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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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

PROPAGANDA.

Which is the best way to secure recruits for the belfry? That we shall need them no one doubts. There will be not only the wastage caused by death and retirement, but also the shortage due to these years of inactivity. Something will have to be done, and as Captain R. W. Daniels wrote, it will not be by sitting down and bemoaning our difficulties. Action is called for, but what?

A week or two ago a correspondent suggested an ambitious and grandiose scheme intended to create general and national interest in change ringing. It included a campanological film, the employment of a popular author to write a novel, a series of lectures, and other things. Perhaps it is unnecessary to debate whether or how far these things would serve their object, for the cost would be enormous and there is not the least likelihood that the money would be forthcoming.

Other people, more modest in their ideas and with a greater sense of reality, advise an intensive campaign within the parish where the recruits are needed. Get the parson to call a parish meeting, they say, and give lectures explaining what change ringing is with hand-bell illustrations. Leave the belfry door open and invite visitors to come and see the ringers at work. Do everything to make ringing attractive and to create and stimulate people's interest in it.

No doubt there is much good advice in all this, and no doubt in many places something of the sort will be tried and not without some measure of success. In any case, whether recruits are needed or not, it is a good thing to have the help and co-operation of the clergy and church officials, and to interest the general congregation in the work of the belfry.

Yet it is very doubtful if this sort of propaganda is really the best way of overcoming the difficulties due to shortage of recruits, which will have to be faced when the bells are rung once more. We have been told what happened at Beckenham as the result of a campaign. It was a complete failure and a disappointment. Perhaps the people there were exceptionally unlucky, though Beckenham is just the sort of place where an experiment of this kind might be expected to have a good chance of success.

The truth is that what we want is not a lot of recruits, but a comparatively small number of the right sort of recruits, and we very much doubt if they are to be had by general advertisement and propaganda. Change ringing is a highly technical and specialised pursuit. It calls for much and long training. It has

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many favours to bestow, but it is a hard and exacting mistress and does not give them to everyone. There is no room and no use in a belfry for the person who is casually attracted and comes out of curiosity, and who is quite willing to ring if it means only a few lessons and not too much trouble or too many demands on time and energy. Such a one speedily loses interest and the belfry knows him no more. Meanwhile, too much of the limited opportunities for teaching have been wasted on him. The tendency of propaganda is to multiply this sort of recruit and the result is disappointment and disillusionment.

The problem of the recruit has always been with us, and it always will be, because the right sort of recruit is rare. Naturally, it will be more acute when peace comes, for there will be more leeway to make up, but it will be no different in kind from what it always has been.

All means should be tried, even propaganda, but the chief thing is always to be on the look out for the right sort, and when he is found to give him all the attention and encouragement possible. The other sort are only a hindrance and a nuisance and are scarcely worth wasting any time on.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 13th, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. E. A. BARNETT 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6

RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4 | MRS. R. RICHARDSON 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT 21A, STONARD ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

(HOLT'S ORIGINAL.)

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6

*JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | *WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* 60th peal together.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD CITY BRANCH.)

On Monday, August 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT HERTFORD COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*PETER C. GIBBS 1-2 | MISS MARIE R. CROSS 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4 | JOHN E. SPICE 7-8

Composed by W. HOWLETT. Conducted by Miss M. R. CROSS.

* First peal of Major.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BRENDA M. RICHARDSON 1-2 | *MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 5-6

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by Rev. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

Witness—Christine J. Richardson.

* First peal 'inside.'

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday and Tuesday, August 17 and 18, in One Hour and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in F.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 3-4

*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE.

Witness—Brenda M. Richardson.

* First 'touch' of Doubles.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 18, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON 1-2 | MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 5-6

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal, aged 13 years 2 months, her previous longest length of Major being 224 changes.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

(HOLT'S ORIGINAL.)

*REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6

MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | †PHILLIP A. CORBY 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.'

