEAPS 5
JAMES TAYLOR 2	ARTHUR MAUDSLEY ... 6
* THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... 3	* WILLIAM STOPFORTH ... 7
* JOHN LUNHAM 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. RIDYARD.

* First peal of Kent Major. Rung to celebrate the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Horrigan.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Thursday, November 11th, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: K. Wilton 1, H. Lawrence 2, A. Dille 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters (conductor) 5, P. Tompkins 6. Rung half-muffled for Armistice Day and as a token of respect for Major George Lenox Boyd, who was interred that day.

EWELL, SURREY.—On Sunday, October 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Harrington 1, W. Sparrow 2, G. Goodman 3, H. E. Good 4, W. H. Corbett 5, A. Harman (conductor) 6, H. W. Barrett 7, A. Hadley 8.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 1, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At 6, GLEBE ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, 26 of Grandsire (10 callings), 16 of Bob Doubles (four callings).

* MISS HILDA OAKSHETT ... 1-2 | SIG. GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4

* PERCY J. SPICE 5-6

Conducted by SIG. G. R. H. SMITH.

Umpire—Frederick E. Pitman.

* First peal on handbells at first attempt. Rung to celebrate the homecoming of Pte. C. G. Spice, Royal Sussex Regt. (son of Mr. P. J. Spice), recently repatriated from Germany.

OXFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At New College,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

* JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE 5-6

PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

* First peal in the method. † 50th handbell peal together.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 19, 1943, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Reserve and Double Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 1-2

* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 3-4

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First handbell peal of Minor, first peal on an inside pair, and first in more than one method. The conductor's 100th handbell peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 20, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

* ERICK A. DENCH 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6

MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4 | * VICTOR R. WOODARDS ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal, aged 16 and 14.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 1-2

* BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 3-4

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6

* MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) 7-8

JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 9-10

Composed by F. DEXTER. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for Treble Ten. † First peal of Treble Bob on an inside pair. First peal of Treble Ten as conductor, and the first for the society.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 21, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

* ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6

MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4 | * DENNIS H. L. LANGDON ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal, both 15 years of age.

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

(Continued from page 505.)

The excitement over the Popish Plot died down, and as soon as the tide turned King Charles and his adherents set themselves to have their revenge on their opponents. There followed a number of trials for treason which are a blot on the history of the English judicature. There was no intention and, little pretence at impartiality. Judges and juries were met, not to acquit, but to condemn. But the forms of justice had to be observed, and to do that both the bench and the jury had to be packed. There was little trouble in getting Judges who would do what the Government told them, for they were appointed by the King and could be dismissed at a minute's notice. In the country, where the Crown appointed the sheriffs and the sheriffs nominated the juries, there was not much trouble in getting any verdict that was wanted. But in London the sheriffs were elected, and the City had been a stronghold of the Whigs. Partly as a punishment and partly to secure the nomination of the sheriffs the Government served the City with a writ, *quo warranto*, calling on its officers to show cause why the charter should not be annulled on account of alleged illegalities. It was a legal question to be settled by the Judges. One of them, Dolben, was 'not well affected,' so he was dismissed, and the man selected to take his place was Francis Withens. He, at any rate, could be depended upon to do what he was told.

Withens was one of the Judges in almost all the political trials of the next few years, including the famous trials of Lord William Russell and Algernon Sidney, but he does not appear to have taken any very active part in them. In the year 1683, Sir George Jeffreys was made Lord Chief Justice, and when he presided at a trial for treason there was little left for the prosecuting counsel, or for the other Judges to do. Withens is said not to have shown the harshness and violence of language which marked the usual demeanour of Judges, but he had not enough courage to differ from his colleagues, and especially the bullying and overbearing Lord Chief Justice.

Bishop Burnet, in his History, says that when Algernon Sidney was brought into Court to receive sentence, he went over the objections to the evidence against him, when Judge Withens, interrupting him, by a strange indecency gave him the lie in open Court. But Burnet did not like Withens.

