THE RINGING WORLD

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AN EXCURSION IN SCOTLAND

WE were amused the other day to read of some of our young enthusiasts who have visited four-bell towers to indulge in Bob Minimus or, we suppose, to augment their list of towers with unusual names not known to the average ringer. We do not decry it; chacun à son goût. Ringers are a peculiar people and each is entitled to his own pleasure. On the other hand, there are relatively few ringers who would make a survey of all bells in their area purely from an antiquarian interest. But this has its fascination as Bob Minimus to the young, and when the research is accompanied by knowledge of founders from mediæval times and their peculiarities, a new field of interest is created.

From time to time we have referred to the activities in this direction of two prominent ringing antiquarians—Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and Mr. J. W. Clarke, Master of the Chester Diocesan Guild. Mention has also been made of Mr. Ranald W. M. Clouston's research into the bells of Renfrewshire and Dumbartonshire. Mr. Clouston has now published another volume, 'The Church and Other Bells of Stirlingshire,' which has been reprinted from the proceedings of the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland.

For peal ringers Stirlingshire is a barren county. While Mr. Clouston enjoys a peal or a good touch with the next man, his approach to the subject in this volume is purely antiquarian and his survey only includes such bells, except in the case where a church has a number of bells or one of interest.

Stirlingshire possesses only two bells that can be said to have been cast before the Reformation. One is the second bell of the ring of four in the Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling, and the other is the handbell which was formerly kept in the church hall attached to Falkirk Old Church. The Stirling bell Mr. Clouston regards as of the 15th century. It presents an orthodox design from the outside, but inside the soundbow is not curved round from the lip and instead has a flat surface for about two inches in from the lip. This then becomes curved. He points out that this particular feature is usually a sign of a very early bell; in England it was disused before 1300, but it is by no means impossible for it to have been used very much later in areas remote from the centres of bell-founding. One of the canons has been broken off and a new crown staple fitted parallel to the old one. The bell has never been tuned by chipping the interior surface, and the sound produced dies away quickly after the clapper strikes, and as a result the bell sounds weak outside. Mr. Clouston regards it as possibly the product of some monastic foundation.

In Stirlingshire there are eight 17th century bells—three Dutch and five Scottish. Of the Dutch bells Cornelis Jansen Onderogge, of Rotterdam, cast the Council Bell of Stirling in 1656, and the third bell of the ring in the Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling, in 1657. In the latter bell the crown staple is original, but a new clapper has been fitted. When the bell was cast the founder had no idea what note was required, only that the bell was to weigh about 5 cwt., and as a result the bell has had to be considerably chipped at the lip to raise the note. This was done to make the four bells form a musical scale.

Two of the bells of a chime of 16 in the Broad Street Steeple, Stirling, dated 1729, the author regards as the work of the itinerant founder, John Waylett. Two years were spent by Waylett in Sussex, and E. V. Lucas in his 'Highways and Byways of Sussex' gives this description of Waylett: 'His method was to call on the vicar and ask if anything were wanted; and if a bell was cracked, or if a new one was desired, he would dig a mould in a neighbouring field, build a fire, collect his metal, and perform the task on the spot. Waylett's business might be called the higher tinkering.' Due to the kindness of Mr. George Elphick, of Lewes, Mr. Clouston obtained a rubbing and some plaster casts of the smallest set of lettering used by John Waylett on a bell at East Hoathly, Sussex. Comparing the lettering, the author is of opinion that these two bells are the work of Waylett.

Both at Edinburgh and Glasgow the early bell founders were members of the Incorporation of Hammermen. John Meikle, for example, who cast the Falkirk Steeple bell and two other bells in 1697, was admitted in 1671 after having passed his test. His most notable work was the casting of a carillon of 23 bells for St. Giles', Edinburgh, in 1698 and 1699, and it is thought that he visited the Continent to study methods of founding and tuning employed there.

While the new chime for the Stirling Municipal Buildings is to be the work of Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, the best representation of English founders among the Stirlingshire bells is that of the Whitechapel

(Continued on next page.)

Foundry. It is not out of place to note that the Whitechapel Foundry cast a bell for Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh in 1633, and the bell now hangs in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh. In 1788 they cast the first octave of bells for Scotland hung for change ringing at St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, but they can no longer be rung owing to the instability of the fabric. Mr. Clouston's work, we feel sure, will appeal to any of our readers interested in the antiquarian side of the Exercise.

TEN BELL PEALS

NORWICH.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., July 1, 1952, in 3 Hours and 22 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT,
A PEAL OF 5057 GRANDSIRE CATERS
Tenor 37 cwt. 99 lb. in G.

*ELIZABETH M. BIBBY	*Treble*	WILLIAM LOVE	6
†CEDRIC CURSON	2	‡ARTHUR G. BASON	7
ERNEST G. SHORTING	3	GEORGE SAYER	8
RALPH SITCH	4	BERT GOGLE	9
F. CHARLES GOODMAN	5	NOLAN GOLDEN	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.
* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Caters. ‡ 200th peal on tower bells for the Association. In memoriam Frederick James Howchin.

GOSFORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 22¼ cwt.

JOHN ANDERSON	*Treble*	ERIC N. HARRISON	6
CHARLES MCGUINESS	2	*EDMUND P. CROWDY	7
RICHARD A. GOFTON	3	W. NORMAN PARK	8
THOMAS W. CROWE	4	ROLAND PARK	9
J. ALAN AINSWORTH	5	DENIS A. BAYLES	*Tenor*

Composed by W. PYE. Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.
* First peal of Surprise Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

HEYDOUR, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., June 21, 1952, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb.

GEORGE W. CREASEY	*Treble*	WILLIAM I. HOLMES	5
CECIL A. WADE	2	HARRY BARNES	6
CLARENCE F. BRIGGS	3	WILLIAM H. DALE	7
FRANK VERNON	4	FREDERICK G. HOOPER	*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by GEORGE W. CREASEY.

EALING, MIDDLESEX.
LONDON COUNTY ASSN. & N. SOUTHWARK DIO. GUILD.
On Mon., June 30, 1952, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 13¼ cwt.

DAPHNE LUKE	*Treble*	HERBERT J. ELDRED	5
THOMAS E. DAVIES	2	FRANCIS D. BISHOP	6
J. E. LEWIS COCKEY	3	WILFRED G. WILSON	7
BERYL R. COWLIN	4	CHARLES T. RICHARDS	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILFRID G. WILSON.
Rung as a Thanksgiving for 100 years of Christian Worship, and to commemorate the centenary of the Church and bells, consecrated on June 30th, 1852, as Christ Church, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Bloomfield, then Bishop of London.

PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., July 2, 1952, in 3 Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 13½ cwt. in G.

LEONARD STILWELL	*Treble*	HENRY WEAVER	5
RICHARD WILSON	2	FREDERICK PAGE	6
*CAPT. E. F. M. SAMSON	3	HAROLD F. WOOD	7
FRANK BENNETT	4	A. PATRICK CANNON	*Tenor*

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.
* 25th peal. The conductor's 300th peal, conducted 166, and rung in 272 different towers.
Rung in honour of the Patronal Festival.

GLOUCESTER.
THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF CRYPT YOUTHS AND THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., July 3, 1952, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-DE-CRYPT,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

*MARGERY BIRCH	*Treble*	TREVOR PRITCHARD	5
JOAN BUSSEY	2	†LESLIE BARRY	6
THOMAS NEWMAN	3	HARRY NEWMAN	7
†WILLIAM RICHINGS	4	CHARLES LARNER	*Tenor*

Conducted by LESLIE BARRY.
* First peal of Triples. † 50th peal together. Rung as a farewell peal to the ringer of the 4th.

FRINDSBURY, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., July 4, 1952, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Washbrook's Variation. Tenor 16 cwt.

FREDERICK J. CULLUM	*Treble*	GEORGE KENWARD	5
FRANCIS J. CHEAL	2	ALBERT E. BEANEY	6
WILLIAM E. COURT	3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER	7
CYRIL S. JARRETT	4	*PETER F. BORER	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.
* First peal on eight. A farewell to Miss Gladys Jarrett.

HATFIELD BROAD OAK, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5120 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM H. ALEY	*Treble*	WILLIAM WHEELER	5
FREDERICK HARTMAN	2	STANLEY CLARK	6
REGINALD HAYDEN	3	ROBERT H. YOUNG	7
*LAWRANCE BEAL	4	EDWARD ROCHESTER	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN REEVES Conducted by WILLIAM H. ALEY.
* First peal of Major.

CALDICOT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 6, 1952, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 13 cwt.

*JOHN E. MORGAN	*Treble*	*DONALD G. CLARKE	5
*JACQUELINE S. EVANS	2	†ROBERT E. COLES	6
FREDERICK J. BAILEY	3	*DAVID J. KING	7
THOMAS YEOMAN	4	JACK R. WORRALL	*Tenor*

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JACK R. WORRALL.
* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'inside.' First peal in the method on the bells.
A birthday compliment to David J. King and a wedding compliment to Richard F. B. Speed and Anne Stockdale.

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THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., July 7, 1952, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5120 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR
Comprising 2,880 London, 864 Cambridge, 576 Superlative and 800 Bristol. 120 changes of method. Tenor 10 cwt.

JOHN B. BENNETT	*Treble*	HAROLD J. POOLE	5
*REDVERS F. ELKINGTON..	2	JOHN R. SMITH	6
*WILLIAM J. ROOT	3	HERRICK B. BOWLEY.. ..	7
J. FREDK. MILNER	4	PETER J. STANIFORTH ..	*Tenor*

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by PETER J. STANIFORTH.
* First peal of Spliced Surprise Major.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., July 8, 1952, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5008 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 6¼ cwt.

LESLIE W. G. STEVENS ..	*Treble*	SHIRLEY BURTON	5
COLIN HARRISON	2	HAROLD MARCON	6
WINIFRED M. BURTON ..	3	ROLAND BENISTON	7
JOHN A. UNDERWOOD ..	4	WM. THORNLEY, JUN. ..	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by WM. THORNLEY, JUN.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., July 8, 1952, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5088 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt. 3 lb. in F sharp.

ERNEST J. LADD	*Treble*	REGINALD E. LAMBERT ..	5
*MRS. W. H. DOBBIE ..	2	BERNARD V. COLLISON ..	6
WALTER H. DOBBIE ..	3	MALCOLM S. CLOKE.. ..	7
THOMAS E. SONE	4	ROBERT T. LAMBERT	*Tenor*

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by MALCOLM S. CLOKE.
* First peal in the method. The ringer of the treble now completes 'twice round the circle.' Rung immediately prior to the conductor's departure for a spell of work in Sweden.

OSWALDTWISTLE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., July 9, 1952, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF IMMANUEL,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 11 cwt.

*ROSEMARY PARKINSON ..	*Treble*	*DIANA R. BANKS	5
BRIAN A. TOMLINSON ..	2	*PATRICIA BOURNE	6
ARTHUR TOMLINSON ..	3	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS ..	7
CHARLES CLEGG	4	VICTOR J. C. WOOD ..	*Tenor*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by VICTOR J. C. WOOD.
* First peal.

ENVILLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., July 12, 1952, in 3 Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 17 cwt.

CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ..	*Treble*	†ERNEST STITCH	5
*IVOR R. NICHOLS	2	SAMUEL BIRCH	6
ALFRED C. BOXLEY ..	3	†MAURICE G. TURNER ..	7
EDWARD V. RODENHURST	4	HOWARD HOWELL	*Tenor*

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.
* 25th peal. † 75th peal together.

KIRBY-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 12, 1952, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

EDWARD E. DAVEY ..	*Treble*	GEORGE WATERMAN ..	5
RONALD G. BUGG	2	GORDON F. CLARKE	6
PATRICIA M. CLARKE ..	3	*RONALD W. STEWARD ..	7
WALTER A. SOUTHGATE ..	4	URBAN W. WILDNEY ..	*Tenor*

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by URBAN W. WILDNEY.
* First peal in method. First in method and 50th peal on the bells. A wedding peal for Miss N. Jackson, daughter of a local ringer.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

WENDOVER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sun., June 22, 1952, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Being two 240's and thirty-eight 120's, ten callings. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 lb.

*MAURICE A. CHAPMAN ..	*Treble*	HARRY C. JONES	4
ROY EGGLETON	2	W. LEE	5
*MARY CHAPMAN	3	*FRANK KIRTLAND	*Tenor*

Conducted by W. LEE.
* First peal. Rung for the Confirmation Service.

RUSHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Wed., June 25, 1952, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being one extent of Oxford Bob, and two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb.

PETER BERESFORD	*Treble*	ANTHONY AGER	4
*FRANCIS A. SEDGWICK ..	2	†WALTER J. COPE	5
CLIVE M. SMITH	3	DENNIS BERESFORD ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by DENNIS BERESFORD.
* First peal in four Minor methods 'inside.' † First peal in four Minor methods. First peal in four Minor methods as conductor.