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W.1,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE GATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

EDWIN H. LEWIS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 7-8

EDWIN BARNETT 9-10

Composed by FRED G. MAY. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

Witness—Mrs. E. A. Barnett.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT FINCHLEY.

The members of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and their friends, who attended the meeting at St. Mary's, Finchley, on Saturday last, were welcomed to the church and tower by the new Rector, the Rev. Michael Ridley. Most of the 35 people present thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of being able to have a pull at the rope's end of a tower bell, although greater satisfaction would have been derived had the lashings been taken from the clappers. However, courses or touches of Doubles and Plain, Treble Bob and Surprise Minor were successfully (and apparently easily) brought round. Handbells were also put to good use and the usual variety of methods rung on them.

The tea, provided by a group of local ladies, was excellent, in fact no one could ever have thought that there was a war on.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Vice-President J. A. Trollope, who thanked the Rector for his cordial welcome and expressed pleasure at the opportunity of introducing to him the activities of the association. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, to whom tributes of his good work and character were made by Messrs. A. W. Coles and W. H. Hewett.

Mrs. E. A. Barnett was elected a ringing member of the association, and the following provisional elections as life members were confirmed: Messrs. A. N. Tyler (Bristol), K. S. B. Croft (Lincoln) and T. W. Lewis (Worcester). It was decided to hold the next district meeting at Kilburn within the next two months. The current item of interest concerning umpires for handbell peals was discussed, and whilst the majority of speakers agreed that such a person was advisable, they also clearly indicated that the scheme was not practical. A definition of 'umpire' was called for.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.

(Continued from page 381.)

We have seen that when we are composing a peal of Grandsire Triples we must start with either 72 P Blocks or 120 B Blocks, and, in either case, the furthest we can go with bobs only is to join together all the available blocks except one. For the final link we need the help of singles.

Now, as soon as we realise that singles are necessary, there is no great point in delaying their use until the last moment of all. John Holt had a reason for doing so in the Original, but in a modern peal the two blocks produced by bobs only can within limits be of any size we please. Instead of trying to group all the rows into one big block and then adding to it by means of singles what are left over at the end, we could build up the two blocks simultaneously. Not only so, but we should probably want to have our peal in regular parts, and that would introduce many problems of composition with which at the present we are not concerned.

At least two singles are necessary in every peal, and often in order to obtain certain qualities it is necessary to use more than two, but always (with a possible exception we will refer to later) the operation is the same—each pair of singles joins together two blocks.

From the very earliest times in Grandsire Triples the composer has always been allowed the choice of two kinds of singles; one of them is the in-course single which does not alter the regular succession of the nature of the rows; the other is the 'ordinary' single which turns the nature of the handstrokes from odd to even, and the nature of the backstrokes from even to odd. Both kinds of singles are made in the change when the treble strikes the backstroke blow of its whole pull on the lead. The difference between the two is shown by the following:—

In-course.	Ordinary.
1325476	1325476
1325476	1324567

In no other method but Grandsire Triples (and those Triples methods which for purposes of composition are practically identical with it) does the Exercise allow the use of more than one kind of single. There have been cases (Stedman Triples is the outstanding example) where at one time irregular singles were used, because men did not know how to get true peals without them. But as soon as peals with ordinary singles were composed the others became obsolete and fell into disuse. This has happened to some extent in Grandsire Triples. The in-course single is still allowed, but of late years has more and more fallen into disuse, and we must turn to the kindred methods, such as Oxford Bob Triples, Court Bob Triples, Double Grandsire Triples and the like, to see that the in-course single is a real necessity and not a mere makeshift.

Both kinds of singles differ from those used in other methods by the fact that they are not made in the same change as the bobs are. The ordinary Grandsire single is made at backstroke after a bob has been made at handstroke in the previous change. We usually consider the work in the two changes as the single and for purposes of practical ringing that is the best way. But in composition the bob and the single are separate opera-

tions. The bob is a member of a particular Q Set and must be so regarded when we are considering the truth of the composition. In theory the singles could be made either with or without the preceding bob. When in-course singles are used they may be made either at a bob-lead or at a plain-lead, but custom has never allowed ordinary singles to be made other than at a bob-lead.

