THE RINGING WORLD

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THE LIVING PICTURE

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD

NOT too long ago there appeared in this journal a number of pen pictures of ringers of bygone days, written by men who had known and had been in personal contact with their subjects. In each short sketch the author sought not so much to outline the ringer's career as to create for us a living picture in which the man and his actions, his appearance, his sayings, his manner of ringing, should enable us to see him as he was. The sketches that appeared might have been the beginning of a fascinating series, and indeed it is not too late for some of our older comrades to put on record their personal recollections of men now gone from us.

It is not an easy task. Recollections that occur during a convivial hour and are easily spoken to an intimate circle of friends are not so easily written down with the conciseness and skill demanded by the pen portrait. Often, after great labour to create a picture, we find that we have succeeded only in producing an obituary notice or a bare chronicle of the man's performances.

It is remarkable, if not surprising, how little real knowledge we have of old-time ringers. Duckworth, Stedman, Monk, Annable, Scattergood, Holt and a host more notable people lived before the time when the camera could record, and no portrait of them seems to have survived to help us to picture them as they were. There hangs in Nottingham Castle a painting of William Doubleday Crofts, one of the most remarkable of the late 18th century ringers and composers. It shows a pleasant face, indeed a kindly one for a lawyer we may think, and this face looks out shrewdly and intelligently upon the beholder. But we know no more of Crofts, nor have we any vision at all of his contemporary John Martin, of Leicester, who seems by his writings to have had a very human and lively approach to ringing matters.

The doggerel verses of William Laughton, a most valuable survival, provide us with clues to Annable and his circle, and all the dissensions, disagreements, intrigues and schisms may here be traced, sometimes in their origins and almost invariably in their effects. Much of the character of each actor stands revealed, but much is missing. We may dress these folk in the costume of the period, walk them about London (or any other town) of the time, and still they are rather misty figures, a trifle unreal perhaps; and they have no faces.

John Day possibly came nearer than anyone has done to making his characters live, and even he does not always succeed. Thomas Thurstans, despite some considerable description, remains somewhat vague, whereas the quizzical Lates, with his spare figure, his inquiring forefinger, his rather dandified dress, and his ungainly attitude at the end of a rope, springs to life before us as we read. Cooper remains a dim figure, but the shifty Thomas Bingham is admirably etched in a few words, and Chattell we seem to know quite intimately. Some of the other contemporaries remain lay figures, but those whose description is supplemented by a photograph become in the reading real enough.

The photograph and (what is perhaps more important) the ringing journal have enabled us during the last sixty or seventy years to gain and retain a clearer picture of notable ringers. We know something of the physical appearance of Henry Johnson, Day, Perks and Snowdon, and of Pettit, Washbrook, Robinson and Carter; and the pictures of their scenes of activity have enabled us to fit them into their backgrounds.

There is still room, nevertheless, for the written word and the personal recollection. As we look at the picture of the worthy of the past we often feel that we should like to know what he said, what he thought, what he liked and disliked, and particularly what he was like in company away from the belfry. It is still in the power of many of our older ringers to record these things for all time, and we may not perhaps be counted too importunate in begging them to do so while there is yet opportunity.

FORTY YEARS AGO

From 'The Ringing World' of August 7th, 1914

LEICESTER RINGER'S WEDDING

On Saturday week a large number of ringers gathered at St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, to celebrate the wedding of Mr. Ernest Morris and Miss Edith Goodman. As the happy couple were leaving the church a touch of Grandsire Caters was rung on the grand old peal of ten. . . . A peal would have been attempted, but the go of the bells made this impossible. The following ringers took part:— Miss Martin, Messrs. A. J. Ballard, A. Ballard, H. Broughton, L. Allen, A. Martin, J. Morris, G. Cleal, S. Cotton, T. Taylor, F. H. Dexter, F. Shamforth, C. H. Fowler, C. Lock.

TWELVE BELL PEAL

LEICESTER.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., July 22, 1954, in 3 Hours and 48 Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,
A PEAL OF 5019 STEDMAN CINQUES
Tenor 25 cwt.

TERENCE A. THORNBER	*Treble*	S. ANTHONY JESSON	7
HAROLD J. POOLE	2	SHIRLEY BURTON	8
BRIAN MARTIN	3	*JOHN A. ACRES	9
MRS. H. J. POOLE	4	E. ALAN JACQUES	10
ERNEST W. RAWSON	5	WILLIAM J. ROOT	11
BRIAN G. WARWICK	6	HERRICK B. BOWLEY	*Tenor*

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal of Stedman Cinques on tower bells.
Rung with the bells half-muffled to the respected memory of John White, verger of St. Martin's Cathedral from 1918-1951.

TEN BELL PEALS

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 3 Hours and 14 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5079 STEDMAN CATERS
Tenor 26¼ cwt. in D.

HOWARD HOWELL	*Treble*	ARTHUR T. DUTTON	6
WILLIAM DAVIES	2	EDWARD V. RODENHURST	7
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER	3	EDGAR T. SMITH	8
FREDERICK G. HANDLEY	4	GEORGE W. HUGHES	9
ERNEST STITCH	5	MAURICE G. TURNER	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

GRUNDISBURGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Mon., July 26, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS
Tenor 8 cwt. 23 lb. in G.

*PATRICIA M. CLARKE	*Treble*	JAMES BENNETT	6
GEORGE W. PIPE	2	*JOHN W. BLYTHE	7
ROBERT E. LESTER	3	FRANK A. WILLIS-BETTS	8
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY	4	ERNEST V. BLAKE	9
GEORGE E. SYMONDS	5	CECIL W. PIPE	*Tenor*

Composed by GEORGE HOLIFIELD. Conducted by JAMES BENNETT.
* First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Grandsire Caters as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 17, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF 5056 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR
Comprising 1,440 each of Cambridge and Superlative, 1,408 of Bristol, and 768 of London, with 126 changes of method. Tenor 14¼ cwt.

CLIFFORD SKIDMORE	*Treble*	SIDNEY T. HOLT	5
JOHN THOMAS	2	THOMAS HEMMING	6
*MRS. J. THOMAS	3	REGINALD WOODYATT	7
*R. GEORGE MORRIS	4	THOMAS W. LEWIS	*Tenor*

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.
* First peal of Spliced Surprise. A birthday compliment to R. George Morris.

NORTON, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
On Mon., July 19, 1954, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Middleton's. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A flat.

C. W. WOOLLEY	*Treble*	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH	5
P. A. F. CHALK	2	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW	6
*R. J. W. HOUSDEN	3	R. BEAUMONT	7
†REV. A. C. BLYTH	4	C. M. P. JOHNSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.
* First peal of Cambridge Major. † First peal of Surprise Major. All the band are members of Selwyn College.

ANSTEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., July 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5184 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 10½ cwt.

JOHN A. ACRES	*Treble*	MRS. H. J. POOLE	5
*RALPH ELKINGTON	2	S. ANTHONY JESSON	6
MICHAEL D. STANIFORTH	3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON	7
†DAVID S. HARRIS	4	HAROLD J. POOLE	*Tenor*

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.
* First in the method away from treble. † First peal in the method.

CALDICOT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., July 23, 1954, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb. in F.

PATRICIA H. JONES	*Treble*	GLYN F. JENKINS	5
JACQUELINE S. EVANS	2	RONALD J. SHARPE	6
JOHN E. MORGAN	3	DAVID J. KING	7
DONALD G. CLARKE	4	JOHN J. SIMS	*Tenor*

Conducted by DAVID J. KING.
Arranged for Mr. Ronald J. Sharpe, of Maulden, Bedfordshire, on holiday in Chepstow, this being the 100th tower in which he has rung a peal.

ERITH, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., July 23, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 15 cwt. in G.

TREVOR A. CROSS	*Treble*	ERNEST J. GOWER	5
ARTHUR G. MASON	2	*DENNIS BERESFORD	6
RALPH BIRD	3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER	7
SELWYN H. DEARDEN	4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM	*Tenor*

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by FREDK. J. CULLUM.
* First peal in the method. 200th peal as conductor.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSO. AND HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 3 Hours and 8 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
James E. Groves' Variation of Parker's Twelve-part.
Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

JOSEPH L. STANIER	*Treble*	ROBERT EVANS	5
G. LEONARD HEWITT	2	B. LESLIE JONES	6
LEO EVANS	3	ALFRED S. BAYLEY	7
HARRY EDGE	4	*ALBERT E. LLOYD	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALFRED S. BAYLEY.
* First peal.
Rung on the eve of the centenary of Holy Trinity, and arranged as part of the centenary celebrations.

ECCLESTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 3 Hours and 19 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5056 SOUTHWELL SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 26 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.

PERCY SWINDLEY	*Treble*	BRIAN HARRIS	5
*ROBERT W. HINDE	2	DENNIS H. B. MILLWARD	6
JOHN W. GRIFFITHS	3	WILLIAM A. FARMER	7
F. HECTOR BENNETT	4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.
* First Surprise peal. First peal in the method for the Guild and by all the band.
Rung to mark the induction of the Rev. Arthur Minns as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Chester.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 3 Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET,
A PEAL OF 5088 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb.

JOHN F. BRYANT	*Treble*	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS	5
J. FREDERICK MILNER	2	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY	6
MILTON C. FOWLER	3	*VERNON BOTTOMLEY	7
HOWARD SCOTT	4	WILFRID F. MORETON	*Tenor*

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.
* First peal in the method.

PENSHURST, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 17¼ cwt. in E.

THOMAS E. SONE	*Treble*	†STEWART F. W. KIMBER	5
ROBERT COLLINS	2	JAMES W. KNIGHT	6
BARBARA A. MITCHELL	3	WALTER H. DOBBIE	7
*RALPH BIRD	4	ERNEST J. LADD	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.
* 250th peal. † First peal of Surprise. The conductor has now called a peal from each bell in this tower.

COMBE MARTIN, DEVON.
THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.
On Wed., July 28, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER-AD-VINCULA,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 10¼ cwt.

REGINALD T. JONES	*Treble*	DEREK JEWEL	5
*D. KENVYN WALTERS	2	TERRY R. HAMPTON	6
†PHILIP G. MORGAN	3	DAVID W. BEARD	7
ALBERT W. BEARD	4	FRED YEO	*Tenor*

Conducted by DAVID W. BEARD.
* First peal. † First peal of Triples.
Rung for Lammastide. Ringers of 2, 5 and tenor are members of the Sunday service band at this church.

SIX BELL PEALS

STANTON LACY, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sun., July 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Being one 240 of Morris' and 40 six-scores of Grandsire (10 callings).
Tenor 12 cwt. 12 lb.

*ALBERT BRADLEY	*Treble*	ALBERT E. JONES	4
ALFRED G. OWEN	2	†JOHN J. P. ELLAMS	5
RICHARD F. DAVIES	3	WILLIAM MAPP	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALBERT E. JONES.
* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' First peal of Grandsire Doubles on the bells since rehanging.
Rung in honour of the Induction of the Ven. H. H. M. Bevan, Archdeacon of Ludlow, as Vicar of Stanton Lacy, which took place on the previous Friday.

SELLINDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., July 21, 1954, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Comprising 2 extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and 3 extents of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 9 cwt.

*MAISIE VANTOM	*Treble*	GEOFFREY PEARSON	4
JOHN R. COOPER	2	ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD	5
*OLIVE M. BOULDEN	3	†MARK S. LANCEFIELD	*Tenor*

Conducted by MARK S. LANCEFIELD.
* First peal in three methods. † 250th peal.

CASTON, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being one extent each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and St. Clement's and four extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

RONALD E. BURT	*Treble*	CHARLES E. G. BANHAM	4
*WILLIAM M. MANN	2	FRANK C. J. ARNOLD	5
T. CHARLES BROWNE	3	CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO	*Tenor*

Conducted by CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO.
* First peal.

TARRING, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

REGINALD BLACK	*Treble*	BARRIE W. M. COWPER	4
DOROTHY SAUNDERS	2	HENRY WEAVER	5
JUNE CLEMENTS	3	RAYMOND P. WOOD	*Tenor*

Conducted by RAYMOND P. WOOD.
Rung as a golden wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Davey.

EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON.
THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.
On Mon., July 26, 1954, in 2 Hours and 27 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

MICHAEL J. BOARD	*Treble*	CYRIL SAVAGE	4
JOHN CARTER	2	FREDERICK WREFORD	5
SIDNEY J. SKINNER	3	JOHN QUICK	*Tenor*

Conducted by SIDNEY J. SKINNER.
First peal for all except 5th.
Rung as a farewell to Brian Pidgeon, branch hon. secretary, captain of the band, and a member for 21 years, who has moved to Talaton.