As one of the junior judges, Withens pronounced the sentence in most of these celebrated trials, a fact which brought him a good deal of popular odium. It was he who pronounced the savage sentence on Titus Oates when that wretch had been brought to book for his manifold wickednesses. It was the intention of the judges that he should be whipped to death; but, though he suffered horribly, he lived to see something like revenge in the end.

Like the redoubtable Lord Chief Justice, whose career was in some ways parallel to his own and in many

others divergent, Withens was no debtor to the bottle. John Evelyn, the diarist, records how he was at a wedding, where were the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff, several Aldermen, and persons of quality. 'Above all, Sir George Jeffreys and Mr. Justice Wythens danced with the bride and were exceedingly merry. These great men spent the rest of the afternoon till eleven at night drinking healths, taking tobacco, and talking much beneath the gravity of judges.'

Charles the Second died in the year 1685, and a few months later an insurrection broke out in the West with the object of dethroning James his successor and making the Duke of Monmouth, Charles' illegitimate son, King in his stead. The rebels were defeated on Sedgemoor in the last battle ever fought on English soil, and having now, as he thought, his enemies at his mercy, James and his advisers determined on such a revenge as should strike terror into the hearts of people, and teach such a lesson that rebellion should not dare to raise its head again, at least, not for a long time. Many of the rebels were put to death by martial law after the battle, but something more was needed. The forms of law had to be observed, and a special commission was sent down to the West headed by Lord Jeffreys.

Four judges were joined with him—Chief Baron Montague, Mr. Justice Levintz, Mr. Justice Withens and Mr. Justice Wright. The first two are said to have been men of reputation and respected by the public and the profession; the other two were mere time servers and boon companions of the Lord Chief Justice. But whatever they were made little difference, for Jeffreys and the King had settled beforehand what they called their plan of campaign, and did not intend to have any interference with their designs.

The Assize which followed is known in history as the Bloody Assize, a name which sufficiently indicates its character. The guilt of the proceedings must be shared by Jeffreys and the King; but Withens and the other judges who sat on the bench and, so far as the reports go, said nothing, cannot escape some responsibility.

(To be continued.)

MUFFLED RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—From a listener's point of view, I think there can be no doubt that the most effective way to ring muffled would be to muffle the back-stroke and ring whole pull changes. You would then get the change, and a sort of echo of it. I know that I am not the only one that thinks so, but I am told that whole pull changes are very difficult to ring, though I cannot understand why. I have certainly never heard of them being rung.

Of course, under the existing definition of a peal it would not be possible to ring a muffled peal this way. J. B. M. RIDOUT.

Westwood, 54, King's Road, Swanage.

DEATH OF LIEUT. W. F. TROKE.

News has been received that Lieut. Walter Edmund Troke, R.N.V.R., has been posted missing, presumed killed. Lieut. Troke, who was an architect by profession, before the war was one of the band of ringers at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. He was the architect who supervised the work at Leytonstone when the extra bells were added as a memorial to William Pye, and was a member of the committee of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. F. W. Richardson informs us that among the books and papers left by the late W. J. Jeffries are copies of ringing papers, presumably 'The Bell News' and 'The Ringing World.' These will have to go for salvage, but Mr. Richardson has asked the family to hold them up for a time in case any ringer would like to secure them. If there is anyone, will he write to Mr. Richardson at 16, Harefield Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4? Mr. Richardson began his ringing career forty years ago last Friday.

Intending visitors to the Guildford Guild meeting at Seale to-morrow should note that the time of service is 4 o'clock, not 4.30 as advertised.

All the band who took part in the handbell peal of Minor at Oxford are reading chemistry, and the performance was arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to Dr. H. M. N. H. Irving, University lecturer and demonstrator in chemistry.

The first peal on the twelve bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, one of Grandsire Cinques, was rung on November 23rd, 1775.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on November 24th, 1816.

On November 25th, 1737, the Eastern Scholars rang, single handed, 15,120 Bob Major at West Ham.

