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THE THING WHICH MATTERS.

In our art, the thing which matters is not what you do but how you do it. That may sound like a platitude, but really it is worth considering by ringers if they wish to get out of ringing the greatest amount of satisfaction to themselves and to give the most pleasure to other people. Perhaps the greatest charm of change ringing lies in the fact that it sets before the ringer a difficult task which calls for the exercise of the best, intellectual and physical, that is in him; and it provides him at the end of it with the opportunity of saying he has done something worth doing.

That is quite as it should be. The number and quality of the methods a man can ring and the number of peals he has scored are a very fair test of his ability and standing as a ringer; but they are anything but a complete or final test, though it so happens that they are the only test which can appear in a published record.

Two peal reports appear side by side in 'The Ringing World.' One is Treble Bob, the other London Surprise, and every reader naturally thinks, consciously or unconsciously, that the second was the better performance and was evidence of greater ability and greater skill. Very likely it was, but it need not necessarily have been so. The two bands may have been equal in ability and experience, either able to do anything the other could have done, and yet it may easily have been that the one which rang the Treble Bob exercised more skill and showed more ability in that particular performance than the other did in ringing the London.

No one who understands and values our art will belittle either method ringing or peal ringing. They provide almost the summit of a good ringer's ambition, but by themselves they are nothing. They need other excellences which are as difficult to acquire, but which give as much pleasure and satisfaction to the man who possesses them and far more to those who have to ring with him, or to listen to his ringing. A man may be justifiably proud of himself if he can ring London and Bristol Surprise. He has more cause still for pride if he can strike any bell, however false and odd-struck it may be, and put it exactly in the place it should be put. A first-class band is not necessarily one which can ring many methods, but one which can and does ring even Grand-sire Triples so that critical hearers approve and admire.

It is to be feared that modern conditions tend to set up false, or at any rate defective, standards. It is easier to gain a reputation as a method ringer than as a good striker. Open meetings provide abundant opportunities

(Continued on page 350.)

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for learning methods. They never provide opportunities for learning good striking. Indeed, it is a question whether in that matter they do not tend to lower the standard. The old prize-ringing meetings had many undesirable features, and no one could wish to see them revived, but they did set a premium on good ringing, and it is rather a pity that there is nothing which can be put in their place. It would not be a bad thing if, now and then, at meetings a really first-class band rang a short touch of Grandsire to show what ringing can and should be like.

Meanwhile it cannot be impressed too often or too strongly on beginners (and others) that they miss more than half the pleasure and the interest ringing has to give if they do not from the beginning and always make how they ring the most important thing. They can rest assured that, if they do so, method ringing will come far more easily and will be much more worth while when it does come.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 31, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*FREDERICK CHAPLIN... ..Treble	RICHARD W. STANNARD ... 5
MRS. R. F. DEAL 2	RICHARD F. DEAL 6
ARTHUR C. CHAPLIN... .. 3	ERNEST W. PYE 7
ERNEST W. FORBANK 4	JAMES BULLOCKTenor

Composed by THOMAS DAY. Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

* First peal in the method. First peal on the bells since augmentation to eight.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

*ROLAND HILLTreble	LEONARD W. CARBUTT ... 5
MRS. E. BRADLEY 2	ERNEST BROOKES... .. 6
MISS D. M. HAWLEY 3	EDWARD BRADLEY 7
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 4	DANIEL SMITHTenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal of Bob Major. † First peal of Major.

SIX BELL PEAL.

HODNET, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.	Tenor 12 cwt. 24 lb. in P.
*FRED LERCHTreble	F. NOLAN GOLDEN 4
WALTER LYCETT 2	†GEORGE BERRY 5
FRED PRICE 3	WILLIAM J. CHESTER ...Tenor

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor 'inside.'

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT HATFIELD.

Ringers from Arksey, Doncaster, Campsell, Thorne, Barnby Don, Sprotborough and Rawmarsh, as well as the full local band, were present at a meeting of the Doncaster and District Association, held at Hatfield on July 31st. The Vicar, the Rev. B. G. Brown, presided and entertained the company to tea. He expressed the hope that the society would come again soon. The next meeting was arranged to take place at Campsell on August 28th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 1-2	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6
†EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by J. E. SPICE. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.' Also first handbell peal of Double Bob for the Guild.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 20, WEST ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

LEONARD E. PITSTOW ... 1-2	WALTER AYRE ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	ALFRED E. PITSTOW ... 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE (Birmingham) ... 1-2	
FRANK E. HAYNES (Cambridge) ... 3-4	
JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford) ... 5-6	
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (Oxford) ... 7-8	

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal of Grandsire and the first of Triples for the Association.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in B flat.

*FRANK E. HAYNES ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	†FRANK E. PERVIN ... 7-8
*REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.
Umpire—Albert Walker.

* First peal of Treble Bob Royal. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal 'in hand.' First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

PTE. WILLIAM G. YOUNG (Dorset Regt.) ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	*SGT. ROY C. HURST (Dorset Regt.)... 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Witness—F. S. Wilson.

* First handbell peal. Messrs. Young and Hurst are of the Poole St. James' band.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 343.)

THE STRIKE-NOTE.

The Christian bell—the bell which Catholic Church of the West hung in her towers—was evolved during the course of many centuries; and when, at some time in the Middle Ages, it reached the form which, with minor modifications, it has kept ever since, it produced five principal tones approximately in an harmonic relationship. This has led some people (including Canon Simpson) to think it was deliberately designed so that the tones should be, not merely in approximate harmony, but in true harmony; and that the discrepancies, which always were present, were due to the ignorance or indifference of subsequent founders. It cannot, however, have been so. The men of the Middle Ages had not sufficient knowledge on which to base such a design, nor had they the instruments or the means by which to gain that knowledge.

