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THE NOTATION OF PEALS.

During the course of many years the Exercise has evolved a plan by which touches and peals can be set down on paper. Instead of having to write down every change, a few figures are sufficient to show what bobs must be called. But for various reasons this can be done very much better in some methods than in others. The method which best shows the ideal is Bob Major. There a few course-ends and some dashes under some letters will clearly and at once reveal, not only the bobs which must be made, but the bells which are concerned in them, the effect they have on ringing, and the actual changes produced. This clarity is due in no small degree to the fact that the calling positions have definite names. When we speak of a bob at the Wrong, or the Middle, a clear and definite picture is formed in the mind which is of the utmost value to the conductor.

Not only so, but the knowledge gained from Bob Major is directly applicable to all other Major methods in which second's place is made at a plain lead-end. In all of them a bob Wrong, or Middle, or Right is exactly the same thing, is made by the same bells, and produces the same results. In a bob Wrong, whether it comes at the first lead-end as in Bob Major, at the fourth lead-end as in Cambridge and Superlative, at the seventh lead-end as in London, or at any other lead-end, the bell next the seventh in coursing order always makes the bob, the bell next that always runs out, and the one next that always runs in. It is easy to see how great an aid the knowledge of this and similar facts is to the conductor.

Unfortunately, other classes of methods do not lend themselves so readily to an ideal notation. In Grandsire Triples it takes a good deal of close study of a rather uninviting mass of figures to understand the calling of a peal or even of a touch. In Stedman Triples, for peals and touches on the twin-bob plan a system has been adopted not unlike that of Bob Major, but it has only a very limited application. The figures of most touches are almost unintelligible unless many changes are pricked out.

So with other methods, and anything which can be done to introduce a better notation would be a great gain. For most methods it is difficult to see how improvements can be made, but there is one large and important group where new ideas are clearly called for.

This is the Major methods in which eighth's place is made at a plain lead-end and sixth's place at the bob. So far the only one in the group which has had sufficient popularity to bring it among the standard methods is Double Norwich. But the group contains many good

(Continued on page 470.)

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methods, both Plain and Surprise, which are pretty certain to prove useful in the future. It is significant that of the new Surprise methods rung in recent years by far the greater proportion have been second's place methods, and we are convinced that the comparative neglect of the eighth's place methods is due, in no small degree, to the fact that conductors prefer methods which have the familiar bobs at Middle, Wrong and Right. For, as methods, eighth's place methods are in no way inferior to second's place methods.

What is needed is to give standard names to the bobs in the second group similar to those in the first group. It is just as easy to do so in one case as in the other. The only difficulty is that in Double Norwich, the most popular of the group, ringers have always designated the bobs by numbers. Numbers do not create a definite impression like names do, and a bob at, say, 6, in one method may be totally different from a bob at 6 in another method. It would be a good thing, therefore, to change the notation of Double Norwich and make it the pattern for the whole group. Fortunately the means of doing so are ready at hand. All that is necessary is to extend the use of the terms introduced by Heywood for Duffield. They are already used in the Collection of Plain Major Methods and the new Surprise book, but they will not gain their full value until they are generally adopted for Double Norwich. A bob at 1 should become an 4n, a bob at four should become Fifth's, 5 become Home, and 6 Out.

Old customs and habits are not easily changed, and we do not expect to see an immediate reformation, but if composers and conductors, especially of the younger generation, gradually accustom themselves to use words instead of numbers, they will be surprised how much it will widen their knowledge, and the ultimate gain to the Exercise cannot fail to be large.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Sunday, September 26th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Lawrence 1, C. H. Harding 2, A. Dille 3, J. Church 4, R. Houghton 5, L. Bywaters 6; and 720 Bob Minor: A. Dibley 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. Houghton 3, L. Bywaters 4, P. Tompkins 5, C. H. Harding 6. Rung for the harvest festival.

STONEHOUSE, GLOS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Harmer 1, T. Price 2, L. Edwards 3, E. Preedy (conductor) 4, W. Dean 5, E. Wilkes 6. A birthday compliment to Mr. Hubert Scriven, who attained his 85th year on that date.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, 720 Kent Minor: H. Lawrence 1, R. Houghton 2, J. Church 3, Corpl. J. Stubbs, R.A.F. 4, C. H. Harding 5, L. Bywaters 6; and 720 Plain Bob: R. Houghton 1, L. Bywaters 2, H. Lawrence 3, C. H. Harding 4, J. Church 5, Corpl. J. Stubbs 6. Rung for the harvest festival.

EYTHORNE, KENT.—On Tuesday, October 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. George (Dover) 1, L. Bodman 2, C. Turner (Dover) (conductor) 3, T. E. Ellender 4, W. Brooks 5. Rung for the induction of the Rev. C. Mayhew as Rector.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, October 10th, 1,316 Grandsire Triples: Miss K. Brooks 1, *A. Thirst 2, *G. Dodds 3, †Lieut. W. F. Gibbons 4, F. D. Bishop 5, S. Croft 6, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, D. Chamberlain 8. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal above Doubles on tower bells. First quarter-peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Capt. and Mrs. Rogers.