ACCRINGTON. LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., June 27, 1952, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 9¼ cwt.

CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON ..	*Treble*	BRIAN H. WOOD	4
KENNETH HARTLEY	2	ROGER LEIGH	5
WILLIAM T. LANGHORN ..	3	NORMAN SMITH	*Tenor*

Conducted by NORMAN SMITH.
First peal as conductor.

LITTLE ASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Fri., June 27, 1952, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt. 13 lb.

*MICHAEL FAIREY	*Treble*	†CLIVE M. SMITH	4
*DAVID W. BARR	2	J. NORMAN HADLEY ..	5
DENNIS BERESFORD ..	3	PETER BERESFORD	*Tenor*

Conducted by DENNIS BERESFORD.
* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Bob Minor 'inside.' C. M. Smith is the first person to 'circle' this tower. Rung for the Patronal Festival.

HASELBURY PLUCKNETT, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., June 28, 1952, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb.

ROGER KEELEY	*Treble*	NORMAN MALLETT	4
*E. CHARLES TETT	2	HENRY G. KEELEY	5
JOSEPH T. BARRATT ..	3	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by G. STEDMAN MORRIS.
* First peal.

TIMBERLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., June 28, 1952, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR
Consisting of one extent each of: Primrose, Hull, Norwich, Ipswich, Neatherseale, Bourne and Cambridge. Tenor 13 cwt.

FRED INGALL	*Treble*	BERTIE BEE	4
MOSES BILLINGS	2	*PETER MASON	5
AMOS INGALL	3	JOHN E. COOK	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN E. COOK.
* First peal in seven Surprise methods.
Rung in memory of Frederick William Stokes.

HELMSHORE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., July 1, 1952, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, MUSBURY,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 9¼ cwt.

ROGER LEIGH	*Treble*	CHARLES W. BLAKEY.. ..	4
NORMAN SMITH	2	KENNETH HARTLEY	5
A. VICTOR WILLIAMS ..	3	CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON.

SCULTHORPE, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., July 3, 1952, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven variations of extents. Tenor 8 cwt. in A flat.

*REV. G. L. TURNEY	*Treble*	GEORGE A. COOK	4
MRS. V. OVENS	2	TONY OWEN	5
VINCENT OVENS	3	CECIL V. EBBERSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by CECIL V. EBBERSON.
* First peal.

BLANKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Fri., July 4, 1952, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD,
A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR
Being seven extents of combined Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. (No Bobs.) Tenor 9½ cwt.

MOSES BILLINGS	*Treble*	BERTIE BEE	4
*FRED INGALL	2	*WILLIAM R. PARKER	5
AMOS INGALL	3	RONALD APPLEWHITE	*Tenor*

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by MOSES BILLINGS.
* First peal in the composition.

DRINKSTONE, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Fri., July 4, 1952, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being an extent each of: Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Cambridge Surprise, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

PATRICIA M. CLARKE	*Treble*	*GEORGE W. PIPE	4
*ROBERT E. LESTER	2	GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL	5
URBAN W. WILDNEY	3	RONALD W. STEWARD	*Tenor*

Conducted by RONALD W. STEWARD.
* 25th peal together.

ARELEY KINGS, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven extents each called differently. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.

JOHN H. HICKS	*Treble*	ALFRED C. BOXLEY	4
GERALD BOWEN	2	WILLIAM H. TURNER	5
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE	3	ALFRED W. GLAZZARD	*Tenor*

Conducted by CLIFFORD SKIDMORE.

ILLOGAN, CORNWALL.
THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE DETACHED TOWER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLOGAN,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt.

*MALCOLM RUDWICK	*Treble*	GEOFFERY W. TAYSOM	4
MRS. A. S. ROBERTS	2	JOHN D. NIBLETT	5
MRS. J. D. NIBLETT	3	REV. A. S. ROBERTS	*Tenor*

Conducted by REV. A. S. ROBERTS.
* First peal. First peal of Minor on the bells.

INWORTH, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES
Being four extents of Stedman, eight of St. Simon's, twenty of Plain Bob and ten of Grandsire. Tenor 5¼ cwt.

JEAN M. HARRIS	*Treble*	PETER J. CAME	3
JOHN WEST	2	JOE E. G. ROAST	4

FRANK L. HARRIS .. *Tenor*
Conducted by FRANK L. HARRIS.
First peal of Doubles for all except the conductor.

GREETHAM, RUTLANDSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being four extents of Plain Bob and three of Single Oxford. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in A flat.

CECIL W. MATHEWS	*Treble*	PERCY D. BALDOCK	4
BERNARD H. DALTON	2	RONALD RUSSELL	5
THOMAS F. CARFORD	3	JAMES H. MUSSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by JAMES H. MUSSON.
A birthday compliment to Lucy E. Musson, wife of the conductor. Also a wedding compliment to Mr. Herbert Cook and Miss Alice Frith, who were married on the above date.

STOWE-BY-CHARTLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

CLIVE M. SMITH	*Treble*	*RICHARD J. WARRILOW	4
JOAN BERESFORD	2	DENNIS BERESFORD	5
PETER BERESFORD	3	GEORGE E. OLIVER	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE E. OLIVER.
* First peal of Surprise Minor.

GRIMLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., July 6, 1952, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Being 42 extents, 10 different callings. Tenor 12 cwt. 14 lb.

*PHILLIP H. BULLOCK	*Treble*	FRED C. PUGH	4
†ERNEST WILSON	2	ALBERT E. HUMPHRIES	5
WALTER H. RAXTER	3	FRED G. YATES	*Tenor*

Conducted by WALTER H. RAXTER.
* First peal. † 50th peal and first peal of Doubles on an 'inside' bell. First peal as conductor since July 29th, 1944.

ILLSTON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., July 7, 1952, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 2 qr.

FREDERICK WATSON	*Treble*	WILLIAM A. WOOD	4
HAROLD KILBY	2	E. CHARLES TURNER	5
PETER J. THOMAS	3	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON	*Tenor*

Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

NORTON CANES, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Mon., July 7, 1952, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

DAVID W. BARR	*Treble*	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER	4
CLIVE M. SMITH	2	MAURICE G. TURNER	5
ERNEST STITCH	3	HOWARD HOWELL	*Tenor*

Conducted by MAURICE G. TURNER.

DARLINGTON.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., July 9, 1952, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR
Being four different 720's and a 'block' of 2,160.
Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lb. in B flat.

ROBERT T. SIMPSON	*Treble*	THOMAS COOKE	4
FREDERICK W. COOKE	2	W. NORMAN PARK	5
RICHARD BUSBY	3	ROLAND PARK	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.
In memoriam James T. Titt.

MAXEY, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., July 9, 1952, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.
A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR
Being seven 720's, one each of: Norfolk, Primrose, Ipswich, Cambridge, Beverley, Surfleet and York. Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM CLARKE	*Treble*	CECIL WADE	4
JAMES W. HAW	2	FREDERICK W. FRENCH	5
HORACE M. DAY	3	WILLIAM H. OLDMAN	*Tenor*

Conducted by CECIL WADE.
Rung as a last token of respect to Harry Gibbard, a ringer at this Church, who died on Sunday, June 22nd, 1952.

WARSOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., July 9, 1952, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 each of St. Clement's, Cambridge Surprise, and Oxford Treble Bob, and two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb.

JOSEPH SAXTON	*Treble*	DOUGLAS H. ROOKE	4
WILLIAM DICKINSON	2	HERBERT T. ROOKE	5
GEORGE CHALLANS	3	ARTHUR B. COOPER	*Tenor*

Conducted by HERBERT T. ROOKE.

Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. Dickinson, of Staveley.

NORTON CANES, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., July 12, 1952, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being two methods, viz.: 21 extents of Grandsire and 21 extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in G.

BRYAN E. CARSON	*Treble*	DAVID W. BARR	3
MICHAEL W. FAIREY	2	JOHN R. JOYNER	4
CLIVE M. SMITH	*Tenor*		

Conducted by CLIVE M. SMITH.

First peal of Doubles in two methods by all except John R. Joyner. Rung as a 17th birthday compliment to Clive M. Smith.

YOXFORD, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Sat., July 12, 1952, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven 720's called differently. Tenor 11 cwt.

WILLIAM SMITH	*Treble*	JACK PILGRIM	4
ARTHUR LING	2	LEONARD WOOLLARD	5
RAY PECK	3	NORMAN R. BAILEY	*Tenor*

Conducted by NORMAN R. BAILEY.

First peal of Surprise Minor by all the band except the treble ringer; also first Surprise peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., July 1, 1952, in 2 Hours and 23 Minutes,
AT 29, HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN,
A PEAL OF 5072 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

*MRS. J. THOMAS	1—2	*JOHN THOMAS	5—6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON	3—4	†ROGER SAVORY	7—8

Arranged by A. M. TYLER. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
* 400th peal together, † First peal 'in hand.'

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 5, 1952, in 2 Hours and 18 Minutes,
AT TRENTWOOD,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY	1—2	JACK BRAY	5—6
PHILIP BARNES	3—4	C. AUBREY HARRISON	7—8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by JACK BRAY.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Sun., July 6, 1952, in 3 Hours and 9 Mniutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE NORMAN TOWER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB ROYAL

ARTHUR E. MOORE	1—2	*JOHN A. ACRES	5—6
PETER C. WRIGHT	3—4	†WILLIAM STANNARD	7—8
*ARTHUR F. BALLAM	9—10		

Arranged by GEOFFREY DODDS. Conducted by JOHN A. ACRES.
* First peal on ten bells as conductor. † First handbell peal on ten bells. ‡ First handbell peal and first on ten bells.

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CROYDON

FOR BEGINNERS—AND A WORD TO THE OLDER HANDS

III.—Plain Hunting

If the beginner has learned thoroughly to control his bell, the sooner he can get on to change ringing the better. He may not find it very easy at first, and we want to warn him not to be dispirited if he does not grasp it as quickly as he thinks he ought to do.

Change ringing is a curious thing to learn. Some people can see it almost straight away; others seem to grope about in darkness for quite a long time, until all at once the light of understanding breaks upon them — and they think how stupid they must have been not to have 'seen' it before.

The point we want to make is, if you do not grasp the idea of ringing changes straight away, don't give up. Stick to it and eventually you will master it and find what a fascinating thing it is.

If you studied the little practice 'game' we gave you a fortnight ago, you will have observed from the manipulation of the cards how changes are made. When you come to apply this to your actual ringing you have got to acquire the facility of 'seeing' where your bell is among the rest as the changes are produced at every pull on the ropes. This facility is called 'rope sight,' that is you have got to be able to distinguish, as you ring, which rope you are pulling after, and which rope is being pulled after yours. All your observations in the ringing chamber have to be made by the ropes as they rise and fall—if the ropes follow each other in the right order, of course the bells are in the right order in the changes.

Changes are produced by what are known as 'methods,' that is by systems which automatically carry on the sequence of changes from the 'rounds' from which you start, until 'rounds' again comes up, and your 'touch' or 'peal' is completed.

To ring changes successfully you must memorise your method and know exactly what to do at every change from beginning to end. That does not mean that you have to learn beforehand the order in which you will strike over the bells; but you must know the 'path' or track which you have to follow—it may be a straight path up and down, like the treble in Grandsire, or it may be an intricate one, such as is followed by a working bell in the more complicated methods.

PLAIN HUNTING

A straight path is called 'plain hunting' and the beginner will do well to content himself for his first lesson in doing this plain hunting. If the band to which he belongs are change ringers they will probably put him to ring the treble to Grandsire as a matter of course. If all the band are beginning change ringing together, their first step should be to learn to hunt their bells, and they can do this by a method called 'Original,' which in its plain course produces twice as many changes as there are bells engaged.

It will help things also if at the start changes are rung with the tenor 'covering,' so that you not only have a bell to keep the 'beat,' but you know exactly which to lead from, which is a great help in keeping good striking.

A little thought will show you that in hunting **up**, after you have led, your pace will be just a little slower than when you strike continually in the same place in rounds, because one more bell has to strike before you than in the last change. If you are ringing on six bells and are leading, between your two blows at handstroke and backstroke five other bells have struck, but when you move into 2nds place six bells strike between your own two blows, and so on all the while you are moving up.

Whenever you remain a whole pull in one place, as you do at lead, or in lying behind, there are only five bells between your pulls, as in rounds, and when you hunt **down**, from back to front, there are only four bells before you pull again. This means that in coming down towards the lead, you pull in more quickly. Indeed, it is essential that in this hunting down you should do it smartly, not only to secure good striking, but to keep your place. You get lost more quickly by being slow in hunting down than in any other way.

Remember this, once you have pulled your bell off, nothing you can do can alter the place where it will strike at that change—it may be a good blow, it may be a bad one, but you can't alter it. Therefore, once you have pulled off, you can concentrate your attention entirely upon the next bell you have got to follow.