Neither had they any scientific knowledge of music. They had a good natural appreciation of musical values, but it is likely that the scale which seemed right to their ears was not quite the same as the modern scale. To the ordinary people, including the founders, it is probable that a minor scale was the correct one for bells, and there is evidence that most, if not all, of the fives which were cast and hung in England between the years 1440 and 1500 were minor fives. As that century was passing away a great change took place in ideas concerning music (as of almost every other thing) due to the movement called the Renaissance; and in England there was a great development of music which reached its climax at the time of Shakespeare. One result of this may have been that the minor fives were turned into major sixes by the addition of tenors, and recast and new fives were usually in the major scale.

But in whatever manner the rings were tuned, there were still the discrepancies between the tones of the individual bells. These discrepancies were accepted by the keen ears of musical people, and it was not until much later, when composers and scientific men had studied the structure of music, that a few persons began to take notice of them; and it was not until recent years that any attempt was made to understand them, and from the knowledge gained to control and eliminate them.

The five tones which, according to present-day standards, a bell should produce, are the fundamental, the octave below (the hum-note), the octave above (the nominal), a minor third (the tierce), and a fifth (the quint). Why it should be a minor third and not (as we might naturally expect) a major third, we do not know; but that is only one of the many things connected with this subject we do not know.

In any old-style bell all these tones are never in true harmonic relationship. The hum-notes are usually nearly half a tone sharp; the nominals are usually about a quarter of a tone sharp; the tierce and the quint may be either sharp or flat. In no instance are the divergences the same in all the bells in a ring. They are purely accidental, and are not (as some have supposed) the result of design in order to obtain some desired effect.

It sometimes happens that a man, trying to illustrate the difference between the tones of old and new-style bells, will strike a chord on a piano, or (as W. W. (Continued on next page.)

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Starmer does in Groves' Dictionary) set one down in musical notation. It is not easy to see how else it can be done, but these illustrations may be very misleading. No bell ever gives a sound like a musical chord, and it is well that it does not. A heavy bell which gave forth a common chord would, when rung singly, undoubtedly be very pleasing, but a number of such bells striking rapidly one after another, either in changes or in a carillon, would hardly be tolerable.

Actually, to ordinary ears every bell has one note which is so prominent and important that it completely overwhelms the other tones. 'A good bell when struck yields one note, so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is.' That is Haweis' dictum, and everybody will agree with it, though some (like Simpson) will qualify, expand, or explain it. Ringers will agree, for the whole of change ringing and all that is meant by striking depend on it. The founders and tuners, modern as well as old, act on it. They call the note the 'strike-note' or the 'tap-note.'

But what is the strike-note? W. W. Starmer in Groves' Dictionary says it is the fundamental. Simpson does not use the actual word but infers that it is the nominal, though in some instances it may be the fundamental, or even (in the case of small bells) the hum-note. Taber Jones, a professor of physics, and a leading American authority on sound, says, that it is 'close to an octave below the fifth of the component partial tones,' which is a scientist's way of saying pretty much the same as Simpson had said.

We ourselves long ago formed the opinion that the strike-note is not any one actual tone of the bell, but the general effect of all of them on the brain of the hearer. It was not a considered opinion based on knowledge or observation. It was no more than a conjecture, a suggestion which seemed to offer the best explanation of the very contradictory factors in the problem. It had no authority of any sort and, though doubtless other people have thought the same, it would not be worth referring to, even in such random remarks as these, were it not that the latest scientific authorities seem inclined, though haltingly, to arrive at a somewhat similar conclusion. At any rate, this is what is said by Dr. E. G. Richardson, lecturer at the Universities of Durham, London and Dublin, and the author of a text book on sound, the third edition of which was published in 1940. He has been describing the 'partial tones' of a bell, which he says are five in number, and he goes on: 'Besides' (notice the word), 'besides these tones there is another tone which immediately after striking overpowers these but decays more rapidly. This is known as the striking-note, and its pitch, by which the founder names the bell, seems to lie near to that of the octave or second in the series of partial tones; in a good bell the striking note is made coincident with or harmonic to this second overtone, even if the other overtones have to be left inharmonic to each other. The occurrence of this striking tone is very curious and has so far baffled explanation. The partial tones can be elicited by resonance with a tuning fork, but not so the striking-note. Its origin may be subjective—formed in the ear itself—but its abnormal intensity is against this idea; however, Biehle found that it was most prominent when the lower tones of the bell were loudly

produced, and as it dies out rapidly compared with the normal tones of the bell, it may be formed in the ear by the large "forcing" of the initial stroke. On the other hand, Taber Jones thinks that the phenomenon is an aural illusion; that the striking note is really the fifth partial (double octave) but that its tone location is masked by the lower overtones making it seem in the lower octave.'

Reading this last sentence we remember that Simpson said that the English founders always tuned the nominal (the upper octave) but always gave the pitch an octave lower than it really was.

Turning to Taber Jones' own book, we read: 'One curious fact about the pitch of a bell is that the pitch which the ear assigns is often not the pitch of any normal mode of the bell. Studies of the reason for this remarkable situation have shown that the strike-note which is heard as the pitch of the bell is close to an octave below the fifth of the component partial tones. When a bell is struck on her soundbow it is found that the fifth partial is at first the most prominent, and it seems probable that in many bells this fifth partial determines the pitch of the strike-note, the strike-note from these bells being just an octave below the fifth partial.'

The 'fifth partial' is the nominal or upper octave, and the reader should notice in the above quotation the use of the expressions 'close to an octave,' 'just an octave' and 'seems probable.'

After we have read these quotations we realise that a description and explanation of the five tones does not exhaust all that can be said about bell tuning, and we begin to think that it may be possible to do full justice to the excellences of modern bells and tuning without the need of a general condemnation of all the old-style bells and their makers. Perhaps in the mysterious character of the strike-note we shall find the best explanation of the difficulties which the non-expert and non-technical bell lover meets in this question of tuning.

