

THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

GILLETT AND JOHNSTON CROYDON

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MEARS AND STAINBANK

34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LONDON, E.1

Tel. BISHOPSGATE 2599

JOHN TAYLOR & Co. LOUGHBOROUGH

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.

MORE ABOUT HANDBELL RINGING.

It would defeat our object if what we have written about handbell ringing were to convey the impression that we consider the more modern systems have made handbell ringing as a whole easier to the ordinary average ringer. What they have done, or what they could do, is to make it possible for a very large range of methods, usually reckoned to be most difficult and complex, to be rung double handed without excessive difficulty by a class of person who by mental equipment, and training and opportunity are specially fitted for the task. The qualities needed are of the highest kind and are rare among ordinary ringers. They include not merely alertness of mind, but extreme concentration, and the ability to do mentally things for which most people need visual and physical aids. The persons who possess this type of brain usually make good chess players and it is probable that these mental powers can only be developed in the time of youth. The results which in the last few years have been attained by the new system are remarkable, and, as Mr. John E. Spice fairly claims, have justified its use by those who practise it. No fair minded man would seek to disparage the record of handbell ringing made by the Oxford University Society or fail to recognise the extraordinary skill and cleverness shown by the members. But whether the system described so clearly by Mr. Spice is one to be recommended for general use in the Exercise is rather doubtful. Probably it could only be put into practice efficiently among persons who started without any previous knowledge of change ringing generally, and who were handbell ringers primarily and tower-bell ringers only casually, if at all. The man whose handbell ringing was only a more or less unimportant adjunct to his tower-bell ringing would find it hard to rid himself sufficiently of what he had learnt in the belfry. To tell such a one that he must ring London Surprise at the cross sections as he rings Double Norwich must seem unreal, though he recognises the truth of the statement. The defect of these new systems for ordinary persons is that they are too separate and remote from what is valuable in change ringing generally.

Some time since one of the most skilful and successful of living handbell ringers was asked how he rang his peals, and the reply was that he just did it. It was a modest, and in the circumstances a sufficient, way of saying that he brought to the task of ringing a handbell peal of London Major, or Spliced Surprise, or Stedman, (Continued on page 270.)

or Grandsire Triples, all the knowledge and experience he had gained of tower bell ringing and handbell ringing, of the work of the method and its construction, of the coursing order and the position of the places; in fact the full equipment of an efficient ringer. That, in varying degree, is, we believe, the plan of the ordinary good handbell ringer, and, on the whole, it is the one to be recommended. The young people at Oxford and Cambridge are differently situated and what is good for them is not necessarily the best for others.

A few important words must be added. Any doubts about the advisability of the new systems for general use must be confined to those systems when they are treated as the fundamental and essential methods of handbell ringing and do not extend to the knowledge on which the systems are based. That knowledge can be and usually is employed in varying degree by good handbell ringers who employ the more traditional style. The traditional style is a fitting development of the art of change ringing and has its proper place in it. The new systems in their stark nakedness stand outside the art, and, for all their efficiency, have no real place in it. Perhaps for that reason they will never come into general use.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BEOKENHAM, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*LUCILLE M. HUBBERT ... Treble	*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 6
*EDWIN BARNETT ... 2	*JAMES E. BAILEY ... 7
*ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ... 3	*PHILIP A. CORBY ... 8
JAMES BENNETT ... 4	GEORGE H. CROSS ... 9
ERIO A. DENCH ... 5	*ALAN R. PINK ... Tenor

Composed by W. D. CROFTS.

Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal of Oxford Royal.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH
SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*MISS S. E. HARRIS ... Treble	†ALAN F. THIRST ... 6
MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS ... 2	ALBERT M. HOUGHTON ... 7
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 3	WILLIAM J. PAICE ... 8
†GEOFFREY DODDS ... 4	†HAROLD W. ROGERS ... 9
†MRS. K. F. J. PARR ... 5	FRANCIS D. BISHOP ... Tenor

Composed by WM. T. ELSON. Conducted by HAROLD W. ROGERS.