COUNT PLACES

If you are hunting **up** it is fairly simple. It will be the bell that is following you this time. Look for him immediately you pull off. With only four other bells to trouble about, you will soon learn to spot him quickly. And, as you go, remember to count your places; that is the position in which your bell is striking, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Here is another point to remember. As you hunt up (or down, for that matter), once you have struck over a bell, you can dismiss it from your attention until you turn round and hunt it in the opposite direction. Thus, as you hunt, you gradually reduce the number of bells from which to pick out the next you require, so that if you have already passed in turn over 2 and 4 you know the next must be either 3 or 5, and, if it is 5, then next time there is **only** the 3rd left. This knowledge simplifies your task very much, especially when hunting **down**, which is, perhaps, just a little more difficult in its rope-sight than is hunting up.

It is for that reason that it is important to know **the place** in which your bell strikes. If you are ringing changes on five bells with the tenor covering, after you have led, and, in hunting up, have struck in turn over the other four, you are in fifths place. Before you actually start hunting down you have to have one more blow (making a whole pull in 5ths). This gives you time to observe the four bells in front of you.

You have, at the next pull, to quicken your pace, so as to strike fourth instead of fifth. You must look for three ropes to go and pull smartly over the third one. Next time there will be only two to go before it is your turn and then only one. After this it will be your turn to lead. Do this steadily, leaving space for one bell between the backstroke of the tenor and your own handstroke. Don't forget, in hunting down, as you pull over each bell, you can ignore it until you have led.

It is a help also if you can remember the order in which you strike over the bells as you hunt up (with the treble in Grandsire). You will take the bells in the same order on your way down.

If you are all beginners, try a plain hunting course of Original. The odd bells (1 and 3) start by hunting up, and the even bells (2 and 4) start by hunting down. No. 5 will hunt down after lying one blow behind. This can be your first step, and if you are in an eight-bell tower you can try it on seven bells with the tenor covering.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Association was held at Saddleworth, near Oldham, on July 5th. Five teams entered for the annual prize contest, and the judge, Mr. Harry Roberts, of Kirkburton, gave his decision as follows:—

	Faults	Penalties	Total
Friezland ..	47	0	47 rang out
Silkstone ..	123	0	123
Meltham ..	54	0	54
Shelley ..	100	5	105
Liversedge ..	54	0	54

The teams which tied rang off another 240 changes test piece, which resulted as follows: Meltham 38 faults, Liversedge 44 faults. Meltham were declared the winners of the silver cup and each member of the team received a brass tea caddy. Each member of the Liversedge team, the runners-up, received a chrome sauce stand.

The prizes were presented to the winners by the chairman of the Urban District Council of Saddleworth, Councillor I. Charlesworth, who, in his speech in reply to a vote of thanks from the president, Mr. E. Earnshaw, said it was disturbing to see a decline in the number of people who were willing to devote their time to the art of change ringing. In the old days it was far more actively engaged in than it is to-day. The year 1953 would be Coronation year, and many places all over the country would be spending large sums to engage brass bands, but in his opinion it would not be a day of true rejoicing unless the church bells rang out over hill and dale, and he would do his best to see that the ringers of Saddleworth district obtained some pecuniary reward.

The balance sheet for the year ending June 30th was audited and read by Mr. Joseph Burgess to the satisfaction of the meeting, as it showed an increase in the bank balance of £3.

Later in the meeting the Rev. F. W. Coop, of Dewsbury, presented a suitably inscribed eight-day striking clock to the president, Mr. Edward Earnshaw, on behalf of all the members of the Association, in appreciation of his 25 years' service in that capacity.

In his speech of thanks, Mr. Earnshaw said it reminded him of once visiting a very sick friend, who greeted him with the words, 'Ee. Edward, ah doan't know what ah've done to deserve this,' and he could say the same to-day. Others had worked as hard as he for the Association.

Thirty years ago the Association was ruled by one or two, but the members stuck to their guns and got rules and other things altered. Prize contests were started, not without opposition, as one or two said that gambling would ensue, but he could honestly say that he'd never encountered a single instance of it.

'Our aim is to improve striking, not to create a big bank balance,' said Mr. Earnshaw. 'I remember when I was young my mother said to me, "A secret can only be known by one," but it had been different to-day, as everyone in the Association had known of it but me,' and he thanked one and all from his heart.

The president was re-elected. Mr. A. Farrand was re-elected secretary, and Mr. Ernest Betts was elected treasurer and trustee in place of Mr. F. Hodgson, who had unfortunately to leave the district to follow his employment.

DEDICATION OF NEW TREBLE AT KETTERINGHAM

St. Peter's Church, Ketteringham, near Norwich, was filled on St. Peter's Day, Sunday, June 29th, when the Bishop of Norwich dedicated a new bell, the treble, given by the late Mrs. Des Barres in memory of her husband, the Rev. T. C. Des Barres, who was Vicar of Ketteringham, 1899 to 1905. The Bishop also blessed the other five bells which have been rehung.

After the dedicatory prayer, the new bell was rung six times, and after the blessing of those which had been rehung, rounds were rung by the ringers of the parish: A. Browne 1, P. Platford 2, R. Griffin 3, S. Semmence 4, G. Evans 5, H. Sparkes 6.

The rehanging has been ably carried out by Messrs. John Taylor, of Loughborough, and Ketteringham now has a delightful six, with tenor weighing 9½ cwt.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. M. Mills, and amongst those present at the service and/or tea were the president, Ringing Master and general secretary of the Association, Mr. Paul Taylor and ringers from many places in the neighbourhood.

ABBOTSBURY, DORSET.—On July 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. W. F. Toms (13, first quarter) 1, J. Slade 2, Mrs. J. Slade 3, C. G. J. Ford 4, H. J. Ford (cond.) 5, W. C. Ford 6.

ALDENHAM, HERTS.—On July 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Evans (first quarter as cond.) 1, J. Schofield 2, S. Jones 3, C. Wenban 4, J. Rootes 5, J. Cleaver 6, T. W. Sheppard 7, H. D. Schofield 8.

ASFORDBY, LEICS.—On July 8th, 1,260 Doubles (Grandsire, Plain Bob, April Day and Canterbury): E. Lomas 1, D. Toon 2, R. Looker (cond.) 3, A. Hinman 4, H. Bell 5, A. E. Wheeler (first quarter) 6. Rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Albert Thompson.

BOTTESFORD, LEICS.—On July 7th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. Jallands 1, F. W. Pinchbeck (first quarter of Stedman) 2, R. C. Chapman 3, S. Proctor (cond.) 4, A. W. Ward 5, R. H. Woods 6, T. H. Hall 7, W. Pacey 8.

CAYTHORPE, LINCS.—On July 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. Proctor (cond.) 1, F. W. Pinchbeck 2, C. Simcock 3, S. Whaley 4, R. C. Chapman 5, R. H. Woods 6, J. Cragg 7, T. H. Hall 8.

CEFN COED, BRECONSHIRE.—On July 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (ten different extents): W. Jenkins 1, P. Foster 2, R. Husbands 3, D. E Rowles 4, C. A. Rowles (first quarter as cond.) 5, K. Williams 6. First quarter for 1, 3 and 6. A farewell to P. Foster on his return to Burton-on-Trent.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.—On June 29th, at the Church of the Annunciation, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Blewer 1, T. H. Taffender (cond.) 2, J. L. Morris 3, J. Bennett 4, M. Oakshett 5, J. W. Ward 6, J. Bullock 7, P. Devenish 8.

FENHAM, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—On June 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Sewell 1, Mrs. R. W. Smith 2, E. N. Harrison 3, J. Hedley 4, T. W. Crowe 5, K. Arthur (cond.) 6, J. A. Ainsworth 7, J. Heal 8.

GORING, SUSSEX.—On June 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (10 callings): D. A. Smith 1, D. Baker 2, S. A. Ansell 3, R. M. Palmer 4, H. C. Weaver (cond.) 5, R. W. Black 6. First quarter for 2 and 4.

GRANTHAM, LINCS.—On July 5th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: R. H. Parker 1, F. W. Pinchbeck 2, S. Proctor (cond.) 3, R. C. Chapman 4, F. S. Parsons 5, F. P. Turner 6, H. Squires 7, L. Squires 8, G. W. Creasey 9, T. H. Hall 10.

QUARTER PEALS

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.—On July 6th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: B. Bover 1, G. Green (80) 2, H. Egglestone 3, J. Roast 4, L. Ainger (first quarter in the method 'inside') 5, E. W. Furbank 6, P. Green (cond.) 7, P. T. Spencer-Phillips 8. A birthday compliment to Mrs. L. Gascoigne, sister of the conductor. First quarter of Surprise for 1, 3 and 4.

HOAR CROSS, STAFFS.—On July 5th, 1,440 Minor (being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise and Double Oxford): G. J. Lewis 1, G. E. Large (cond.) 2, A. Morgan 3, B. G. Key 4, C. Tansell 5, T. W. Lewis 6.

LAMBETH, LONDON.—On July 6th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. A. Hales 1, T. H. Taffender 2, R. A. E. Dunn 3, F. L. Blewer 4, C. A. Hughes 5, W. D. Grainger 6, J. Bullock (cond.) 7, Miss J. E. Palmer (first quarter) 8.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—On July 6th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: S. H. Symonds (cond.) 1, M. T. Symonds 2, S. Smith 3, W. R. J. Poulson 4, W. Faiers 5 F. Borcham 6, F. Mortlock 7, R. C. Clouston 8. Birthday compliment to the tenor ringer.

LEAMINGTON, WARWICKS.—On June 30th, at All Saints, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. C. Burt 1, W. Collett 2, E. H. Adams 3, H. Huxley 4, W. S. Oakley 5, C. H. Grindley 6, J. R. Ball (cond.) 7, E. H. Bosworth 8.

LISS, HANTS.—At St. Mary's, on July 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles, 7, 6, 8 covering: T. Riley 1, H. Tice 2, C. Pound 3, G. Norris 4, A. Betsworth (cond.) 5, T. Fry 6, D. Wheeler 7, K. Wright 8. Rung for the diamond jubilee celebrations of St. Mary's Church, 1892–1952.

NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKS.—On June 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Stratton 1, E. Lathall 2, R. Abrams 3, H. Beard (cond.) 4, R. Evans 5, R. Howson 6, R. Hall 7, C. Harris 8. Rung for Confirmation, performed by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, and for the Patronal Festival.

NORTH WEALD, ESSEX.—On June 29th, 1,260 Doubles (being 4 extents each of Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob and 260 Grandsire): G. Horton 1, S. King 2, S. Stevens 3, W. Wedlock 4, H. King (cond.) 5, R. Stevens 6. In honour of the Vicar's 3-weeks-old son, Stephen Bernard.

PINNER, MIDDLX.—On June 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Moss (first quarter) 1, W. N. Genna 2, J. R. Mayne 3, G. Hart 4, F. Robbins 5, R. Wilkinson (cond.) 6, T. Collins 7, H. Stratford 8. Rung for the Patronal Festival.

PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.—On July 6th, at St. Mary's, Portsea, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. H. Robinson 1, J. D. Harris 2, A. Page 3, T. R. Taylor 4, A. York Bramble 5, L. D. Duguid 6, F. W. Rogers (cond.) 7, H. T. Macey 8. Rung to commemorate the dedication of the 'Te Deum' east window by the Archbishop of York. This replaces the window which was destroyed by enemy action in 1940.

READING, BERKS.—On July 6th, at St. Mary's, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: P. Dyke 1, Mrs. A. Diserens 2, R. F. Diserens 3, S. G. Day (first quarter of Surprise) 4, R. E. Turner 5, C. Pullen 6, A. Diserens 7, N. J. Diserens (cond.) 8. Rung for the Patronal Festival.

SAWLEY, DERBYS.—On July 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Marshall 1, Miss S. Kilbourne (first quarter in method) 2, A. Hickton 3, R. Harrison 4, T. Robinson 5, W. King 6, W. Simpson (cond.) 7, C. Geary 8.

STOKE GOLDINGTON, BUCKS.—On July 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Orchard 1, E. Shouler 2, Miss E. Sharp 3, F. Stanton 4, A. Armstrong (cond.) 5, E. Carroll 6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. F. Stanton on his 70th birthday, also a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. R. Croot on the birth of a daughter. Mr. Croot is a ringer at this tower. First quarter on the bells since rehanging.

ST. PETER-IN-THANET, KENT.—On July 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Rev. P. H. Starnes (first quarter) 1, Mrs. N. Bridges 2, R. G. Dadds 3, W. J. Fairbeard 4, A. J. Dadds 5, L. Twyman 6, F. J. Gadsden (cond.) 7, G. A. Appleton 8. Rung as a farewell to the ringer of the treble.