A	B
3152746	3152746
1357264	1325476
1352746	1324567
3157264	3125476
C	D
3152746	3152746
1357264	1325476
1537246	1235476
5132764	2134567

A is the ordinary Grandsire single in which a bob is first made at handstroke and the actual single at the following backstroke.

B is the same single without the bob being made. In theory this is equally valid to A, but in practice is never allowed.

C is the in-course bob-single as used in Holt's and C. D. P. Davies' 10-part peals of Grandsire and J. J. Parker's peals of Oxford Bob, Court Bob, etc.

D is the in-course plain-lead-single as used in Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples.

(To be continued.)

AN ESSEX BELL FOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was greatly interested in the article on the Bells of Lewes, as it states that John Tonne worked in Sussex and Essex. I had previously been under the impression that the famous Miles Graye was the only man who had cast bells in Essex.

The article says that John Tonne removed to Thaxted, Essex, somewhere about 1536, but does not state whether he cast Thaxted bells, although it states he cast bells within a radius of 24 miles.

Thaxted are an excellent peal. I conducted a peal of Double Norwich on them several years ago, and just as I called the last bob at 6, the tenor rope slipped wheel, but owing to the skilful handling by the late Mr. Head, of Chelmsford, we were able to finish the peal.

Although Thaxted is now only a small town, it must at one time have been an industrial area, judging from its magnificent church, which is one of the glories of Essex.

W. KEEBLE.

Colchester.

WEDDING OF MISS DORIS UPTON.

On August 5th, at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Miss Doris Upton, younger daughter of Mr. W. Upton, Master of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and Mrs. Upton, of Hilltop, St. John's Road, Newport, was married to Mr. Herbert Brown, the Rev. Ewbank officiating.

Owing to the ban no church bells could be rung, but at the reception which followed at Weeks' Cafe, Grandsire Triples were rung on handbells by Mrs. A. M. Guy, Dr. J. B. Williamson, Mr. W. Upton and Mr. W. Scott.

BELL FITTINGS NEED ATTENTION.

The majority of steeplekeepers and ringers think, if they have a ring of bells hung on up-to-date principles, with cast-iron stocks and iron frames bolted down to steel girders, they do not require to give any attention except to lubricate the main bearings, and sometimes shift a rope up and down an inch, and later on splice it. This is not quite the case, for no matter how good the job is and how careful the bellhanger has been in his work, nuts will slack back.—The Central Council.

IN PRAISE OF RINGING.—Among the many recreations approved of by the sons of pleasure, ringing is a diversion which may be emphatically said to bear away the bell.—Dr. Kennicott, A.D. 1742.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. Albert Walker that his operation has been completely successful, and by the time these words are read he should be out of the nursing home and back home again. He wishes to thank all the friends who have sent him messages of sympathy and good wishes.

We congratulate Miss Christine Richardson on her first peal, which is recorded this week. Miss Richardson is the fourth daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, and by ringing 1-2 to Bob Major at the age of 13 years and two months, she beat her sister Dorothy, who rang her first peal at the age of 13 years and 8 months.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, who will reach his 83rd birthday to-morrow. Mr. Woodley, who now lives at Lowestoft, was hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths before the late W. T. Cockerill. He still takes a keen interest in the doings of the society.

Last Friday was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Maitland Kelly, who was for many years an influential member of the Exercise and the Central Council, although he had few pretensions as a practical ringer. He took part in the first 120 known to have been rung in Devon.

The second peal of Stedman Caters 5,184 changes, was rung by the Cumberland Youths at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on August 23rd, 1788.

On the same date in 1919 a peal of Double Court Bob Royal was rung at Surfleet. It was the first and only one in the variation which has the places made in 5-6 only.

Henry Hubbard was born at Norwich on August 25th, 1807.