* First peal. † First of Grandsire Caters. First as conductor.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

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

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... Treble	ALBERT WALKER ... 6
HENRY H. FEARN ... 2	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 7
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3	JOHN PINFOLD ... 8
REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 4	*JOHN S. MASON ... 9
G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY ... 5	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* First peal of Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	CECIL G. CALCUTT ... 5
FREDK. A. H. WILKINS ... 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 6
JAMES HIGGINS ... 3	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 7
HARRY P. FLOYD ... 4	WILFRED CROSS ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM JUDGE.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

ROBERT W. R. PERCY ... Treble	STANLEY T. A. RUSSELL ... 5
ARTHUR F. LEWRY ... 2	JOHN A. DOWNING ... 6
MRS. BETTY PERCY ... 3	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE ... 7
*REV. P. J. BOULSOVER ... 4	FRANK H. HICKS ... Tenor

Composed by J. E. BURTON.

Conducted by FRANK H. HICKS.

* First peal of Major on tower bells.

HOLBECK, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... Treble	GEORGE ROBINSON ... 5
HARRY DAVISON ... 2	*DENNIS ROE ... 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR ... 3	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 7
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 4	FREDERICK SEAGER ... Tenor

Composed by GEO. LEWIS.

Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal in the method.

REPTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WYSTON,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.	
*HERBERT H. BRITTAN ... Treble	JOSEPH H. BRITTAN ... 5
FREDERICK G. BAILEY ... 2	JOSEPH W. COTTON ... 6
†WALTER G. SOAR ... 3	BARNAPAS G. KEY ... 7
†SIDNEY H. JONES ... 4	*JOHN STENNIT ... Tenor

Conducted by B. G. KEY.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples.

NEWCHURCH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*MISS F. M. LAFLIN ... Treble	MRS. C. W. LAWTON ... 5
C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 2	CHARLES W. LAWTON ... 6
CHARLES EDWARDS ... 3	RICHARD ELKINS ... 7
†MISS MARY ELKINS ... 4	RICHARD BENSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal. † First peal of Bob Major.

KING'S LANGLEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM WENBAN ... Treble	CECIL C. MAYNE ... 5
PHYLIS M. MAYNE ... 2	FRANCIS KIRK ... 6
*JOHN R. MAYNE ... 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method.

HARMSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN VESSEY Treble	R. THOMAS VESSEY ... 5
KENNETH W. MAYER ... 2	*NOEL E. CHAMBERS ... 6
HAROLD MARCON 3	†PERCY HOLMES 7
*CYRIL WARD 4	JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by J. L. MILLHOUSE.

* First peal of Major. † First in the method.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE. THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sunday, June 2, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS...Treble	JOHN S. MASON 5
HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 2	G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY ... 6
*GEORGE E. LARGE 3	HENRY H. FEARN 7
JOHN PINFOLD 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal in the method.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., June 4, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

ERNEST W. RAWSON ...Treble	BURLEY MORRIS 5
JILL POOLE 2	ERNEST MORRIS 6
SHIRLEY BURTON 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT 7
*RONALD H. DOVE 4	HAROLD J. POOLE ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Bristol 'inside.'

SIX BELL PEALS.

CAWTHORNE, BARNSLEY. THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., May 8, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Two 720's Kent Treble Bob, two 720's Bob Minor, three 720's Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

*CYRIL RUSBY Treble	†IRVINE CROSSLAND ... 4
ALEC RUSBY 2	HERMAN BUSBY 5
ANTHONY MACNAUGHT ... 3	NOEL F. MOXON ... Tenor

Conducted by N. F. MOXON.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

RIPPLE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Thurs., May 16, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

21 six-scores of Plain Bob and 30 of Grand-sire. Tenor 13 cwt.

JACK ROBERTS Treble	CHARLES HAYLINGS ... 4
*CHARLES BROCK 2	ARTHUR GRIFFIN 5
FRED HAWKES 3	PETER BENNETT ... Tenor

Conducted by FRED HAWKES.