WHETSTONE, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., July 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 24 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven extents. Tenor 8¼ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON	*Treble*	GRAHAM BALL	4
ERNEST MORRIS	2	*JOHN A. SMITH	5
JOHN VERNON	3	C. ROGER HAYWARD	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. ROGER HAYWARD.
* First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor.
Rung as a birthday compliment to Ernest Morris. Also as a compliment to Mr. H. Vann on completing 23 years as organist at this church.

CRONDALL, HAMPSHIRE.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., July 28, 1954, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different extents. Tenor 18 cwt.

*DOUGAL MACPHEARSON	*Treble*	†EILEEN M. TURNER	4
*BRIAN HALE	2	JAMES F. DODSON	5
MYRTLE A. CASS	3	†E. JOHN WELLS	*Tenor*

Conducted by E. JOHN WELLS.
* First peal. † 25th peal together. First peal on the bells for 41 years.
Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. T. Page and Miss H. J. Flavell, which took place at Aldershot on July 24th.

HANDBELL PEALS

NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., July 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 31 Minutes,
AT 31, SPRING GARDENS,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Holt's Original.

BRIAN BUSWELL	1—2	FREDERICK G. HOOPER	5—6
CLEMENT GLENN	3—4	J. KENNETH WAGSTAFF	7—8

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

JULIANSTOWN, CO. MEATH, IRELAND.
THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., July 27, 1954, in 1 Hour and 54 Minutes,
AT MEADOW COTTAGE,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Tenor size 8 in C.

ROY W. HUBER	1—2	FREDERICK E. DUKES	3—4
*F. GEORGE BINGHAM	5—6		

Conducted by FREDERICK E. DUKES.
* First peal. First peal in the county. A birthday compliment to ringers of trebles and tenors.

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YORKSHIRE VISITED BY SUSSEX TOURISTS

THE first Sunday in July is here and we are off once again, this time Yorkshire. Leaving Crawley at 8 a.m. with the same coach that had taken us safely through five other tours, we travelled via Ealing, Hatfield to Tempsford for lunch, picking up friends en route at Marlborough House, Ilkley, our headquarters until Saturday. We were greeted by old friends, Mr. and Mrs. T. Roderick, of Porthcawl, and Mr. I. Slack, of Wakefield. It was early to bed after a 254 miles journey.

Monday.—Alan Hartley, of Thorner, joined the party. At Skipton we received a Yorkshire welcome from Mr. S. Scott and others. This well kept 11th century church, with its noted tomb of George III., has a fine octave. Stedman, Bob Major and Bristol were among the methods rung. Two veterans—Mr. E. Brown (verger) and Mr. I. Hodgson (tower secretary), who had been ringing at Giggleswick over 50 years—met us at this tower, where ringing is on the ground floor and the bells easy going. London was rung. An old Sussex ringer from Kirdford was met at lunch at the Hart's Head Hotel.

Ribblesdale, with its lovely scenery, was traversed to reach the industrial tower of Nelson, which was quiet, due to wakes week. The bells in its modern church are rather noisy (tenor 14 cwt.). Bob Major and Superlative were rung, with local ringers taking part. Todmorden, another modern church, given in Dove's book as being in Lancashire but really in Yorkshire, has a nice octave (tenor 23¼ cwt.). Here we were met by the Rev. H. W. Hodgson, Mr. Dove and Mr. R. Overy, of Sussex. It was a lighter coach that took us across the moors to Keighley, as Mr. Dove had taken seven to ring at Cross Stone. Mr. R. Bottomley joined us before ringing on the good octave (tenor 16 cwt.) at Keighley. Guiseley was the last tower for the day, a Norman church with its new bells by Gillett and Johnston, the stairs being very narrow and steep. We wondered if all would make it.

Tuesday found us with another young ringer, Margaret Barker. We reached St. Mary's, Beverley, before time, and we were able to inspect the 15th century panelled ceiling with its painted bosses of all the Kings and Queens of England, its latest being King George VI. We were greeted by the local ringers and the vice-president of the Minster ringers, who expressed his regret at our not being able to ring there owing to repairs. We all enjoyed ringing on this fine ten (tenor 34 cwt.) Stedman, Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Royal. A thunderstorm was encountered on the journey to Bridlington Priory. Local ringers and Mr. G. Tomsett, of Scunthorpe, made us welcome on this nice Taylor ring. Tea and away across the wolds to York and Ilkley, stopping to watch a cricket match as a change from ringing.

Wednesday.—Ripon Cathedral was the first tower of the day with its Saxon crypt and a long climb to the bells. Stedman and Cambridge Royal were rung. A short visit was paid to the ruins of Fountains Abbey, where the handbell ringers came into their own by ringing a course of Triples under the massive roofless tower. Bedale bells were rehung in 1936, and they sound well in the church. We were met by the Rector and local ringers, Yorkshire being one of the methods rung. On again to the Wensleydale town of Middleham, with its grim castle, to be welcomed by the Rev. John G. Handwich. The belfry is small, but the bells good, and we would have liked to stay longer, but tea awaited us, a real Yorkshire one too! At Ilkley Church in the evening the first thing we wanted to see was the Jasper Snowdon window, put in by the ringers of England in 1887. The bells are a good octave.

Thursday.—An invitation from the Vicar and churchwardens to ring at Calverley, it being the eighth centenary of the church, was accepted. Great interest was taken in the peal boards with a peal of 'Rose of England' and 'Prince Albert Major' on them. Regret was expressed that we could not stay. Collingham (tenor 7 cwt.) has a very small ringing chamber, which we had to enter in teams of eight. Ringing was enjoyed on this pretty little ring. After lunch came York Minster, permission having been given by the Dean and Chapter. We were met by Mr. Harold Walker, President of the Minster ringers; a tour round and up the long climb to the ringing room. Rounds on the twelve bells the first time for some, Stedman and Grandsire Caters on the back ten and Cambridge on the middle eight were well rung and much appreciated. Wetherby, the only tower after tea, was again a small tower, with a nice octave. Yorkshire and Double Norwich were rung.

Friday was the day for our longest ride, to Kendal (Westmorland) with its fine five-aisle church. We were welcomed by Mr. Beaumont, the verger, and other ringers. Bob Royal, Treble Bob and Cambridge Royal were rung. A climb through the mountains brought us to Crosthwaite Church, Cumberland, to be greeted by the Rev. Gordon D. Jackson, himself a ringer, and Mr. J. Browharris. Ringing here is on the ground floor, with a long draught. The bells by Mears were soon going to Grandsire, Little Bob, London and Superlative. The church, at the foot of the mighty Skiddaw, was founded in A.D. 553 by St. Kentigern, from whence it takes its name. There is a tradition that there has never been a shortage of ringers, which today is still maintained by the help of lady ringers. A small 14th century bell is to be seen. We overstayed our time, being loath to leave this lovely spot, but tea and a long run home over the mountains and through the valleys via Penrith had to be done.

Saturday. — Good-byes said and hopes expressed that we would come again, we left for Selby Abbey, a gem of a building founded in 1069. Ringing was much enjoyed on this fine ten, Stedman Caters, Bob Royal, Cambridge and Bristol being well rung. Lunch and away to the Minster of St. Peter, Howden, a lovely ring by Gillett and Johnston. The church is a fine example of architecture. Newark was reached for tea. Afterwards some of the local ringers led the way to Southwell Minster, as we could not have Newark bells. Looking up at the ringing gallery we wondered how we should do on this lovely old ring by Rudhall, 1771 (tenor 28¾ cwt.). The bells go the wrong way and ropesight is not easy. Wes were told we did very well. Mr. L. M. Woodhead, hon. secretary of Selby and District, paid us a visit on our return to the hotel, and a course on the handbells was rung for his benefit.

Sunday.—We left Newark early to enable us to reach Oakham, Rutland, in time to ring for morning service and to take some part in this service, a fitting ending, some thought, to a week of ringing. Lunch at Wellingborough and the last church was found, Irchester, Northants, where the Vicar had put forward the children's service to enable us to ring. We finished with a well struck course of Superlative. Goodbyes now had to be said to Mr. and Mrs. T. Roderick. We had travelled 1,236 miles, climbed 966 steps, rung 15,515 changes in 20 methods, from rounds to Surprise, rung in 23 towers in seven counties. Our thanks must go to the various incumbents and others for their kindness and help, which will long be remembered. F. E. W.

Before leaving Ilkley, Reg. Johnson, on behalf of the party, presented Miss Wyman with useful presents as a small token of our regards and thanks for arranging this glorious week. Few of us realise the months of preparation required, the hundreds of letters, the difficulties encountered in arranging the ringing and catering, the disappointments when old friends are unable to come, and it must be with feelings of thanks and satisfaction to Miss Wyman when we come to the end of such a tour. We have now been to Devon and Cornwall, North Wales, the Wye Valley, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Here's to our next.

L. S.

HOLIDAY PEAL AT COMBE MARTIN

Advantage was taken of several ringers visiting the neighbourhood to ring a peal at Combe Martin on July 28th, the only tower in North Devon where change ringing is regularly practised.

After a short prayer in the belfry, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. F. E. Lovell, a good peal was rung. The band consisted of two from Ross-on-Wye, two from Barking, one from Birmingham and three from the local tower, one of whom, D. Kenvyn Walters, rang his first peal at his first attempt.

The visitors express their thanks to Miss B. M. Boyle, the local secretary, for making the arrangements at very short notice, the Rector for giving permission to ring, and also to Mr. L. Walters, the local ringing master, for so readily standing down when nine turned up for the peal.

Thank you, Combe Martin. Yours indeed was a real Devonshire welcome! D. W. B.

QUARTER PEALS

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On July 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Hazel Stevenson (first quarter) 1, Diana Gough (first in the method 'inside') 2, M. Stephenson (first of Grandsire Doubles) 3, S. W. Brown 4, H. W. Brown (cond.) 5, Valerie Mepham 6. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. H. W. Haynes, assistant at this church, on the eve of his 88th birthday.

BARROWBY, LINCS. — On July 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Hunt (first quarter) 1, W. R. Read (first quarter) 2, F. W. Pinchbeck 3, T. W. Charity 4, H. R. Woods (cond.) 5, B. Buttery (first quarter) 6.

BRIDGEND, GLAM. — On June 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. I. Lewis 1, W. T. Petty 2, A. Hannington 3, B. J. Williams 4, A. J. Pitman (cond.) 5, E. Stitch 6, T. M. Roderick 7, R. E. Coles 8.

CHELTENHAM, GLOS. — At St. Mary's Church on July 22nd, 1,231 Stedman Caters: G. Kilmister 1, J. S. Hawkins 2, F. Nurden 3, C. Martin 4, W. Dyer 5, W. Gorringe 6, Ivor Goulter 7, T. Boreham 8, E. T. Newbury 9, W. Newman 10. Rung in honour of the 75th birthday of Mr. J. S. Hawkins.

DEPTFORD, KENT. — At St. John's on July 19th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: R. Boyce 1, J. Dafters 2, E. Jones 3, F. W. Richardson 4, F. J. Hurrell 5, A. R. Ling 6, J. E. Warner 7, G. H. Daynes (cond.) 8. Rung for the 99th anniversary of the consecration of the church, the touch being specially composed by the conductor.

FELPHAM, SUSSEX. — On May 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Peskett 1, Hazel Lonnen 2, Gwen Martin 3, W. Bristow (first 'inside') 4, H. Peskett (cond.) 5, Peggy Ayling 6. First quarter 2, 3 and 6. Rung to welcome the Queen.—Also on June 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Sheila Clark 1, T. Brown (first 'inside') 2, Betty Bristow (first quarter) 3, Hazel Lonnen 4, H. Peskett (cond.) 5, Peggy Ayling 6. For Confirmation service.—Also on July 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Sheila Clark 1, Hazel Lonnen 2, Peggy Ayling 3, W. Bristow 4, H. Peskett (cond.) 5, J. Peskett 6. Rung for evening service and as a farewell to the ringer of the third.

GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTS. — On July 18th, 1,272 Norwich Surprise Minor: P. Croft 1, K. Timbury 2, G. Cherry 3, W. Todd 4, W. Croft 5, F. Croft (cond.) 6. First in method by 2 and 4.

HARBURY, WARWICKS.—On June 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. L. P. Aldhause 1, A. R. Barrett 2, A. J. Barrett 3, G. Smith 4, H. M. Windsor (cond.) 5.