On August 26th, 1718, the first peal definitely known to have been true was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

On the same date in 1908 the first peal of Original Major was rung at Ranmoor, Sheffield, and in 1939 the first of Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples by the Hertford Association.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Scdburgh Surprise Major at Aldenham on August 27th, 1938, and on August 27th, 1912, Matthew A. Wood, for so many years a leading London ringer, died at the age of 87.

The record peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,896 changes, was rung at Stoney Stanton on August 28th, 1923. Mr. Harold J. Poole conducted.

The first peal of Clarendon Surprise Major was rung at Norbury, Cheshire, on August 30th, 1926, and on August 31st, 1935, the first peal of Beaconsfield Surprise was rung at Beaconsfield.

The record handbell peal, 19,738 changes of Stedman Caters, was rung at Guildford on August 31st, 1912.

Rear Admiral T. P. Walker, the first admiral since Francis Geary in the 18th century to be a member of the Exercise, died ten years ago yesterday.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung. One was Grand-sire Triples, one Bob Triples, and one Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

GOGD NEWS OF MR. G. V. MURPHY.

Geoffrey V. Murphy, of Crayford tower, who was reported missing in the Middle East on June 1st, is now known to be safe and a prisoner in Italy. No further details are known at present.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

THE ST. ALBANS CARILLON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of 'The Ringing World' of August 14th you have made a mistake in the maker of the St. Albans chimes contained in Mr. Morris' article. May I correct same?

The maker of the chime barrel or carillon, built about 1880, was Mr. John Godman, who by profession was a land surveyor. He was also parish clerk and rate collector for St. Stephen's parish, St. Albans. He was a very clever man, nothing coming amiss. He built an organ for a Mr. Boff, who was the blind organist of Aldenham Church. The organ was afterwards purchased for St. Stephen's Church and was in use from 1862 to 1882, when it was sold to the Wesleyan authorities of Redbourn, and has only just recently been dismantled. Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, was greatly interested in Mr. Godman, and Sir Edmund Beckett, possessing a faculty for restoring the Abbey, in all probability paid and encouraged Mr. Godman in his work. The tunes played are as follows:—

Sunday: 'O worship the King'—Tune, 'Hanover.' 'Holy, holy, holy'—Tune, 'Nicosa.'

Monday: 'Life let us cherish'—Traditional Melody.

Tuesday: 'Blue bells of Scotland.'

Wednesday: 'Jesus, Tender Shepherd'—Tune, 'Sicilian Mariners.'

Thursday: 'My lodging is on the cold, cold ground'—Irish Melody.

Friday: 'Jesu, my Lord, my God, my all'—Tune, 'Stella.'

Saturday: 'Home, sweet home.'

The machine is situated on the bell floor, immediately above the ringing chamber, the floor of which is 100ft. above the Cathedral floor. The chimes play every third hour of the day (before the war).

G. W. CARTMEL.

Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

BERTRAM PREWETT.

A GREAT PEAL RINGER.

The first great war took a long and sad toll of the ringers of England, and among those who lost their lives none left quite so great a gap as Bertram Prewett, who was killed on the last day of August, 1918, little more than two months before the final victory. He had gone to the great base hospital at Etaples for medical treatment, and was caught in an air raid.



BERTRAM PREWETT.

Before the war he had been one of the most active and enthusiastic of peal ringers in the country, and it looked as if before his ringing career was ended he would surpass everybody in the number of his peals. Combined with an extraordinary skill in ringing he had a very attractive personality and was popular throughout the Exercise.

Bertram Prewett was born on October 12th, 1878, at Hampstead, and was educated at Watford Grammar School and King's College, London. He learned to ring at Oxhey in 1897 under the tuition of Mr. George Price and scored his first peal on March 28th, 1898. When he died in his fortieth year he had rung about 950 peals, among them the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough and the first of Cambridge Maximus. He did not live to see and take part in the great advance in method ringing, but at the time his list was a very fine one and included 56 peals of London Surprise Major. He did not usually ring a big bell, but he rang the tenors at St. Patrick's, Dublin, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, to peals. He represented the Hertford County Association on the Central Council.