* First peal.

SWAINSWICK, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., May 16, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

W. STARR Treble	*E. J. BATH 4
*F. JEANS 2	S. S. WOODBURN 5
T. HAYWARD 3	K. MEDWAY Tenor

Conducted by S. S. WOODBURN.

* First peal.

STRETTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., May 29, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*WALTER ALLMAN Treble	*GORDON LAWRENCE ... 4
†DENNIS MADDOCKS ... 2	*MISS DOROTHY OSBORNE 5
*JOHN ORME 3	HARRY PARKER ... Tenor

* First peal of Treble Bob Minor. † First peal.

Conducted by WALTER ALLMAN.

WROXHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., May 30, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One 720 of Double Court and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

HERBERT C. READ Treble	ERIC DURRANT 4
FREDERICK A. BOYCE ... 2	WALTER C. MEDLER ... 5
OLIVE LOWE 3	GEORGE BAILEY ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE BAILEY.

GODSHILL, ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*CLIVE CALLAWAY Treble	*CHARLES DENNESS ... 4
*EDWARD DRAKE 2	FRANK TAYLOR 5
WILLIAM UPTON 3	A. PATRICK CANNON ... Tenor

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* First peal of Minor.

SOUTH WEALD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One 2,160 and four 720's. Tenor 15 cwt.

HENRY T. WILSON Treble	HARRY TURNER 4
BERTRAM C. HINES 2	HENRY S. WILSON 5
DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS ... 3	JOHN STICH Tenor

Conducted by H. TURNER.

SAHAM TONEY, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 1, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven 720's: (1) Double Bob, Reverse Bob and Plain Bob; (2) Oxford Bob; (3) Single Court; (4) Double Oxford; (5) Double Court; (6) St. Clement's; (7) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

NELSON W. BANHAM ... Treble	LESLIE W. HOUGHTON ... 4
CHARLES E. G. BANHAM ... 2	GEORGE SAYER 5
F. CHARLES GOODMAN ... 3	NOLAN GOLDEN ... Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

WILLINGHAM, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., June 4, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

HARRY MORGAN Treble	*BERNARD O. MANN ... 4
*MISS F. MARY LACEBY ... 2	NOEL B. THURLBY 5
GEORGE ARRAND 3	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Conducted by G. E. FEARN.

* First peal.

SPONDON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., June 5, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, three of Kent and one of Bob Minor. Tenor 10 cwt.

*WALTER STEEN Treble	RONALD H. DOVE 4
ALFRED MOULD 2	FRANCIS R. LOWE 5
WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 3	E. FRED GOBEY ... Tenor

Conducted by E. F. GOBEY.

* First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 30, 1946, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2

MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER,
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

'The Ringing World' was founded in the year 1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith, who remained its proprietor and editor until his death in 1942.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—The Editor,

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The peal of Lincolnshire Surprise at St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, on May 20th, was rung as a memorial to Mrs. Thomas, wife of Mr. Percy Thomas, who gave bells to Worcester Cathedral, Claines and Hinton-on-the-Green.

Three generations of one family took part in the peal of Bob Major at Newchurch on June 1st. The ringers of the third and seventh were the grandfather and father of the ringer of the fourth.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The second session of the nineteenth Council was held last Tuesday in the City Hall at Norwich. A report of the proceedings will be given in our next issue.

THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARIES

June 9th, 1855. At Benington, 6,048 Superlative Surprise Major.

June 11th, 1912. By the Cambridge University Guild, the first peal of Little Bob Royal on handbells.

1927. At Warnham, Sussex, the first peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods.

June 12th, 1815. At Birmingham, 5,040 Grandsire Maximus.

June 15th, 1851. The College Youths rang 5,086 Stedman Caters on handbells. The composition, however, turned out to be false and the Cumberlands rang the first true peals.

BREDBURY, CHESHIRE.