SWINTON, LANCS.—On July 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Powell 1, R. Bagnall 2, N. Tompkins (cond.) 3, R. Edge 4, O. Davis 5, A. Lomas 6, J. Thornley 7, F. Jones 8. Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. Raymond Travis to Miss Sheila Barnes.

WARSOP, NOTTS.—On July 6th, 1,272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: E. Dobb 1, Miss D. Marshall 2, Miss J. Smith 3, H. T. Rooke (cond.) 4, F. Flint 5, D. H. Rooke 6. Rung for the Patronal Festival.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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BELFRY GOSSIP

The Oxford Diocesan Guild extended its warmest congratulations on Saturday to the Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) on the birth of a son to Mrs. Elliot Wigg that very morning. Mr. Elliot Wigg announced that his three sons had all been born on the day of and Oxford Guild festival. The coincidence is simply amazing.

The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, is to be Vicar of St. Andrew's, Norwich, with St. Michael-at-Plea.

The resolutions of the Central Council for the Care of Churches regarding the preservation of old bells have been circulated by Mr. F. Sharpe to members of the Towers and Belfries Committee for their observation.

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association are to call an extraordinary general meeting at Evercreech on October 4th to discuss matters arising from the impending retirement of Mr. J. T. Dyke as hon. general secretary of the Association.

The Master and ringers of St. Matthew's Church, Buckley, Flintshire, would like to get in touch immediately with Mr. Harry Dew, formerly of Chester and Malvern Link. Would Mr. Dew or anyone knowing his present address please send it to Mr. D. H. B. Millward, 1, Melbourne Road, Western Park, Buckley, Chester.

Lincolnshire ringers who went to Greetham, Rutlandshire, on July 5th, for a peal attempt had two surprises. As they were about to raise the bells a photographer walked into the belfry and the company obliged with their best smiles. After the peal the Rector called and thanked the band for ringing and said he would like to pray with the ringers in the belfry where they did their work. With such an inspiration all left the church feeling extremely happy.

St. Matthew's Church, Buckley, Flintshire, ringers are celebrating the jubilee of the dedication of the bells on August 2nd. Mr. Harry Dew was the instructor of the original band on its formation in 1902.

The rededication of Hughenden bells will take place on October 12th.

The peal at Drinkstone, Suffolk, on July 4th, was the first peal on the bells for over 20 years.

Mr. Ernest J. Ladd has now twice completed the circle of St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells.

The meeting of the N.W. Division of the Essex Association on July 26th will be held at Matching and not Hatching, as stated in our last issue.

The peal at Heydour, Lincs, on June 21st, was arranged so that Mr. W. H. Dale could ring in the church where he was baptised, sang in the choir and first learnt to handle a bell.

The name of Mr. Malcolm S. Cloke will be missing from our peal columns for some weeks. He sailed on July 10th for Sweden and hopes to be back in this country by mid-September.

Mr. Stafford H. Green, of Sampford Peverell, Devon, is sailing for Australia on October 24th per S.S. Otranto. He would be glad to hear from any other change ringers who are prospective passengers on the same ship.

While on a visit to Queen Camel with St. Mary's, Reading, ringers, the Diserens—father, mother and children—rang a touch on this heavy six. Family touches have been rung at Queen Camel before, but they are very infrequent. When last?

The ringer of the 7th at Willenhall on July 3rd to the peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was Harry Griffiths and not Harry Grif as submitted and printed in last week's 'Ringing World.' It was the first in the method on the bells.

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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD FESTIVAL

CANON COLERIDGE MEMORIAL APPROVED — NO INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTION SANCTIONED — GUILD'S MOTION TO CENTRAL COUNCIL — MR. ALAN PINK'S OBSERVATIONS — THE MASTER AND A VICAR'S RIGHTS

THERE was more than ordinary interest in the annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild last Saturday in view of the success that attended the Guild's notice of motion at Lincoln. Mr. Alan Pink had some interesting observations on the position.

Proceedings started with a service in the Cathedral. Ringers of the Diocese provided a choir. The Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) conducted the service and the Deputy Master (Mr. Frederick Sharpe) read the lessons. The Ven. H. Thorndike Shaw preached and the Blessing was pronounced by the Bishop of Dorchester.

The Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) presided at the business meeting which was held in the Chapter House. He was supported by the Deputy Master (Mr. F. Sharpe), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker), the general secretary (Mr. W. Hibbert) and the librarian (Miss M. Cross).

In welcoming the members, the Master expressed regret that it was necessary to change the date of the festival and that had kept some of the members away The 12th was the only day they could have the Dining Hall at Christ Church. It was an advantage to him because their three sons had all been born on Guild Festival days. His wife had been waiting a fortnight and his son was born shortly after midnight. They had now enough in the family for a peal of Minor.

As regards the working of the Guild, while he had not attended all branch meetings. he had been to as many as possible. He found that they were all working well. There were some towers where things were not as they would desire as far as regular practices and service ringing. but these towers were not so many as previously. At one branch meeting he attended there were nearly 30 new members.

The Deputy Master reported that he had attended 24 branch meetings, mostly in the Oxfordshire and Berkshire areas, where it was hardest for the Master to get. He congratulated the branch secretaries for very hard work, for wherever he went there was keenness and enthusiasm and very nicely-arranged services. He had given advice on bell restorations in seven towers in the Diocese.

The hon. treasurer reported that the general funds of the Guild amounted to £557 15s. 10d., of which the Bell Restoration Fund stood at £465 11s. 2d., and the Coleridge Memorial Fund at £41 1s. 6d.

The librarian stated that there had been a steady demand for books and they had received several gifts including 'The Bells of Oxfordshire.' by the Deputy Master, a very interesting book in which she found several things she did not know about Oxford bells.

The general secretary called attention to the fact that their membership was now over 2,000 and they were one of the largest Guilds in the country and they were in the forefront of ringing with the Spliced Surprise peals of Mr. Judge, but when it came to their annual meeting they could only muster 130 or 140. He hoped they would have a better attendance next year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were re-elected:— Master, the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg; Deputy Master, Mr. Frederick Sharpe; hon treasurer, M. A. D. Barker; general secretary. Mr. W. Hibbert; librarian, Miss Marie Cross. A vote of thanks to the general secretary and treasurer was proposed by Mr. J. T. Fowler.

Elected to the committee were Miss D. Fletcher, Messrs. G. Cauldwell. H. Sear, J. T. Fowler, R. White, W. F. Judge, G. Holefield, W. Dixon, C. J. Hibbert, A. R. Pink, B. S. Nicholls and F. D. Boreham.

Mr. A. E. Lock suggested that as vacancies occurred on the committee they should not be filled, as the committee with the branch representatives was too large. The matter was referred to the General Committee.

Recommendations from the General Committee were then received. These included holding the 1953 Festival at Oxford, which was agreed to.

GUILD SUBSCRIPTION

There was, however, strong opposition to increasing the annual subscription to 3s., which was proposed by Mr. W. J. Parker, who pointed out that it was essential for the Guild to be in a strong financial position.

Mr. A. Diserens mentioned that the additional 6d. would bring in £40 a year.

Mr. Lock said he was secretary of one of the largest districts and they were very much against raising the subscription. They thought it was the wrong way of increasing the revenue. The proper way was to get more members. If they lost one member at 2s. 6d., they would want half a dozen members at 3s. to make up that loss. By not printing the annual report they were saving nearly £100.

Mr. A. D. Barker said he came there determined to oppose the increase. Mr. Diserens said the increase of sixpence would bring in £40 but he doubted if it would bring in another 40s. to the general secretary. Last year they appointed a sub-committee with power to act and the findings of that committee were that they could not afford to have a report this year. They decided to leave the question to the end of the year and then see what the position was. At the present time they had £62 12s. 6d. in the bank and last year they had £60.

Mr. Fowler moved that the suggestion of an increase in the subscription be left in abeyance till the end of the year. This was agreed to by the meeting, only three members voting against.

GRANTS FROM RESTORATION FUND

The General Committee recommended a grant of £10 to March Baldon. The Vicar, speaking in support, said that March Baldon had four bells and they wanted two more. They had £120 towards the cost of £210 to meet work to the frame and two new bells. They had a small band of ringers who were very keen.

The meeting decided to increase the grant to £20.

A recommendation of a grant of £20 to Wavendon was supported by the Master, who said they had five bells which had not been rung for nearly 50 years. He had never seen bells in such a bad state; the frame was bad and one of the bells was cracked. They had asked Mr. Hughes to break up the bells and recast them into a ring of six using the same metal and Mr. White was going to rehang them. The cost would be nearly £1,000. They had not a separate bell fund but they had promises towards meeting the cost of recasting amounting to about £350.

A similar grant of £20 was recommended for Radley, which Mr. Sharpe recommended. He said a good deal of spade work had been done at Radley by the librarian and it was one of the high spots of the Guild.. They are rehanging the bells and possibly having the treble recast. The cost of the work was £350.

Miss Cross said the parish had to raise £1,000 for heating, and the ringers were raising the money for the bells.

The meeting decided to increase each recommendation by £10.

CANON COLERIDGE MEMORIAL

The recommendation of the General Committee that the bell restoration and tablets in cloister and tower be carried out in connection with the Canon Coleridge Memorial was submitted to the meeting by Mr. F. Sharpe. He said this was the third annual meeting this matter had come up and the committee would be very grateful to get it settled and, if possible, in favour of the recommendation. The cost of restoring the bells was £140 and the cost of doing other work to the tower, which was outside the scope of the Memorial, amounted to £100. Since the last annual meeting he had had several meetings with the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church and they had accepted responsibility for the £100 for the restoration of the bells leaving the Guild to find £140 for recasting the treble bells as a memorial to Canon Coleridge. As to the tablet, the cost of taking out the Jenkyn memorial tablet and replacing it, and the provision of a new tablet to Canon Coleridge's memory, identical in design and type, would be £45, so they had to find £185. The Dean and Chapter were going ahead with their section and they had placed the order.

Mr. A. D. Barker said there was a matter of £47 in the Canon Coleridge Memorial Fund and another £100 earmarked from the Restoration Fund. In addition, they had been promised £50 from the Central Council. He moved that the Guild proceed with the memorial.

Mr. Fowler seconded.

Mr. Lock: Does this include what has been promised by the branches?

Mr. Barker: It is what I have, and not what is promised.

There was a unanimous vote in favour of adopting the scheme.

The chairman expressed the Guild's gratitude to the Deputy Master in successfully carrying through the negotiations for the memorial.

The sub-committee appointed to consider the printing of an annual report gave as their opinion that the Guild could not afford an annual report for 1951. This was accepted by the meeting without comment.

The secretary asked the Guild to ratify the election of 125 new members. He had received notification of the deaths of six members.

The Master asked to be notified of the deaths of members so that they could be remembered by name at the Guild's annual service.

IRREGULAR METHODS

Mr. Lock said he expected members had seen in 'The Ringing World' the Oxford Guild's motion at Lincoln about the ringing of irregular methods. Mr. Sharpe said that the motion, when it went before the Standing Committee, was flatly turned down. He talked to a lot of ordinary members and they managed to get it accepted, but the general feeling was that the conductors of the peals were to blame. They were not concerned about the conductors but the other ringers, many of whom might be ringing their first peal. At Lincoln they just managed to carry the motion. 'I may say,' concluded Mr. Locke, 'that any member of this Guild should be very careful about ringing these methods because the committee said they would not print them.'

Mr. A. D. Barker emphasised that those who attended at Lincoln on behalf of the Guild were not delegates but representatives. There was a discussion before lunch at Lincoln on the peals that had been rung and the effect was that they be not accepted. There was a remark made by the president (Mr. Lewis) which he had not heard properly, but it was

(Continued on next page)

OXFORD GUILD—Cont.

something referring to the motion being discussed later in the day, which was the resolution from their Guild. Although the Council washed out the peals before lunch, in the afternoon they voted to go into the position again. For the benefit of those who did not go to Central Council meetings, it was their usual procedure to do one thing in the morning and do something different in the afternoon. The position was that the peals were not counted but they were going into the position again and they hoped to hear something worth listening to next year.

For the benefit of anybody who did not understand it, this business had been going on ever since he had been ringing. Any conductor worthy of the name of a conductor should not put these methods into a peal to cause discussion. For years certain members of the Council had been trying to put it over to get it regularised. Somebody was always trying to get the better of the decisions and, to his mind, it was a cheap form of publicity which was given not only to ringers but to newspapers to steal the headlines.

Mrs. Barker said one of the experts suggested that there were plenty of methods that conformed. If anybody liked to ring these methods they would put them in 'The Ringing World' but they would not be counted in the analysis.