THAXTED BELLS.

The following account of Thaxted bells was written about forty years ago by the Rev. G. E. Symonds, at the time the Vicar of the parish:—

In 1778 it appears there were only six bells, and the tenor through carelessness on the part of one of the ringers having become injured, it was determined to take it down, and as its weight was 22 cwt. to take some from it and from one of the other bells to recast and make a new tenor and three new bells. This was done and three—tenor, 1 and 2—were maiden bells. Then came out the eight bells, and more beautiful ones are not to be found in Essex.

The treble, 2nd, 3rd and tenor are by Mears and Co., 1778; the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th are by Thomas Gardiner, of Sudbury, 1734. The weight of the tenor is given in Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's list as 17 cwt.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

OLD QUESTIONS ASKED AGAIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From time to time the old arguments on ringing matters are resuscitated with varying vigour, but always, so it seems to me, with the same result, that no definite conclusion is reached.

Such a one we have now before us in the renewed discussion on the necessity, or desirability, of umpires for handbell peals. To those who advocate the necessity of umpires I would ask the same old question that has been asked many times before, one which 'Handbell Ringer' touches on in the last paragraph of his letter in this week's 'Ringing World,' 'Why should it be deemed necessary to have an umpire for a handbell peal and not for a tower bell peal?' I would ask also 'Does a conductor of a handbell peal lose all sense of what is right and what is wrong as soon as he sits down with a couple of handbells in his hands?' 'Does he cast off the cloak of honesty which he is credited with wearing whilst conducting at the end of a rope and don a cloak of dishonesty when he discards the rope for the leather strap?'

Although my record of handbell peals is numerically small compared to those of some ringers, I think that I can claim to have had a fairly wide experience in handbell ringing and conducting, and of all that I have rung (some with umpires and some without) I do not know of any of which I need be ashamed.

A TOUCH OF JEALOUSY?

I often wonder whether there is not just a little tinge of jealousy in the protestations of the non-handbell ringer. I remember having a discussion on this subject of umpires with an old Yorkshire ringer, an old and highly respected friend of mine. The old arguments for and against were voiced and as quickly swept aside; then when it seemed that we had almost reached a stalemate, my friend asked, 'Why should I have to stand and ring a tower bell for three hours to get a peal whilst you can sit and ring a handbell peal in two hours, and both count the same?' To me that question showed at least one of the places where the shoe was pinching.

Personally I cannot see why the accuracy of a reported handbell peal should be doubted because it is not umpired whilst a tower bell peal is accepted without comment. Surely no band is going to claim a peal that they have not attempted to ring. After all, the only people who get any satisfaction out of a peal are those who ring in it, and there is precious little satisfaction in a bad peal either on hand or tower. A conductor who deliberately 'cooks' a handbell peal is just as liable to 'cook' a peal on tower bells; it is, therefore, only logic that a compulsory umpire for one calls for a compulsory umpire for the other, and if the uncertified ringing of a tower bell peal is accepted it is an imposition to demand that a handbell peal must be attested. I think that in the absence of any recognised rule as to what constitutes a true peal, it can safely be left to both ringers and conductors to do the right thing. If there are any who wish to claim a worthless performance let them do so. In any case they will do the same whether the peal is rung on hand or in the tower.

When our handbell band was formed in Leeds, just after the last war, there was just a bare four of us, but we had the services of a first rate umpire for two or three years, a man who could check the coursing orders of the standard methods with unflinching accuracy; since then, however, we have rarely had sufficient members to allow us the privilege of an umpire. Had it been compulsory that all handbell peals should be umpired, many of the peals which we have rung would never have been started.

A STANDARD.