HEDDINGTON, WILTS. — On July 24th, 1,260 Stedman Doubles: Miss R. Maundrell 1, Miss B. Hacker 2, J. Parsons 3, W. Hacker (cond.) 4, T. Davidson 5, H. White 6. First of Stedman Doubles for all the band except the fifth. First in method on the bells. Rung for the wedding of Miss M. Johnson, a local ringer.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK. — On July 22nd, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: A. Sercombe 1, Miss S. Barker 2, R. Lofty 3, M. Day 4, J. Moore (first quarter as cond.) 5, A. Sutherland 6.

HIGHWORTH, WILTS. — On July 17th, 2,520 Grandsire Triples: J. T. Sawyer 1, W. H. Trueman 2, W. W. T. Daniell 3, A. R. Peake 4, F. G. Wilton 5, V. Griffin 6, W. B. Kynaston (cond.) 7, S. H. Chivers 8. Longest length for 1 and 8.

HITCHIN, HERTS. — On July 18th, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor, on the back six: A. Tuttle (14) 1, C. V. Hare (76) 2, L. Fidler 3, E. Winters 4, M. Orme 5, D. Jones (cond.) 6.—Also on July 25th, 1,440 Wells Surprise Minor, on the back six: W. Todd 1, P. Croft 2, M. Orme (first in method) 3, E. Winters 4, D. Jones 5, F. Croft (cond.) 6.—Also on July 25th, 1,440 Bourne and Netherseale Surprise Minor, with tenor covering: P. Croft 1, E. Winters 3, K. Timbury (first in these methods) 4, M. Orme 5, D. Jones 6, F. Croft (cond.) 7, W. Todd 8.

LONDON.—At the Church of St. John, Waterloo, S.E., on July 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. H. J. Mudd 1, T. H. Taffender 2, Miss S. Barringer 3, D. Hollis 4, N. G. Hollingworth (cond.) 5, F. P. Mead 6, W. D. Grainger 7, T. F. Victor Neil 8.

ROCHDALE, LANCS. — At All Saints', Hamer, on July 19th, 1,440 Minor (720 St. Clement's, 720 Childwall): Margaret A. Buckley 1, K. Abbott 2, Alwyn Taylor 3, P. J. H. Hudson 4, Ian W. Taylor (first as cond.) 5, J. Taylor 6. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Ian W. Taylor.

SKILGATE, SOMERSET. — On July 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Barbara J. Stevens 1, Pamela M. Stevens 2, C. J. Stevens (cond.) 3, A. G. Cooke 4, D. M. Bellamy 5.

WALMER, KENT. — On July 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Monica Hawkins 1, Mrs. F. W. Lawrence (cond.) 2, Miss Frances Woodcock 3, Miss Ann Vine 4, A. H. Hale 5, J. Penfold 6, F. A. Rye 7, A. C. Rye 8. Rung for evensong.

WEST TARRING, SUSSEX. — On July 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss P. W. Cragg 1, D. A. Smith 2, R. D. Worsfold 3, Miss D. K. Saunders 4, C. A. J. Chappell (cond.) 5, R. W. Black 6.

WINDSOR, BERKS. — At the Parish Church, on July 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. M. Buckingham (first quarter) 1, A. Wratten 2, W. W. Wolstencroft 3, K. Buckingham 4, C. Wratten 5, B. Taylor (cond.) 6, A. J. Glass 7, J. Painter 8.

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JULY 17th WILL BE REMEMBERED BY THOSE ON OUTINGS

BRISTOL RINGERS GO TO BERKSHIRE

On July 17th the St. Ambrose Guild of Ringers and friends had their annual outing, and despite the rather indifferent weather, a very happy and successful tour was enjoyed by all. Promptly at 7.40 a.m. the coach left St. Ambrose's Church and by the time it got under way, it was loaded to capacity with 41 ringers and friends.

The first stop was the Cotswold town of Burford, where morning coffee was served, after which ringing was enjoyed on the very nice eight. Before ringing at St. Mary's, Banbury, we visited Mr. C. Jarvis, at Home Farm, Balscote, and enjoyed the unique experience on his ring of six, which were very tricky. Having gone somewhat out of our way to find Home Farm, it curtailed the time allotted here, and we had to hurry back to Banbury, where a double wedding was in progress, after which some good ringing was enjoyed on this lively ten.

Lunch was partaken of at Banbury, after which a move was made to Abingdon, via Oxford. The party was met at Abingdon by Mr. A. E. Lock and ringing was enjoyed before tea on the handy six at St. Nicholas', and, after tea, at St. Helen's, where Grandsire and Stedman Caters and a course of Bob Royal were rung. The clerk of the weather was not on his best behaviour whilst we were at Abingdon, and the rain stopped some of the party enjoying a trip on the river.

A start was made on the homeward way at 7 p.m., having arranged to stop at Blunsdon for a ring on the light six, where the Vicar of St. Ambrose's (Rev. H. M. W. Hocking), who has recently come to Bristol from Madron, Cornwall, showed his ringers that he could ring in the good old Cornish style. Supper was held at the Coldharbour Inn, when we had the pleasure of the company of Mr. and Mrs. Trueman. The usual votes of thanks were made and the secretary thanked for the excellent arrangements. The final move was made for home at 10 p.m., Bristol being reached at about 11.30 p.m. F. S.

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT OUTING

Appropriately, the first stop of the Maidstone and District's 275 miles tour of Sussex on July 17th was East Grinstead, dedicated to St. Swithin!

At Slaugham the special method for the day —Trinity Court Bob Major — was attempted, but not brought round successfully until Arundel was reached. After a sandwich lunch, Littlehampton was visited. Hopes of a bathe were dispelled by the rain and diversity was found at the fun fair.

At Arundel a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by the ladies who are soon to be members of the new Kent branch of the Ladies' Guild. Bristol was also rung.

After tea at the White Hart Hotel, Dr. Hatcher thanked Mr. Reg Sills for organising the tour and welcomed visitors from the Tonbridge District. They were fortunate in having as driver Mr. Fred Huckstepp, a prominent ringer from the Ashford District.

Washington, the only six bell tower, was visited, where Grandsire Doubles and Single Oxford, Double Court, St. Clement's and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung. The last tower was Fairwarp, where the special method was again rung; also Double Norwich and Yorkshire Surprise.

Sandwiches and drinks were enjoyed at the local inn before the homeward journey, during which hymns were sung from the back seat, closing with 'Unchanging God.'

ST. ALBANS ABBEY

The Abbey ringers, with their wives and friends, had a very enjoyable day in and beyond the Cotswolds on July 10th. The fine 12 at Painswick were visited in the morning, where Stedman Cinques was rung to everyone's satisfaction. After ringing and lunch in Cheltenham, the glorious Norman Abbey of Tewkesbury was visited. Tea was in Evesham, followed by ringing on the magnificent modern 12 in the bell tower.

During part of the day the party had the pleasure of the company of their old friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas.

G. D.

NEWTON ST. CYRES

The Newton St. Cyres' ringers held their annual outing on June 26th. The first tower was Bridestowe, the next Lifton, where a new Church Hall was to be dedicated the same day. Then they went on to North Petherwin, where everyone was delighted to find such a beautiful church and as fine a ring of six as one could wish. St. Mary Magdalene's, Launceston, was visited next, then on to Stoke Climsland. The last tower, after coming through Gunnislake and some very fine scenery, was Emmanuel, Plymouth, where, after tea, some of the best ringing of the day was enjoyed.

The party were delighted with the way the eight learners acquitted themselves, especially their striking in Grandsire Triples on strange bells.

ST. MARY'S, EASTBOURNE

Spirits were undampened, despite the fact that July 17th was the wettest day of the year, when St. Mary's, Eastbourne, had their annual outing The day's ringing started at Rolvenden, and the excellent eight at Folkestone worked up a good appetite for lunch.

The ten at Leeds provided a new experience for some of the younger ringers. The rain abated here and the non-ringers took the opportunity of walking across the fields to see the old moated castle.

Tea was arranged at Maidstone. The bells of Linton were the last to be rung, but the ringers were still not satisfied that their arts had been completed, so a little country pub was found where refreshments were enjoyed to the ringing of handbells. Later a coachload of happy people arrived back in Eastbourne — certainly not under the weather.

RADYR, GLAMORGAN

In spite of the wretched weather conditions a wonderful day of ringing and good fellowship was enjoyed by ringers of Christ Church, Radyr, for their second annual outing on July 17th.

Mustering at the Pier Head, Cardiff, the party of 35 embarked on the pleasure steamer 'Britannia' for Weston-super-Mare, which was reached at 10 a.m. A hot lunch at the Victoria Hotel was most acceptable. From 2-3 p.m. some excellent ringing was enjoyed at St. John's Church, where local ringers made the visitors welcome.

A specially chartered coach took the party to Banwell, where 'the freedom of the tower' was granted the party for one hour. The next move was to the Valley Hotel, Cheddar for an excellent high tea and then to the church. With the assistance of local ringers some 'very classical' ringing was enjoyed. All too soon came 7.15 and the return journey home.

Mr. Trevor Dewis, the Radyr captain, was in charge of the day's ringing, and welcome guests included Messrs. W. Heath and F. Hannington (St. John's, Cardiff), F. Rowsell (Llantrisant) and H. Cassell (Llanbradach).

ST. MARGARET'S, RAINHAM

Accompanied by ringing friends from Sittingbourne, Borden, Bobbing, Upchurch and Chatham, St. Margaret's, Rainham, held their annual outing on July 17th, starting in a downpour of rain.

St. Mary's, Westerham, and Bletchingley, where they were met by Mr. Wren, was the morning's programme. Lunch was provided at the Locomotive Hotel, Redhill, and about 3 p.m. the party was ringing at Epsom. Ringing at Kingston was postponed until after tea on account of the local market. Here rounds were rung upon this well-known ten by the younger members, and also Stedman and Grandsire Caters. Thanks are due to local members who greeted the visitors.

Owing to West Wickham bells being out of action through woodworm in the timber of the belfry, the last ring of the day was at St. Mary's, Hayes, a nice six except for the noise, which beats down into the tower. The thanks of the visitors are due to Mr. A. S. Richards for obtaining these bells. After a short break for refreshments on the homeward journey, Rainham was reached at 10.30 p.m. Despite the weather, the day proved to be very enjoyable.

BEVERLEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY

AT the invitation of the Rev. G. Storer, R.D., the Society held its eighth annual meeting at Hutton Cranswick on July 10th. It was also the fourth anniversary of the dedication of the bells hung in the tower of St. Peter's Church, Hutton Cranswick, in 1950. The bells, a fine ring of six (tenor 18½ cwt.), were raised at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, and standard methods were rung including Plain Bob, Kent, Cambridge and Stedman.

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Storer, who, in his address, said it had been noticed that fewer members now attended the monthly meetings, and this might perhaps be a symptom of weariness, of caution, of fatigue creeping over the Society. Members should neither forget to be zealous nor join in the popular attitude of reducing obligations and duties to a minimum, or the craving for change. The cure for drift was to take the offensive.

The president, Mr. A. E. Sellers, presided at the annual meeting which followed tea. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. A. E. Sellers; vice-president, Mr. G. Braithwaite; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Rodmell; Assistant Ringing Master, Mr. C. Barker; general committee, Messrs. A. Taylor, F. Wilkinson, H. Parker and F. W. Dale and Miss P. Duffill; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. T. Southwick. Mr. F. W. Dale did not seek re-election as vice-president and a resolution of thanks for his past services was passed.

Mr. F. Talbot was elected a member of the Society. It was decided to hold the September meeting at Patrington.

A resolution proposed by Mr. G. Braithwaite that all members of the general committee were expected to attend at least 33 per cent. of the monthly meetings was not carried.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. G. Storer, the organist and local ringers was proposed by Mr. C. R. Robinson and seconded by Mr. F. W. Dale.

Further ringing at the church concluded the meeting.

BERKSWELL, WARWICKS.—On May 30th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss M. M. Middlemiss 1, Miss D. M. Palmer (first quarter 'inside') 2, A. R. Barrett 3, H. M. Windsor 4, G. Smith 5, D. Harrison (cond.) 6. Rung for the Empire youth service.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS. — On July 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. Moore 1, E. Barrs 2, M. Jamieson 3, K. Moore 4, F. G. Edmans (cond.) 5, Canon C. E. Last 6. First quarter for 1 and 6. Rung for the festival of St. James by the Sunday service ringers.