The London Scholars rang 6,204 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on November 27th, 1729.

Next Sunday is the 50th anniversary of the first local peal of Stedman Caters by the All Saints' Society, Fulham. It was conducted by J. W. Driver. Of the band, Messrs. W. T. Elson, W. S. Smith and E. H. Adams are still alive and active.

The tower bell peals at Tunstall and All Saints', Oxford, and the handbell peals of Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Royal at Oxford were rung in honour of the diamond wedding of Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall. Last week it was referred to in error as his golden wedding.

Mr. Spice himself conducted 720 Bob Minor and 504 Stedman Triples at Tunstall.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

MR. CYRIL F. JOHNSTON.

MASTER OF THE CLOCKMAKERS' COMPANY.

At the election court of the Clockmakers' Company, held on September 27th, Mr. Cyril F. Johnston was elected Master for the year 1944.

During his year of office the famous firm of bell founders with which he is associated will celebrate its 100th birthday, for Gillett and Johnston were established in 1844.

Mr. Johnston served as apprentice both in the clock making and bell founding branches of the business, and at an early age went into partnership with his father, the late A. A. Johnston, who was a Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company.

Mr. Johnston has made a very close study of bell tuning and carillon making, and ringers are familiar with the many fine ringing peals erected by his firm in all parts of the country. Some had the opportunity of inspecting the great carillons supplied to New York, Toronto and Wellington. The clocks in church towers and public buildings are as numerous as the rings of bells.

In 1925, the late King George V. and Queen Mary honoured the Croydon factory with a visit and many Royalties and prominent people have been received there during the last few years. Popular imagination was much taken by the carillon erected in Hyde Park before being shipped to Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr. Johnston was made a Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company in 1920, and elected to the Court of Assistants in 1931. He was chairman of the Horological Institute from 1921-1924, and has travelled extensively in U.S.A. and abroad.

In the last war he served as a subaltern in the Grenadier Guards. He holds a commission in the Home Guard as a captain, and when that force was formed, organised a unit composed of the firm's employees. He married in 1930 Miss Mary Evelyn O'Leary, a direct descendant of the diarist, Sir John Evelyn, and has a son and daughter.

STAVERTON, DAVENTRY.—On Saturday, November 20th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Mrs. Powell 1, Miss Maud Clarke (first quarter-peal) 2, G. Hancock 3, F. Hancock 4, Rev. E. S. Powell (conductor) 5, F. Browning 6. Also 240 St. Clement's Bob Minor, and 240 Bob Minor with D. C. Birkinshaw.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

NINETIETH BIRTHDAY.

To-morrow Mr. James George will reach his ninetyeth birthday, and ringers all over the country will join in congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. George was born at Pinner on November 27th, 1853, the second son of James George, who was for many years the leader of the local band of ringers. The son as a boy frequently rang the service bell, but did not take up ringing until much later in life. In 1869 he entered the service of the then London and North-Western Railway, and in 1881 he went to live at Rugby.

It was not until 1889, when he was in his 35th year, that he rang his first peal. It was Holt's Original at St. George's, Camberwell, for the St. James' Society. By 1894 he had completed 100 peals, and he went on to join the select number of those who have each over one thousand peals to his credit and one on every date in the year.

Mr. George has been especially fond of heavy bell ringing, and among the tenors he has rung to peals are St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, St. Michael Cornhill, St. Peter's, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Waltham Abbey, St. Martin's Birmingham, and St. Giles' Cripplegate. He rang the tenor at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1911 to the record length of 12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and the tenor at Painswick to the 17,687 Grandsire Cinques, which turned out to be false in the composition.

In 1932, Mr. George took part in a peal at St. Olave's, Hart Street, when the aggregate age of the band was 594 years, and shortly afterwards in another at the same church when the aggregate age was 612 years, an average of more than 76 years for each man. Both peals were called by Challis F. Winney.

For some time Mr. George was Ringing Master of the Warwickshire Guild, vice-president of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild, and honorary member of the Central Council.