OXFORD.—At New College, on Sunday, October 10th, 1,349 Grandsire Caters: W. L. B. Leese 1, W. F. Judge 2, Miss B. Spice 3, W. C. Porter 4, Miss M. R. Crose 5, N. Allnutt 6, H. Miles 7, J. E. Spice (conductor) 8, J. H. R. Freeborn 9, G. Caudwell 10. Rung before evensong for the annual commemoration of the founder, William of Wykeham.

ALMONDBURY.—On Sunday, October 10th, for evensong at All Saints' Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: William Bramham 1, Sydney Briggs 2, C. Smithies 3, F. Boothroyd 4, T. A. Carter 5, J. Newton (conductor) 6.

CHATHAM.—On Sunday, October 10th, at the Church of St. Mary, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *R. C. Norris 1, D. T. Hills 2, T. Beaumont 3, W. J. Walker 4, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 5, C. E. J. Norris 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 10 cwt.

NORMAN HEAPS Treble	*ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 5
JACK LUNHAM 2	JOSEPH RIDYARD 6
JAMES TAYLOR 3	†WILLIAM STOPFORTH ... 7
JAMES MARSH 4	‡ROBERT CRITCHLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by J. RIDYARD.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal on eight. ‡ First peal.

IVER, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt, 2 qr. 14 lb.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	WILLIAM H. COLES ... 5
GEORGE M. KILBY 2	FRANK CORKE 6
WILLIAM WELLING 3	TONY PRICE 7
THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON. Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN

SIX BELL PEALS.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, October 17, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... Treble	JOHN TAYLOR 4
HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 2	JOHN W. TAYLOR 5
ERNEST STONE 3	GEORGE GARDNER ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

SUTTON, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, viz., Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK ... Treble	MRS. C. W. LAWTON ... 4
JOHN WORTH 2	2/LT. CHARLES W. LAWTON 5
TOM TAYLOR 3	JAMES A. MILNER ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 1-2	JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 5-6
†BETTY SPICE 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE 7-8
‡ARTHUR V. DAVIS 9-10	

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No 19).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal on an inside pair.
‡ First attempt for a peal on ten handbells.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Scottow on October 9th, when some good work was done in getting learners through some of the simpler methods. Ringers attended from Buxton, Haddiscoe, Norwich, Ranworth, Scottow and Wroxham.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

The following touches of Grandsire Triples are all composed of four-lead courses and these courses are of two kinds.

In the first kind there are bobs at the first and second leads of the course, the seventh is called in and out of the Hunt, and the sixth is called in 4-5 up and Before. These courses are marked A.

In the second kind there are bobs at the second and third leads of the course, the seventh is called Before and Wrong, and the sixth is called in and out of the Hunt. These courses are marked B.

There are three observations for calling any one course and the conductor can use which he pleases. He may use them all. At the end of every course 6-7 dodge at Home.

Here are the lead ends (bobbed and plain) of a sample course of each kind:—

A	B
234567	234567
752634	P.L. 253746
467352	672453
P.L. 436275	346572
P.L. 423567	P.L. 354267

Either of these twice repeated will produce 168 changes. These, of course, are two of the best known touches there are.

336	336
35426 B	42356 A
45326 A	25346 B
Twice repeated	Twice repeated
336	336
35426 B	35426 B
43526 A	43526 A
54326 A	32546 B
Repeated	Repeated
504	504
42356 A	42356 A
34256 A	34256 A
45246 B	45236 B
53246 B	53246 B
25346 A	25346 A
32546 A	54326 B
24536 B	35426 A
52436 A	52436 B
23456 B	23456 B
504	504
35426 B	35426 B
43526 A	43526 A
54326 A	32546 B
42356 B	53246 A
25346 B	34256 B
32546 A	45236 B
24536 B	24536 A
52436 A	52436 A
23456 B	23456 B

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.'

As will be seen from an advertisement among the 'notices,' the eighth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's book on 'The Church Bells of Berkshire' has been published and is now on sale.

This part is uniform with its predecessors, and the style and interest with which many of our readers are familiar are fully maintained. In addition to single bells, a dozen rings are described, of which the most important is the ten at Newbury. These, which are said to be a very fine-toned ring, were all (except the trebles) cast in 1803 by James Wells, of Aldbourne. 'Although the tenor,' says Mr. Sharpe, 'is a very thin bell, 21½ cwt. being exceptionally light for a bell sounding the strike-note D natural, James Wells designed her so excellently that her tone in no way appears weak. This thin scale is repeated, to a lesser degree, in the ninth, but no further. Wells seemed to be aiming at not having his fine trebles overpowered by the heaviest bells, and his designs have proved a great success.'

The augmentation to ten in 1933 was made possible, we are told, chiefly by a legacy of £100 bequeathed to the Newbury ringers. The new bells from Whitechapel were dedicated on Palm Sunday, and on Easter Monday an open meeting was held. This was marred by the tragic death of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn. After ringing he went outside to listen, and collapsed and died in the street.