BLYTHBURGH, SUFFOLK.—On July 25th, 1,260 Minor (720 Double Court and 540 Plain Bob): Miss W. Mellin 1, Miss M. Thompson 2, J. Pilgrim 3, W. H. Mellin 4, J. W. Blythe (cond.) 5, N. R. Bailey 6.

CHELSFIELD, KENT.—On July 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Jennifer Gipps (first quarter) 1, Bridget Cox 2, J. Pannell 3, V. Webster 4, J. Parker (cond.) 5, A. Smith 6. Rung in honour of the wedding of Miss A. Pannell and Mr. J. C. Carpenter. They have both given devoted service to the tower. Mr. Carpenter was captain for three years and trained all the ringers except the treble. The band wish them every happiness in their future.

CHEPSTOW, MON.—On July 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss P. H. Jones 1, Miss G. S. Evans (cond.) 2, J. E. Morgan 3, R. J. Sharp 4, J. J. Sims 5, M. K. King 6, D. J. King 7, C. G. Bryant 8. Rung for evensong.

ELTHAM, KENT. — On July 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (first and last Holt's Original): G. Hurrell 1, J. Hurrell 2, G. Daynes 3, F. Hurrell 4, F. Richardson (cond.) 5, G. Kenward 6, E. B. Crowder 7, W. Daynes 8. Rung for evensong.

QUARTER PEALS

GORING, OXON.—On July 17th, 1,280 London Surprise Major: J. Napper 1, R. F. Diserens 2, Audrey B. Diserens 3, Mrs. P. Lewington 4, C. E. Lewington 5, F. W. Lewis 6, R. W. Rex 7, N. J. Diserens (cond.) 8. First in method for 4 and 5.

GRIMSBY, LINCS. — On July 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Drury 1, W. Mumby 2, F. Kennington (first 'inside') 3, F. G. Bloomfield (cond.) 4, G. I. Rusby 5, J. B. Budd 6, A. Pashley 7, H. Hadwick 8. Rung for evensong. — Also on July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Drury 1, W. Mumby 2, F. Kennington 3, G. I. Rusby 4, F. G. Bloomfield (cond.) 5, J. B. Budd 6, A. Pashley 7, H. Hadwick 8. Rung for St. James' Day and also as a birthday compliment to Mr. H. Hadwick.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.—On July 16th, at S. Nicolas' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Ann Trenchard (first quarter) 1, Marigold Rule (first quarter of Doubles) 2, F. Wilton 3, Ann M. Cox 4, Eileen M. Turner 5, E. J. Wells (cond.) 6.

HEADINGTON, OXFORD.—On July 11th, 1,260 Doubles (120 Reverse St. Bartholomew, 180 April Day, 240 each of Plain Bob, Old Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Grandsire, the method being changed at each extent): V. Ridgwell 1, Robin Trebilcock 2, J. Hadfield 3, Tony Otter 4, T. Smith (cond.) 5, R. Brown 6. First in six methods for all. A compliment to the daughter of the Vicar and Mrs. G. E. Day on her marriage on July 10th to Mr. David Arthur Llewellyn Brown.

HAWKLEY, HANTS.—On July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. W. Pound 1, Mrs. A. Pearson 2, Mrs. F. Bowden 3, Miss M. Goode 4, C. N. Pearson 5, H. Gauntlett 6, F. Bowden (cond.) 7, J. Clark 8.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS. — On July 18th, 1,320 Plain Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, F. Warrington (cond.) 2, H. W. Pratt 3, C. Young 4, F. R. Nicholls 5, G. L. Perkins 6. For the dedication service.

ITCHINGFIELD, SUSSEX.—On July 18th, 1,260 Doubles (240 Reverse St. Bartholomew, 360 All Saints', 240 Plain Bob and 420 Grandsire): Miss J. Burroughs 1, Miss S. A. Richardson 2, Miss J. M. Phillips 3, G. Francis (cond.) 4, W. L. Weller 5.

MELTHAM, YORKS.—On July 26th, 1,320 Oxford Treble Bob: F. Webster 1, D. Earnshaw 2, M. Greenwood 3, J. Greenwood 4, C. Byram 5, E. Earnshaw (cond.) 6. Rung for the 21st birthday of Shiela and Eileen Dawson, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Dawson (Vicar's warden).

RUSHALL, STAFFS.—On July 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss R. Smith 1, Miss S. Hughes 2, Miss S. Thomas (first quarter as conductor) 3, A. Botterill 4, G. W. Hughes 5, W. R. Hughes 6. Rung to welcome the Bishop of Lichfield on his visit for the centenary of the church.

SOUTHWARK, S.E.—At the Church of St. George the Martyr on July 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. L. Blewer 1, T. H. Taffender 2, Miss S. Barringer 3, W. D. Grainger 4, R. H. Begrie (cond.) 5, E. T. Beauchamp 6, L. W. Bullock 7, T. F. Victor Neil 8.

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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LATE NEWS

We regret to report the death on July 26th of Mr. John W. Best, of Chester, aged 46 years.

BELFRY GOSSIP

Forty-seven members from 12 universities are attending the Universities' Association ringing week at Hereford from August 13th to August 21st. The programme includes visits to 38 towers and eight peal attempts. Headquarters are at the Hereford Training College. Mr. W. F. Moreton is the organiser.

We regret to hear that Mr. C. A. Purnell, the popular secretary of the Radyr (Glam.) tower, is in hospital, his admission taking place a few days before the tower's outing. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The hon. secretary of the Central Council acknowledges with grateful thanks a donation of £10 given by a lady in memory of her late husband. This has been placed to 'The Ringing World' account.

Canon C. E. Last has joined the list of clerical ringers by ringing a quarter peal in his own tower at Bletchley. He is the first rector of this parish to ring a quarter peal before service with his own ringers in this tower.

We note that there are handbell enthusiasts at Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorks, who rang 1,560 Plain Bob Doubles. They were Miss D. Margaret Hawley, E. M. Bradley and A. Sheppard (conductor). We hope they will soon be reporting a peal 'in hand.'

In connection with the peal at Tarring, Sussex, it is interesting to note that these bells were recast and made into a ring of six 100 years ago and have not been touched by the bellhangers since that date. According to old records, they were originally a ring of five and a sanctus bell inscribed 'Sancta Haterma Ora Pro Nobis.' This bell was sold to a gentleman in Wales for a Roman Catholic chapel. The other five were melted down in the Whitechapel Foundry and the present ring of six turned out.

July 22nd was a red-letter day at Fletton, where the bells were augmented from four to five in 1952. A new band was formed and was taught to handle a bell and ropesight by Mr. R. Pattrick. This band, with the assistance of Mr. J. W. Haw, rang its first quarter on July 22nd. From Plain Bob the ringers are now proceeding to Grandsire for their Tuesday practices.

Mrs. C. W. Lawton, of Sutton Lane Ends, near Macclesfield, has been appointed 'Ringing World' representative for the Macclesfield and Congleton Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, and Mr. A. S. Richards, of 6, Links Road, West Wickham, for the Lewisham District, K.C.A.

The rehanging of the tenor bell at Buckley, Chester, has created renewed interest in the bells. People have asked to see them and ringing in progress. The local Toc H paid a visit to the belfry and were afterwards given a short lecture at their headquarters by Mr. Dennis H. B. Millward.

Aldrington (Sussex) ringers wish to express their appreciation of the loyalty and progress shown by 16-year-old Valerie Mepham, who is shortly to leave the district to take up a farming career. Valerie has rung a peal, 29 Sunday service quarter peals (conducted one), 'circled the tower' three times for quarters and is regular twice every Sunday and on practice nights.

Friends of Mr. A. L. Barry, Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, will be sorry to hear that he has been ill for the last five weeks and has now been admitted to the Gloucester Royal Hospital to undergo an operation. Newly elected to the Central Council, it was a bitter disappointment to him that he could not attend the meeting at Newcastle. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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PEAL RINGING IN CHESHIRE

By the Rev. K. W. H. FELSTEAD

CHESHIRE will probably be one of the most interesting counties to write about from the peal ringing point of view. Not only are some of the most accomplished of present-day ringers living there now, but this has been the case for over 100 years. Before the period these articles are primarily concerned with (1881 onwards), Cheshire was a centre of flourishing change ringing, and one or two towers in particular enjoyed greater popularity than they have done in the past 70 years—Hyde and Mottram-in-Longdendale come especially to mind. Not only in numbers of peals, but also in new and difficult methods and record lengths has this county been to the forefront of the Exercise, so that it will be difficult to find space to say all that should be said. Local readers must not mind if anything is left out which they consider ought to be put in.

The activity in peal ringing is reflected by the fact that Cheshire is among the counties which have the least number of towers still to 'conquer' with a peal. Only eight out of the 109 churches with bells have not had a peal rung at them. In proportion to numbers, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Surrey and Sussex alone can beat this. It is, then, rather surprising to find that there are a ring of 10 and two rings of 8 in this list. Usually the 6 and 5-bell towers are the last to be visited for a peal. As far as I can discover, the 10 bells of Dunham Massey are the only 10 in the country never to have been rung to a peal.* St. Andrew's, Norwich, has not had a peal for over 100 years, but there were a few (including the first ever of London Surprise Major) from 1823 to 1843. The two 8-bell towers are Bredbury and Winsford. There must be something unusual at these places for them to have been left out. The remaining five un-pealed rings consist of two with 6 bells—both in Chester (St. Michael and St. Peter), and three with 5 bells—Little Budworth, Heswall and Overchurch (or Upton).

There is a clear indication that there is greater activity at churches with the higher number of bells at the moment and that peals at the 6-bell towers are declining. Even Coronation year did not seem to have much effect on the latter, for many of them show several peals after the war up to 1951 or 1952, but none since. Examples are Aldford, Backford, Bosley, Eastham, Knutsford, Marbury, Marple, Rostherne, Wallasey St. Nicholas and Wrenbury. But more about the 6-bell towers later. As far as the higher numbers go, more peals are being rung at them, on the whole, than at any other period. Thus at the only 12-bell tower in the county, Macclesfield St. Michael, 17 peals out of its total of 47 have been rung since the war. Before that, 21 peals were rung there between 1886 and 1913 and nine between 1924 and 1938. Three of the five active 10-bell churches tell a similar story. Chester Cathedral has heard 18 peals since 1945. Its total is 49—15 between 1882 and 1914 and 16 from 1924 to 1939 (the bells were augmented in 1937). Crewe has the largest number of peals among the 10-bell towers—71. Eighteen are since the war. There was an active period here between 1919 and 1932, when 27 peals were scored. Macclesfield Christ Church is the most active of all, however. Its total now is 51, but only 14 of these had been rung prior to 1945. Of course, it was an 8-bell tower then, and had a very short period in the limelight between 1929 and 1933, when 13 of these peals were rung. The only previous one was in 1912. We have not heard much about the remaining two 10-bell towers, both at Stockport. Thirty-eight peals have been rung at St. George's since 1896 (only three since the war). St. Mary's first peal was in 1883, its last in 1938, and there are 27 in all.

FOUR OUTSTANDING EIGHT BELL TOWERS

When we come to the 8-bell towers, we find four are outstanding in this period. One of these has passed the 200 mark—Norbury (Hazel Grove) with 210. At one time this was one of the most famous 6-bell towers in the country and a pioneer of Spliced Minor ringing. Forty-three peals had been rung on the six bells before they were augmented in 1925, and the height of achievement was reached in 1923, when a peal in 35 methods was rung. It still retained its popularity after 1925, and a further 95 peals were rung before the Second World War. These included the first peal of Clarendon Surprise and peals of Spliced Surprise Major. After the war, the number of peals here has been greater than ever—72 in the ten years, and there has been a corresponding achievement in the heights reached, for they include peals in many different Surprise methods and one of Spliced Surprise in 16 methods. Much more could be said of this famous tower. Frodsham is not far behind in numbers—183 have been rung there. Actually, more peals have been rung here since the war than at Hazel Grove—81. Although the first peal here is prior to that at Hazel Grove (1896 as compared with 1900), it did not come into prominence until 1919, but then 70 peals were rung in the next ten years. Interest must have waned somewhat in the 30's, for only 20 were rung in that period. A large variety of Surprise methods have been rung here, too.