My good friend and colleague, Mr. Percy Johnson, who was really the founder of the band and with whom I must have rung round about eighty or ninety handbell peals, set a standard which has governed all our handbell attempts. He always laid it down that if two or more bells got down to lead in a wrong order the ringing must stop, and, umpire or no umpire, that has always been our rule.

If due regard is paid to striking, and some similar standard is voluntarily imposed by the ringers themselves, we need not worry that the quality of peals will deteriorate. A system of compulsory umpires does not necessarily improve the standard of ringing, it only penalises those handbell bands who are capable of ringing good peals but are unable to get a qualified umpire, and unless the umpire is qualified the whole thing becomes a farce.

I fail to see how the presence of an unqualified umpire, and by that I mean one who cannot watch and check the coursing order of the bells from start to finish, in any way guarantees that a true peal has been rung.

W. BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Unless my memory is at fault, I have, in recent months, seen reports of two peals rung jointly by members of the Cambridge University Guild and the Oxford University Society. As it has been my privilege to be intimately associated with both these societies, I naturally find this evidence of fraternal co-operation most gratifying.

There is, however, one point which seems to me to require further consideration. The publication of peals under the heading of two societies would appear to be rather unsatisfactory, for they have no claim to a place in the peal records of either. When ringers from a number of different areas meet together for peal ringing it is the usual custom to credit the peals to the County or Diocesan Association in which area they were rung, and this, I would humbly suggest, is a reasonable practice and one worthy of continuation.

I confess that I am somewhat uncertain regarding the rules of the O.U.S.C.R. regarding peal recording, but I do know that it has always been a hard and fast rule of the C.U.G.C.R. that no peal might be recorded for the Guild in which any non-member of the university took part. Reference to this rule at an early date is to be found in the Jubilee History of the Guild, compiled by the late Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, with reference to the wish of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson to ring a peal for the Guild. The rule was again upheld by all the members present on the Guild Week in 1936, when an attempt was made for Cambridge Major at Wokingham by seven members of the C.U.G.C.R. and the president of the O.U.S.C.R., and it was decided that should the peal be scored it would be credited to the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

I hope it will not be thought that I am in any way critical of the union of forces for peal ringing; far from it, for I consider it a practice worthy of every encouragement. I do think, however, that considerations of peal recording and analysis make it advisable to record peals for one society, as is the usual custom.

R. D. St. J. SMITH, C.F.

Heanor, Derbyshire.

WELL-KNOWN BRISTOL RINGERS MARRIED

On Saturday, August 15th, at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, the wedding took place of Dr. E. S. J. Hatcher, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Hatcher, of Wincanton, Somerset, and Miss K. O. Rawlins, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Rawlins, of Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. P. A. Rawlins, and was attended by Miss Betsy Stone, friend, and Miss Joan Rawlins, sister. The best man was Sgt. P. A. Hatcher, R.A.F., brother of the bridegroom. Prebendary W. E. Hodgson, Rector of Wincanton, officiated, assisted by Canon S. E. Swann, Vicar of St. Mary's. The service was choral and Mr. Ralph Morgan was at the organ.

The bride and bridegroom are both ringers and were members of the band at SS. Philip and Jacob's, Bristol. The bridegroom was also well known in the tower of Clifton Parish Church, and is now a member of the band of All Saints', Maidstone, Kent.

At the reception Miss Annie Brown, of St. Philip's, Mr. H. S. Gregory and his son, Mr. Hedley Gregory, of Clifton Parish Church, and the bridegroom rang a short touch on handbells.

The happy pair were the recipients of many presents and spent the honeymoon near Minehead.

A BIRMINGHAM BELL FOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Messrs. F. C. Smale and R. H. Dove re Blews, of Birmingham, Mr. H. B. Walters in 'Church Bells of Warwickshire' states the following: 'William Blews and Sons. This firm was established in the 'sixties and for about twenty years carried on business with much success, turning out some excellent bells. Their masterpiece is certainly the recasting of the great tenor at Brailes, with its admirable reproduction of the old inscription. There is also a ring of five by them at Avon Dassett (1869) and eight of the same date at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham. Their inscriptions are always in Modern Gothic of a very fair type. In 1887 the foundry came to an end with the death of William Blews on January 30th, and the business was sold to Mr. Charles Carr.'