For the archaeologist the more interesting bells will be found among the humbler rings. Those dealt with in the present part include bells cast by the Knights and Carter of Reading, Corr, of Aldbourne, Keene, of Woodstock, as well as the more famous Rudhalls, of Gloucester. One small bell, hung in a turret at Marlston, and hitherto unnoticed and unvalued, turned out to be by Peter de Weston, who was casting bells in London more than 600 years ago.

Mr. Sharpe's book is a worthy addition to bell literature, and the complete work will rank as one of the best of the county histories of bells.

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

ITS BELLS AND RINGERS.

By CHARLES T. COLES.

A paper read on January 17th, 1935, to the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society.

Mr. Coles began his address with a general description of how bells are hung and how they are rung. He explained change ringing and its early history and then continued as follows:—

The first mention of bells in St. Mary's Church tower that I have been able to trace is that in 1552. At the time of the Edwardian Inventory there were three bells, the largest of which was probably about 22 cwt., the others being a Sanctus bell and a small bell. Later on there were six bells, including the three bells mentioned above.

All these bells were broken up in 1778, when the peal of eight was hung in the tower. The metal of the old bells would no doubt be used in the casting of the new bells, but in those 18th century days people did not trouble about perpetuating records, and there do not appear to be any details of the bells, their weights and inscriptions, in existence. In 1778, the largest eight bells of the present peal were hung in the tower by Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. About this time there was a great deal of enthusiasm for ringing, fostered by the feats of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Society. The members of these two societies rang a number of peals, ranging in length from 6,000 to upwards of 11,000 changes, on ten and twelve bells at the Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, and Christ Church, Spitalfields. The rivalry of these two well-known ringing societies undoubtedly fostered enthusiasm for bells amongst the public generally; there was probably very little to occupy people's minds in these days in their spare time, and it is quite possible that this enthusiasm resulted in the peal of eight bells being placed in the tower of St. Mary's Church.

The Ancient Society of College Youths were interested in the bells, and shortly after they were hung in the tower that society rung a peal of Oxford Treble Bob on them in three hours and 13 minutes. The ringers of this peal were well known in London at the time, and many of them had actually taken part in some of the peals referred to above. The peal accomplished at St. Mary's was rung on July 21st, 1778, 'to celebrate the opening of the new bells at the above church.' We are told nothing, however, of any local ringers at this time, and it is quite probable that any ringing done was by the London members of the Ancient Society.

Later, in 1784, we hear of the Junior Cumberlands ringing a peal on the bells. The Junior Cumberland Society was composed of young, enthusiastic ringers, who broke away from the Royal Cumberlands because the older men were not advancing quickly enough in the art. In other words, a quarrel arose. The Junior Society did not, however, survive many years. After 1784 there is no record of ringing at St. Mary's for a long time. Indeed, in 1852, the tenor bell was recast, and there seems little doubt that for a period it had been cracked. This has a certain significance, as the cracking of a bell does not generally occur if a bell is rung properly. It was too often the case in early days for bells to be 'clocked,' by which we mean that a rope is tied round the clapper and run through a pulley fixed in the bell frame. The clapper is then pulled hard against

the inside of the bell. This practice was undoubtedly the cause of many bells being cracked in the early half of the 19th century. A list of bells cracked through being clocked was published in 1863 by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe and, although this list referred only to London churches, there were no less than 28 bells, mostly tenor bells, named in it. Tenor bells are usually used for funerals, and tolling the bell by clocking it, instead of by ringing it, would be the method of the time. It would therefore be safe to assume that the tenor at St. Mary's had been used in this way, perhaps because there were no ringers about who could ring it.

Five years after the recasting of the tenor, a peal was rung on the bells, and it was described as being the first peal on the bells for 27 years. This is another pointer that either there were no ringers to speak of for some time, or that the tenor bell had been left in its cracked state for several years. However that may be, here was the beginning of a revival, and in 1874 the St. Mary's Society was formed.

The revival of ringing spread throughout the country, for in the same year the first of the county associations, the Devonshire Guild, was formed. Shortly afterwards the West Middlesex Association came into being, and in 1875 the Yorkshire Association was born. In 1879 came the Essex Association, and in 1880 the Surrey Association, the Kent County Association, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild, this being the first ringing association definitely connecting itself by name with the Church.

The St. Mary's Society was formed as a branch of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and its rules followed closely upon those of that society. The leader of the band or, as known by ringers, the Ringing Master, was Thomas Maynard, who was also sexton and steeple-keeper. Mr. Maynard was an undertaker by profession, his business being carried on in Orford Road, opposite the Town Hall. He was undoubtedly the leading spirit in the belfry and, in more senses than one, the Master. He was foremost in promoting the scheme which resulted; some years later, in the restoration and augmentation of the bells, and he had undoubtedly left his mark in ringing circles in Walthamstow when, in 1909, he died at the somewhat early age of 57.

John Wilkins was the first hon. secretary and treasurer, and he held this office until 1916, a period of 42 years. Mr. Wilkins was a commercial traveller by profession, and it was not until his retirement that he severed his connection with the ringers, although he had done no ringing for many years.

Amongst the other members we find several gardeners, three carpenters, a pit sawyer, and an engineer's apprentice. It is a sign of the changed times in Walthamstow that there are no gardeners, except amateur gardeners, in the company at the present time.