We may notice that there are three distinct planes on which bells and their tuning can be considered, and three angles from which they can be viewed and judged.

First there are the pure scientists who treat the subject as one of the production of sound and of natural laws. They work in lofty altitudes where it is unnecessary and largely impossible for the average person to follow them.

Then there are the expert tuners. They work on the basis of exact knowledge; the tuning fork is their test, and their standard is whether bells actually are in tune or not. This they can judge almost to a vibration.

Finally there is the general public, the outside hearers who listen more or less to the sound of the bells. Their test is their own ears, and their standard is not whether bells are in tune, but whether they sound in tune.

The comment of the tuners on this will be that if bells are actually in tune they will sound in tune; and it is a good and unanswerable argument, so far as it goes. But the converse is not true. If bells are in tune they undoubtedly will sound in tune, but it does not necessarily follow that if bells are not in tune they will sound out of tune. There is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. It may be that one irregularity counteracts and balances another. It may be that the ear—the keenly musical ear, not merely the average ear—naturally ignores some dis-

crepancies. Or it may be that some discords are transmuted into some quality which gives character and individuality to a peal.

Otherwise, how can we account for the reputation of some of the famous rings and the charm they undoubtedly exercise? It is no uncommon experience for ringers to inspect some well-loved bells in a foundry where they have been conveyed for restoration. They are struck round and their defects are patent to the dullest ear. Hard by perhaps is a ring of modern bells tuned according to modern ideas. They, too, are struck round, and the difference is enormous. Neither prejudice nor affection can resist the conclusion that the modern bells are by far the more musical. But the curious fact is that when the old bells are rehung in their steeple, unaltered it may be or very little altered, the judgment is not confirmed. The bells once again make their old appeal and exercise their old charm, undiminished in any way.

Why is this so? Is it due to the peculiar acoustic properties of the tower? Possibly to a larger extent than is generally supposed. It may very well be that the great reputation some bells have is really due not to their own virtues but to the steeple they hang in. In bygone days London ringers used to be jealous of the reputation of the Mancroft ring, and claimed that Cornhill bells were just as good. Change the peals over, they said. Put St. Peter's bells in Cornhill tower, and St. Michael's bells in Mancroft tower, and Norwich will still have the peal which sound the best.

Or is it the case that the old-style bells have regained their charm because they no longer have to face the competition of a more musical modern peal? It may be so to some extent, but there is the undoubted fact that in the

case of these latter the verdict formed in the foundry is not always fully confirmed in the steeple. After a time some men will complain that the bells lack character. They do not deny their musical qualities, but 'when you have heard one of these rings you have heard the lot.'

So far as this criticism is true it means that all these modern rings reach the standard which authority says is necessary in a good bell, and the complaint is really that the bells are free from the old-style defects. There is something in human nature which dislikes anything which completely reaches a general standard, anything 'faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null.'

But though this is a reasonable criticism of some modern bells, it is only valid in the case of ringers. They go about the country listening to many rings, and it is not unnatural if a sameness of excellence sometimes produces monotony and disappointment. But ringers, after all, are few in number and relatively of no great importance. The people who live in a particular parish have no great grievance and certainly feel none if the musical bells they hear Sunday by Sunday can be matched by exactly similar ones in a dozen or a score other parishes in different parts of the country.

We may not be very far wrong if we hold the opinion that divergence from strict harmony does in some cases produce in the ears of non-expert and non-technical hearers qualities which give just that character and individuality which make some rings of bells attractive. And if that be so, a man may avow his liking and even preference for peals such as Painswick, or Mancroft, or Fulham, or even St. Paul's without laying himself open to the taunt that his ear is defective and his taste faulty.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Sixty years ago to-day, the Burton-on-Trent band rang at Rhyl the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in Wales. William Wakeley conducted and Mr. Joseph Griffin, the only survivor of the band, rang the fourth.

Fifty years ago last Saturday, at Crawley, Mr. Frederick Dench rang his first peal of Double Norwich.

Fifty years ago to-day, the first peal of Major was rung at Pinner. Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham conducted. Mr. J. E. Davis rang the sixth, and Mr. James George the tenor.

On August 8th, 1749, the Union Scholars 'rang a complete Peal of five Thousand and Forty Plain Bob Trebles on the Eight Smallest Bells.' John Holt conducted.

On the same date in 1842 the members of the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang at Aston, 'in a masterly style,' the first peal of Stedman Triples composed or rung with only two singles. They were, however, in-course singles, which are not now considered allowable.

The first peal of Hertfordshire Surprise Major was rung at Bushey on August 11th, 1934; and the first peal of Wheatley, Surprise Major at Erith on August 14th, 1937.

The Leicester men rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Margaret's on August 12th, 1776.

William Willson was born on August 12th, 1868, and William Pye was born on August 14th, 1870.

Edwin Barnett, sen., died on August 13th, 1932.

On the same date in 1929 the Middlesex Association rang at Willesden the first peal in ten Spliced Surprise methods.

The Leicester men rang a peal of Princess Mary Surprise Royal on August 14th, 1923. They afterwards renamed the method Goldsborough.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS.

Will all readers kindly send their names and addresses to me? On a postcard, please, surname first, and in block capitals.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Secretary.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD RECORDS.

THE FIRST KENT MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The comments by Mr. J. A. Trollope on my letter published in your issue of July 30th are very interesting, but as regards the first peal of Kent Maximus are hardly convincing.

I believe it is a fact that even to this day, with the exception of Mr. Trollope, no official of the Cumberland Society has ever claimed that the peals rung by them in 1794 and 1795 were Kent. On the other hand, the St. Martin's men, whilst calling their peal on the broadsheet 'New' Treble Bob Maximus, within three years of its performance record it in their official peal book as 'Oxford Treble Bob with the Kent Variation,' and it is reasonable to assume that most of the men who took part in the peal were alive at that time.