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees Green, Salop.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.—On August 18th, at Beecheroff, 1.344 Bob Major rung silent: Monica J. F. Richardson 1-2, Rev. M. C. C. Melville 3-4, Brenda M. Richardson 5-6, Dorothy T. Richardson 7-8. Witness, Christine J. Richardson.

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CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 368.)

No account of chimes would be complete without reference to the 'Jacks of the Clock-house,' those quaint and picturesque figures which have—for the most part—been carrying on their duties faithfully for maybe two or three centuries regularly striking their little bells to denote the flight of time. To this day these automata are known as *jacquemarts*, one theory ascribing the origin to the name *Jacque-Mart*, a clock and lock maker of Lille, who was employed by the Duke of Burgundy in 1442. It may be, however, that the appellation is merely a corruption of *Jacomarchiadus*, meaning a man in a suit of armour. During the Middle Ages it was customary to have as sentries mailed men on the belfries of towers and castles, to give warning of the approach of an enemy, or other untoward event.

The earliest use of the bells as indicators of the flight of time was probably due to the canonical hours in the monasteries. Eight times a day the *signum*, or tower bell, rang out to summon the monks to prayer. At midnight 'Matins' was said; at three in the morning, 'Lauds'; at six, 'Prime'; at nine, 'Tierce'; 'Sext' followed at noon; and 'Nones' at three; in the afternoon 'Vespers' at six; and the day closed with 'Compline' at nine.

Thus every three hours throughout the day and night the Abbey bell was heard, not only in the cell and cloister, but also in the streets of the town, or in the scattered cottages of the hamlet that lay around the religious houses.

The very early connection between bells and clocks is, however, clearly indicated by the word for bell in German and in French. The earliest church bells were not actually sounded mechanically by the horologe, but rung by hand at stated times. In 1354 there is a continental record of a *campanaris* or *klokkemist*, a man appointed to perform such a task. Before any automaton or puppet struck the bells by machinery a human *Jantje* or 'town Johnnie' would ascend the tower at regular intervals and sound the hours. This person occupied himself in his spare time with sweeping the market-place, and was classed among the most menial civil servants. During the latter half of the 14th century the advance made in horology brought the weight-driven clock to a state of development that permitted its use in towers. The time was marked by performing figures, the beating of drums, the crowing of cocks, the blowing of horns, and eventually by the striking of alarum bells of the town by an elaborate piece of machinery. This meant a much more frequent use of bells, which long before dials were introduced were struck at regular intervals by puppets or Jacks. Clocks in homes were virtually unknown, so that Jacks were regarded as of considerable importance, and soon won a place in the affection of the people. Examples of Jacks can still be found in the Netherlands at the *Stadhuizen* of s'Hertogenbosch and Heusden; and the *Waag* of Alkmaar, where they ride horses; and at the *gasthuis* of Zalt-Bommel, where a trumpet is blown. In England, a favourite device consisted of the mechanical figure of a man, who, equipped with a hammer or battle-axe, struck the hours and quarters on one or more bells. An apt description of such figures says:—

'Sometimes he appeared in knightly panoply with mace, maul, or axe in hand, ready to proclaim the flight of time upon the sonorous bell which hung near the venerable clock. Occasionally he stood forth in state hovering in nudity, his only garment being a wreath of foliage about his loins, and having a goodly club for a weapon. Hence some people called him "Hercules," while others denominated him "the savage," or "wild man," the "Saracen," the "giant"; but everybody knew him by the common appellation of "Jack of the clock-house."'

The old clock of St. Paul's, London, was furnished with Jacks to strike the hours, which are spoken of by Dekker as 'Paul's Jacks,' who, writing in the year 1609, says, 'The great dial is your last Monument; where bestow some half of the three-score minutes to observe the sauciness of the Jacks that are above the Man in the Moon: the strangeness of their motion will quit your labour.' Paul's Jacks perished with the old Cathedral in the year 1666.