Another member of the company in its earliest days was Harvey Reeves, who afterwards made a successful attempt to found a weekly newspaper entirely for ringers. This paper, 'The Bell News,' started as a monthly paper in 1881, and after about 12 months it was issued weekly. It was read by ringers throughout England and Wales, it had a circulation in Scotland and Ireland, and to a small extent in certain of the Colonies and the U.S.A. Mr. Reeves did not remain a member of the society for many years, probably because there cannot be two masters in one company, but his paper was published week by

week until 1915, a few years after his death. Another and perhaps better paper appeared in 1911, and this paper and the war brought an end to Mr. Reeves' fine effort. He carried on his business for many years at No. 1, Selborne Road, close to Hoe Street station.

I have endeavoured to give some idea of the type of men who composed the society. I will now give a brief summary of the rules they laid down to govern their conduct. We find a rule providing for entrance fees and quarterly subscriptions, showing a desire to be self-supporting. Another rule provided for fines for late arrival on practice nights, on occasions of peals and on meeting nights. There was a rule providing 'that any member behaving in the belfry in an unseemly manner shall be cautioned by the Master or secretary, when, if he persists, the ringing shall be brought to an end and a meeting of members present shall be held the same evening to consider, etc.' A similar rule dealt with the behaviour of members outside the tower, 'to preserve the good moral tone and respectability of the society,' etc. In the event of such a case arising, the members would meet to consider whether the offending member was acting in a manner detrimental to the interests of the society, and to act according to the necessities of the case.

'And we, the members of the St. Mary's Society, hereby agree on all occasions to abrogate self, and study at all times to preserve the interests of the Society; and while practising forbearance towards each other are determined to use every effort in our power to excel in the noble art of change ringing.' Very fine sentiments indeed!

(To be continued.)

REAL.

A WRONGLY USED TERM

In his excellent account of the bells of Crayford, Mr. Edwin A. Barnett mentioned some peals which were rung on the bells as 'Real' Double Norwich. It is a term occasionally used by ringers and always wrongly. A few years ago some peals of Superlative were rung and called Real Superlative, as if ordinary Superlative is not real.

What ringers mean when they use the term is that some of the bobs are made when the treble is behind and not when it is in front, but that is not the correct use. What happened was this:—

In the eighteenth century Double Bob was a popular method in London, and at first it was rung, as it is to-day, with the bobs in front. Then some purists pointed out that that way of doing it was not correct. In a double method the bells must work from the back exactly as they work from the front, and unless every bob made in front is balanced by another made behind, the method is not really double. Some went so far as to maintain that there must be two bobs in a lead or none at all. In any case, only peals which had as many bobs behind as in front were entitled to be called real double.

The peals of so-called Real Double Norwich and Real Superlative rung in recent years had only occasional bobs made behind, and are no more really double than ordinary peals in the method. To introduce two kinds of bobs into a peal may be quite legitimate and expedient, but it does not entitle the method to be called by a new name.

BELLS AND THE MEMORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The experience of A. W. Kingslake in a book called 'Eothen,' in your issue of October 22nd, is very interesting. His hearing of church bells whilst riding on a camel in the solitude of the desert was explained in a letter in 'The Daily Mail' early in 1932. It was then stated that the camel's feet on the sand produced a certain jingle which would resemble bells.

The following letter was published in 'The Daily Mail' of April 5th, 1932: 'May I mention another case of "phantom bells" which occurs in Suffolk? The North Sea having swallowed up about 15 churches in the district, the residents of Dunwich declare that the bells can be distinctly heard chiming under the waves in stormy weather.'

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

P.S.—Should not 15 churches read 50? Perhaps you know, Mr. Editor.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Two interesting items should have been included in Mr. Edwin A. Barnett's account of Crayford bells published last week. A sum of money was raised by ringers as an endowment to provide ropes for the bells. This is a memorial to Edwin Barnett, sen. who was so long associated with the tower, and so well known and well loved by ringers generally. It is worthy of note, too, that the first peal rung after the lifting of the ban was at Crayford. It was Double Norwich on June 5th. It was not Mr. Barnett's fault that the items were omitted.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Southport on October 16th was rung for the wedding of Senior Second Engineer B. G. Graham Sherratt, Christ Church, New Zealand, and Miss M. Thomson, W.R.N.S., of Freshfield. The intention was to ring Kent Treble Bob Major, but the band met short.

The peal of Cambridge Minor at Allesley on October 17th was rung by members of the local band as a welcome to the president of the Warwickshire Guild, the Rev. Francis Walter Moyle, who was instituted to Allesley Church on the previous day.

To-day is the 106th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dains, who will always be remembered by the Exercise as a composer of peals of Treble Bob.

Last Sunday was the 60th anniversary of the death of Col. Harry Trelawny, who was mentioned in last week's extracts from Heywood's 'Curious Scraps.' He was a pioneer in change ringing in the West and taught the band Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Minor at his Parish Church of Calstock in Cornwall. Afterwards he formed a change ringing band at Penzance. Naturally he had few opportunities for peal ringing, but he did score one of Grandsire Triples at Lewisham.