As regards the peals not recorded in the peal book, we are fully aware that some were omitted. The late Henry Johnson left a record of some of these, but unfortunately gave no reason why they were excluded. If Mr. Trollope knows perhaps he will be good enough to inform us. It would also be of general interest if he would publish what he knows of the earlier history of the Guild prior to 1755.

THOMAS H. REEVES, Hon. Secretary.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

DEATH OF MR. H. A. HEYWOOD.

The death is announced of Mr. H. A. Heywood, of Christleton Lodge, Cheshire. He was the cousin of Sir Arthur Heywood, some time president of the Central Council, and brother of Dr. Bernard Heywood, formerly Bishop of Southwell, and later of Ely.

Although not himself a ringer, Mr. Heywood had always taken a very keen interest in ringing affairs. He was a life member of the Chester Diocesan Guild and, at one time, its secretary. He had been an active member of the Guild Committee for many years and was chairman of the Chester Branch. He was seldom absent from meetings.

Mr. Heywood was 84 years of age and until quite recently led a very active life. His work for the welfare of the Chester Guild through 40 years cannot be over-estimated.

The funeral at Christleton took place on Saturday, July 24th, and was attended by a number of ringers, including the Master of the Guild, Mr. J. W. Milner. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE ARCHER

OLD DISS RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. George Archer, of Diss, which occurred on August 3rd.

Mr. Archer, who was 72 years old, was born in the Suffolk village of Palgrave, but had lived for over 70 years at Diss, where during nearly 60 years he was employed at Messrs. Aldridge Brothers' matting factory.

He joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1889 and the Suffolk Guild in 1928. He rang in 166 peals for the former, including three on handbells. On March 15th, 1930, he rang the tenor at Quidenham to an 8,096 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 4 hours 49 minutes. He also took part in two peals for the Suffolk Guild. He conducted one peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Diss.

Although in failing health for several months, he took part in ringing up till Sunday, July 4th, when he rang for morning and evening services at Diss.

The funeral was at Diss Cemetery on August 7th, and the Rector, the Rev. J. A. Appleton, took the service. Handbells were rung over the grave by A. G. Harrison 1-2, C. J. Moore 3-4, Mrs. J. Tonge 5, Miss V. Gooderham 6, D. Whiting 7-8. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the local company of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Diss.

In the evening and again on Sunday morning the bells of Diss Parish Church were rung half-muffled to touches of Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Bob Major. Those taking part were C. J. More, T. Ford, E. Whiting (Pulham), H. Todd (Eye), D. Whiting, W. Elsey, F. Roper, W. Musk, A. G. Harrison and G. Kemp.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT EDENHAM.

The first meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild since April, 1940, was held at Edenham on July 24th and was attended by ringers from Peterborough, Spalding, Bourne, Deeping St. Nicholas, Market Deeping, Morton, Rippingale, Billingborough, Folkingham and the local band. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and some touches of Minor.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. H. Stainsby, who welcomed the branch, and tea was provided on the Vicarage lawn, thirty persons being present.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting and was elected an honorary member of the Guild. A letter from Mr. Rupert Richardson (Master of the Guild) was read expressing his regret at not being able to be present. He wished the meeting success and hoped it would be the forerunner of regular meetings again.

Six new ringing members were elected, Mr. J. Smith, of Bourne, Mr. J. Semper, of Lamptoft, Mr. G. Beaver, Mrs. M. Coupland and Miss V. Williamson, all of Rippingale, and Miss F. Day, of Market Deeping.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Rippingale in October, and the annual meeting was provisionally fixed for January, 1944, at Grantham.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and those who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WEST MONKTON.

At a meeting of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at West Monkton on July 17th, about 25 ringers were present from three of the Taunton towers, Trull, Hardington, Mandeville and the local band. The Vicar, the Rev. R. K. Pagett, presided at the business meeting in the Church Room and welcomed the members.

A letter from the Guild Ringing Master and Hon. Secretary was read containing advice and suggestions designed to help bands and individual ringers, and urging increased support for 'The Ringing World.' The branch secretary, Mr. W. H. Lloyd, made a statement covering the up-to-date activities of towers in the deanery, and, referring to 'The Ringing World,' he said that he believed the Central Council was considering the future of the paper and would, no doubt, issue a statement as soon as was possible.

Milverton was chosen for the next meeting.

Several new members were elected.

Mr. Lloyd announced that the James Hunt Memorial Scheme was nearing completion.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and Mr. H. Phillips, of the local band.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOUGHTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Boughton on July 31st. Ringing began at 3.30 p.m. and was followed by service, conducted by the Rev. G. E. Stevenson.

Refreshments were served in the Rectory Garden, and the business meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin. A vote of thanks was accorded the Rector and the Boughton ringers for their welcome and the excellent arrangements.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT J. MAYNARD.

OLD WALTHAMSTOW RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert J. Maynard, of Walthamstow, which took place on Monday, August 2nd, as the result of a stroke a day or two earlier.

Although in poor health for some time, his condition gave no real cause for anxiety until he was taken ill on the Saturday before his death, and it was then probably a merciful release that the end came soon. On Saturday, August 7th, after a service in the old church, he was buried in the family grave in St. Mary's Churchyard, under the shadow of the tower in which he had rung for well over 70 years. The Rev. Canon Barton, of Parkstone, Dorset, officiated, in the absence of the Vicar, Canon Oakley, who sent his regrets at being unable to be present.

Among the congregation, besides three ringing sons, Robert, Henry J. and Frederick C. Maynard, a ringing grandson, Frank Maynard, and other members of the family, were many ringers, including John H. Wilkins, H. Rumens, H. Strange, F. C. Taylor, H. Street, E. E. Holman and C. T. Coles, of the St. Mary's Society, Mr. A. A. Hughes, representing the Ancient Society of College Youths, and Mr. J. Chalk, representing the Essex Association. Mr. Coles represented the Middlesex County Association. After the committal service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave.