The first ring of eight bells to be cast since the dark days of 1940 was dedicated at St. Mark's, Bredbury, Cheshire, on May 25th. The scheme was started in 1942, when the Rev. F. D. Reenan was Vicar, and the response to the appeal for funds was so good that an order was placed with Messrs. John Taylor and Co., who cast the new bells soon after the cessation of hostilities, and early in the New Year they were hung. A certain amount of local work had to be carried out in the tower, which in these days of labour difficulties took a little time. The bell chamber windows have received some treatment so that the sound of the bells is heard evenly outside, and the floors altered so that the bells can be heard properly in the ringing chamber.

At the dedication service, which was conducted by Canon A. du T. Pownall, Rural Dean of Stockport, the church was packed, and many visiting ringers were present. After the service the ringers were entertained to tea, and the present Vicar, the Rev. G. M. Davidson, asked Mr. J. P. Fidler to convey to the bellfounders appreciation of the way in which the work had been carried out.

In the interval between the time of installation and the dedication of the bells a local band has been receiving instruction from Messrs. T. Wilde and C. K. Lewis, officials of the Stockport Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild. Saturday, May 25th, was the first time they had rung with open bells; their progress and keenness promise well for the future.

RECORD PEALS.

(Continued from page 217.)

During the greater part of the second half of the eighteenth century there existed in Kent a band of ringers who fairly earned a place in the history of change ringing although they stand rather outside the main story of the Exercise, and, with one exception, contributed nothing to the development of the art. Their centre was the village of Leeds, and their leader was James Barham, who, in the course of years, has become one of the legends of the Exercise.

From very early times there had been several good bands among the towns and villages of Kent. As early as 1729 a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Dover; others were rung in 1736, 1738 and 1740, at Wye; and we can hardly doubt that these, of whom the records survive, are representatives of many more in different places of which the memory has perished. One result of this ringing activity was that the London bellfounders did a large amount of work in the county and it is probable that in those early days Kent had a larger proportion of eight-bell towers than almost any other county, a distinction it has never lost.

James Barham was born in 1725, the year that Annable and the College Youths began their peal ringing, and probably as a youth he joined the band at Lenham, where there was a heavy ring of six. In 1744 Thomas Lester, of Whitechapel, supplied a new octave to the adjoining village of Harrietsham, no doubt the result of a wave of enthusiasm for ringing among the men of the parish, supported by the farmers and gentlemen, without whose active financial help nothing could have been done.

The new bells gave the Lenham band their first opportunity for peal ringing; and they scored Bob Triples in 1744 and in 1745. Then, perhaps urged on by James Barham, who was beginning to develop a liking for long lengths, or maybe under the stimulus of a competition with some neighbouring tower, they rang 10,080 Double Bob Major. This was, so far as our records go, the tenth peal of over ten thousand changes that had as yet been rung. It was the first ten thousand in the method and still remains the longest length, though four years later it was equalled in the same belfry and by the same company.

From a board afterwards erected to record this and other performances, it seems that the peal was rung by eight men only, and so the custom of having relays of ringers had not yet been introduced. No mention is made of any conductor, and, notwithstanding the fact that Barham became afterwards famous for his feats of endurance, he rang the fourth and not, as perhaps we should have expected, the tenor.

The band was now acknowledged as the best in the district. They extended their activities to the neighbouring towers and rang peals at Wingham, New Romney, Faversham, and Maidstone, the methods being Bob Triples, and Plain and Double Bob Major. In 1751 Robert Catlin added two trebles to the six in their home tower of Lenham and they opened the bells with a five thousand of Bob Major.

The great man of the district was the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who dwelt at Leeds Castle. About this time he gave six extra bells to Leeds Parish Church to form a ring of ten, and, to make sure of a company of ringers,

he took James Barham into his employment as a gardener. No doubt jobs were found for others of the band on the estate, for Fairfax, who was a public man and Member of Parliament, would naturally be a patron of the popular art of ringing, though he did not condescend, as did Theodore Eccleston, Henry Bret, and others, to take a part in it himself.