From 1671 the Jacks at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, to which Cowper alludes in his 'Table Talk,' formed one of the regular sights of London.

'When labour and when dullness, club in hand,

Like the two figures at S. Dunstan's, stand

Beating alternately, in measured time.

The clockwork tintinnabulum of rhyme,

Exact and regular the sounds will be:

But such mere quarter-strokes are not for me.'

It appears by the Parish Book that on May 18th, 1671, Thomas Harrys made an offer to build a new clock *with chimes*, and erect two figures of men with pole-axes to strike the quarters. His offer was accepted, with the exception of the chimes, and on October 28th in the same year, at the completion of his task, he was voted the sum of £4 per annum to keep it in repair. These famous giants remained there until 1829, when the figures were sold to the Marquis of Hertford, who erected them outside his villa in Regents Park. Recently they were restored to their original place at St. Dunstan's, where they now carry on their work of marking the fleeting hours, as they did in olden days.

Two fine Jacks are to be found in Suffolk, one at Southwold, and the other at Blythburgh; but, like many of their kind, these no longer fulfil their original duties. The Southwold figure, known locally as "Jack the Smiter," holds in his left hand a scimitar; in the right a battle-axe, with the butt of which he sounded the bell which depended from a branch that curves forward on the right of the figure. Blythburgh Jack—now parted from his clock—stands over the partition which forms the vestry, and his sole duty now is to strike his bell as the clergyman emerges to commence Divine Service. Minehead, in Somerset, also has a Jack now on the rood screen, a little man in green hood and jerkin who used to strike the time with his hammer.

Norwich Cathedral has two Jacks in Jacobean costume, but these no longer perform their original tasks. Two similarly attired Jacks are at All Saints', Leicester, and are still working in conjunction with the old clock which was admirably restored a few years ago by Messrs. John Smith and Sons, and placed over the south entrance to the church. I often refer to these little men as the oldest ringers in Leicester!

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

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

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

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Handbells from 3 to 4 p.m. Business meeting at 4 and tea in the canteen at 1s. per head, 6 p.m. — G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, August 29th. Executive Committee meeting 2.30. General meeting at 3.15, followed by tea; all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street. Handbells available. Service in Cathedral at 5.15. All ringers and visitors welcomed. — F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 35, Carisbrooke Road, Milton, Portsmouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Wollaston (D.V.), Saturday, August 29th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available ('silent'). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Stratton on Saturday, August 29th. Handbells, etc., from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Kindly notify early for tea. Suitable local train service. — C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, August 29th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Gosberton on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Bring your own food; tea,

for drinking, will be provided at 4.30, followed by business meeting. Service at 6 p.m. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Will all who intend to come please let me know by Sept. 1st.—Wm. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Bells (silent apparatus) (8) available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30, at 1s. 3d. per head. Please notify before Sept. 2nd. Meeting to follow. Election of officers, etc. Bells available again after tea.—Edgar Guise, Gen. Hon. Sec., Mill Lane, Woollard, Pensford, Som.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at the Queen's Head 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst. All ringers and friends welcome.—J. Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Redbourn on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Meet at the church for handbells, etc., 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Holly Bush, 5.30, only for those who let Mr. J. Hobbs, 84, High Street, Redbourn, St. Albans, know by Wednesday, Sept. 2nd. Buses from Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans (Dunstable route).—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Old Bradwell on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Sept. 5th and bring their own sugar? A good attendance desired. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (North-Eastern Division) and the SUFFOLK GUILD.—A joint meeting will be held at Stratford St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Parish Room 5 p.m. Please bring own eatables, but cups of tea will be found.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., N.E. Division, Essex Association, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Town Hall. Ringing (handbells only) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No arrangements can be made for tea. No admission without identity cards.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Full particulars later, but please book the date.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heston, Bradford.

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