Some years ago he had an accident which resulted in the loss of one of his legs, but he reported the other day that he was in good health and comfortable.

SQUIRE PROCTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is a small matter, but two inaccuracies occur in recent correspondence under this heading. Mr. Cartmel gave the Squire's age as 86, and on page 505 of your current issue it states he died in 1902. The Squire's obituary notice is to be found in 'Church Bells' for March 22nd, 1895, and he was in his 80th year.

The last paragraph of the notice in 'Church Bells' is rather pathetic, and you may think it worth quoting: 'The Squire and his men grew old together. After he discontinued ringing, little was done in that way by them. The band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants. Benington was Mr. Proctor's world. He had few pursuits outside and left it very seldom. Latterly he lived almost entirely alone; he became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life, and was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.'

May I add 'The Ringing World' of August, 1941, contained references to the old Squire, and on August 29th of that year you published a letter of mine giving this same information.

Cannot Mr. Cartmel get some personal recollections from Mr. Herbert Warner and send them for publication? They would be of great interest, I am sure.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been a ringer for quite a long time, have rung in a number of different towers under different ringing masters, and have found some good and some very bad. But I have never been able to find out what the real duties of a ringing master should be. Perhaps some of the more experienced members of the Exercise would kindly oblige by giving an explanation of what the real duties of a good ringing master should be.

'ORPHEUS.'

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WEBB.

After many months of suffering, Mr. George Webb, one of the band at Tunstall, Kent, has passed away.

The funeral was at Tunstall on November 15th, and among the many wreaths were one from the Kent County Association and one from the local ringers. The bells were rung half-muffled after the interment.

DUBLIN.—At St. George's Church on November 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Arthur Worrell 1, Mrs. F. E. Dukes 2, Miss A. C. Dukes 3, Thomas McMorran 4, *Miss Iris Rowe 5, Fred E. Dukes (conductor) 6, George McGregor 7, Arthur Darlington 8. *First quarter. Rung with 7.5.8 covering.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 509.)

The fine lantern tower of the Abbey Church of Pershore, Worcestershire, the architect of which is unknown but is generally believed to be the same that built Salisbury Cathedral, is richly panelled and traceried. Sir Gilbert Scott says of it, 'Not only is it a remarkably noble specimen of architecture of the 14th century, but internally so much beauty is displayed that I scarcely know of one so rich and beautiful as that of Pershore, and it stands, so far as I know, quite alone in its design.' It was commenced in 1330, and reaches a height of 125ft. to the top of the four pinnacles. It is 42ft. square externally and 29ft. 2in. internally. Daylight is admirably arranged by means of eight windows, 4ft. 4in. wide.

The ringing room is very singular and locally known as 'the bird cage.' There is an octave of bells, of which Mrs. H. B. Walters says, 'These bells are generally considered one of the finest rings of eight in England, but the difficulties of ringing them are well known to local ringers. The cage ringing chamber, due to the exigencies of the tower opening out as a lantern, is probably unique.'

This 'ringing room,' which is a curiosity, stands upon a stout oaken beam, projecting from the centre of each wall, joined together in the middle, and upon this is supported a wrought-iron cage, 11½ft. square inside, and placed with its corners to the four beams, thus giving it a diamond appearance with regard to the tower, from the fact that its four corners are opposite the centre of each wall. The floor of the church, which can be seen on all sides by looking through the iron bars, is 72ft. 2in. below, and the bells are on the next floor, only 15ft. 9in. above, but nevertheless pleasant and distinct.

This interesting place is approached from an openwork gallery in the thickness of the wall only 16in. in width, and 4ft. 9in. in height, up through a circular skeleton iron staircase overhanging the church, and only 21in. in width, and one of the beams alluded to forms a sort of a bridge carefully railed up each side. In addition to the iron bars which constitute the ringing chamber, the upper portion is augmented by very stout iron netting, to keep the ropes from flying through, very much resembling on a larger scale the kind of cage used for keeping parrots and cockatoos. Pershore is well known for its chimes, and tunes were played regularly on its carillon machine which was erected by Gillett and Johnston in 1879. It had a fortnightly cycle of tunes.