The first peal by the newly formed company on the new bells was 6,480 Bob Caters, the first, so far as we know, in the method and still the longest. The figures of the composition are lost and, except that it was in the tittums, nothing is known about what was rung. The length, however, suggests that an ordinary five thousand of Bob Major was used with three extra bobs on 7-8-9 to get them in and out of the tittums. The composition of Bob Caters presents no particular pitfalls and so the peal may have been true. A month later the company repeated the performance. Meanwhile, they rang what evidently was the same composition (except for the three extra bobs) to Royal where it gave them 8,100 changes. This, too, remains the longest length in the method.

In the year 1752 the band rang only two peals. One was 7,200 Bob Royal, the other 14,500 Bob Major. If the last number is correct, it could not have been a true and complete peal, and it probably was an unsuccessful attempt to ring half the full extent of the method on eight bells, 20,160 changes, which they did accomplish a fortnight later on January 13th, 1753. Thus in little over twelve months, the band had rung six lengths, the shortest of which was 6,480 changes; and though they were all Plain Bob, none of them has to this day been exceeded on the particular number of bells anywhere else in the country. It is a record which, taken at its face value, is unique.

For some years after this the band confined their peal ringing to ordinary lengths of Bob Major rung at Leeds and the neighbouring steeples, but on March 31st, 1755, they made an attempt for the full extent of Bob Major. They began at two o'clock in the afternoon and at six o'clock the next morning, after 24,800 changes had been rung in sixteen hours, the sixth clapper broke, and so the peal was lost. James Barham rang the seventh for thirteen hours and forty-four minutes; a wonderful feat of endurance, which has not since been approached. Of course, the circumstances were unique, and no individual ringer is likely again to have a similar opportunity of finding out how long it is possible to stand and ring.

For some years no further attempt was made for the peal, but in 1761 a fresh start was made. It is perhaps significant that a general election for Parliament was held in that year and that Robert Fairfax and Sir W. Knatchbull were the candidates for the county of Kent. On Monday, March 23rd, 17,000 changes were rung and then one of the bells was overturned. This is a most unusual thing to happen in peal ringing, and there is no reason to suppose that Leeds bells were not fitted with stays and sliders. Probably it occurred when one man was relieving another. A little later, on April 7th, another attempt was made. It was the day on which it was announced that Robert Fairfax had been elected to Parliament, and this time the length was rung. The time was twenty-seven hours. The band, naturally enough, were very pleased with themselves and proudly, not to say arrogantly, announced in the 'County News' that: 'the

peal was never rung or even attempted to be rung by any set of ringers in the kingdom. Whenever it is performed by any other set the above-named youths are determined to command their superiority to all others by ringing all the changes on ten bells.' It seems rather a pity they were not called upon to make good their boast. There are 3,628,800 changes on ten bells, and to ring them would, according to Shipway, take no more than fifteen weeks.

Two other peals of over ten thousand changes were rung at Leeds—13,440 Bob Major in 1773 and 10,080 Treble Bob Major in 1796, and in addition, many five thousands at Leeds, Harrietsham, Lenham, Maidstone, and other towers in Kent. The majority of them were Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, but some others were of considerable interest. On January 7th, 1756, a day or two after Benjamin Annable was buried, the band rang at Leeds 5,040 changes of 'that hard method called Court Bob, which was never rung in Kent before.' On Christmas Day, 1762, they rang 6,720 changes, 'the most extraordinary thing of its kind ever done,' and next year at Harrietsham the same length, 'notwithstanding its difficult and abstruse method.'

On January 20th, 1765, they rang 6,720 changes of Court Bob Ten-in at Leeds. Annable had extended Court Bob Major to Royal, and notes that 'the first peal was rung August 22nd, 1741, at St. Sepulchre's, London.' It is doubtful whether he means a five thousand; more likely only some touches were rung.