Mr. Robert J. Maynard was born on September 23rd, 1856, and was thus 86 years of age when he died. He learned to ring at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, at the age of nine, and was connected with that tower for about 77 years. For a few years during his younger days he was also towerkeeper at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, and practically the whole of his ringing was done at these two churches.

He kept no record of his peals, but on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1936 he stated that he had probably rung about 200, all of which, with only one exception, were rung at one or other of the two Walthamstow towers. The one exception was a peal of Double Norwich at St. Mary's, Woodford, on May 9th, 1936. The great majority of his peals were, of course, rung at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, where at one time he was always happy on the tenor-box. Indeed, his timing of the tenor to Caters was perfect, and he was on more than one occasion complimented on this by William Pye. In later years he was content to ring a small bell, and he rang the fifth to his 80th birthday peal nearly seven years ago, one of Stedman Caters, conducted by his eldest son. He rang the tenor to a 6,003 Stedman Caters for his 70th birthday, this also conducted by his eldest son, and he rang the treble to a 7,011 Stedman Caters on January 8th, 1921, conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles. His name appears on 27 tablets and boards in the belfry, the earliest, which was his first peal, dated 1880. It was conducted by his brother, Thomas Maynard.

Mr. Maynard had rung for all Coronations and Royal funerals during his time, and had never missed ringing for early Christmas morning and New Year's ringing, except during war years. He rang for Victory ringing last November, on Christmas Day (his last touch of Stedman Caters), and for two or three Sundays on the lifting of the ban. Then failing strength caused him to give up.

He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1877; he became a member of the Essex Association at its foundation, and was a member of the Middlesex Association even before the present County Association was formed. He was also a member of the London County Association, but preferred to call himself a St. James' Society member.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

By invitation of Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, members of the Ancient Society of College Youths paid a visit on July 31st to Buckinghamshire. The party travelled from Euston to Tring and were met at the station and conveyed to Ivinghoe for an hour's ringing, the methods being Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Tea was at Sunnyside, the home of Mr. Lewis, where everything was glorious, the lawn, apple trees and garden being especially appreciated.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. A. Trollope, J. E. Smallwood, A. Walker, T. Reeves, F. W. Perrens, F. E. Haynes, G. E. and H. Fearn, the last named six sending their best wishes from Birmingham.

A letter from Mr. W. Hibbert told the sad news of the death of Flying Officer R. Kingham and Sergt. Pilot D. Nash, of Basingstoke. Both were 20 years of age and they joined the College Youths on the same day. The members present stood for a few moments as a tribute to their memory.

Greetings were received from overseas from Corporal Kenneth Arthur, R.A.F., and Pte. Eric Rapley.

Mr. F. E. Gollins brought greetings from Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, of Ferndown, Dorset.

On behalf of those present, the Master thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lewis for their warm welcome and hospitality, and Mrs. Hooton and the other ladies for helping to make everything such a success.

The members present were the Master, Secretary and Treasurer and Messrs. F. E. Collins, D. Cooper, G. F. Hoad, H. Hodgetts, H. Hoskins, C. H. Kippin, E. H. Lewis, C. M. Meyer, W. H. Pasmore, J. G. A. Prior, J. H. Shepherd, E. A. Young and Mr. Fred Reeves from Tring.

NORBURY CHURCH, CHESHIRE.

ITS BELLS AND RINGERS.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.

The old chapel at Norbury, or Northburie as it used to be called, was built about the year 1600 as a Chapel of Ease to Poynton. Its site was somewhere on the Macclesfield Road, but no trace of this remains. In 1773, the Rev. David Simpson was the curate, but he was not approved of by the congregation owing to his sympathies with John Wesley, and was suspended. In 1774 he built a chapel in Bullock Smithy, the former name of Hazel Grove, a village which was then growing very fast, but was set some distance from Norbury Chapel. Simpson disposed of his chapel to the Wesleyans in 1786, and it was opened by John Wesley in that year. Simpson then went to Macclesfield as Vicar of the new parish of Christ Church, and built a new church. He vowed that his church tower would be higher than St. Michael's. It is, and, being built of brick with the bells set in the top storey, many ringers have met their Waterloo there. No doubt the rapid growth of Nonconformity in Hazel Grove had something to do with the siting of the present church at Norbury, which was erected nearer the village. The consecration of this church took place on July 2nd, 1834, when the old chapel was pulled down.

About this time the parishioners of Disley were considering replacing their peal of six as they were apparently not satisfied with the bells then hanging in the tower. So in 1837 the old bells were presented to Norbury and a new peal of six replaced them. No records are left to show whether this old peal was hung for ringing when transferred to Norbury. It is reputed that at one time they were chimed by means of a barrel, the holding bolts of which are still to be seen in the west wall of the ringing chamber. According to the old ringers' log book, nothing other than Bob Doubles had been rung previous to 1896.

Like many other ringers, the ringers of Norbury fell into disgrace, and a clean sweep was made. Under the guidance of the late Mr. R. J. Fletcher, a young men's Sunday class was held in the ringing chamber, and these young men formed the new band of ringers.

Although the ringers then in office, 1896, had been in possession for several years, they had never been stirred by any ambition to become scientific change ringers until they were approached by the Rev. H. Leigh-Mallory, of Wilmslow, who put them in possession of the following particulars. There was in existence an institution called 'The Cheshire Guild of Change Ringers' (now called the 'Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers'), which was divided into branches, and he, the Rev. Leigh-Mallory, was hon. secretary of the 'Stockport and Bowdon Branch,' and as this belfry was in the district covered by the branch, he requested that the ringers should become members of the Guild. After due deliberation they decided to do so. This was early in July, 1896. They set to work in real earnest, and a practice night was arranged. Valuable aid was given by that well-known ringer, Mr. J. S. Wilde, of Hyde; to him the ringers were greatly indebted for their rapid progress.