Then comes Pulford. This was also a 6-bell tower 70 years ago and was quite popular as such, for 15 of its 173 peals were rung between 1887 and 1902. It increased in popularity with its eight bells, and 39 peals were scored between 1903 and 1913. Seventy-four were rung between 1919 and 1939 and there have been 45 since the war. The fourth tower is Chester, St. Mary-within-the-Walls, where 163 peals have been rung. Twenty-three have come since the war, but the main achievements here were in the periods 1901-14 and 1919-29, when 106 of the peals were rung, including the first of Double Grandsire, Double Oxford Bob and St. Clement's Bob before 1914 and Belgrave Surprise in 1926. The only two other towers to have recorded more than 100 peals in the 70 years are the two mentioned above, where ringing has been popular for more than 100 years—Hyde and Mottram. Hyde has 112 and Mottram 107. As is to be expected, both record more peals at the beginning of the period than later on, although the former has 15 and the latter nine since the war. Thus 50 of Mottram's total were rung in the 1880's and only 12 in the 20 years from 1919 to 1939. Hyde had 51 between 1882 and 1897, 17 from 1905 to 1911 and 28 from 1920 to 1936. They both show gaps of several years like this when no peals were rung.

LONG LENGTHS

Mottram can also claim fame for long lengths of Kent Treble Bob Major; 16,608 were rung in 1883 and 16,800 in 1906. Actually, in 1922, 18,240 were rung, but the composition was found to be false, unfortunately. The record for this method rests with another Cheshire tower—Over, with 17,280 in 1923. Although there have only been 34 peals rung at this church (half since the war), Over will always remain famous for being the venue of the longest peal ever rung in any method—21,600 Bristol Surprise Major, in November, 1950, an achievement which is unlikely to be surpassed for a very long time, if ever. Apart from the two peal-less towers, only three other 8-bell churches have not had a peal at them since the war. They are Gawsworth, West Kirby and Neston. Many of the others are having peals rung at them to a greater extent than at any time in their history. No tower not already mentioned is, however, nearing a milestone.

Finally, a few words about the 6-bell towers. As I have already stated, interest in these appears to be slackening off at the moment, with a corresponding increase in activity on the higher numbers. However, five are worthy of note, having a good number of peals for 6-bell towers. The highest is Wistaston with 77. This has done consistently well since the first peal there in 1921, and has averaged three peals each ringing year since (the last was in 1952, however, and supports the remarks made above). Disley comes next with 64. Its history starts in 1901, and there have been lean periods, but 26 peals were rung between 1930 and 1939, and there have been 22 since the war, but it is over a year (as I write) since the last one was rung. Sutton is third on the list with 55. The first peal here was rung in 1903, but it did not really 'get going' until 1929, for only two more were rung in the meantime. In the next ten years, however, 28 peals were rung and a further 21 since 1943, including one this year. Stretton has reached 51. First peal 1896, then a gap until 1922, when 24 peals were rung in the next five years. Nineteen have been rung since 1945. Lastly, Davenham, where the next peal will be the 50th. This tower, too, had its first peal in 1896, with a gap from 1899 to 1925. Since the war it has been very popular, and 30 peals have been rung—the best years being 1949 and 1950.

May Cheshire long continue to give such an excellent lead to the Exercise!

* Since writing this, I have discovered that a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung here on February 20th, 1874.

AUGUST BROADCASTS

The following broadcasts will take place during August:—

August 8th.—London Region, 9.30. Frant.

August 15th.—West Region, 9.30. St. Austell.

August 15th.—West Region, 7.45. Buckfast Abbey.

August 22nd.—West Region, 7.45. Totnes.

August 29th.—West Region, 7.45. Abbotsbury.

August 29th.—London Region. 7.45. Huntingfield.

Another Ringing School

St. Lawrence School, Ramsgate, must be added to the list of ringing schools. We have received a picture of a cheerful group of seven youngsters with their instructors, Mr. S. W. Edwards, head gardener at the College, and Mr. J. H. G. W. Green.

The Vicar of St. Lawrence kindly allows the scholars the use of the bells at the Parish Church, and on most Sunday mornings during the last two terms the boys have rung the bells for morning service to rounds and call changes. The class is now learning change ringing.

We are looking forward to publishing the first quarter from the school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MANAGEMENT OF 'THE RINGING WORLD'

Dear Sir,—Happily there is growing assurance that ringers are concerned for 'The Ringing World,' the idea of local representatives finding encouraging support. It is in this spirit that I venture some remarks setting out from the topical issue of the Editor's postbag.

We write to the Editor for many reasons, often wishing our names to be associated with what is said. If it should go with a reputation for originality and enterprise, the appendage of a signature may perhaps better the chance of publication. But sometimes anonymity is desirable, and provided editorial standards are reached there is no reason for withholding publication. Of this the Editor is judge and in law is held responsible.

Recent decisions in committee and in Council are, therefore, contrary to accepted practice; first the ban on anonymous letters, and then the reference of all letters, signed and anonymous, to 'The Ringing World' Committee who are, involuntarily, required to trespass into editorial preserve. Not unnaturally the committee are reviewing this unexpected development which at once raises the question of its terms of reference.

Put concisely, its members constitute a management committee. But what of its relations with the Editor? Isn't it rather like the members of a Local Education Authority and a headmaster? Surely then, just as a school has its Governors, a group of disinterested persons charged with safeguarding its various interests, should there not be a like body for 'The Ringing World' in order to complete the best setup for its conduct? For all types of institutions do this, learned societies, hospitals, research institutes, the B.B.C., 'The Times,' and so forth.

What is visualised is a small group appointed under the auspices of the Central Council, but acting together in its own right, which would be the guardian for all we treasure and hold good in our journal. It would be this body which would consider reports from the management committee, the Editor and others, and the consequent removal from Whit-Tuesday's long agenda would clearly be advantageous. Furthermore, the Council would be free to exert a much more effective influence.

As for initiating such a scheme, the division of function involved would best be achieved by winding up the present 'Ringing World' Committee before appointing the two separate bodies, the valuable services of its members doubtlessly being continued. Meanwhile, the affairs of our journal should be carried on as hitherto.

Ultimately, any course of action involves the trust of the many in the efforts of the few. Among the few the Editor holds a central place, and our best expression of appreciation for all he does for us is the confidence which we are pleased to place in him, beginning at his postbag.—Yours sincerely,

E. S. JOHN HATCHER.

Ditton, Maidstone.

TWO MISSING VOLUMES

Dear Sir,—As a result of my advertisement a few months ago and also through the generosity of a kind friend, I now have a set of 'Ringing Worlds' with the exception of four volumes. Before advertising for these, I should be grateful for any information about two of them. The volumes I have from 1912 to 1929 originally belonged to Mr. Frank Romaine, of Salisbury, but two volumes are missing from the series—1921 and 1922. It seems almost certain they must exist somewhere, and I should be most grateful if anyone can give me any information concerning their whereabouts. They have a dark green binding with 'Ringing World' at the top and the year at the bottom, each between double lines, the lettering in gold. Even if the present owner has no desire to part with them, I should be pleased to learn where they are. At some time in the future it may be possible for them to return to their original companions.—Yours faithfully,

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Southampton.

GOOD COPY

Sir,—The opening paragraph of Mr. Spears' letter is not entirely correct. The composition of Stedman Triples which he quotes is the equal two-part with only two singles by W. G. Slack, and this is the only composition on the plan.

In an article dealing with the history of Stedman, Mr. Trollope in 1938 stated that a composition on this plan was impossible.

Mr. Trollope was an historian of ringing without peer or equal in the annals of ringing, and any student of ringing history may be at a loss to understand why an historian of his class objected to the publication of a composition which was a landmark in the history of the method.

I am certain that Mr. Trollope had not a free hand, and the reasons for the objection to publication by the Editor were as follows: (a) The cost of setting, (b) The composition was so difficult that few conductors would trouble with it, (c) The Editor, Mr. Goldsmith, was of the opinion that after the composition had been called it would remain a museum piece.

That inveterate seeker after difficult compositions, Maurice Hibbert, succeeded in calling the composition in September, 1938, and described it 'The Holt's Original of Stedman.' The Editor's description one may find in the issue of September 9th, 1938.—Yours, etc.,

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Braintree, Essex.

BERWICK CURFEW

Dear Sir,—As my sisters passed through Berwick-on-Tweed recently they heard the curfew bell rung from the Town Hall slowly, like the measured beat of a clock striking. Can any reader inform me if this curfew is tolled or just tapped?

Berwick bells were presented to the Town Hall by the same donor who gave Morpeth its famous Watch Tower ring.—Yours sincerely,

JENNIE ARMSTRONG (MISS).

Morpeth.

PROPAGANDA

Dear Sir,—For a number of years now it has been my lot to move about the country in the summer time, and when I go I always take with me a number of back numbers of 'The Ringing World.' Invariably, I find some locality where the paper is very little known. I leave a copy in the belfry or pass one on to someone who is apparently interested. I don't know whether my efforts have borne fruit or not, but I think it may be a means of extending the circulation. Perhaps ringers going on holidays would like to follow suit. — Yours, etc.,

PETER CROOK.

Bolton.

KNARESBOROUGH BELLS

Dear Sir,—The tower of the fine old church at Knaresborough is quite safe, and the bells were a fine ring of eight cast in 1774 by Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of London, and are now finer still since Messrs. Taylor retuned the back six, recast the trebles and rehung the bells (tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in E) in an iron frame, in 1925.

For several years now the bells have not been rung on account of the ringers' misconduct and their dismissal by a former stupid Vicar. By dismissing the ringers and not appointing others in their place, he deliberately robbed the parishioners and neighbours of their heritage. If the clergy who detest bells were honest, they would not accept a living where there was a ring of bells.

The unsafe tower business is just a parson's gag. On New Year's Day, 1916, I had the pleasure of ringing with two bands of ringers at the opening of a fine ring of six bells at one of these unsafe towers. The church was Crofton (three bells), but when a gentleman gave three larger bells, tenor 15¼ cwt., and Taylor's supplied them, the tower at once became safe.—Yours faithfully,

F. ATKINSON.

York.

THE NEW GENERATION AT GLASGOW

Dear Sir,—Our latest recruit is nine years old Sheila Watson. In order to reach the sally of the six cwt. treble, Sheila, who is only 4ft. 5in. in height, has to borrow the box from the ninth. We hope she grows quickly!

With Penelope Darnell and Charles Sargent, both 13 years of age, and Penelope's elder sister Mary, we now have the nucleus of a new generation of ringers at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. Until such time as these youngsters gain more experience we will be limited in our Sunday service ringing, but we hope soon to have these glorious ten bells ringing out again to Grandsire and Stedman Caters, the best of all ten bell music.

Visitors to Glasgow will be welcome on Sundays for service ringing from 5.40 to 6.30 p.m., and on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9 p.m., but I would remind intending visitors that they should inquire for St. Mary's Cathedral, near Kelvinbridge Underground Station, Great Western Road, and not for Glasgow Cathedral or *The* Cathedral. The last two are the names by which the Presbyterian Church of St. Mungo is generally known; it is two miles from St. Mary's and has no ring of bells.—Yours faithfully,

E. BOUMPHREY.

Glasgow.

LETTERS—Continued

UNSAFE TOWERS AND BELLS

Dear Sir,—May I add further to what Mr. R. H. Dove has written in 'The Ringing World' of July 16th?

Several cases parallel to Knaresborough can be pin-pointed in this and adjoining counties.

Ketton, Rutland, is one! Here six bells (tenor 11 cwt.) were rehung some years ago by Messrs. Taylor, and later, through bias, an Ellacombe apparatus put in with the excuse 'that the spire wasn't safe,' although over 30 years have passed and nothing done to make it 'safe.' Thirty years to be unsafe is a long time.

A few years ago the fine ring of eight bells at Oakham were hung unrung for the same excuse—I won't say reason for it later proved not to be a reason. A parishioner paid for an independent architect to prove this. Oakham bells have been rung ever since.

Barnack, near Peterborough, is another parallel—tower safe enough for Messrs. Taylor to add a tenor to this minor five in 1935. A new rector comes on the scene and no ringing—tower 'supposed not to be safe' ever since. A few miles from there, Castor bells were for some years unrung for the same reason—a prejudiced resident in turn influenced both the diocesan architect and the then vicar.

Another wasted ring is the eight bells at Easton Neston, near Towcester. The lady of this village disliked bells, although relatives restored and augmented these several years previously. Ropes were removed and an Ellacombe apparatus put in. Church Langton, Leics, with a similar eight, I believe is an identical case.

Prejudice of a like nature has for many years prevented any restoration and augmentation of three bells (tenor only 7 cwt.) at Abington—a large wealthy parish suburb of Northampton. A west end tower with walls thicker than those of the central tower of St. Edmund's, Northampton, with eight bells (tenor 18 cwt.). The excuse at Abington has been for years 'the tower won't stand bells.' When one asks for positive proof, the excuse is given that the roots of a tree (destroyed 20 years ago) near the tower are under the foundations, making two additional light trebles, even, to the present three, impossible. This story, after seeing Surfleet, is the limit in the extreme. Abingdon tower is perfectly upright!