In 1757 the band rang 6,720 Morning Pleasure Major at Leeds, and in 1765, 5,400 Morning Pleasure Royal. In 1766 they rang 5,056 Morning Exercise Major, and in 1775, 5,184 New Morning Exercise.

Here are more record peals. The Court Bob Royal, the Morning Pleasure Royal, the Morning Exercise Major, the New Morning Exercise Major, and the Morning Pleasure Major still stand in the official schedule as the longest lengths in the methods. One notable contribution the Leeds' Youths did make to the development of the art of change ringing. In 1774 or 1775 they rang at Leeds 5,088 changes of New Oxford Treble Bob Major, 'never done before,' and in 1784, New Oxford Treble Bob Ten-in at Leeds and Maidstone. Here we have the beginning of Kent Treble Bob, and whoever it was who first discovered that the familiar and popular Oxford variation could be altered and perhaps improved by the substitution of four hand stroke places for two back stroke places twice in each lead, Barham's band have the credit of being the first to put the idea into practice. Ringers did not at first take kindly to the new version. It was taken to London and though the metropolitan ringers did not adopt it for many years, it appeared in the 'Clavis.' Then provincial bands in the Midlands and the North began to practise it and in the early years of the nineteenth century it almost entirely superseded the Oxford variation, except in the Eastern Counties, where the older method continued to be almost exclusively rung on eight bells down to the close of the century. In the 'Clavis' it is called New Treble Bob and Shipway was the first to give it the name Kent in print, but that was the title which London ringers would naturally and unthinkingly adopt from the place of its origin.

(To be continued.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT OTLEY.**

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Otley on May 25th, members were present from Armley, Batley, Burley, Calverley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds, Liversedge, Otley, Pudsey, Ripon, Sherburn, Woodlesford and visitors from Middlesmoor, Doncaster and Beverley.

Two new members, Messrs. P. Whitaker and G. Appleyard, of Otley, were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Idle on June 27th.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HARSTON.**

A meeting of the Cambridge District of the Ely Diocesan Association was held at Harston on May 25th, members and friends being present from Cambridge, Epsom, Ickleton, Longstanton, Newmarket, Newton, Over, Little Shelford, Stapleford, Trumpington and Willingham. The methods rung ranged from Plain Bob to London Surprise and included Norwich Surprise and a course of spliced London and Cambridge.

The next meeting will be held at Linton and Balsham on July 20th.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BISHOPSTONE.**

At a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at Bishopstone on June 1st, ringers were present from Blunsdon, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, Stratton St. Margaret, Rodbourne Cheney, Bishopstone, Aldbourne, Chiseldon, Slough, Shrivenham, Stanford-in-the-Vale and Faringdon. Ringing ranged from rounds to Double Norwich Major. It was decided to hold no meeting in July and to visit Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett in August and September.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BENENDEN.**

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Benenden on June 1st, was attended by over 30 members from Leigh, Tunbridge Wells, Hawkhurst, East Peckham, Tenterden, Chart Sutton, Ashford, Watlington, Paddock Wood, Frittenden, Horsmonden. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, and at the business meeting six new members were elected. Cowden was selected for the next meeting.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES CURTIS.

The death is announced of Mr. James Curtis, captain of the band at St. Peter's, Carmarthen, which took place on May 27th. Twenty-five years ago he went to live in the town, where the bells had been silent for some years, and trained a band of ringers. The funeral service, which was fully choral, was at St. Peter's on May 30th. The interment was at St. David's Church.

FUNERAL OF MR. JOSEPH GOULD.

The funeral of the late Mr. Joseph Gould, past Master and vice-president of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, took place at the Parish Church, Henbury, on May 29th. The service was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. J. C. Lloyd, assisted by the Vicar of Shirehampton. Mr. Gould had been a member of the association for over 60 years, and captain of the Henbury band for 51 years. Four ringers, Messrs. C. Harding, A. Hillier, A. Bromfield and F. Lewis, acted as bearers. During the afternoon and evening the tower bells were rung half-muffled. Touches of Grand-sire Triples were rung on handbells at the graveside by Messrs. A. Prince, P. Williams, E. Guise and F. Leaker.