On Sunday, September 13th, 1896, for morning service, 720 of Bob Minor was rung by S. Fernley (conduc-

tor) treble, J. Dean 2nd, G. D. Warburton 3rd, S. Rutter 4th, A. Fernley 5th, and J. Shallcross tenor, and the time taken was twenty-seven minutes. This was the first 720 in which any of the band had taken part, and when it is considered that they had only been in practice for two months with the 'tenor' a working bell, it was not a bad performance.

As Jim Wilde was coaching the band, good striking was the main thing, and it was only natural that he directed them towards Treble Bob. The first 720 of Kent was rung for morning service on Sunday, February 7th, 1897. Ringing began at 9.50 a.m., and all went well for twenty minutes, when something went wrong. A fresh start was immediately made, and at 10.30 a.m. (time to cease ringing) the 720 was going strong and well. The conductor decided to go on to the end, if possible, and the 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor was accomplished seven minutes after the service had commenced, notwithstanding the fact that for the past five minutes the irate choirmaster had been vigorously pounding on the door for ringing to cease.

The band was as follows: J. Dean treble, S. Fernley 2nd, G. D. Warburton 3rd, S. Rutter 4th, A. Fernley 5th, and J. Shallcross (conductor) tenor, and the time taken was twenty-six minutes. The Oxford variation was next tackled, and the first 720 rung on Sunday, March 28th, 1897.

Besides practising these new methods they had been putting a very promising pupil, James Fernley, through his paces, and on April 5th, 1897, two months after he began to handle a bell, he rang his first 720, the first of a thousand or so. The time spent on him was not wasted, and he was not loth to pass on his knowledge to others, with the result that he built up a band that it was a pleasure to ring with, and one that made ringing history as far as multi-method peals are concerned.

Making use of their new-found knowledge, a date touch in three methods was rung on May 26th, 1897. It was recorded as the longest and best peal so far rung by the band and on the bells, and, after the 5,040's they eventually did ring, their 1897 record caused many laughs. June 19th, 1897, saw them launching out in another direction. There was a ringing contest at Didsbury Parish Church; they entered for it, and rang 720 Kent. The striking, however, was not very good, no doubt owing to the over-anxiety of some of the band, and they were placed third. They now turned their attention towards scoring a 5,040, but the bad go of the bells put the brake on this effort, and for a year or so the bells were unringable.

During 1899-1900 the bells were rehung, and practice was resumed, with the result that on November 10th, 1900, a 5,040 in seven methods was rung in two hours and fifty-three minutes by: W. Wild treble, J. Fernley 2nd, J. Dean 3rd, A. Fernley 4th, S. Fernley (conductor) 5th, G. D. Warburton tenor. (As, I believe, W. Wild died a few months ago, none of the band now remain.) This was the first peal on the bells, by all the band, and the first in seven methods by any band in the Stockport and Bowdon Branch of the Chester Guild.

The Rev. A. T. Beeston put in many hours' practice and rang many peals with the Norbury Company. That they were good peals, is to say the least of it, for both Jim Fernley and Mr. Beeston were sticklers for good

striking. Their efforts were directed towards ringing 'spliced' peals, and they were rewarded with some measure of success. The Great War of 1914-1918 retarded progress. Seven ringers from the Norbury band joined the Forces and, considering that the bells were rung for practically every Sunday service during that period, chiefly on account of old ringers returning to fill the gaps, the tower of St. Thomas', Norbury, had something to its credit.

All, with the exception of H. Williamson, who died of wounds, returned to man the ropes, and practices began in earnest. Mr. Beeston again joined in, and soon things began to move. It is not necessary for me to give details of their achievements. It was a big disappointment when Beeston had to give up ringing. His last peal was rung on January 2nd, 1922, at Norbury, a seven-method peal of Treble Bob Minor, but he did not lose interest, and no one was more pleased than he when the Norbury company rang the famous thirty-five method peal on Tuesday, December 4th, 1923.

These six bells were a mixed lot, rather light and not of good tone, but they served their purpose. About the time the thirty-five method peal was rung, a movement was set on foot to have them recast and augmented, a movement which came to a successful conclusion in 1925. On April 16th the last peal was rung on them, and on the following Monday Messrs. John Taylor and Co. began the work of dismantling them. The old third and fourth, both cast by Henry Oldfield in 1617, were not touched but placed in the west porch. The third is inscribed, 'Ihesvs be our Speed,' and the fourth 'God Save the King.' In addition to the inscription and date, there are the mark of Henry Oldfield and the arms of the Leighs of Lyme (a ram's head issuant out of a ducal coronet). The old treble, 2nd, 5th and tenor were recast and four new bells added, making a ring of eight with a tenor of 14½ cwt.

The old and new inscriptions are as follows:—

Treble.—(Peter Lee, Esq., 1750.) Recast 1925 as the gift of the Nonconformists of Hazel Grove.

'Behold how good and joyful a thing it is,
Brethren to dwell together in unity.'

2nd.—(Peter Lee, Lord of Lime, 1748, Daniel Hedderley, Fr.) Recast 1925. In memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918. 'For God, King and Country.'

3rd.—Ringers' bell, 1925. In memory of Private Herbert Williamson, Loyal North Lancs Regiment, who died December 15th, 1918, aged 38, for many years a ringer at this church.

4th.—Dedicated by the Freemasons of Hazel Grove and district, 1925 (Square and Compasses).
'Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.'

5th.—(God save this Church. Thomas Leigh, Esq., Lyme Park, 1837.) Recast 1925.

6th.—(All people may behold and see the workes of good Sir Peeter Leigh, 1682.) Recast 1925.

7th.—Te Deum Laudamus. A thank-offering from the congregation, 1925.

Tenor.—Nisi Dominus Frustra, 1925.