When Mr. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand, visited Christchurch, Hampshire, on October 15th, he expressed a wish to see the ringers at work, and, accompanied by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk, climbed the belfry stairs and remained some time watching the ringers and examining the peal boards. He spoke to several of the ringers and was introduced to Mr. George Preston.

Replying to an address of welcome afterwards at the Town Hall, Mr. Jordan said how much he had been impressed by his visit to the Priory, 'to see things and hear of things of long ago: to hear that very fine peal of bells and to see the bellringers under the leadership of Mr. Preston, who for nearly 57 years has guided that little band of bellringers—it was a privilege to meet him.'

The peal of Grandsire Triples by the Lancashire Association recorded in our last issue was rung at the Church of St. Michael, Garston.

Mr. Nolan Golden, now in a hospital in South Wales, writes that he has received an airgraph from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who after 2½ years' service in India is longing to return home to ringing. He is pretty fit except for neuritis.

Mr. John E. Spice, the Master of the Oxford University Society, has taken the degree of B.Sc. He is now engaged in research work at Oxford under the Ministry of Supply.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TONBRIDGE.

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on October 9th and was attended by 35 members. The visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Housden, Mr. E. Bassett and Mr. T. E. Sone.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Child, who gave an address and welcomed the members. Tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar took the chair. The hon. secretary's report and accounts (which showed a balance of nearly £10) were adopted. Mr. T. Saunders was re-elected hon. secretary, and Miss B. Richardson and Mr. A. Batten district representatives. Mr. B. Collison was appointed ringing master in the place of Mr. E. J. Ladd, who has joined His Majesty's Forces. Master J. Bateman was elected a member of the association.

Tunbridge Wells was chosen for the next meeting, which will be on December 4th and be held jointly with the East Grinstead and District Guild. Thanks to the Vicar were expressed by Mr. A. Batten and Mr. H. Goodwin, to the organist and to Mr. Medhurst. A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to 9s.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOURTON.

A meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Bourton on October 9th, when members were present from Gillingham, Zeals, Mere, Stour Provost, Kington Magna, Stoke Trister and the local tower.

Service was conducted by the Rev. W. Uphill, and the Vicar, the Rev. T. Sefton, gave an appropriate address. Eighteen sat down to a plentiful tea, kindly provided by ladies of the village.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards presided at the business meeting. As it was the first meeting held this year, the secretary reported that the accounts for 1942 showed a credit balance of £20 19s. 5d. The Vicar of Bourton was elected an honorary member and Messrs. F. Green and H. Coward ringing members. Thanks were accorded to the Vicar, the organist and the generous hostesses in charge of the tea table.

Ringling was enjoyed on the six bells at Bourton and eight at Mere.

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 461.)

SIR HENRY CHAUNCY.

Two of the rules are as follows:—'None shall find fault with another's ringing but the generall or whom he shall appoint. None shall prate or make any noise at peals.' 'None shall engage the Company in a Challenge without the Generall's consent on pain of being amerced 2s. 6d. and in case the Company shall be engaged every man shall lend his best assistance if required and contribute his equal share to the rest of his fellow members.'

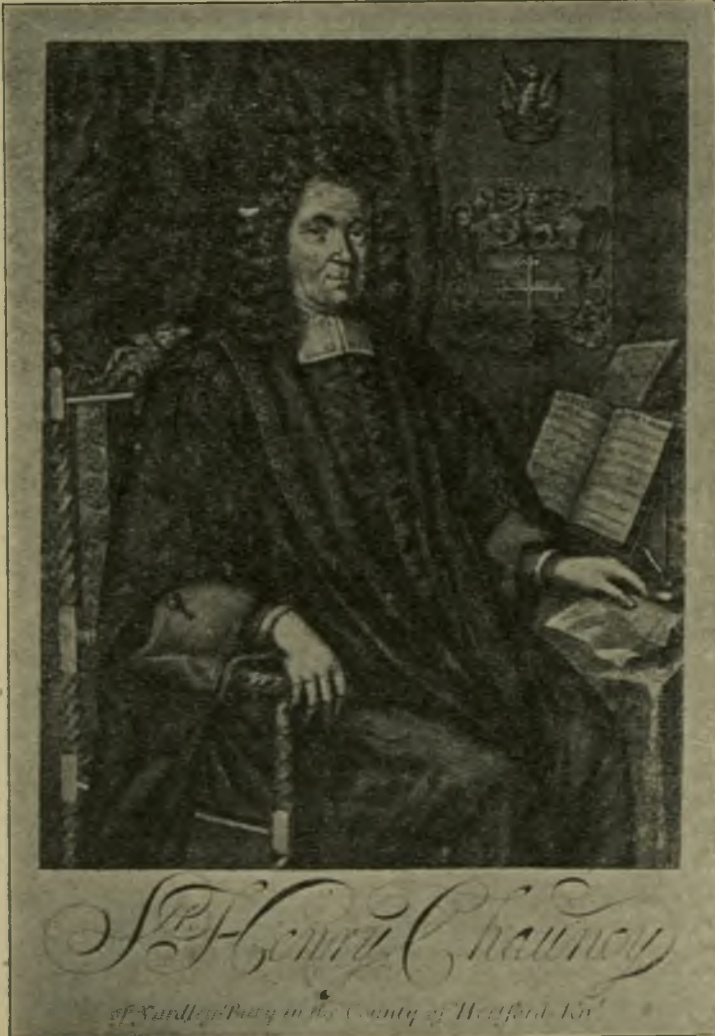
significant. It may mean merely that politics was barred from the society's meetings, but it may mean that no one was to discuss anything that he had heard or that had come to his knowledge in the course of his official duties. 'None,' so it ran, 'shall offer to talke or occasion ye talke of his majestie or any state affairs or none concerning ye same among all ye Company to the disturbance of any in pain to be amerced 8d. '; and the thing was considered so important that the rule was repeated in different words.