SUFFOLK GUILD.**MEETING AT ELVEDON.**

A meeting of the Mildenhall and District branch of the Suffolk Guild was held at Elvedon on May 11th, at which some forty members were present from Bury St. Edmunds, Newmarket, Mildenhall, Ingham, Lakenheath, Shimpling, Fornham St. Martin, Chevington, Hadleigh, Horringer, Whepstead, Hesselst and Great Saxham.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Newmarket early in July.

IBSTOCK, LEICESTER.

The bells of Ibstock Parish Church have been rehung as a memorial to the late Mr. J. W. Hopkins, who was a ringer at the church for 65 years. The cost is being met by voluntary subscription, the task of collecting being undertaken by the ringers. The work is now complete and the reopening will be on June 22nd. It is hoped to place a tablet in the belfry at a later date.

WICKHAM ST. PAUL, ESSEX.—On Sunday, May 26th, 1,216 Kent Treble Bob Major: A. C. Rippingale 1-2, R. Suckling (conductor) 34, T. Bird 5-6, R. Rippingale 7-8.

NOTICES.

The charge for one insertion of a notice of a meeting is 2s. up to four lines. Additional lines are at the rate of 4d. each.

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The charge for other notices is 2s. 6d. for each insertion up to four lines. Additional lines 6d. per line.

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Notices must be received not later than Monday.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Western Division.—Sowerby, Halifax, Saturday, June 15th.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Northern District.—Richmond (8), June 15th, afternoon and evening. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) and business, Parish Room, Dundas Street, after service.

KENT ASSN.—Ashford District.—Folkestone, Saturday, June 15th, 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—P. Page.

ESSEX ASSN.—Northern District.—Kelvedon (6), June 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business afterwards. Feering (8) will be available in the evening.—H. A. Pratt, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE. — Northern. — Hartlebury, June 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Bowling Green Lane, Stourbridge.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Biggleswade District. — Henlow (6), Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

OXFORD GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—East Garston (6), Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.

COVENTRY GUILD. — Coventry District.—Newbold-on-Avon, June 15th, 3 p.m.—H. G. Summers.

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Farnham District.—Frensham (6), Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cup of tea and bun 5 p.m. at Marindin Hall.—C. W. Denyer, 11, Newhouses, Holly Road, Aldershot.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Sudbury-Claire District.—Long Melford (8), Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Tea and business 5.15 at Old Tea Parlour.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN.—Northern District. —Barkway (8), Saturday, June 15th, 3 p.m. Refreshments 5 p.m.

EAST DERBY AND NOTTS ASSN.—Blackwell (6), June 15th. Tea 5 p.m. Names to A. Smithson, 10, Bamford Street, Newton, Derby.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.—750th Anniversary. — The Cathedral bells will be rung at the following times: June 16th, 9.45 a.m. and 2 p.m. June 22nd, 2.15 p.m. June 23rd, 9.45 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Bring food.—F. A. Sedgwick, 10, Dam Street, Lichfield.

YORKSHIRE ASSN. — Eastern District.—Annual, Hedon (8), Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m. (1s. 6d.), for all who notify Mr. J. E. Morrison, 10, Church Lane, Hedon, by June 15th. Business meeting following tea. — H. S. Morley, 45, Green Lane, Selby.

GUILDFORD GUILD (Guildford District) and **SURREY ASSN.** (North-Western District).—Saturday, June 22nd. Bells: Clandon (8) from 2.30. Merrow (6) from 3 p.m. Service at Merrow 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Merrow Church Hall. Numbers for tea to the Rev. A. C. G. Oldham, Merrow Rectory, Guildford, Surrey, by June 19th.—A. C. Hazelden and D. Cooper.

COVENTRY GUILD.—Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon Branch.—Claverden Parish Church (6), Saturday, June 22nd, 3 p.m. Tea provided.—D. Stanley.