Arthur James Humphreys, B.A., B.D., Vicar.
Edward Donovan Reeman, B.A., Curate.
John W. Fernley, } Wardens.
John T. Coles. }

In addition to the inscriptions, the bells bear the mark of the founders, Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

It is often said that when Hazel Grove folks set themselves to do a job they do it gradely, and this restoration was no exception to the rule, for, in addition to the bells, the following work to the church was undertaken: The building of a new chancel, extension of the vestries, repair and reslating of the roof, outside pointing, renewal of windows, removal of organ from the west gallery, reseating of the galleries, electric lighting, re-decoration of the church inside and out and a new clock, which was provided by Joyce. The total cost was over £5,000.

Saturday, October 24th, was a great day. The consecration of the new chancel and the dedication of the bells by the Bishop of Chester took place amid scenes of great rejoicing. The celebrations did not end that day but were carried on for a week, culminating with a bell-warming day on Saturday, October 31st. During the week services were held at 7.30 p.m. each day, and the bells were rung by selected bands from neighbouring churches. As far as ringers are concerned, the bell-warming day was a fitting end to a week of festivities.

The first peal on the new octave was rung on November 26th. It was a spliced peal of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, conducted by James Fernley. It was rung with the bells fully muffled to the memory of Queen Alexandra. Good use has been made of the bells since, and peals have been rung on them. Nine years after the opening James Fernley passed away, and on the day of his funeral, October 20th, 1934, a very good peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung with the bells half muffled. So came to an end a ringing career of no mean achievement.

RAISING AND CEASING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Years ago I belonged to an eight-bell tower where we used to ring on Sunday mornings and fall the bells before service. A new Vicar came to the parish and soon after he came he sent for our captain and asked him what the ringers were trying to do on Sunday. It seemed to him that they were trying to see how fast they could ring the bells, and he did not want that sort of thing.

The captain explained that the bells had to be dropped, and the reply was, 'I don't know anything about that. If you must drop the bells you will have to drop them at a slower rate. I am not going to have them raced round like that.'

It was, of course, ignorance, but it does show the result of trying to drop too many bells at the same time.

'AN OLD RINGER.'

YORKSHIRE RINGER KILLED.

Sergeant Navigator George William Brothwell, of the R.A.F., has been reported killed in action. He was one of the band at St. Mary Magdalene, Whiston, Yorkshire, and a member of the Yorkshire Association and of the Sheffield and District Society.

On July 24th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung at Whiston with the bells half-muffled by Mrs. Elsie Chaddock 1, John E. Lewley 2, Mrs. Dorice Kelly 3, Gordon Grahame 4, John W. Brothwell 5, Percy Jervis 6, Herbert C. Chaddock 7, Sgt. N. Chaddock (conductor) tenor.

Sergeant Brothwell is the second Whiston ringer to be killed in action. Two others are prisoners of war and two on active service.

LEWISHAM.—On Sunday, July 25th, at the Church of St. Mary, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, F. E. Pitman 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, F. W. Richardson 4, G. James 5, C. H. Walker 6, J. Bennett (conductor) 7, R. W. Boyce (first attempt for a quarter-peal) 8.

FRINDSBURY.—On Saturday, July 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 1, W. Easter 2, T. Beaumont 3, H. Springate 4, A. Bloxham 5, E. A. G. Allen 6, C. E. J. Norris 7, A. H. Haylor 8.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BURBAGE.**

A meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Burbage on July 24th, and 40 ringers and friends attended from Broughton Astley, Burbage, Coventry, Croft, Earl Shilton, Hinckley, Sapcote, Stoke Golding and Wolvey. The methods rung on the tower bells include Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob.

Mr. H. Bird presided at the meeting, and reference was made to the death of William Jones, a past member and for 40 years captain of the Stoney Stanton ringers, who was interred that afternoon.

An airgraph message of good wishes was received from Frank T. Long, a member now serving in North Africa. The meeting congratulated Mrs. E. M. Dennis, whose husband, Chief Radio Officer Donald Wilfred Dennis, of the Merchant Navy, had been awarded the George Medal for gallantry at sea. The citation of the award refers to the courage and strong leadership displayed by Radio Officer Dennis, whose coolness and steadfastness undoubtedly helped to save many lives when his ship was torpedoed, although he himself was suffering severely from burns and this was the third time he had been torpedoed.

Mr. C. H. Webb was congratulated on having a photograph of himself and his sons ringing the handbells reproduced in 'Home Words,' the official organ of the Church Magazine.

Various change methods and many tunes were rung on the handbells, most of the members taking part.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and to Mr. Frank Measures for making all arrangements was carried.

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

A special meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Mangotsfield on July 24th and was attended by ringers from Abson, Warmley, Stapleton, Henbury and the local band.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, and the singing was led by the choir and organist.

Tea in the Parish Room was provided by Mrs. Wise, the Vicar's wife, and was followed by a short business meeting, at which the Vicar took the chair. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at St. Ambrose's on August 23rd, when the policy of the branch, now that ringing has been resumed, will be discussed. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, Mrs. Wise, the organist and the choir.

During the afternoon and evening good practice was made on the light ring of eight, the methods being Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Major.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**JOINT MEETING AT SHERBURN.**

A joint meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society was held at Sherburn-in-Elmet on July 31st and was attended by about 50 ringers from Armley, Beverley Minster, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Felkirk, Goole, Headingley (St. Chad's), Handsworth, Hemingbrough, Howden, Idle, Leeds, Pontefract (St. Giles' and All Saints'), Selby Abbey, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Triangle and York Minster, as well as Mr. C. W. Woolley and Mr. M. Sawyer, of Figheldean, Wiltshire.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Reeder, who gave an address on the history of the church and the bells.

Tea was served in the schools by ladies of the church and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by Mr. F. Cryer, vice-president of the Yorkshire Association, and Mr. J. F. Harvey, president of the Leeds Society. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, choir and organist was passed, and, in his reply, the Vicar welcomed the associations and complimented them on the good attendance. A vote of thanks to the local company and the ladies serving at tea was responded to by Miss D. M. Hawley.