Goebbels it was, I believe, who once said, 'If you keep on telling a lie enough times, it eventually becomes the accepted thing.'

Mr. Dove's final paragraph I feel sure will bear repeating:—'The excuse that the tower is unsafe can be a cover for idleness or indifference—sometimes for deliberate dishonesty. It should never be eccepted without question nor, if possible, a personal examination.'—Yours sincerely,

P. AMOS.

Weston Favell, Northants.

THIRTEEN-FEET CLOCK PENDULUMS

Dear Sir,—The Rev. A. J. Nixseaman may be interested to note that the turret clock of the parish church of the Holy Cross, Caston, Norfolk, has a pendulum which is slightly over thirteen feet in length from its suspension.

The clock bears the inscription: 'The Rev. Augutus Sutton, Rector of West Tofts, constructed this clock for the parishioners of Caston and set it up in this church tower 31st day of July, 1854.'—Yours faithfully,

W. M. MANN.

Attleborough, Norfolk.

PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

Dear Sir,—Before the Bob Triples controversy is wound up may I comment on the Council's ruling?

Whether Plain Bob on odd numbers is of value or no is beside the point. Whether or not we ring it is also of no importance. The issue is whether four blows consecutively in one place are permissible. The Central Council says 'No'—to Plain Bob Triples!

So far I have seen little mention of Bob Caters or Cinques, and to ring Bob Doubles or Kent Treble Bob is quite in order.

'What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.' If Bob Doubles is legitimate, why isn't Bob Triples? If Bob Triples isn't legitimate, why is Kent Treble Bob? Has Kent Treble Bob received a special dispensation from the Methods Committee?

To argue that Doubles ringers have less scope, or that four blows in one position in Kent Treble Bob only occurs at a bob is no answer. If a principle is established it is gross dishonesty to jettison it to suit one category of ringers or group of methods. That such perfidy should be countenanced is a grave reflection on the honour of the Council, and particularly on a Council of the CHURCH.

It is this asinine legislating which brings the Council into disrepute, and makes it the laughing stock of the Exercise.—Yours faithfully,

W. BIRMINGHAM.

Slough, Bucks.

'FIRING' AT WEDDINGS

Dear Sir,—Is it the considered opinion of the Exercise that 'firing' the bells at weddings is really desirable?

At a good proportion of the weddings for which I have rung, the bells have been 'fired,' and hitherto I thought the general effect to be quite impressive.

Recently, however, I was a guest at a friend's wedding, and during the course of the ringing which followed, the bells were 'fired' Frankly, I was appalled to think that I had ever taken part in the creation of such a devastating noise. From where I stood I overheard a number of remarks from other guests, such as, 'It sounds as though something has gone wrong,' and 'They must have made a mistake,' etc.

Leaving tradition aside, in my opinion those responsible for ringing on these occasions should first ascertain as to whether or not the parties concerned would like the bells to be 'fired,' and only then should this be carried out if required.—Yours sincerely.

JEFFERY C. BIRT.

Slough.

STEDMAN IN ST. DAVID'S GUILD

Dear Sir,—With regard to the peal of Stedman Triples at Tenby on June 26th last, may I withdraw the claim that it was the first peal of Stedman for St. David's Guild, and apologise to those who took part in the first such peal. The footnote was based upon information supplied to me which, I was assured, was correct.—Yours faithfully,

Leicester. HAROLD J. POOLE.

PEAL RINGING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Dear Sir,—Reading the article in a recent 'Ringing World,' 'Peal Ringing in Buckinghamshire,' I noticed that Great Horwood tower is not mentioned in towers where peals have been rung or have yet to be rung.

I would very much appreciate it if you could let me know through your columns if a peal has been rung at Great Horwood or not. Two attempts have failed since May, one after 50 minutes and the other after two hours.—Yours faithfully, F. G. EDMANS.

Bletchley, Bucks.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD

Annual Outing

The weather forecast on July 17th was occasional rain, and with hopes of fine periods 64 members and friends set out for Worcester, Ledbury and Hereford.

Our first call was Lugwardine, with ringing at St. Peter's before lunch. On arrival at Worcester we were joined by Mr. Ernie Stitch, and everyone was pleased to see him with us once again. Lunch, a first class meal, was served in a hall. Refreshed, we were soon on our way to St. John's, Worcester, where the eight were soon being heard to Stedman and Plain Bob. All Saints' Church, with its ten bells, was the next call, but time didn't allow much ringing.

It was decided here to cut out our visit to Upton-on-Severn, and travel straight to Malvern Link, but, on arrival, Mr. Hill had left, so on to Ledbury, where even the weather was forgotten when the great spire of St. Michael and All Angels' came into view. Everyone enjoyed their ring on this grand eight and, after a quick look round the church, we were again on our way to Hereford.

Before leaving Ledbury, we said good-bye to Mr. Stitch, and hoped to see him with us again next year. Hereford was reached soon after 6 p.m. and we all made our way to a hall for a hot meal. Ringing on the eight at All Saints' was the last item on our programme, and we made the most of it.

After a short stop at Bronllys for light refreshments, both coaches were soon lost in the mountain mists, and on down the Neath Vale and back home. J. A. H.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD

Winchester District at New Alresford

The bride and bridegroom received a pleasant surprise, when, at the moment they stepped from the church porch after the wedding the bells suddenly pealed forth.

This was brought about by ringers of the above Guild, who met at New Alresford on July 24th for a quarterly meeting. The ringing continued during the afternoon to the standard methods until the service conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. J. Pearson. The district chairman, Rev. C. E. C. Brinkworth, gave the address.

Tea followed in the Bell Hotel, which, in turn, was followed by a short business meeting, the Rev. C. E. C. Brinkworth, being in the chair, supported by the secretaries. Three new ringing members were elected—the Misses A. Long and A. Buckman and the Rev. A. J. Pearson. Two new honorary members were also elected, and the belfry election of Mr. J. A. Ainsworth, of Newcastle, as a compounding member was confirmed.

It is hoped that the Andover district will combine in a practice meeting at the Wallops during August. The September meeting will be at Sparsholt and Crawley (Hants).

Shortly afterwards members returned to the belfry, where further good ringing was enjoyed.

The peal at Shelsley Beauchamp, reported on page 468, was the first peal for Miss Gillian Clift and William Collins and not for Fred Davis and Fred Pugh. To minimise errors, will conductors kindly place asterisks and other incidental markings in front of the name of the individual and not after?

A BRIGHTON TOWER IN DECAY

For much of the material in this article the author is indebted to the files of the 'Brighton and Hove Herald,' 1846 to 1875, to the officials of the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers for extracts from the records, and to Mr. G. P. Elphick, of Lewes, for the bell inscriptions.

By S. E. ARMSTRONG
Master of the Sussex County Association of C.R.

PROBABLY few churches in a life of a little over a century have encountered so many scenes of intolerance and violence as has St. Paul's, West Street, Brighton. To-day surrounded on almost all sides with houses of business and entertainment, the unique tower containing its nine silent bells form a landmark from all parts of the town and a reminder of the times when the church was an object of national controversy.

In 1846, at the time of its foundation, the town's population had far outrun the churches available. St. Nicholas', the old Parish Church, even with its galleries, was quite inadequate to cope with the expansion of population caused by the coming of the railway and the establishment of the railway works; the new Church of St. Peter, in London Road, was too far away to make much difference, and the Chapel Royal was limited in accommodation and too fashionable for the ordinary people. Some buildings were frankly preaching houses run on a commercial basis, while St. James' and Holy Trinity wavered vaguely between the Establishment and Nonconformity, the former having changed sides no less than three times.

In consequence the Vicar of Brighton, the Rev. H. M. Wagner, determined to build a new church, with some free seating, in West Street, and to install his son Douglas as vicar. This was the first of what is known as the Wagner Group in Brighton, which includes St. Martin's, Lewes Road, St. Mary Magdalene's, Bread Street, and the enormous brick rectangle of St. Bartholomew's, with the ridge of its slated roof rising 135 feet above the street. All were inspired by the Wagners, and largely built out of their private means.

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT

At the time of the building of St. Paul's the form of worship in the town, and indeed over most of the country, followed the Georgian pattern, indifferent to beauty and terrified of ritual. Whilst people lavished the best on their houses the poorest and meanest was considered good enough for church furnishing and ornament. A new movement had, however, arisen by the establishment of the Oxford Tractarians, led by Keble, for a beautifying of ritual and an increase of dignity based on the style of the older forms of worship. At Cambridge the Camden Society worked on much the same lines from the architectural point of view, arguing that besides a return to the older forms of worship the 'pagan Classic style' must be replaced by pre-Reformation Gothic. Douglas Wagner had early come under the influence of the Oxford Movement, and the design of St. Paul's was given to Richard Cromwell Carpenter, a friend of the architect Pugin, who was the leader of the Gothic revival and hero of the Camden Society.

The combination of the Tractarian Wagner and the Camdenian Carpenter aroused early suspicion on the part of the Low Church Party, a suspicion which deepened into certainty as the building progressed. Where were the galleries, the varnished pitchpine and the cold green windows? Instead they were offered a pre-Reformation type of building, with coloured decoration, provision for side chapels, a long raised chancel, and, worst of all, a high altar. These were innovations of a most Popish kind, and to a party accustomed to fonts being stored under Communion tables and tower-

ST. PAUL'S, BRIGHTON

ing three-decker pulpits, the shock administered was considerable. Besides, the Bishop of Manchester recently, and with his own hands, had thrown down the altar ornaments and advised the smashing of stained glass windows in one of the churches of his own diocese. The stage was being set for the troubles that were to follow.

At its opening the church was complete except for the tower, which on the original plan was to have a stone spire, of a pleasant but undistinguished design. Much of the base on the south side had, however, been cut away to make provision for the organ, and it was thought inadvisable to add the extra weight. For a few years a temporary gable protected the top, until the present great oak lantern and short wooden spire were added by Carpenter's son. The tower stands at the north-east corner of the building with a frontage on West Street, and except for the east end is the only part of the church now visible amongst the surrounding buildings. Entrance is effected by a long covered and rather dismal unlighted passageway outside the south wall, running the length of the building and opening into the west end of the nave. There are comparatively few windows, and as those are of deeply stained glass by Burne-Jones, the interior is dark, another circumstance that subscribed to suspicions of ritualistic excesses.

HOSTILITY OF CROWD

On October 18th, 1848, the sermon at the opening service was preached by the Archdeacon of Chichester, later better known as Cardinal Manning, and choral services were instituted. For the next 20 years St. Paul's was the only church in Brighton that wished, or dared, to have choral services with a surpliced choir. The embers of opposition were at once fanned to a flame, and many of the buildings in West Street were disfigured by mocking invitations to 'Come to the Sunday opera at St. Paul's.' Crowds gathered in the street at service times, assaulting the congregation with gibes and stones, and on more than one occasion the Vicar was personally attacked.

After the completion of the tower in 1853, five bells were installed, the largest of 41 cwt. and four smaller. It seems that the original scheme envisaged a ring of 12, with the large bell as tenor and the four small ones as the trebles, for which there is ample room in the tower. Although the present wooden top must be many tons lighter than the original stone spire, doubts were expressed as to its stability even at that early date, and the ring of 12 never materialised.

'ROMISH BELLS'

'As the bells were being unloaded from the conveyance a passer-by paused and read the Latin inscription on the tenor. At once he became agitated and ran down towards the sea crying, 'St. Paul's has bought some Romish bells.' He gathered a crowd of some 400, who, bent on mischief, proceeded to interfere with the installation. The Vicar had come to superintend the work, mounted on horseback, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the police were able to escort him away and disperse the crowd.

The services were gradually being made more and more elaborate, vestments and incense being introduced. A convent was established, the Sisters from which soon becoming accustomed to their charitable works amongst the poor being exploited on the one hand and contemptuously refused on the other. Besides the general public, even the Vicar of Brighton, who himself had the reputation of being a High Churchman, began to get uneasy about the direction in which the ritual was developing. On one occasion when preaching at St. Paul's he publicly expressed his disapproval by taking as his text, 'Lord have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatick, and sore vexed.'