SALISBURY GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Buckland Newton, June 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30. Bring food. Numbers to M. M. Godley, Stratton, Dorchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. — North and East District. — Harrow Weald, Saturday, June 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. H. G. Hart, Woodside, Uxbridge Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, by June 22nd.—T. J. Lock.

IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE.—June 22nd. Re-opening of bells after being rehung as memorial to the late J. W. Hopkins. Ringing 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea, 1s. each, for those who notify me by June 19th.—A. E. Rowley, Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock, Leics.

KENT ASSN.—Victory Meeting, Canterbury, June 22nd. Ringing at Cathedral 1.30 to 2.45. Service 3 p.m. Tea in King's School (close by Cathedral) 4.15 p.m. After tea, ringing at Cathedral, St. Alphege's, St. Stephen's and St. Dunstan's. Names for tea by June 18th to B. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.—G. H. Spice.

LEICESTER GUILD.—Syston District. — Barkby, Saturday, June 22nd. Names for tea by June 19th to H. Humphreys, Wyndale, Barkby Lane, Syston.

ELY ASSN. — Watlington, Saturday, June 22nd. Dedication of memorial to Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake. Service 3.30, followed by tea. Bells from 2 p.m., and in the evening.—W. W. Cousins, Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

DERBY AND DISTRICT ASSN.—Derby District.—Melbourne (8), Saturday, June 22nd, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in Church House 3.30. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business. Names to L. Warren, Potter Street, Melbourne, by June 18th.—Wm. Lancaster.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Marchington (6), Saturday, June 22nd. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Andrew Thompson.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Southampton District. — Broughton, June 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by June 19th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Axbridge Deanery. — Cheddar (8), Saturday, June 22nd, 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in Mrs. Knee's Cafe, Cliff Street.—E. J. Avery, Sandford, Bristol.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK. — Ringing Anniversary, Saturday, June 22nd, 2 p.m. Tea shop opposite church.—Stedman H. Symonds.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN.—Watford District.—Abbotts Langley (6), Saturday, June 22nd, 3 p.m. Tea only for those who notify Mr. C. Ridgeway, Marston, Abbots Langley, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Liverpool Branch. — St. Francis Xavier's, Salisbury Street, Liverpool, Saturday, June 22nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. to 4 and from 4.30. Committee meet 3.30. Tea (2s.) for those who notify Mr. T. Egan, 27, Canton Street, Liverpool 6.

YORKSHIRE ASSN. — Southern District, Barnsley and District, Doncaster and District. — Conisborough, Saturday, June 22nd, 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. S. Harrison, 11, Church Street, Conisborough, by Wednesday, June 19th. Buses from Sheffield and Doncaster.—J. J. L. Gilbert.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Camp-sall, June 29th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea only.—W. E. Critchley.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Enville (8), Saturday, June 29th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 'The Cat,' at 4 p.m. Service 5.15 p.m. Send names before June 25th. Buses leave Stourbridge 1 and 2 p.m.—F. Colclough, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

ISLEWORTH (10). — Saturday, June 29th, 2.30 to 4.30 and 6.30 to 8.30. Service 4.45. Tea, 5.15, Church Hall. Names to H. W. Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — Hughenden, Saturday, June 29th, 3 p.m. Note altered date. Names for tea by June 22nd.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Hadleigh (8), June 29th, 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) and meeting, White Lion, 5 p.m. Names for tea must reach me by June 26th. — J. T. Corder, 93, Angel Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

ELY ASSN.—Ely District.—Haddenham (6), Saturday, June 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. — C. Gimbert, Sutton, Ely.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Solihull, Saturday, June 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5.15, for those who notify Mr. E. C. Shepherd, 2, Witley Avenue, Solihull, near Birmingham, by June 26th. — T. H. Reeves.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Annual, Adderbury (8), Saturday, July 6th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

LADIES' GUILD.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual general meeting will be held at Leicester on Saturday, July 13th. As important matters are to be discussed members are asked to make every effort to attend. Fuller details later.—Edith K. Fletcher.



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