Four new members were elected to the Yorkshire Association, Messrs. J. Silk, of Selby Abbey, and T. Winter, G. Braithwaite and H. Turgoose, of St. Mary's, Beverley.

Fastrington was selected as the next place of meeting for the Yorkshire Association, and East Ardsley for the Leeds and District Society. A collection for the Yorkshire Association's Bell Repairs Fund realised £1 2s. 6½d.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Little Bob and Double Norwich Major.

SOUND CONTROL.**AN EXAMPLE FROM BRADFORD.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think that it is up to the ringers and the church officials to remove the nuisance of noisy bells as far as possible.

We at Bradford had complaints for many years about the noise, mostly from the G.P.O., which is right underneath the tower, and I might say they had cause to complain. They were a very bad peal and very noisy. Eventually they started running very badly and the ringers decided to give up unless the bells were made ringable again. We were told that the church was too poor to do anything, so the bells stood for about two years, then the public wanted them to ring again, and eventually there was a subscription list opened and the money came in so fast that the bells were sent away to be recast. Then there was the question of the noise. To get over this the louvres were covered up with wired glass in a wood frame made to open if required, then about two-thirds of the tower roof was cut out and lifted up 4 to 5 ft. with wire netting to cover the opening. This keeps birds out and the bells and bell chamber are kept cleaner.

When we got the bells back and got them ringing again, it was the ringers who complained about noise. It was too much for us, and we had to put wadding in our ears to ring them. To get over this we had another floor or roof put in the ringing chamber with 18in. space between and some sound-proof felt about ½in. thick laid on top. This did the trick and now everybody is happy. The sound now goes out of the top of the tower and leaves a very pleasant sound round about the church, and they can be heard from four to five miles away.

After ringing our first 5,000 the churchwarden went to see the postmaster to see if he had any complaints. He told him that we could ring any time and as long as we liked. He liked to hear them now.

J. HARDCASTLE.

72, St. Margaret's Road, Bradford, Yorks.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT STRATTON.**

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Guild was held at Stratton on July 23rd, and, in addition to the Parish Church, two other belfries were available, Bradford Peverell and Charminster. The learners went to Bradford Peverell and were in good charge.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. F. Godley, who gave an address. Canon A. W. Markby read the lesson and Mr. J. E. Brown was at the organ.

Tea on the Rectory lawn was enjoyed by 55 members and friends, and the business meeting followed, presided over by Canon Markby, the branch chairman.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary, owing to an accident which had happened to Mrs. Jennings the day before. Members expressed the hope that she would make a speedy recovery.

It was decided to accept the invitation of the Rev. T. R. Teague to Preston on Saturday, September 11th. Owing to transport difficulties, the meeting arranged for August had to be postponed. Col. and Mrs. R. E. Power were elected hon. members.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the members to the Rector and Mrs. Godley, to the ringers, and to the organist and choir.

Ringing continued until late in the evening and the following towers were represented: Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, Fordington, Frampton, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Upwey, Wyke Regis, Hazelbury Bryan and Halifax. Members of H.M. Forces were present from Buckfastleigh and Torrington.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, August 1st, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Sgt.-Major M. J. Pryor (first quarter-peal in the method 'inside') 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove 6, Sgt. J. W. Berry (first quarter-peal in the method as conductor) 7, Gnr. A. Ogden 8.—On Tuesday, August 3rd, in the belfry, 1,280 Bob Major: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3-4, Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Sgt.-Major M. J. Pryor (first quarter-peal on handbells) 7-8.

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NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, on Sat., Aug. 14th, 3 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney Aug. 15th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The annual meeting at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 14th, at North Mimms, at 3 p.m.—R. W. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Meeting at Haxey, Isle of Axholme, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Bring own tea.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK.—Ringing meeting, Aug. 14th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—C. W. Pipe.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Halesowen, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in Church School. Bells afterwards to 9 p.m. Also handbells. Numbers for tea by 19th.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Surfleet on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Service 3.15. Tea at Glyn Garth 4 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 17th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild at Rotherfield, Saturday, Aug. 21st.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting with Sussex County Association at Rotherfield, August 21st. Service 4.30. Tea in Institute at 5 p.m. Advise the Rev. H. E. Collins, Rotherfield.—C. A. Bassett and J. Downing, Hon. Secs.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—A ringing meeting at Clay Cross on Saturday, August 21st, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea provided. Notify J. W. Price, 1, Bertrand Avenue, Clay Cross.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Melbourne Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea at nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION and WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Earl Shilton on Saturday, August 21st. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names must be sent to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, near Leicester, by Wednesday, August 18th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Billesdon (6 bells) on Saturday, August 21st, 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by August 18th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Ringing meeting at Hadleigh, August 21st, during afternoon and evening.—H. B. Herbert, 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Winchester on Saturday, August 21st. Central committee 2.15. General meeting 3.15, followed by tea, all at Dumpers Restaurant, High Street. Service in Cathedral 5.15. Names for tea to Mr. W. Andrews, 11, Culver Road, Winchester, not later than Wednesday, 17th. Ringing arrangements later.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 212, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Henlow, Saturday, August 21st, at 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Meeting Milverton, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names for tea to me not later than August 16th.—W. M. Lloyd, Branch Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton, Somerset.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Blackwell on Saturday, August 21st. Bells 5 o'clock. Service 6 to 6.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in the Old Library at a moderate charge to those who notify Mr. F. Lord, Campana, Bushfield Road, Scunthorpe, by the Wednesday previous.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Cotgrave, Saturday, August 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting follows. Names for tea to Mr. Walter White, Post Office, Cotgrave, by Wednesday, August 25th.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Annual meeting at Leyland Parish Church on Saturday, August 28th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, August 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Let Mr. G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, know by Tuesday, August 24th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, September 4th. Bells 4 p.m. Further details later.—George H. Cross.

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