'NOT OUT FOR CHEAP PUBLICITY'

Mr. Alan Pink said, as they would gather, he had had a great deal to do with it behind the scenes. He thought it was rather deplorable to talk about blaming the conductors. 'I have been the person to blame as I have rung more and conducted more of these peals than anybody. I am not out for cheap publicity; I hope my standard as a ringer in this Guild is too well known for that. I am out for the spiritual values behind ringing. Of the fourteen peals rung, four were for the Festival of Britain and three for patronal festivals. I ask you to think it was not in any sense cheap publicity, but it was the desire to carry out the value behind ringing that we have heard from our preacher this morning. I think I ought to make that protest.

'What I want to say is that the Central Council contributes a lead to its own downfall. If you publish a booklet under the name of the Central Council and give certain methods to be rung, it is no good turning round and saying "You should not ring these as they have irregular lead ends." That is true of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and three more Doubles methods.

'The Central Council in the morning accepted a report of the Peal Analysis Committee which debarred peals which included Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, therefore over fourteen peals disappeared because Rule 1 states we should accept the rules and decisions of the Central Council. The whole point of our resolution was that we had foreseen this matter and we wanted it to be put on the agenda before the report was received. As the Oxford Guild motion was discussed in the afternoon, the Central Council made a spectacle of itself because it accepted something which it refused to accept in the morning. The position was the same as at the beginning of 1951. I am not going to say I am going to ring these methods to a peal—as it would be foolish. But the position is that the rule has been in existence since 1904, but it has not been enforced on any band of ringers.'

The Master: It does seem that our representatives have done their best to present their resolutions fearlessly and forcibly to the Central Council, and the Central Council have accepted the resolution, and if I might say a final word, it would be wise for the Guild to lie low, like Breer Rabbit, and not acerbate the Council.

Mr. Keyte appealed to everyone ringing peals to support 'The Ringing World' by sending a voluntary contribution to the paper.

THE LUNCHEON

The luncheon was held at Christ Church Hall, the Master being supported by the Bishop of Dorchester and Bishop Buxton.

The toast of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was proposed by Bishop Buxton. 'With great sincerity,' he said, 'I am happy to say how all of us who are not ringers appreciate the work and fine service of the Guild. I know something of the discipline and need for regular practice that goes into ringing.'

The Master, in reply, thanked Bishop Buxton for his remarks on the value of the work of bellringers. 'Sometimes we have unfortunate differences between clergy and ringers and these generally occur through thoughtlessness on the part of the ringers,' he said. 'In regard to these two peals, that is what we try to avoid in this Guild. We try to realise that we are servants of His Holy Church, and if we remember that, we cannot go wrong in our service. But we must remember that the incumbent has the last word in what ringers might do, and the churchwarden has also some power. I have often wondered what would happen if the churchwarden locked the door of the belfry. I believe the churchwarden has the right to exclude ringers from the tower legally.

Bishop Allen proposed the toast of 'The Visitors,' and said they had with them representatives from London, the Ancient Society of College Youths, the oldest ringing Guild (which, he was told, was to ringing as the M.C.C. is to cricket), the Dioceses of Winchester, Guildford, Gloucester and Peterborough. They also welcomed the choir boys, who came from four parishes.

Mr. Duncan Frame also replied and said it was 35 years ago that he attended an annual meeting at Oxford and he still saw a number of old friends there in Mr. Cullum and Mr. Hibbert.

Mr. Tom Fowler proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, the preacher at the service, and Dr. Armstrong, who accompanied the singing. They all realised what a wonderful privilege it was to hold their service in the Cathedral, to have the Chapter House for their meeting and the luncheon in what had been described as the finest dining hall in England. To Dr. Allen, he wished the best of health in his retirement.

Dr. Allen thanked Mr. Fowler for his remarks and said they always looked forward to the Guild's annual visit to Oxford.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to meet the added cost of 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—Carol tunes 2s. 6d.

Peals.—Stockbury 3s., Kelvedon 3s., Bozeat 5s., Tempsford 2s. 6d., Pulborough 4s., Burton-on-Stather 2s., Haselbury Plucknett 3., Timberland 3s.

Quarter peals.—Piddlehinton 1s., Seaton 4s. 1d., Seaford 2s. 6d., Powick 3s., Mountsorrel 2s., Huntingdon 1s., Cefn-coed 5s., Wimbledon 2s. 6d., Eastbourne 4s., North Weald 1s. 6d., Hutton 5s., Wookey 3s., Stoke Goldington 3s., Laverstoke 5s., Witley 2s. 6d., Portsmouth 4s., Great Baddow 4s., Sawley 4s., Goring 1s. 6d., Aldenham 2s. 6d.

WALTON-ON-THAMES

For their annual outing on Whit Monday, ringers and friends travelled to the West Country.

Towers visited were Newbury (10), Marlborough (6, with a tenor without a stay), Devizes, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John's (where the Rev. F. E. Robinson rang his last peal of Stedman), and St. Paul's, Salisbury. Lunch was partaken of at Devizes, and en route to Salisbury a visit was paid to Stonehenge. Home was reached at 10 p.m. after a very happy day.

MR. JAMES BENNETT TO LIVE IN SUFFOLK

One of the best known ringers in the London area, Mr. James Bennett, has now left Beckenham, Kent, to live in retirement in his native Suffolk.

Mr. Bennett is a member of the still select company of those who have rung over 1,000 peals. He took part in many outstanding performances with the late William Pye and the late Charles T. Coles, including the famous record length of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne. He has also rung very many peals in the county of Kent, both in the Chatham area during his service in the Royal Marines and of later years in the Lewisham district, including nearly a hundred at Crayford and over fifty at St. John's, Erith.

To his friends at St. Mary's, Lewisham, Mr. Bennett will, however, be missed most as a loyal and conscientious member of the local band. In some 24 years' membership Mr. Bennett has put up an example of regularity and punctuality in attendance that stands as a shining example to younger ringers. Some years ago he moved to Beckenham, but remained faithful to St. Mary's, and in spite of the greater distance he had to travel he was usually the first to arrive.

On Sunday morning, July 6th, a small gift was presented to Mr. Bennett by Canon P. D. Robb, the Vicar of Lewisham, on behalf of the local band, as a mark of their appreciation of his past services and with their good wishes for a long and happy retirement and plenty of ringing amongst his many friends in Suffolk.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

Ribchester a Popular Meeting

A successful meeting of the Blackburn Branch was held at Ribchester on July 5th. The church is very old, picturesque and full of historical interest. It is situated at one of the beauty spots of Lancashire, on the banks of the River Ribble. Ringing is from the ground floor and open to the body of the church, and the many visitors to the church found it fascinating to watch.

The ring of six bells, cast in 1721, were kept going during the afternoon and evening with rounds and many methods up to Cambridge Surprise. Most of the towers in the branch were represented and there were also visitors from Rossendale, Manchester and Bolton, the latter being in strength.

A break was made for tea and the meeting. The secretary (Mr. Charles Blakey) sent an apology for his absence in London. The local ringers made a request for an instructor, as they were very anxious to learn change ringing. In reply to this, Mr. Arthur Tomlinson, vice-president of the Association, said they would go into the matter. He was confident that their request would be carried out. There was a suggestion that was very favourably received that the branch should hold a meeting annually at this time of the year at this beauty spot.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, the local ringers and ladies for providing the tea and a hearty welcome. 'VIZITTORR.'

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD

The Dudley and District Guild held their quarterly meeting on June 28th at Penn, when about 30 members and friends took advantage of a beautiful summer's day to visit the fine old church situated on the edge of the Common. The local ringers met the visitors on arrival.

The Vicar conducted the Guild service and gave an interesting address on the history of the church. The tea and meeting followed in the Church Room. The Central Council representative gave his report of the meeting at Lincoln and two new members were elected.

The next quarterly meeting is to be held at Oldbury on October 4th, when it is hoped that the new secretary will be appointed. The members returned to the belfry for further ringing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'BACK IT GOES AGAIN!'

Dear Sir,—An advantage in not being a member of the Central Council is expressed in the old adage that 'The looker-on sees most of the game.' There is an accompanying disadvantage, however, in being unable to express that wider view *in* the Council *at the time;* though this can be mitigated to some extent by such as this letter.

This year in Council it was said that little or no progress, officially, had been made in laying down the principles of method extension over the years since the negative Council resolution of a quarter of a century ago. That, of course, is true; but the more important, and regrettable, thing to realise is that to-day there is still no real progress in official quarters: matters being referred year after year. All the time, in fact, resolved material is actually at hand for:—

(1) Reaching conclusions from which clear-cut proposals could be formulated for consideration and resolution in Council, without any further delay.

(2) Simplifying these technical matters and making them sufficiently clear to the average Council member, so that he could intelligently consider and vote on them.

That the present stale-mate position might arise, however, was foreseen a year ago, after the 1951 'refer-back.' So steps were then taken to place on record evidence, not only in support of claims 1 and 2 above, showing that they are no idle boast, but also to indicate that the results of many years of investigation into these matters were already available for official use.

This evidence is to be found, in part, in the 'Memorandum of Technology of Method Structure' lodged in the Council's Library, and duly acknowledged in this year's report. Mr. Poole will find there sympathetic support for some of his views and the answers to some of his queries. (He would also find that while the theory of method structure appears difficult when examined at random, it becomes simpler when studied in logical sequence.) That information was, of course, offered to the Methods Committee; and while some little of it has found a place in their Supplementary Report, the main features are still neglected.

And so the Council's time was once again taken up by abortive discussion—abortive because not only is the line of argument in their Supplementary Report, in my view, fallacious, but also the crux of the matter of extension has not even been mentioned, either in the report or in the discussion in Council. It is this—the whole question turns on the prior establishment of the *basic stage* in any given method family under consideration. The Methods Committee will not deny that the basic stage is not the same for all methods. For example, in Plain Bob it is Minimus; in Cambridge it is Major (no, not Minor!); in Kent T-B it is Minor; in London it is Royal (the new Royal-basic, of which the Major and Minor are true mathematical contractions, and to which there is a true mathematical Maximus, as shown in the Memorandum); and as a last example, in Oakham the basic is Maximus. A 'formula' has been worked out for determining which stage of a method family is the basic, or, as it is sometimes called, the 'parent,' and this is essentially the first consideration when examining a method. The reasons for this are well founded though too lengthy for inclusion here. But the report doesn't even mention it!

The second consideration, in due order, is that of the method's 'position cyclic.' Here again no mention was made of it in the report. But it is significant that Mr. Poole apparently quoted F. H. Dexter as having referred to it years ago (though not by this name) where he says, '. . . true extension is got by *correct construction* . . . . the result gives the proper *cycle* of leads ends . . . . that will be a proper extension . . . .' etc. (The italics are mine, but obviously already the mathematical *structure* was properly envisaged.)

The question of pivots arises directly from this second consideration, and not, as the Supplementary Report suggests, the other way round. Indeed, in my view, the Supplementary Report may be viewed as of the nature of 'cart before horse.' One has been at some pains to extract a long list of examples of 'standard' methods showing not only that they are grouped according to these 'cyclics,' but also that various pivot-combinations will produce the same cyclic.

But there is one pressing point of correction in general discussion of these matters. It is this—several references have been made in the past, and were made again at the recent Council meeting, to the 'mathematician,' rather as *opposed to* the 'practical ringer.' It is high time this ill-conceived idea of disconnection was exploded. To my knowledge there have been only two 'mathematicians' interested in exposition of ringing theory who were not practical ringers—Thompson and Rankin. The rest of those who have employed deductive reasoning of a truly mathematical nature, to enlarge the field of ringing knowledge, have all been *practical* ringers of greater or lesser degree. (One can be a practical ringer, surely, without having one's name in the peal columns every week?) So let this 'setting in opposition' be dropped, before the rank and file become sick of, and embittered against, anything of a theoretical nature.

For it must be remembered, without the theory there can be no standardised practice.—Yours very truly,

A. YORK-BRAMBLE.

A LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY

Dear Sir,—Re Belfry Gossip of July 4th, I must, as a Devonian, correct you in laying claim for Cornwall to the tower of North Petherwyn. The county border follows the Tamer except for a loop which includes the towers of Werrington and North Petherwyn.

These villages, incidentally, have, as far as I can check, never been in Cornwall.

At the other end of the county there are two towers, Churchstanton and Chardstock, shown in Mr. Dove's book as Devon and Dorset, but in a county redistribution at the end of the last century, Churchstanton is in Somerset, Chardstock in Devon and Wambrook, shown as in Dorset, is in Somerset for geographical purposes. So each county gained one village and loses one.—Yours faithfully,

W. C. PANTER.

Pinhoe, near Exeter.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE AS FILM BACKGROUND?

Dear Sir,—On July 10th, at the Odeon Cinema, Marble Arch, is the opening of the film, 'Something Money Can't Buy,' a comedy starring Anthony Steel and Patricia Roc.

Part of this film, and in particular some scenes involving Mr. Steel and a cricket match, were filmed at Hawkhurst, Kent, early this summer. During this filming and clearly audible the whole time were Hawkhurst bells. Whether or not they are heard in the film I cannot as yet say, but for the benefit of any ringer who may see the film and hear ringing, the ringing was a peal of Superlative Surprise Major at Hawkhurst, conducted by Mr. Thomas E. Sone.