The last entry in the book records a resolution altering the date of the annual feast. The day first chosen was St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24th, but that fell in the middle of the long vacation, when many of the members desired to be out of London on their estates or among their friends in the country. It was therefore altered to All Souls' Day, November 2nd. It is interesting to note that in 1663 the Law Courts were still using as a date the title of a holy day which the Church of England had dropped since the Reformation, and which had not reappeared in the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer then just recently revised. The resolution is dated the 'Feast of St. John Baptist in the year of our Lord, 1663,' and reads as follows: 'Whereas the generall feast of this Society, annually kept on Bartholomew day, which falling in the midst of the long vacation proved very inconvenient to the Company by reason of the Major part of them being at that time out towne, it is ordaind and decreed this Present Day by a full vote of this Society, that the said generall feast for the future be kept on the feast of All Souls, at which time the officers of the Society shall be elected.'

These rules are very reminiscent of those of the Scholars of Cheapside, so much so that it is evident, either that the compilers had the older code before them, or that all the societies of the time framed their rules on the same model. The first supposition is probably the more likely, but it must be remembered that we have no original rules of the Society of College Youths, and it is not unlikely that the presiding officer of that body was at first called the general and not the master.

The list of members of the society contains twenty-six names, and among them are men of considerable importance at the time. The first general was Henry Chauncy. He was by birth a Londoner, and came of an old Hertfordshire family, one of whom (so he claimed) was among the followers of William the Conqueror. He was born in 1632, and was educated at the High School, Bishop's Stortford, and Caius College, Cambridge. He entered the Middle Temple in 1649, and was 'called to the Degree of the Bar' in 1656. In 1661 he was made a Justice of the Peace for Hertfordshire, in 1673 for Hertford town, and in 1688 for the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock and Radnor. He was chief Burgess of Hertford, Steward of the Borough Court, and when the town was granted a charter he was the first recorder. He became successively Bencher (1675), Reader (1681), and Treasurer (1685) of the Middle Temple, was Serjeant-at-Law and was knighted in 1681 at Windsor Castle by Charles the Second. Altogether he was a man in his time of weight and importance.

(Continued on next page.)



SIR HENRY CHAUNCY

It would be interesting to know what form ringing for challenges took, but, apart from the references to it in these and similar rules, no trace of it remains. A close study of the history of the London societies like the College Youths can reveal nothing whatever about prize ringing or competitions between different bands, yet it is clear from various hints that they did sometimes take place. Either they were taken for granted as ordinary incidents in a ringer's career, or so unusual as not to be worth notice.

One of the Esquires' rules was unusual and perhaps

THE ESQUIRE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

On the death of his father in 1681 he succeeded to the rich family estates, and about the same time he was engaged in writing the book which for non-ringers is his title to remembrance, 'The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire,' one of the earliest of those ponderous folios, ponderous alike in bulk and style, which record county history, family pedigrees, and sepulchral inscriptions. Chauncy was a pioneer on his own ground, and it required a vast amount of research to gather together the information in his book. Thomas Hearne said he was a person of very little learning, and his book was not very well done, but then Hearne was an archæological scholar and not much else, while Chauncy could only give to archæology the leisure hours of the busy life of a lawyer, magistrate and landowner. The professional man is not infrequently scornful of the amateur.

Five hundred copies only of Sir Henry Chauncy's book were printed, and in consequence it became rare and very valuable. Before 1857 a single copy had fetched as much as £35 14s. at an auction. Tastes in book collecting change, and at present the book is worth about £5 more or less, according to its binding and condition.

'The Antiquities of Hertfordshire' contains a description of the various parishes and manors in the county, with an account of the churches and their monuments, pedigrees of county families, and suchlike information. As we should expect, the author gives the number of bells in all the churches, sometimes with a short comment on their quality; but, unfortunately, he says nothing about their inscriptions, or their founders, or history. The archæology of bells was not as yet a recognised science. No reference, of course, is made to local ringing, for that would be outside the scope of the book; but he does take an opportunity of inserting an account of the origin and general uses of bells. Part of it is worth quoting, for it has been copied many times (unless Chauncy himself copied it from an earlier writer), and has reappeared in various forms in the pages of encyclopædias and reference books. 'Bells,' he wrote, 'were invented by Paulinus about the year of Christ, 400; they were called Nola's from the City, and Campana's from the Country. Some through mistake do attribute this invention to Sabinian, a Bishop of Rome, that he might first distinguish the Canonical Hours by the sound of a Martial, Tibbulus, Stratius, Manilius, and the ancient Bell; but others fetch it from the Heathens; for Ovid, Greeks mention the Tintinnabula, the Ting-tangs, and the Pelves in their time; and also the noise Brass that was used for the purpose we now use Bells.'