A MURDER TRIAL

In 1865, shortly after sacramental confession had been introduced, opposition rose to its height over the case of Constance Kent* who had murdered her infant half-brother in Wiltshire, and after having been discharged through lack of evidence came under the influence of Douglas Wagner. He advised her to give herself up and stand again for trial. The case was heard at Salisbury Assizes, and after being found guilty she was sentenced to death, but reprieved and sent to penal servitude for life. During the trial Mr. Wagner steadfastly refused to reveal anything told to him under seal of confession. His attitude aroused most violent passions, and once again the congregation was assaulted and the Vicar seriously injured. Questions began to be asked in Parliament about the manner in which affairs were conducted at St. Paul's, and the local Protestant party called a public meeting at the Town Hall, where almost all who stood in defence of Mr Wagner's work suffered injury in the commotion which followed.

*Since this article was completed the case of Constance Kent has been re-examined in the book newly published by Messrs. Jarrolds, 'Saint—With Red Hands?' written by Mrs. Bridges. The author considers the rumour, current at the time, that the crime was committed accidentally by the child's father, and that Constance's confession was the outcome of emotional unbalance.

It was then revealed that Constance Kent had offered £1,000 for the furtherance of the church's work, an offer which had wisely been refused. Nevertheless, the sum appeared in the offertory boxes, and was at once returned to Miss Kent's representatives. The story was circulated in various garbled forms, precipitating a further series of disturbances, and legal action had to be taken against some of the instigators.

Two years later the Vicar was summoned to Westminster to give evidence before a Royal Commission on the practices of the Ritualists, and there defended his use of vestments and confessions. By 1873, after another public meeting opposing the work of the church, one of the main causes of dissension was removed when the convent was taken to its new buildings at the last of the Wagner churches at Buxted. From this time opposition began gradually to die down and St. Paul's was able to continue as a normally peaceful parish church.

The original scheme for the heavy ring having been given up, four more bells were added in 1873, making a ringing peal with a 14-cwt. tenor, and the large bell as a bourdon hung for chiming on the swing. All were cast by Mears, hung in a wood frame with wood headstocks and cannons.

THE BELLS

The inscriptions read as follows:—

Treble.—St. ( ) uriel. (First letter illegible.)

Second.—St. Raphael.

Third.—St. Gabriel.

Fourth.—St. Michael.

(Each of the above has added 'Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London, 1873.')

Fifth.—S. Matthæus. Ave Pater Rex Creator.

Sixth.—S. Marcus. Ave Fili Lux Salvator.

Seventh.—S. Lucas. Ave Pax et Charitas.

Tenor.—S. Joannes. Ave Simplex Ave Triune.

(Each of the above has added 'C. & G. Mears, Founders, London, 1853.')

St. Paul's never seems to have been a successful ringing tower. The long draught of rope, the large circle and the moving of the fabric made good striking difficult. Those who have rung on the bells say a first-class band was essential, as one poor striker could ruin a touch. The local band progressed no further than rather rough Grandsire, and relations between ringers and clergy were generally the reverse of cordial. In addition the bells were noisy outside, and became less and less acceptable to the business premises growing round the church.

THE FIRST PEAL

There are no peal boards in the tower, and the manuscript peal book cannot be traced, but the first peal rung on the bells was one of Grandsire Triples, Holt's Ten-Part, on November 14th, 1883, by a combined band from St. Nicholas' and St. Peter's, Brighton, in 3 hours and 2 minutes.

O. St. John, Esq.	1
E. Hilder	2
H. Boast	3
J. Jay, Jun.	4
C. Tyler	5
G. F. Attree, Esq.	6
J. Jay, Conductor	7
N. Weston	8

Footnote:—

This was rung by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. A. D. Wagner, and this is the only peal yet obtained on these bells, which have been put in good order by him.

In 1908 the tower ceased affiliation with the Sussex Association, there being then five members listed, three of whom were the brothers Charles, Phillip and William Allfrey. The last peal, of Stedman Triples, conducted by C. T. Coles, was rung on June 12th, 1912. Two of the band, George Ades and Arthur W. Gravett, are still ringing in Brighton.

How the end came is uncertain. One story has it that the Vicar turned the ringers out of the belfry after one of the numerous disputes; another that the tower became increasingly unsafe; a third that the first world war depleted the already small band. Whatever the reason, the bells were rung down for the last time in November, 1914, and the tower abandoned. From then on, except for one or two being occasionally chimed, the bells have remained silent amongst scenes of progressive decay.

To-day, although the body of the church is clean and obviously well-loved, the tower tells a far different story. The belfry stairs are reached along a devious passageway through the organ, and on opening the door the odour of damp and dirt presages what is to follow. The spiral stair is unlighted and cramped, with splits showing in the brickwork. Eventually it opens on to what was once a spacious and comfortable ringing room lighted by a single large window in the west wall. Most of the leaded panes lie broken around it where they must have blown in long ago. The ceiling sags in the centre, depositing damp on the mouldering floor. No sign of activity remains except, curiously enough, the old visitors' book, coverless, sodden and almost illegible, tumbled in a corner.

A VISIT TO THE TOWER

The stair continues, becoming even more dark and dirty until the last few steps are almost indistinguishable beneath the debris. Finally a short, wooden ladder leads out on to one of the great timber radials which span the tower, forming the transition to the octagonal lantern, each some 14 inches square. When the tower was last visited a full gale was blowing in from the sea, accompanied by heavy rain, and as all the protecting lead had been removed to ease the weight, together with a good deal of the woodwork, which had become dangerous, the top is almost completely open to the weather. The rain drives unimpeded through the lantern, which shudders at each gust, creaking dismally in the joints and threatening at any moment that the whole crazy contraption will go crashing into the street below. The drip of water, the shrieking of the wind, and, above all, the foul odour of pigeons and decay make the place infinitely depressing.

Below the lantern radials is the bell frame, the home of countless hordes of pigeons, which have roosted there undisturbed for 40 years. The stronger and more aggressive perch on the sliders under shelter of the bells, and everything is indescribably dirty and desolate. Of the ring, little is visible except a few rotten spokes and two stays, with here and there a bit of mouldering rope looped in a rimless wheel. The eight bells still hang in position, immovable, their shape and almost their size unrecognisable under the accumulated dirt. The bourdon lies wedged helplessly across the frame, the gudgeons having rotted out of the wooden headstock. A good deal of patient and distasteful scraping is required to decipher the inscription which caused so much trouble a hundred years ago:—'S. Paulas. Ave regnans sine fine. Ava sancta Trinitatis.'

From the street below the tower seems to a casual glance to be much as it was in its original condition. What of its future? The cost of restoration is far beyond a parochial effort, and in view of the church's history, ought to be a national responsibility. It is certain that the bells will never ring again, and it is problematical how long the tower will stand unless repairs are carried out at what must be a fabulous cost. The tower was built as a witness to a new and vital movement in religion and architecture; it stands as a monument to neglect and poverty.

FARNHAM RINGING MASTER'S WEDDING

Bellringers were well represented at the wedding on Saturday, July 24th, at St. Michael's Church, Aldershot, of Mr. Tom Page, Joint Ringing Master of the Farnham District and youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Page, of Titchfield, Fareham, Hants, to Miss Hazel Joyce Flavell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Flavell, of 102, Peabody Road, Farnborough. The Rev. P. G. L. Cole officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white silk Elizabethan style dress with silk embroidered veil and headdress of orange blossom. She carried a bouquet of red roses and gypsophila.

She was attended by two bridesmaids—her nieces, the Misses Susan and Kathleen Childs, and two matrons of honour, Mrs. J. Tilley and Mrs. E. Jones. All wore lavender organdie dresses with pink mittens and headdresses. Mr. R. Goble was best man.

After the ceremony the couple left the church through the belfry under crossed bell ropes held by fellow ringers, who then proceeded to ring out a 'merry peal.'

A reception was held at Darracott's, Aldershot, 50 guests attending.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Tom Page left for their honeymoon, which is being spent in France and Switzerland.

Family Ringers and Wedding Bells

The wedding of Miss Edna A. Cane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cane, to Mr. Herbert J. Allen, a fellow ringer at St. Catherine's Church, Wolverton, Hants, was a day of happy ringing. After the ceremony the bride and bridegroom with the bride's father, three sisters and small brother rang a wedding touch on the six bells at Wolverton. They are all members of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, as are the officiating clergyman, the Rev. D. L. Board, and Mrs. W. Cooper, the organist.

Other members of the Wolverton band rang the bells before and after the service.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations towards the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—Newcastle Cathedral Band £1 7s. 11d., Yorkshire Tour (Sussex ringers) 10s. 6d., Jill Haffenden 2s. 6d., Peal Failure ('Carter's Odd Bob') 5s., 'In memory of S.C.' £10.

Peals.—Tarring 3s., Newark 2s. 6d.

Quarter Peals.—Westoning 3s. 6d., Highworth 2s., West Tarring 2s., Barrowby 2s. 6d., Southwark 2s. 6d., Bletchley 3s., Cheltenham 2s. 6d., Hawkley 2s., Feltham 2s. 6d., Chelsfield 2s. 6d.

OBITUARY

MR. FREDERICK BENNETT

Mr. Frederick Bennett, of West Clandon, Surrey, one of the pioneers of change ringing in the rural areas around Guildford, has passed away at the age of 71. Although he had been in somewhat indifferent health for some time his end came suddenly through heart trouble whilst he was walking in the village on July 22nd.

The funeral was on Monday, July 26th, and in addition to family mourners, parishioners and members of the local branch of the British Legion (of which for many years he was secretary) the ringing fraternity was represented by local ringers and other members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild including Mr. A. Harman (Master) and Messrs. G. Marriner and A. H. Winch, from Leatherhead, and Messrs. A. H. Pulling, H. Hutton and A. C. Hazelden, from Guildford.

Half-muffled touches were rung on the octave at the Parish Church both before and after the funeral service, and in the evening local ringers attempted a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, which unfortunately came to grief at the last whole pull.

Fred Bennett began his ringing career at West Clandon over 50 years ago with a stony band but having had enthusiasm for change ringing instilled in him by District officers of the Winchester Guild, and after receiving some tuition from Mr. Charles Willshire, then of the Holy Trinity, Guildford, band and with help and encouragement from Mr. Alfred Pulling he soon began to make a name for himself and the local band by his skill as a conductor of Minor methods.

Within a comparatively short time under his leadership the local band had progressed from 'Wedding Peal' and 'Whittington' to a competent change ringing band, over whose accurate striking of Surprise Minor methods a revered vice-president of the Guildford Guild still enthuses. It may be of interest to members of a younger generation to record here that Fred Bennett and members of his band often walked to Shalford (six miles away) and back for the purpose of practice and, as he often told the writer, that was after several of them had walked perhaps four or five miles to work and back.

Fred was in the Royal Engineers during the 1914-18 war and rose to the rank of sergeant, winning the Military Medal in the course of service in France.

During the 1920's and 1930's, although not so active in peal ringing as before, he worked hard to keep the seeds of change ringing alive at Clandon, and the fact that there are still to-day capable change ringers in the local band is due in great measure to Fred's skill and leadership in earlier days. After the war of 1940-45 Fred assisted the writer to restart a local band, but eventually the climb up the belfry stairs prevented him continuing an active part. He maintained a keen interest in ringing, however, and was always glad to chat about current events and past difficulties and triumphs.

He was a keen cricketer as well as ringer, being a forceful left-handed bat, an accomplished wicket-keeper and a captain of more than average merit. He was something of a martinet, demanding and receiving the utmost effort from all who played or rang under him, but although he did not hesitate to condemn in decisive manner any slackness, indifferent performance or unbecoming conduct, either on the cricket field or in the ringing room, he always remained a popular and respected leader.

G. L. G.

MR. GEORGE L. JOYCE

Ringers from many parts of Essex and the London area gathered at St. Andrew's Church, Hornchurch, to pay their last respects to the memory of Mr. George L. Joyce, life vice-president and past Deputy Master of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. There were no flowers and the bells remained silent by request. The last sad rites were carried out at the City of London Crematorium.

George Joyce, aged 62 years, commenced his ringing career at Holy Trinity Church, Barking Road, London. He moved to Leytonstone in 1913 and united himself with the Surprise Minor band which regularly practised at St. John-the-Baptist Church. He rang his first peal, a peal in seven Surprise methods, at Holy Trinity Church, Barking Road, under the auspices of the London County Association on October 8th, 1921. He co-operated with Mr. A. G. Driver and introduced Spliced Surprise Minor ringing at Leytonstone.