The film staff were only too pleased to have bells in the background, and I am told that some at least of the band are anxious to learn whether or not they have got on to the sound-track in their first 'film performance.'—Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM S. CLOKE.

THE LADIES' GUILD

Annual Meeting in London

The 33rd annual meeting was held in London on July 5th, when the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and St. Giles-in-the-Fields were available during the afternoon, and further ringing was enjoyed during the evening at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

A delightful tea was followed by evensong at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields at 6 p.m. There were 49 members present at the business meeting, when Mrs. E. K. Fletcher and Miss D. Colgate were re-elected president and hon. secretary respectively.

All the members of the Guild united in congratulating Mrs. Fletcher on the honour conferred upon her at the last Central Council meeting, and they felt honoured that the first lady ringer to receive life membership on the Council should be their own president. This being so, a vacancy existed for a Central Council representative, and it was agreed that Miss Colgate should be elected to hold this position.

Five new members were elected. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Whitby, Yorkshire, on July 4th, 1953.

It was agreed that a revision of existing rules should take place and that a sub-committee be formed, made up of all district secretaries and the general secretary, to deal with this matter and to report to the annual meeting in 1953.

With regard to the 40th anniversary dinner to be held in Leicester on October 25th, tickets (price 12s. 6d.) are now available. Early application, together with remittance, should be made to Mrs. P. J. Staniforth, 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, as numbers are limited.

Votes of thanks were expressed to the incumbents of the three churches where the bells had been at the meeting's disposal; to Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Davies for making the local arrangements, and to all other people who had assisted in any way to make the meeting a success.

Western District at Honiton Clyst

The Western District of the Ladies' Guild held their quarterly meeting on June 28th at Honiton Clyst, Devon. Ladies and friends from the Bath-Bristol district took this opportunity to make this into what it is hoped will become an annual meeting. Ringing was arranged at Cullompton, St. Mark's, Exeter (not Heavitree as advertised), and at Ilminster. The service, tea and meeting was at Honiton Clyst, where further ringing was enjoyed. All four rings of bells were fully appreciated by all who took part.

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held in North Somerset, when it is hoped that a large number of ladies will be present in order to discuss the place of the next June meeting.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

Chertsey District

A very pleasant meeting of the Chertsey District was held at Horsell on July 5th, when some 25 ringers were present. The bells were put to good use during the afternoon, and while the standard of ringing could not be described as good, several young ringers from the district towers received instruction in various methods. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. A. Woodard) and was followed by a pleasant tea on the vicarage lawn.

At the short business meeting the following ringers were elected members of the Guild: The Misses Jane and Ann Murrell (Send) and Anthony Sibbick (Horsell).

Before returning to the tower thanks were extended to the Vicar for permission to come to Horsell and for taking the service, and to Mrs. Woodard for arranging such an excellent tea.

W. S.

CENTENARY OF AN EALING CHURCH

Christ Church–Christ the Saviour, 1852–1952

In connection with the peal of 'Grandsire Triples, rung exactly 100 years after the consecration of the church and bells, the following notes, taken from a Centenary Brochure compiled by Sir Cyril Flower, C.B., may be of interest:—

'Christ Church (now the Church of Christ the Saviour) is, like other Ealing churches, in the gift of the Bishop of the Diocese. This has historical significance. The earliest mention of Ealing is a grant of land in "Gillings" by Ethelred to Waldhere, Bishop of London, made some time between 693 and 704 A.D. The place is not named in the Domesday Survey, but it is highly probable that it was included in the return for the Bishop's land of Fulham, which may then have been a large riparian parish extending westwards to the boundary of Isleworth. Ealing and Acton would have been clearings in the forest of Middlesex, which formed the northern hinterland of Fulham.

'The earliest reference to the parish of Ealing records the presentation of Robert de Dumon on May 24th, 1243, but it may have been a separate parish long before that date. During the Middle Ages it remained an agricultural community centred round St. Mary's Church. In the 17th century it tended to become residential. Its population grew rapidly during the following century, but the Parish Church of St. Mary remained its focus and the roads round the church served all the needs of the villagers.

'The coming of the Great Western Railway in 1838 altered all this. The pleasant slopes to the north of the Uxbridge Road gave a peaceful haven for retirement, and their proximity to London made them preferable to Bedford or Cheltenham for those who wished to keep in touch with the capital. The popularity of Ealing as a dormitory for city workers came a little later by the opening of the Metropolitan Railway.

'By the middle of the century the need for a church in the north of the parish was acute. A site was found where the roads from London to Oxford and from Brentford to Ruislip crossed. A field known as Hutfield lay to the north-west, and an acre of land was sold by the trustees for £200 as a site for a church. This sum now seems absurdly low, and probably the trustees did not ask the full market value, as they were anxious to make the Wood estate as attractive as possible. A picture of the church in 1852 has a rural setting.

'The church itself was the generous gift of Miss Rose Frances Lewis, the daughter of William Thomas Lewis, of Liverpool. She was resident in the parish at Castle Hill House as tenant of Sir George Wetherall at the time of her death in September, 1862.

'The contract figure for the erection of the church was £6,520, but the total expense was nearly £9,000, and, in addition, Miss Lewis gave £500 at a later date for the provision of a parsonage house and also paid for the peal of eight bells.

'The building, which was consecrated on June 30th, 1852, by Bishop Bloomfield, is in the Decorated Style throughout. At the time this was almost inevitable. The Cambridge Camden Society had an overwhelming influence on the structural side of the Anglican revival and they laid it down as a dogma that Gothic was the only possible church architecture and that the Decorated Style was immeasurably superior to Early English, which was immature, and to Perpendicular, which was decadent.

'The architect was Sir Gilbert Scott, and G. F. Bodley, who many years later had much to do with Christ Church, was a young man in his office. Fortunately the church was one of Scott's earlier achievements, when he was content to follow mediæval models and showed no inclination to introduce the aberrations of Victorian Gothic. The limestone ridge between Oxfordshire and South-West Lincolnshire has many beautiful churches of the Decorated period with lofty western towers, and it was from this area that Scott derived his inspiration. It has been said that Adderbury Church in Oxfordshire was in many respects his model, but the resemblance of the two churches is at most in the general lay-out and does not extend to details.'

During the greater part of this century the services have been in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, under a number of noted priests, including Templeton King, de Vere and Bell, and now under the present Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary W. H. Aglionby, M.A., M.C., the ornate and beautiful services attract large congregations from the joint parishes of Christ Church and St. Saviour's. As before mentioned, the Church of St. Saviour was utterly destroyed by enemy action and Christ Church badly damaged, resulting in the amalgamation of the two parishes under Father Aglionby, and under the new title of Christ the Saviour. The church is now approaching its pre-war beauty, and recently five very beautiful stained glass windows have been installed, to replace some of those destroyed. All are by Mr. Hugh Easton, who designed the Battle of Britain window in Westminster Abbey. The bells have recently been restored by the Whitechapel Foundry, and are now a beautiful ring of eight.

In the words of Father Aglionby, the bells had been rung for the jubilees of Queen Victoria, for the accessions of five Sovereigns, and now for the centenary, and he felt sure that this generation would hand to the next an even greater reputation than the church had previously known. 'The Church of God abides as the centuries go by. May the spire of Christ the Saviour long continue to point the people of Ealing to the things which are above, and its bells call them day by day to worship the Lord their God.'

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION

Chew Deanery Branch

The quarterly meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch was held at Wrington on July 5th. Ringing on the famous ten bells (tenor 37 cwt.) preceded the Association form of service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. C. A. Chetwynd-Talbot, who gave an address.

Ringers from Backwell, Clevedon, Easton-in-Gordano, Hayes (Kent), Kewstoke, Locking, Long Ashton, Melksham, Nailsea, Publow, Wembdon, Weston-super-Mare, Wrington and Yatton then sat down to an excellent tea, provided by Mrs. Knight and her helpers. The business meeting followed and the first item was a report by Mr. G. Yeo, representative on the Diocesan Committee, of the meeting held in Bridgwater recently, at which it was resolved to call an extraordinary general meeting at Evercreech on October 4th to discuss matters arising from the impending retirement of the hon. general secretary. Other items to be discussed are the raising of subscriptions to 2s. and the introduction of a peal booking fee.

One new member from Wrington was elected. It was decided that, subject to permission being granted, the October quarterly meeting should be held at Kingston Seymour with Chew Magna as an alternative if Kingston bells are not rehung by then. Practice meetings for August and September will be held at Weston-in-Gordano and Nailsea respectively, and the bi-annual corporate Communion will be held at Wrington on October 26th.

There being no other business, the usual votes of thanks were made to the tower, where ringing was under the direction of the Master, Mr. H. W. Knight. M. J. H.

A FOUR GUILDS FESTIVAL

The annual festival meeting of the Guildford and Oxford Guilds and Middlesex Association on June 28th was this year strengthened by the Surrey Association's participation, thereby making this popular meeting into a foursome. It is hoped that this foursome will be an annual affair, and the title of 'The Thames Valley Festival' was suggested.

A Thames Valley Festival it surely was, for with the four towers of Staines, Egham and Old Windsor situated at the extreme corners of ancient Runnemede and with a glorious summer day in our favour the meeting was a real success.

Ringing was continuous up to service time at 5.45. Whether the distance from Staines to Egham was a little too far, or whether the heat had overcome many of the ringers, only some 30 managed to find their way into the church for the service.

Some 49 ringers and friends, of whom 25 had sent in notice of attending, sat down to a sumptuous tea in the Church Hall, and full marks are due to our Egham friends for providing a tea which was suitable to the prevailing weather.

Tea over, Mr. F. W. Goodfellow moved the thanks of the meeting to the Vicar for taking the service and for permission to come to Egham again. The Vicar, in reply, said he was pleased to have the opportunity of welcoming the full party to Egham, though he was denied that pleasure earlier in the afternoon.

Handbell ringing by an associated company of brasshats provided a pleasant interlude, while others made their way back to the towers for further mental effort in the intricities of Surprise and other method ringing. W. S.

Mr. A. Patrick Cannon's 300 Peals

Mr. A. Patrick Cannon, who rang his 300th peal at Pulborough, Sussex, recently, has conducted 166 of them, and 775 ringers have taken part. All have been rung on tower bells. They have been rung in 272 different towers in 34 counties, for 34 societies, and include 211 different tenors 'turned in.' The list is appended:

Maximus.—Kent Treble Bob 1 (1 conducted).

Cinques.—Grandsire 1.

Royal.—Cambridge S. 1, Kent Treble Bob 9 (4), Plain Bob 6 (2).

Caters.—Stedman 3, Grandsire 1.

Major.—London S. 1. Yorkshire S. 7 (3), Superlative S. 6 (2), Cambridge S. 17 (4), New Cambridge S. 1, D.N.C.B. 47 (29), Kent Treble Bob 42 (23), Oxford Treble 6 (3), Little Bob 1, Double Oxford Bob 3 (1), Plain Bob 34 (22).

Triples.—Stedman 4, Grandsire 19 (10), Plain Bob 1.

Minor.—One to twelve methods 78 (55), Cambridge S. 2.

Doubles.—One to five methods 9 (7).

FORTY YEARS AGO

From 'The Ringing World' of July 19th, 1912

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE ROBINSON

It is with extreme regret that we record the death on July 1st of this well-known ringer, who for 28 years had been a member of the St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent. . . . He came to Burton in 1875, and soon after joined the band of ringers at the Parish Church. Peal ringing at this time was very rare, and it was not until December 9th, 1882, that he rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples, with the bells muffled in memory of the last Archbishop Tait. . . .

[In his 186 peals, Mr. Robinson included 73 of Stedman Triples, 15 Double Norwich, 21 Superlative and 24 of London. The famous band at Burton-on-Trent were the first to ring Surprise methods in more than the odd one or two peals; they rang the second, third and fourth true peals of Cambridge, the first seven peals of New Cambridge—then known as the 'Burton Variation'—and seven of the first ten peals of London.]

OUTINGS IN BRIEF

EVERCREECH

An early start was made on June 21st by Evercreech ringers, with the churchwardens as guests, for a trip up the Wye Valley.

The first call was at Chepstow, where, after a little much-needed refreshment, we were met by the captain of the local band and enjoyed touches on the bells. The belfry here is in the form of a gallery set high up in the tower and with Norman pillars supporting the ceiling. The west front and much of the interior of the nave is of Norman origin and well worth a visit.

Travelling up the Wye Valley through beautiful scenery we came suddenly upon Tintern Abbey with its magnificent arches and gable ends, standing as straight and true as they were built centuries ago.

Monmouth was reached in time for lunch, which was partaken of at the King's Head, and much appreciated by all. Ringing followed at the Parish Church on the rather rough-going, but musical, ring of eight bells.