After referring to the bells of Croyland Abbey, he goes on, 'In the Roman Church these Bells were anointed Olea Christmatis; they were Exorcised, the Bishop blessed them and gave them the name of some Saint; and when these Ceremonies were performed it was verily believed that they had Power to drive the Devil out of the Air, to make him quake and tremble, to make him flie at the sound thereof, Tanquam ante Crucis vexilliam, that they had power to calm Storms and Tempests, to make fair Weather, to extinguish sudden Fires, to recreate the Dead, to restrain the power of the Devil over the Crops whilst they rung, which was the reason of the Custom of Ringing Bells at Funerals.'

'But since the time of the Reformation it has been the usual course in the Church of England, and it is a very laudable one, that when any sick person lay drawing on, a Bell tolled to give notice to the Neighbours that they might pray for the dying Party, which was commonly called a Passing Bell, because the sick person was passing hence to another world; and when his Breath was expired, the Bell rung out that the Neighbours might cease their Prayers for that the Party was dead.'

Among the engravings in the book is a portrait of the author by J. Savage. It is entitled, 'Sr. Henry Chauncy, of Yardley, Bury, in the County of Hertford, Kt. Serjeant at Law.' He is seated in a chair vested in his lawyer's robes, and wearing the full wig, which was part of the ordinary gentleman's dress of the period. The face is rather fleshy, with a full upper lip and large mouth which shows good nature. The eyes and upper part of the face are better than the lower. Chauncy clearly was no ascetic, but a man who took the good things of life as they came.

One of Sir Henry Chauncy's judicial acts as a magistrate is of some historical interest. It was under his warrant that the last arrest in England for witchcraft was made. An old woman named Jane Wenham was accused of bewitching cattle and servant girls; she was tried at Hertford, convicted and sentenced to death in 1712; but a free pardon was granted by Queen Anne through the exertions of the judge who conducted the trial. Chauncy's act in issuing the warrant is, of course, no indication of his personal opinions on the matter. Witchcraft was a crime in the eye of the law of the land, and if Jane Wenham's accusers had made out a prima facie case against her, as no doubt they had, he had no option but to send her to take her trial before a judge and jury. At the time belief in witchcraft was dying among the educated classes, but it was only a few years before that so great and humane a judge as Sir Matthew Hale had tried two women for witchcraft, and when they had been found guilty expressed himself satisfied with the justice of the verdict and condemned them to death. He and all the men of his generation believed in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, and they took the injunction, 'Thou shall not suffer a witch to live,' to be as much binding on them as on the Israelites of old. Jane Wenham's case attracted a vast amount of attention and did perhaps as much as anything else to enlighten public opinion on the subject of witchcraft.

Sir Henry Chauncy died at Yardley, Bury (now called Ardley), and was buried in the church there. His eldest son having predeceased him, he was succeeded by his grandson, who quickly dissipated the estate by riotous living. Chauncy, in the preface to his book, says he was prevented from carrying out his original design by having to spend money in resisting the ruinous machinations of a degenerate member of his family and his malicious accomplices. The Chauncy arms are among the shields which ornament the roof of St. Albans Abbey, showing that he contributed to the repair of the church in 1681. There are six bells at Ardley, all of which date from Chauncy's time or earlier.

(To be continued.)

FULMER, BUCKS.—On Sunday, October 3rd, for harvest festival, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. H. Gutteridge 1, G. E. Swift 2, G. H. Gutteridge 3, Mrs. M. King 4, F. W. Goodfellow 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 465.)

Another instance of a ringers' gallery with a 'well' in the centre, is at Monks Eleigh, Suffolk. This is not a central, but a west tower, and the Rector writes: 'The tower is a very fine structure, built in the latter part of the 15th century, and there are six bells in good order. There is a gallery in the belfry, or rather a ringers' platform, about 10 feet from the ground floor, with a well in the middle of it. This enables the lower part of the belfry to be used as a choir vestry.'

Before the completion of the grand central tower, Buckfast Abbey, Devon, had a similar gallery for the ringers to stand on. The old ring of twelve bells hung in the tower at a level where the present ringing chamber is, and were rung from a narrow stone gallery 51 feet from the floor of the Abbey, and it gave one a queer feeling to have to look right across the open space to the ringers around and on the opposite side, and also to see people looking up from down below in the nave.

The situation was much the same as that at Merton College, Oxford, and Southwell Minster, only larger. In spite of this a visiting band of ringers rang on October 25th, 1930, in 3 hours 50 minutes a peal of 5,007 Stedman Cinques. The late William Pye rang the tenor (then 28 cwt.) and conducted the peal.