As early as 1552 there were 'in the steeple v bells which of late time was bought of the King's majestie that dead.' The octave was cast by A. Rudhall in 1729, with a tenor of 26 cwt, the treble being recast in 1814 by T. Mears, and the 4th by Barwell, of Birmingham in 1897. There was formerly a priest's bell by Rudhall, but this was stolen during restoration of the church on the night of Easter Monday, 1863.

The central tower of Sherborne Abbey (St. Mary's), Dorset, contains the heaviest ring of eight bells in England. There is also a fire bell and an ancient Sanctus bell. Before recasting in 1933, the tenor weighed 45 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb., and was at that time by J. Warner, 1865, but after recasting by Mears and Stainbank she weighs 46 cwt. 5 lb. At this time all the other bells were retuned and rehung in new bearings and fittings.

The tenor was originally the gift of Cardinal Wolsey, and was brought from Tournai with other bells. It became cracked and was recast by Thomas Purdue, of Closworth, on October 20th, 1670. It became cracked again and was recast in 1867 by J. Warner and Sons. The original 3rd and 7th were cast by Robert Austin, of Sherborne, in 1652. The new tenor's inscription runs thus:—
'By Wolsey's gift I measure time for all,

To mirth, to grieffe, to church, I serve to call.

Recast 1670, by Thomas Purdow, of Closworth, Somerset; Joseph Barker, Vicar; Gustavus Horne, Walter Pride, churchwardens. Again recast 1865 by John Warner and Sons, of London; Edward Harston, Vicar; James Hoddinott, Francis Stokes, churchwardens. Again recast 1933 by Mears and Stainbank, of London. Wilfred Marcus Askwith, Vicar; Clement Horace Adams, James Florance, churchwardens.'

The cost of recasting the tenor was defrayed by contributions from Old Boys of Sherborne Grammar School, through an appeal made by Major J. H. B. Hesse. The fire bell (diam. 32½in.) says:—

'*Lord qvncch the fvriovs flame

aris, rvn, help pvt ovt the same. I.W., I.G.

*1654. R.A.'

The ancient Sanctus (diam. 19in.) has an invocation to St. Mary.

The first mention of bells at All Hallows'—i.e., the old Parish Church of Sherborne, which was built on to the west end of the Abbey, and continued to be used as the Parish Church until the town bought the Abbey Church at the dissolution in 1539—is in 1514-15, when some repairs were done. In 1515-16 further repairs are noted to the clapper of the great bell, some bell ropes, and to trussing the 'Big Bell.'

This Big Bell is probably Wolsey's bell, which was given to the town, not to the monastery. When the parish bought the Abbey Church in 1539-40, the bells were transferred from the Parish Church to the Abbey Church, and were then six in number. Various payments for repairs occur regularly, and in 1556 the 5th and 6th were recast, and a great collection was made, amounting to £61 19s. 9d., besides gifts of cows, parchment, skins, bell wheels, etc.

Like so many central towers, Sherborne Abbey has a curious entrance to the ringing chamber. This is on a level with the vaulting of the church roof, and to reach it it is necessary to ascend a spiral staircase at the angle of the south transept (from the inside), and to traverse the leads on the roof of the same along the east, south and west sides, either going round and under the clock dial, or to take a short cut on the inside of the clock dial under the roof of the Digby Chapel, then enter the belfry door. Go down two or three steps and along a very narrow passage, and then up a few steps to the ringing floor. To do this you have to go under an iron tierod in a bent head position. There are no windows in the ringing chamber, so it is necessary to have artificial light even in daytime.

(To be continued.)