Moving away from the river, the route was through the Forest of Dean, to Ruardean, one of the villages typical of this semi-derelict mining area, where a sense of hopelessness seems to hang over everything, which the rambling churchyard and gloomy north porch did little to dispel. Nevertheless, the church inside was well appointed and the tower contained a delightful ring of eight bells which were rung to various methods.

At Gloucester Mr. Barry met the visitors and after tea at the Three Cups, the bells at St. Mary de Crypt were rung for an hour.

At Stroud several of the local band and the Vicar welcomed the party. Touches of Grandsire Caters and a course of Bob Royal were thoroughly enjoyed on this grand ring of ten.

A social half hour followed at the Britannia, where the handbells were made good use of, and when our tune-ringing maestro suggested the need for some lower notes, the wag of the party suggested they might be got if he sat down.

Evercreech was reached about 11.30 p.m., after a day which had given us lovely weather, good company, excellent food and bells which we all enjoyed. H. J. S.

OTTERY ST. MARY, DEVON

Augmented by friends, the ringers of St. Mary's and St. Edward's held their outing on June 14th starting at 7.55 a.m. The first stop was at Ilminster where the ring of eight were soon going to Stedman and Grandsire.

At the next tower, St. Cuthbert's, Wells (8), the 'go' was difficult owing to a splice in the rope catching in a groove in the ceiling rose. Jack Worrall joined the party in the belfry and had a pull with them.

The real excitement of the day arrived when departure time from Wells arrived at 12.30. Three of the party were missing and there were serious faces on the young ladies in the back seat. About 12.55 a boy came cycling along saying that someone was shouting from the tower saying they were locked in. There were visions of a long wait as the verger, who had the key, had gone to the Cathedral. Fortunately the Deaconess produced a key and the three young men, who had been to inspect the bells, were released.

After some leg-pulling, the coach went on its way to Weston-super-Mare, with a stop at Cheddar for a visit to the caves, or strawberries. Weston was reached in time for tea, the host for the meal being Prebendary E. V. Cox, president of the Devon Guild, who looked up the party. From Weston the route was via Bridgwater, where ringing on the lovely eight was enjoyed, to Taunton. Ottery St. Mary was reached at 9.40.

BRIDGENORTH, SALOP

A tour into North Wales was planned by the ringers of St. Leonard's, Bridgenorth, on June 28th, the band being joined by individual friends from St. Mary's, Bridgenorth, Coalbrookdale, Wellington, St. Luke's, Wolverhampton and Little Aston (South Staffs).

Bridgenorth was left at 7.30 a.m. and the first ringing was at St. Collen's, Llangallon, where the eight, with a tenor of 17½ cwt., were rehung by John Taylor and Co., last year. Here touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples were brought round.

The main road to Bangor was taken, a halt being made at Swallow Falls to admire the scenery. After an excellent lunch at the Waverley Hotel, Bangor, the coast road was taken through Conway and then inland to Bodelwyddan. This church, on account of its tall white spire, is known as the Marble Church. The bells are a ring of eight (tenor 14 cwt.) by Mears and Stainbank in 1872. Ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

By 5 p.m. the party were enjoying tea at the Seven Stars Hotel, Wrexham. Then came a visit to St. Giles' Church, whose tower has been described as one of the Seven Wonders of Wales. The front six of this ten, with a tenor of 25 cwt., was raised in peal, and after rounds, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and finally a plain course of Bob Royal were accomplished. The ten were dropped in peal. Bridgenorth was reached at 9.30, and thanks are expressed to those who organised the excursion.

HOLY TRINITY, GUILDFORD

One of the hottest days of this summer was selected by Holy Trinity Cathedral Society, Guildford, for their annual outing on June 28th. The choice of the Isle of Wight proved a happy one. The journey to Portsmouth was made by road and the morning was spent in Ryde with ringing at All Saints' Church and lunch.

Another coach was engaged for the afternoon, and the route and towers selected took the visitors away from the holiday crowds. Ringing took place at Arreton with its ground floor ringing—a tower which will be remembered for its massive buttresses; Godshill, which so charmed the peal ringers of the party that they longed to have the privilege of a peal attempt; Carisbrooke, with historic and royal associations; Newport, with its creaking timbers, difficult to hear trebles and tricky seventh demanding experienced ringers accustomed to slow measured beat to prevent unpleasantness to the townsfolk.

Ringing during the day was varied. Being Holy Trinity, Guildford, Stedman was not neglected, but there was also the four usual Surprise methods and the standard methods.

Looking back on the outing, it was an example of perfect organisation, with no regimentation, everybody on time and good meals, for which the company and their friends thank Mr. F. A. Munday.

COLESHILL, WARWICKSHIRE

Favoured by the weather on July 5th, Coleshill ringers and friends enjoyed a day's tour in the beautiful Warwickshire and Oxfordshire countryside. Passing through Kenilworth and Warwick, the first stop was at Kineton to try the six bells there. Over Edge Hill calling at Banbury brought the company to Deddington, where bells and church were much admired.

Following lunch in Oxford and ringing at St. Giles', the Cotswold village of Whichford was reached, with its grand six to claim attention. After tea and a final touch at Tysoe the journey home was via Stratford-on-Avon.

Thanks are given to incumbents for permission to ring, and to local ringers for their welcome and help which contributed to a successful outing.

NORTH BRADLEY, WILTSHIRE

The North Bradley ringers, together with wives and friends from neighbouring towers, held their annual outing on June 28th.

Following an early start in perfect weather, the first tower, Malmesbury, was reached a little behind schedule. The Abbey campanile, which is all that remains of the original Parish Church of St. Paul, stands at the end of the Abbey churchyard and contains a fine octave with an 11 cwt. 8 lb. tenor. These bells have come from five different foundries and were increased to eight and rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1951. The fragment of the Abbey which remains is in the Transitional or post-Norman style, and the remains of the central tower show a tower arch which must have been higher than the present campanile.

The next stop was Stroud, a ring of ten rung from the ground floor. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were successfully brought round here, although the bells are a little difficult to hear in the ringing chamber.

Following lunch in Stroud came the run to Gloucester, when most of the ladies promptly disappeared, to return later heavily laden with parcels! Ringing was enjoyed at St. Mary de Crypt Church, and it is in Bell Lane in this parish that the famous Rudhall foundry was situated. It is fitting that the eight bells in the tower should all have originated from this foundry.

Berkley, with its famous Hunt, was reached in time for tea, and afterwards the detached tower was visited. This tower is a large one with dirt in proportion! A slight delay was incurred while a little light engineering work was carried out on a misplaced chiming hammer, and it is a matter for speculation as to what happens to Mr. Harding when his wife comes to wash his shirt! The 'go' of the ten bells here left a lot to be desired.

A short journey brought the party to Thornbury, with a lofty church and a splendid 16th century tower. The bells proved to be a mellow octave which needed some little effort to bring out the best in them.

The final tower was Almondsbury with a central tower and a curious lead spire, and the eight bells were put to good use until 9 o'clock.

A stop for liquid refreshment in Keynsham concluded a very pleasant day's trip. Ringing was generally of a good standard and the conducting was shared.

Sincere thanks are due to all the incumbents (especially the Vicar of Malmesbury for allowing the use of the bells at short notice), to the people who met and welcomed the party and last, but by no means least, to Mr. P. Harding for making the arrangements. M. J. H.

ST. MARY'S, READING

On July 5th, the St. Mary's, Reading, band and a number of ringing friends paid a visit to Somerset for their annual outing. Chewton Mendip was first visited, followed by Wells Cathedral. Lunch was taken at Wells and the party proceeded to Ditcheat, where they were met by Mr. J. Lintern.

Ditcheat ringing room is a model of what a ringing chamber should be and, as one of the party remarked, 'looks cared for.' The party are still left wondering which is the finer peal, Ditcheat or Chewton Mendip.

A visit was then paid to Queen Camel, where Mr. Reeves was waiting. Everyone was delighted with the 'go' and tone of this magnificent ring of six. A good tea, kindly arranged by Mr. Reeves, was taken at the Sparkford Hotel and the party moved on to Westbury, Wilts, where the ringing for the day was closed with a course of Bristol. The arrangements then passed into the 'back seaters,' who entertained the party during the return journey to Reading.

The party's thanks are expressed to the incumbents and members of the towers visited who so kindly helped to make the outing a success.

OBITUARY

MR. HARRY BROOKS

The All Saints', Isleworth, company of ringers have lost one of their oldest members by the death in the West Middlesex Hospital on June 24th of Mr. Harry Brooks, of 211, Worton Road, Isleworth.

Mr. Brooks recently fractured his leg as the result of a fall while attempting to board a trolley bus. The fracture healed rapidly and Mr. Brooks made good progress generally until he was about to attempt to use his leg, when he suddenly died.

Next December 6th Mr. Brooks would have reached his 70th birthday, and he had been a member of the Isleworth company for 47 years, having for many years occupied the post of steeplekeeper. It was planned to attempt a peal of Spliced Surprise Royal next December as a 70th birthday compliment.

A staunch supporter of the London County Association of Change Ringers and also a member of the Middlesex County Association, he will be missed by all who knew him and particularly by the many friends who loved him for his kind, quiet and unassuming character. As a member of the All Saints' Parochial Church Council and its finance committee, he was a man who was ever willing and always anxious to help his church in its various activities and also its members of all ages. The sympathy of many friends is extended to his widow and family. His only daughter, Mrs. K. F. J. Parr, is also a member of the Isleworth company and has rung peals in methods up to Spliced Surprise Royal.

As the funeral procession approached All Saints' Church on July 1st, the 16½ cwt. tenor bell, on which Mr. Brooks had rung the majority of his peals, was slowly tolled by A. Tomblin. At the interment in Isleworth Cemetery Mr. Brooks' own handbells were rung over the open grave by D. J. Charnley 1–2, Miss June Creak 3–4, S. Croft 5–6, and A. L. Pearson 7–8. The same evening half-muffled ringing was carried out on the ten bells of the Parish Church under the supervision of Mrs. O. L. Rogers. It was on these bells that, in his capacity as steeplekeeper, Mr. Brooks had lavished his care and attention for so many years.

During his lifetime Mr. Brooks had participated in many ringers' outings, and it will always be a proud thought for the present local company of ringers that following his last outing with them he said it was the best ever. This occasion was precisely one month before his death (May 24th), when the places visited were Banbury, Stratford-on-Avon, Norton and Evesham, Worcestershire.

MR. NEIL SHARPE

We regret to record the death of Mr. Neil Sharpe, of St. James' Change Ringers Association, Paisley. He died very suddenly on July 5th while playing bowls.

Mr. Sharpe, who was 50, had been a member of St. James' band for 32 years. He retired from conducting the band at the beginning of this year, but was still a regular ringer. Visitors to Scotland will remember him as a very constant friend.

AN APPRECIATION

The news of the sudden death of Mr. Neil Sharpe, of St. James' Church, Paisley, came as a great shock as he appeared to be enjoying the best of health.

Neil was a fine example of a 'couthy' Scot, with his pleasant West Country 'burr,' genial though unassuming manner, and a fine sense of humour. He took a great interest in ringing and was a frequent visitor at St. Mary's, Glasgow.

A keen Churchman, he was a member of the Kirk Session at St. James', and was also well-known in Masonic circles. We will miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, son and daughter. E. A. S.

FREDERICK GEORGE HOWCHIN

Died June 16th, 1952, aged 85.

GEORGE HOWCHIN

Died July 4th, 1952, aged 91.

The brothers Howchin, whose deaths took place within three weeks of each other, were active in ringing circles in Norwich for fifty years and were well known throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, having taken part in peals at most of the churches in those counties with eight or more bells.

George and Fred were born at Hingham and early in life came to Norwich to follow their trade as tailors. Fred was elected a probationer in 1885 and, moving to Norwich in 1889, took part in his first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Marsham on March 13th that year. Six months later he rang in the first peal on the back eight at Mancroft (Grandsire Triples), and on November 20th, 1890, was a member of the band to ring the first of Treble Bob Major on the bells. George rang the treble to this, his second, peal, having rung one of Grandsire Caters at Mancroft the previous month.

The brothers continued regularly to take part in peals, and their records contain many fine performances. Their striking was well nigh faultless and they would never attempt a method or associate with any band unless this condition could be fulfilled. They were both outspoken and never left their hearers in doubt as to their meaning.

Fred, in particular, was a 'character,' and many rich stories are told of him. Their longest peal was one of 11,264 Double Norwich Major, rung on December 12th, 1931, with Fred ringing Saxlingham tenor. Their last was rung at St. Miles', Norwich, on June 4th, 1938, the tower at which George was Master for several years. During the war the brothers retired from ringing. Altogether Fred took part in 367 peals, of which three were on handbells and a few of them he conducted. George's total for the Norwich Association was 272. May they rest in peace.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

MR. J. T. TITT

We regret to record the passing of Mr. James Thomas Titt, of Darlington, which took place on July 2nd, in his 77th year.