On March 24th, 1928, at Chigwell Row Church, George Joyce called his first peal, a peal of 22 Surprise Minor methods in seven 720's. This peal contained the largest number of Surprise methods that were possible under the then known methods of Splicing, viz: by the leads, courses, three leads, six leads, and by the lead end places, and was the first so rung. It was arranged by George Joyce and rung at the first attempt.

George Joyce wrote many articles for 'The Ringing World,' using as his nom-de-plume 'Minor Mania.' He also assisted with the preparation of tables for Treble Bob Minor and proof of Treble Bob Major, which were published under the heading 'Minor Mania' and 'The Mad Hatter.'

It will be in his work for the Essex Association of Change Ringers that we ringers of Essex will remember him. He was a great force behind the officers, assisting them in every way, by his directness of purpose in discussion, his ability to produce the resolution which gathered very concisely the ideas and aspirations of the meeting, and his vision in being able to foresee the loopholes which a badly-worded motion would allow.

As my personal tribute I must say he had been a kind friend and a great helper, who supported and advised me in every major decision I have had to take in the cause of ringing. I shall miss him greatly, and join with thise, this own dear ones, to mourn his passing.

ROBERT C. HEAZEL,

MR. THOMAS RILEY

Many of the older ringers will be sorry to hear of the death on July 24th, after a very long and extremely painful illness, at the age of 73, of Mr. Thomas Riley, who was for many years in the band at Bolsover, Derbyshire.

When ringing recommenced after the wartime ban, Mr. Riley was the only survivor of the older members of the team which gained fame for Bolsover under the leadership of Mr. John Flint, and with a small nucleus of younger ringers taught by Mr. Flint in his later years, Mr. Riley gave great encouragement in the re-establishment of a band which now reflects great credit on its predecessors.

Failing health made it impossible for Mr. Riley to ring at all during the last few years but he retained his interest to the end, and when the tourists from the Sussex County Association visited Bolsover last summer he arranged to be conveyed to the tower in a wheel chair so that he could meet the visitors.

On the day of the funeral service a well-struck quarter peal of Bob Major, with the bells half-muffled, was rung by the local band, and when, after cremation, the ashes were placed near the church tower, the bells were again rung half-muffled, the ringers including Mr. Jacques and Mr. Jackson, of Mansfield, both great friends of Mr. Riley. A. B. C.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Lewisham District

The ancient Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Downe, picturesquely situated in the centre of its hill-top village, was visited by 36 members of the Lewisham District on July 24th for their summer meeting, and enjoyed seasonable weather!

Ringing during the afternoon preceded the service in the church. The Vicar (the Rev. E. W. E. Fraser) conducted the Association service and warmly welcomed his congregation to Downe, and delighted them with his address. Mr. E. Wilson, at the organ, led the singing of the well-chosen hymns; lively, comfortably compassed tunes were rendered with great relish.

Mr. A. S. Richards (West Wickham) District representative, presided at the business meeting which was held in the church. Four ringers were elected into the Association and the election of two non-resident members was ratified.

The venue for the combined meeting with the N.W. District of the Surrey Association was amended, Farningham being substituted for Shoreham for the afternoon ringing, Shoreham to be visited in the evening. The date, October 9th, was confirmed. St. Luke's, Bromley Common, was chosen as place of the annual meeting to be held on October 30th.

Mr. A. S. Richards was appointed 'Ringing World' representative for the District.

A cordial and comprehensive vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist and lady verger concluded the meeting. Further ringing rounded off a pleasant occasion. A. G. H.

BARNSLEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY

The Old'uns Demonstrate

The July meeting was held at Earlsheaton and although the attendance was rather small it was nevertheless a very happy gathering. The following towers were represented: Bradford Cathedral, Felkirk, Leeds Parish, Rothwell, Shelley and the local company, also visitors from Sutton-in-Mansfield. Ringing commenced about 3 p.m. A splendid meal was served in the schools.

In the absence of the president and vice-presidents Mr. F. W. Strangways, of Rothwell, acted as chairman for the business meeting. This was soon disposed of and the usual votes of thanks to the Vicar and to Mr. and Mrs. H. Dransfield and friends for providing the tea and making all arrangements were passed.

Further ringing followed in both Minor and Major methods. Some good spade work was done and it was also very pleasing to see some of the old'uns of over 70 years having a pull.

The next meeting will be held at Hoylandswaine, near Penistone, on August 14th.

Herts County Association

Two more delightful towers than Essendon and Tewin could not have been chosen for a warm summer's day. On July 17th a handful of enthusiasts made their way through continuous rain to Essendon, where the recently rehung ring of six is being rung by a very keen local band under Mr. F. E. Bamford. Having learned Kent for the occasion they gave a very creditable performance with the visitors.

After tea the ringers splashed their way across country to Tewin, where the pleasant ring of six was rung up, to Primrose and Double Oxford, until everyone had had enough —of ringing and of weather—for the day.

G. D.

The hostility to the Exercise is indicated by the following estate agent's advertisement in one of our national Sunday newspapers: 'In the admirable Eden-like peace of an exclusive Belgravia Garden square overlooking nice quiet church (no bells) and uninterrupted view of the better sort of weddings; 5 bed., etc.'

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.

DEATHS

NORMAN.—Albert Edward (Pup), of 236, Bilford Road, Worcester, for many years a member of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, died suddenly at his home on Saturday, July 24th, 1954, aged 52 years. 4804

PARK.—George William, 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington, on Aug. 1st, 1954, aged 81 years. Dearly loved father of Norman and Roland. 4822

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The new address of Fred E. Dukes, M.I.E.E., General Secretary, Irish Association, and Editor 'Irish Bell News,' is now Meadow Cottage, Julianstown, Co. Meath, Ireland. 4800

From August 1st the address of Mr. A. J. Glass will be 2, Parsonage Lane, Windsor, Berks. 4801

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

SET OF 21 BELLS. Two octaves in diatonic scale with five half tones. Tenor size 19 in F. Good tone and condition. Price £30.—F. Barnett, 22, Grove Crescent, Bromyard Road, Worcester. 4812

PUBLICATIONS

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF OXFORDSHIRE.'—A limited number of copies of the complete work i.e., Vols. 1 to 4, bound in one volume with stiff covers, price £2 7s. 6d. each, plus 1s. 4d. postage, may be obtained from F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. 4688

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part XIII. (Shurlock Row—Swallowfield).—Price 2s. 6d., including postage. Obtainable from F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. 4687

'BELLS OF ALL NATIONS.'—This profusely illustrated book is now out of print. A few copies only left can be obtained from the author at original price, 21s.—Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S., The Verger's Lodge, St. Margaret's Vicarage, Leicester. 4644

'BEGINNERS' GRANDSIRE.' — Second edition now available from A. Waddington, Egerton, Kent, at 1s. 6d. post free. This book takes the beginner from Plain Hunting up to Grandsire Triples and is attractively produced with the treble and important instructions printed in red. A proved help in every tower where Grandsire is taught. 4353

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH,' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author, 67a, The Close, 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. 4143

MISCELLANEOUS

OVERSEAS RINGER wishes to purchase books and pamphlets on campanology for establishment of a 'campanological library.' Send list of items offered, with price expected and description of condition, to Box 4015, c/o 'The Ringing World,' Guildford, Surrey. 4015

EXTRA COPIES. — It is an advantage if those requiring extra copies will send their orders at the time copy of peals or quarter peals is submitted.

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

MEETINGS

ELY ASSOCIATION. — Wisbech Branch. — Meeting, Downham Market, Saturday, Aug. 7th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea, please.—J. Fox, Walpole St. Andrew. 4790

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Saturday, Aug. 7th, St. Stephen's (10), 6 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. Please attend.—A. Bennett. 4806

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. — Meeting, Woodchurch (6), August 7th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea to Mrs. D. J. Russell, Central Stores, Woodchurch, Ashford. 4760

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Chiddingstone (8), August 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (2s.) 5.15 p.m. Names to Miss D. Colgate, 38, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks. 4764

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Chiddingstone (8), August 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. 4764

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION and ESSEX ASSOCIATION (South-Western).—Joint meeting, Waltham Abbey, Saturday, August 7th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. followed by tea. Please assist by sending names for tea to Mrs. C. W. Roberts, 5, Monkswood Avenue, Waltham Abbey. 4767

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Isle of Wight District. — Quarterly meeting, Freshwater, Aug. 7th. Bells from 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting follows.—A. M. Guy, Hon. Dis. Sec. 4778

BARNSLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Hoylandswaine, August 14th, 2.30 p.m. Those requiring teas must notify, not later than Aug. 11th, Mr. S. Fielding, Sycamore House, Hoylandswaine, Penistone, near Sheffield.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec. 4811

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Tempsford on Saturday, Aug. 14th at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Let's have a good meeting.—L. H. B., Sec. 4803

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT R.S.—Meeting at Priory Church, Bridlington, Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, by Wednesday, Aug. 11th, to Mr. J. A. Parker, Higher Waterworks, Mill Lane, Bridlington. 4798

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Practice, Newton St. Cyres (8), Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Cups of tea available; bring own food.—F. Wreford, Hon. Sec. 4799

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—South Shields, Saturday, Aug. 14th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea, by Aug. 12th, to Miss M. Gibson, 130, Beach Road, South Shields. 4815

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Buxted (8), Aug. 14th. Please notify E. Eade, Beacon View, Buxted, Uckfield.—C. A. Bassett. 4814

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Flamstead (6), Aug. 14th. Names for tea by Aug. 11th to Mr. Smith, 14, Trowley Hill Road, Flamstead, Herts.—R. Shutter, Dis. Sec. 4797

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Ashton Keynes (5), Aug. 14th. Tea. — Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon. Tel. 3936. 4802

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Practice meeting at Old Woking (8), Saturday, Aug. 14th, 6-9 p.m. Make this meeting a success by your attendance.—J. F. Dodson. 4809

LADIES' GUILD

Kent Branch.

The first meeting is at St. Michael and All Angels', MARDEN (8), on Aug. 14th at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 and tea 5 o'clock. ALL LADIES WELCOME and gentlemen cordially invited. Names for tea should be sent to Miss Jill Haffenden, Hon. Sec., Church Green, Marden, Telephone Marden 270. 4776

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—Practice meeting at Kirkby Lonsdale (6), Aug. 14th. Ringing 2.30-8. Tea at 4.30. Names for tea to E. Proctor, 7, Greenside, Kirkby Lonsdale.—R. F. Eccles, Branch Sec. 4807

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Preston Branch.—Meeting at Tarleton, Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bring own food. Bus 101 from Liverpool 1.16 p.m., 101 from Preston 2 p.m., 106 from Standish 1.30 p.m., X27 from Southport 1.47 p.m.—L. Walmsley. 4775

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Heywood, St. Luke's, Aug. 14th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements; cafes nearby.—F. Pritchard. 4805

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough Branch. — Meeting at Creaton, Aug. 14th. Names for tea must reach me by Tuesday, Aug. 10th.—E. Orland, High Street, Long Buckby, Rugby. 4820

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—First meeting, Westbury (light six), Aug. 14th. Mid-Wales buses 1.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Teas only if you advise W. A. Farmer, 99, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury. 4786

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—North Notts District.—Meeting at South Anston (8), Saturday, Aug. 14th. Tea only for those who notify by 12th Mr. H. M. Turner, 10, High Street, South Anston, Sheffield.—H. Denman. 4785

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION. — Western Division.—Quarterly meeting at Billingshurst (8), on Aug. 14th. Names for tea, please, by previous Tuesday, to W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchingfield, Horsham. 4813

(Notices continued next page)

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bolton Branch.—Ringers' service and festival at Westhaughton, Sunday, Aug. 15th. Bells 1 p.m. Service 3 p.m.; preacher, Vicar of Westhaughton. Bells after.—J. Thornley. 4821

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—Meeting at Stisted, Aug. 21st. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Names for tea to Mr. T. Earle, North Lodge, Stisted, Braintree. 4808

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD. — Summer meeting, Little Aston (near Sutton Coldfield), Aug. 21st. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea 4.30. Names for tea not later than Wednesday, Aug. 18th.—Fred Bennett, Pool House Road, Wombourn, near Wolverhampton. 4810

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Portsmouth District. — Quarterly meeting, Curdridge, Aug 21st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Please notify, by Aug. 17th, Mrs. Pritchard, The Burns, Lake Road, Curdridge. 4819

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting and contest, Lightcliffe, Sept. 4th. For teas please notify by Aug. 30th, F. Popplewell, 51, Well Grove, Hove Edge, Brighouse.—A. Farrand, Hon. Sec. 4817

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