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On Saturday, November 6th, at St. Leonard's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Miles 1, J. Gardner 2, C. Calcutt (conductor) 3, C. Bennett 4, T. W. Bond 5, H. Caves 6. Rung for the patronal festival.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On Friday, November 19th, 380 Cambridge Surprise Minor and 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. W. Gregory 1, B. Ailsop 2, G. H. Paulson 3, H. E. Taylor 4, A. C. Wright 5, V. Bottomley 6.

PRIZE RINGING IN THE OLD DAYS.

BY W. R. GREEN.

The following article appeared in 'The Rugby Advertiser' of November 12th:—

The name of Sabin has been connected with bellringing at Long Buckby, Northants, for the past 125 years, and the remaining branch of that tree, Mr. George Sabin, of Mill Hill, Long Buckby, who has personal experiences of campanology going back three-quarters of a century, is puzzled. His puzzlement arises from an article in last week's 'Rugby Advertiser' quoting a reminiscence from 'The Ringing World' in which a man named Bishop, one of a team from Sapcote, while engaged in prize ringing at Long Buckby, had difficulty in controlling the tenor bell, and felt someone was in the belfry, interfering with it. During revelry in a local inn afterwards, the article states, Bishop again broached the subject of his difficulty and a Long Buckby ringer retorted, 'You don't suppose we are fools big enough to allow your ringers to come here and take away the prize, do you?' seeming to indicate that tampering with bells was quite prevalent in these matches.

There was a spirit of craftsmanship in bellringing of old, and Mr. Sabin looks upon the anecdote as a slur upon ringers of that day. He has a right to do so, for at the early age of 12, in the year 1872, he went to Dodford (Northants) to ring with his father. A Mr. Furness, mistaking him for a Dodford boy, boxed his ears to drive him from the steeple until Mr. Sabin, sen., explained his son had come to ring. Thereupon young George wiped the tears from his eyes and took his rope with such good effect that Mr. Furness afterwards apologised over and over again for striking 'one of the best little ringers I have ever heard' and insisted upon buying some 'pop' for the boy.

Mr. Sabin thinks the alleged tampering with bells could not be possible, for a variety of reasons. To move across to a tenor bell during ringing would necessitate crossing between the other swinging bells, an impossible feat, for a man would be crushed in the attempt. Apart from this, rules binding such competitions were very severe and ringers had to wait in church during the whole contest. Another guard was on duty in the steeple to see that no man climbed to the belfry. The only way in which a man could conceivably tamper with a bell was to conceal himself in one of the narrow orifices in the belfry wall throughout the whole contest, an impossible feat as the noise at such proximity would blast eardrums, apart from the physical endurance necessary to stay for any length of time in such a cramped position. Each set of ringers at competitions of that kind would ring Grand Sire, Gog Magog and Antelope, taking about 20 minutes for the three peals. If the contest had been sponsored by the Long Buckby ringers, there was another rule to the effect that those sponsoring should not enter their own team in the contest.

The seriousness with which bellringing was held in Mr. Sabin's day is demonstrated by the fact that when a dispute arose many years ago between the bellringers and a new priest, resulting in the bellringers getting the 'sack,' all sections of the community marched round the streets on Guy Fawkes night bearing an effigy of the parson, complete with book which was burned at the stake with all honours due to such an occasion.

Neither at his father's or his grandfather's knees does Mr. Sabin recall having heard of any visit of the Sapcote ringers, and he has no recollection of this Leicestershire team ever visiting Long Buckby. He would like to know from Mr. H. Bird, of Broughton Astley, the writer of the article in 'The Ringing World,' in what year it was that the man named Bishop came to Long Buckby.

Frankly, he doesn't believe that Long Buckby ringers would be guilty of such a scurvy trick, even if it were possible.

DEATH OF MR. J W STEDDY.

The death is announced of Mr. John Whibley Steddy, of Edenbridge, who passed away at his home on November 16th, and was buried last Saturday.