Mr. Titt was born at Bishop Auckland, where his family had a life-long connection with St. Andrew's Church. He himself in his young days was a chorister there and also a member of the belfry. As a young man he sought fields and pastures new for a career and joined the North Riding Constabulary. His hours of duty and a distance from any rings of bells, however, compelled him to give up ringing for a time. He served in a number of stations in the North Riding of Yorkshire from Malton to Loftus, and when he retired in 1925 with the rank of sergeant he made his home in Darlington and joined the Holy Trinity band there. He took up the threads again with enthusiasm and became a regular ringer and churchgoer. For many years he was secretary of the Southern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association and retired only last year when his colleagues made a presentation to him in appreciation of his service. He had taken part in about 70 peals.

The funeral service was on July 5th in Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. J. Simpson), and was followed by cremation. A slow course of London Surprise was rung as the cortege left the church. Mr. Titt is survived by a widow, son and two daughters.

RINGING RHYMES

No. 12 — STEDMAN

This odd-bell method joins 'plain hunt'
For three bells working in the front,
With dodging on all bells behind,
In pairs, for rows of six, you'll find.

Six rows for three bells are th'extent.
So then a bell from front is sent
To join the dodging; whence will come
A bell exchanged to front-work. Some
Device must now be used to stretch
The change-production—not to fetch
Up rounds too soon. The simple plan
Is this one: Direct hunting can
With Retrograde be sandwiched. So
One six is 'Quick'; the next one 'Slow.'

Since Stedman is not hunt-controlled
No 'leads' by treble bell are told.
Divisions, of twelve rows, per bell,
Compose each plain course. Mark this well!
For Doubles—*five* twelves, 'sixty' score.
For Triples—*seven* twelves, 'eighty-four.'
For Caters—*nine* twelves, 'one-O-eight.'
For Cinques—*eleven* twelves (calculate!!!)

But since Divisions must 'reflect'
From mid-way onwards, to correct
The symmetry, the Stedman 'div.'
Of twelve rows will be found to give,
From rounds, half one quick six, and then
One slow, and one-half quick, again.

The 'Junction' thus comes midway 'slow.'
The 'Link' (div-end) mid 'quick' will go.

(Continued)

A. Y-B.

5,088 APSLEY SURPRISE MAJOR

By R. F. B. SPEED

23456	B	M	W	H
43652		—	3	
35426	x			3
42356			—	—
25463	x			
25634	x			
32654			—	
53624			—	
32546	x			3
52436			A	
23564	x			
23645	x			—
42635			—	
34625			—	
23456	x			2

A

MR. HARRY GIBBARD

It is with great regret that we report the death of Mr. Harry Gibbard, of Maxey, Northants, on June 22nd at the age of 57.

Born at Somerton, in Oxfordshire, he later moved to Lincolnshire, where he learned to ring and was a great enthusiast, especially in teaching youngsters. He lived at Rippingale for some years and was instrumental in having the five bells augmented to six by the addition of a 'Jubilee bell' in 1935.

An accomplished Surprise Minor ringer, he took part in one of the 32 Surprise method peals conducted by his friend, Horace Day.

At Maxey, where he died, he was training a young band to ring and they, with ringers from the surrounding districts, rang the bells half-muffled for his funeral on Wednesday, June 25th. Floral tributes included a wreath from the Vicar and ringers of Maxey and one from the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. J. W. H.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 2s. 6d. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

HANDBELLS WANTED

Wanted, set of 12 handbells for boys' organisation.—L. C. Edwards, 7, Hangleton Gardens, Hove 4, Sussex. 1033

PUBLICATIONS

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH,' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author St. Clement's Rectory, 3, Colegate, Norwich An account of the bells of one of England's most historic cities, well illustrated with plans, cross sections and pictures. Second edition, much improved; no increase in price.

CHURCH BELLS AND OTHERS OF STIRLINGSHIRE AND KINROSS-SHIRE by Ranald Clouston. 46 pages. 7 photographs. Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. 3s. post free from the author at Cookley Farm, Eye, Suffolk. 1081

COLLECTION OF PLAIN MAJOR METHODS (second edition), with Table of First Performances. Price 3s. From Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, Osmington School, Tring, Herts.

MISCELLANEOUS

LYDD, KENT.—There will be no Sunday or practise ringing until further notice, owing to structural repair to the tower in connection with the reconstruction work. 1064

RECORDING OF ALL SAINTS', KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, BELLS. — Course of Grandsire Caters as broadcast to Kingston, U.S.A., on December 14th, 1951. Price 12s., postage and packing inclusive. Orders to Miss B. M. Harris, 40, Kenley Road, Merton Park, S.W.19. 1078

PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittance must be sent with peal report.

MEETINGS

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Glaston Deanery.—Meeting, Wookey, Saturday, July 19th. Bells 3. Service 4 p.m.—W. Marsh. 1039

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Quarterly meeting, Salford Priors, Saturday, July 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.- 9 p.m. Business 6 p.m. in church. Own tea arrangements (cafes in Bidford). Private bus leaves Pool Meadow, Coventry, 2.30, returns from Salford 8.30. Book seat with J. L Garner-Hayward, 8, Orchard Crescent, Coventry. Phone Coventry 64781 (office hours). — Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton. 1047

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS. — N.E. Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Calverleigh, Saturday, July 19th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—C. G. Dymond. 1042

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting, Castle Hedingham (6), July 19th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Sible Hedingham (8) available in the evening. Names for tea if possible to H. Pratt, 6, Council Houses, Black Notley, Braintree. 1000

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District), LADIES' GUILD (Southern District).—Joint meeting, Merrow, July 19th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. — Miss W. Oliver, A. H. Smith, Dis. Secs. 1023

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Brightling not available. Meeting, Salehurst (8), July 19th, 3 p.m.—G. Billenness. 1031

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Saturday, July 19th, Rushden 2.30. Sandon 3.45. Tea 5 p.m. Wallington 6 p.m. Special method, St. Nicholas.—E. Buck, District Sec. 1024

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting at Hoo (6) on Saturday, July 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. 1008

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Reading Branch.—Summer meeting, Goring, Saturday, July 19th. Bells (8) from 3 and after meeting. Service 4.30. Streatley bells (6) also available from 2.30 p.m. and in evening.—A. Diserens, Branch Sec. 1026

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Salisbury Branch.—Amesbury (8), July 19th. Service 3.30, followed by quarterly meeting and tea. Woodford (6) also available afterwards.—Miss Eloie. 1004

SALISBURY GUILD.—West Dorset Branch. — Meeting at Broadwindsor, Saturday, July 19th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. —C. H. Lathey. 1028

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Monthly meeting, Thorne, Saturday, July 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea only available; please bring own food.—L. M. Woodhead, Hon. Sec. 1059

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — North-Western District.—Meeting at Hawley, near Camberley, on Saturday, July 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Also invitation to all ringers of the Farnham District to join us. —R. Lathbury, Hon. District Sec. 1049

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION. —Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Buxted (8), Saturday, July 19th, 3 p.m.—Mr. E. Eade. 1038

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch—Meeting at Rock, Saturday, July 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. and tea. No business. Coach, Bell Hotel, Bell Street, Stourbridge, 2 p.m. Come and have a good time. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Lane, Stourbridge. 1050

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bredbury (near Stockport) Parish Church, Saturday, July 26th, at 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. All welcome. Cups of tea provided.—E. Walker, Hon. Sec. 1058

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Shipham. Saturday, July 26th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec. 1066

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Cary Branch.—Bruton (6), July 26th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to H. C. Lintern, Ditcheat. 1057

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Bridgwater Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Wembdon, July 26th, 3 p.m. Names for tea, please.—R. Short, Chilton Trinity. 1077

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—Meeting at Bromham (8), July 26th. Bells 3. Tea 5. Bring food; cup of tea available at Vicarage.—Michael Stephens. 1072

TO OLD AND NEW MEMBERS

The fortnight's grace has elapsed and we are holding back the copies of those subscribers who have not renewed their quarterly and half-yearly subscriptions with Mr. J. E. Jeater, 11, Frankswood Avenue, Petts Wood, Kent. It is with reluctance that we take this course to minimise losses.

We are pleased to register a number of new readers this half-year. More will be welcome. Will instructors please call the attention of belfry recruits to the series of beginners' articles which started with the present half-year.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting, St. Bridget's, West Kirby (8). July 26th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea provided for those who notify by 22nd.—A. J. Martin, 19, Falcon Road, Birkenhead. 1075

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Chester Branch. — Summer meeting, Dodleston, July 26th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea not later than July 23rd.—Griffiths, 38, Beeston View, Chester. 1080

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Ilkeston Joint meeting at St. Peter's, Belper, on Saturday, July 26th. Bells available 3 p.m. 1067

DEVON GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—St. James', Teignmouth, Saturday, July 26th. Usual arrangements.—A. L. Bennett, Cornerways, Buckfastleigh. 1061

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. Division.—Meeting at Matching (6) on Saturday, July 26th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea, please, by Wednesday, July 23rd, to G. Blake, District Sec., Teesta, Jack's Hatch, Epping Upland. 1025

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Monthly meeting at Coalpit Heath, Saturday, July 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.15 p.m. Names for tea by Monday, July 21st, to W. F. Scudamore, No. 6, Sandringham Avenue, Downsend, Bristol. 1063

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting, Arlingham (6) 3 p.m., July 26th. Number for tea, certain by July 22nd, to Larner, 37, Green Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester. 1076

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District.—Meeting at Chelsfield (6), Saturday, July 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 6d.) by Monday, July 21st, to A. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere. 1034

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Joint meeting with the Ladies' Guild, at Manchester Town Hall, July 26th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Cafes nearby. Entrance in Lloyd Street. All welcome.—R. Benson. 1069

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—General quarterly meeting at Bottesford on July 26th. Bells 2.45 to 4 and 6 to 8. Service 4. Tea and meeting 4.30 at Rutland Hotel for the first 50 names sent by July 19th to W. A. Wood, Fosseway, Croft, near Leicester. 1040

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby District. — Meeting, Burton-Stather (8), July 26th. Bells 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea 4.30. Names for tea by July 23rd to P. Barnes, Britannic, Tee Lane, Burton-Stather, Scunthorpe. 1048

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Alford, Saturday, July 26th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, Church Hall, 5 p.m. Names for tea, by Monday, July 21st, to Mr. I. Smith, 15, Commercial Road, Alford, Lincs. 1073

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Quarterly meeting Edenham. July 26th. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea, not later than Monday, 21st, please, to Mr. W. Holmes, The Retreat, Edenham, Bourne, Lincs. 1074

NORWICH ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Northripps, Saturday, July 26th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names or numbers to Rev. E. W. Blythe, The Rectory, Northrepps, Cromer, not later than Wednesday, July 23rd. No names, no tea (please note). Cromer bells available from 6.30 to 8 p.m.—H. Tooke, Branch Sec. 1065

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Fulmer, Saturday, July 26th, 3.30 p.m. Names for tea by July 21st.—Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough. 1060

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Little Houghton, July 26th. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. A. Henman, Lodge Road, Little Houghton, by July 24th.—E. Nobles, Hon. Branch Sec. 1070

(Continued on next page)

NOTICES—Continued

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Mildenhall District.—Meeting at Lakenheath, July 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—D. M. Reeve. 1055

SUFFOLK GUILD.—General meeting, Ipswich, July 26th. St. Mary-le-Tower bells from 2.30 p.m. For tea, write C. W. Pipe, Grundisburgh. 1071

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — Southern and North-Western Districts. — Joint meeting at Lingfield, July 26th. Bells (8) 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by July 23rd to J. W. Knight, 92, Coldshott, Oxted.—C. J. Champion, R. Lathbury, District Secs. 1045

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Practice meeting, Burwash, Saturday, July 26th. Tower open 2.30. Tea arranged for those who notify, by 24th, P. H. Rollison, 313, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne. 1057

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Dedication of Baughurst bells on Saturday, July 26th. Service 3 o'clock. Tea after service to those who notify, by Tuesday, July 22nd, Mr. F. West, Church Green, Baughurst, Basingstoke. 1062

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Southern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Little Comberton, Saturday, July 26th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business. Names for tea, by July 22nd, to W. J. Newman 7, New Road, Hampton, Evesham. 1068

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—By-meeting at East Peckham (6), August 2nd, at 3. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names for tea by July 30th to Mr. T. Saunders, East Peckham, Tonbridge. 1079

WITLEY, SURREY.—On July 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. F. Bowden 1, F. Bowden (cond.) 2, C. N. Pearson 3, H. Gauntlet 4, F. C. Hagley 5, F. Ranson 6, A. E. Brown 7, R. Cooper 8. Rung for the British Legion service.

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