Mr. Steddy was a member of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex, London and Middlesex County Associations and of the Ancient Society of College Youths, had rung over 130 peals. His first was at Tonbridge on April 19th, 1895, and on Boxing Day, 1896, he rang a peal of Treble Bob Major at St. Stephen's, Westminster, and another of the same method at Woolwich. On December 27th, 1898, he rang three peals with Messrs. Keith Hart, who conducted all three, William Steed, Alfred J. Turner and John S. Goldsmith. Starting at Southover, Lewes, with a peal of Grandsire Triples, they went to Ringmer for Bob Major, then to Buxted for another of Bob Major. On the day before they had rung Treble Bob at Warnham.

After the funeral the local band, with Mr. L. Tidy, of Limpsfield, and Mr. Batten, representing the Kent County Association, rang the bells half-muffled.

Mr. Steddy leaves a widow, and three sons, all of whom are serving in H.M. Forces.

PULBOROUGH.—On Sunday, November 14th, for Confirmation service, 1200 Bob Minor, with 6-8 covering: C. S. Greenfield 1. A. C. Greenfield 2. R. Wood, sen. (Billingshurst) 3. A. E. Holden 4. C. Longhurst (West Grinstead) 5. H. J. Doick 6. L. Stilwell (conductor) 7. F. J. Killick 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/-.

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

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District. —Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea and meeting to follow.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting at Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 2.30. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, Dis. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Reddish, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring own food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.15; ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, Sunday, Dec. 5th, 10.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Hinckley on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 3.30 to 7.30. Tea at local cafes. 9.42 p.m. train all stations to Leicester, 10.5 p.m. train to Nuneaton.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.—Meeting, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Ringing from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m.—Robert C. Heazel.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Henfield, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 (by invitation) to those who notify by Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Div. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. For tea, notify Mr. C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before Nov. 30th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, 1s. 9d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 1st.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Annual meeting at Wraxall on Saturday, December 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in the Old Rectory 5.15.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food). Names for tea by Nov. 28th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by November 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. for only those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know by Dec. 2nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 by kind invitation. Names by Dec. 1st.—Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Shore, Littleborough, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—J. Kay, Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting at Claines on Sat., Dec. 11th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea before Tuesday, Dec. 7th.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting on Dec. 11th at Exeter. Service at St. Edmund's Church, 4 p.m. Tea at Western's Cafe, Bridge Street, 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Names by Dec. 6th. All city towers open.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Radcliffe-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 5, followed by tea, 1s. 9d. per head, with use of Church Room for handbells, etc. Names for tea to reach me by Wednesday, Dec. 8th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

Two sound brass handbells, 'C' (sharp), 2nd 'D', diameter 3 1/8 and 3in. respectively, for sale privately. Reasonable price. Very suitable for anyone with peal of eight.—Write (enclosing stamp), L. Ware, 20, Elspeth Road, London, S.W.11.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on Nov. 13th, and was attended by members from Hartfield, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Uckfield and the local band. Capt. S. G. Richards, C.F. and S. T. Russell of the R.A.S.C., were also present. The curate, the Rev. N. J. Kelly, welcomed the ringers.

Ringers ranged from rounds to Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and tea was served by Miss K. Shepherd at her house. Meetings were arranged for Tunbridge Wells on December 4th, and Coleman's Hatch on January 15th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, October 31st, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, W. Lee 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, J. Harrison 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, November 6th, for Remembrance Day service, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, rung half-muffled: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, W. Lee 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, R. Buckland 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, November 21st, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (from 'Clavis'): *Miss B. J. Frost 1, *Miss A. E. Holden 2, A. G. Hall 3, *D. L. Hall 4, H. A. Holden 5, A. Williams 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, V. J. Benning 8. *First quarter-peal. Arranged for the ringer of the 6th, home on leave from H.M. Forces.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.—On Sunday, November 7th, at the Church of St. Giles, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Redfern 1, A/F.L. F. Sharples, F.A.A. 2, A. Vaughan 3, A. W. Lloyd 4, F. A. Forster 5, A. Thompson 6, R. S. Anderson (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, G. W. Biddulph 8.

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