In 1936, after the completion of the building of the tower, a great bourdon bell was given by Miss Hilda de Trafford, in memory of her sister, Lady Mildred Bellow, who died December 29th, 1934, and is named 'Hosanna.' It weighs 7 tons 9 cwt. 18 lbs. and strikes the lower F. The old bells were transformed into a noble peal with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. in C, and these are hung on one level round their big brother. Two additional semi-tones provide a variety of 'rings,' including three major eights. The ringers now have a proper chamber to perform in, and the first full peal ever to be rung on the new bells was 5,019 Stedman Cinques on October 9th, 1937, in 3 hours 47 minutes, conducted by Albert Walker, of Birmingham.

The central tower of the ancient abbey church of Hexham, Northumberland, has a curious ascent. The route to the belfry is up the broad 'night stairs,' a stone staircase open to the church. They are on the west wall of the south transept, and lead to a door at the bottom of a circular enclosed stone staircase which terminates at the south-west corner of the south transept clerestory. From there you proceed along the open triforium, passing to the belfry stairs at the south-west corner of the tower. These stairs are only short, being the distance between the clerestory and the floor of the ringing chamber.

Looking back through Saxon times, we can find no record that St. Wilfred, who built the cathedral here, of which he was the first Bishop, about 674, placed any bells in it. Probably Acca, the fifth Bishop, who had accom-

panied Wilfred as his chaplain in one of his journeys to Rome, may have furnished it with a bell or bells, as we are told that 'he furnished and decorated the church begun by St. Wilfred,' and that 'vases, lamps and other things which belong to the House of God were added by him.' This church was harried and wrecked by the Danes in 875, and again in 995. It remained in a ruinous state until the latter part of the 11th century, when a partial restoration took place. Thomas, the second Archbishop of York, made it into a priory of the canons of St. Augustine in 1113. There is no definite record of the time when the present abbey church, dedicated to St. Andrew, was commenced, but the earlier portions seem to point to the latter part of the 12th century. It was erected on the spot where St. Wilfred built his cathedral, and his crypt still remains under the site of the nave.

The tower was probably furnished with bells on its completion in 1240. Following this date, Hexham passed through some troublous times, and the bells would often ring out an alarm, calling up the fighting men of the district to defend their homes against various invaders. In 1475, in an account of the election of William of Bywell to the priorate, it says that, after the chanting of the Te Deum, 'the bells were solemnly rung,' and other records give details of the ringing of the bells on various occasions, both parochial and national.

Wright, in his 'History of Hexham,' gives a copy of the inscriptions of the six old bells dated 1404, and these show that at least three of the bells had been made during the priorate of John of Hexham, who was appointed about ten years before by Archbishop Walby. These six bells are mentioned by Mr. William Bell, of High Shield, near Hexham, in a letter written by him to the Editor of the 'Gentleman's Magazine' of 1755. He says: 'Six bells, which were broken and in great disorder about 16 years ago, we had recast into eight, and they are now, without controversy, as fine a ring as any in England of their weight. They were made and hung by your London artists.'

The eight bells were cast by Thomas Lester in 1742, and of these bells only two—the treble and tenor—remain, the other six having been recast. Sir Walter Blackett, whose name appears on the tenor, was a nephew of the lord of the manor, at whose marriage the great bell was broken. Its weight is given as 21 cwt. in E flat. Tobias Benton, who hung Lester's bells, used the oak beams of the old bell cage in constructing the new one. That built by him has a gangway round it six feet wide, rendering access to the bells very easy. The second was recast by Thomas Mears, 1833; 3rd, 5th and 7th by S. Lawson, 1884; the 4th has no inscription, but the date, 1775, roughly chiselled in where an inscription is apparently erased; the 6th by T. Mears, 1801. In 1848, and again in 1884, peals of 5,040 changes were rung on the bells, and other peals have also been accomplished here.

(To be continued.)

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MR. PETER CHARMAN. AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am more than sorry to read in 'The Ringing World' this week of the death of Mr. Peter Charman, of Warnham. I shall always remember him by his cheerful and courteous manner and the happy welcome he always gave to visiting ringers. I have spent many happy hours in his company. He told me several years ago that at one time there was not a house in Warnham that did not contain a cricketer and a ringer.

He was a most lovable man and I am proud to have known him and to have rung several peals with him, including the 10,432 of Kent Treble Bob Major mentioned in 'The Ringing World,' conducted by my old friend Mr. Alfred Pulling. May he rest in peace.

Wrighton.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—To me, the article, 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' was very interesting reading, knowing as I did most of Squire Proctor's band.

The writer is right in assuming that Sam Page was the son of Thomas Page. When his father died he took on the conducting. He was a very fine ringer and keen right up to the end of his life. He worked with me for seven years and many were the interesting and amusing stories he told me of visits with the old squire, as they called him.

I wish I had kept them written down. On one occasion they went as a band to, I think, Long Melford and there they were welcomed by a black flag flying from the window of a nearby house. On another occasion (I forget where) they were ringing fairly fast when a man appeared, evidently thinking they were ringing too fast, and said, 'You are ringing only frame high. I shall leave you a gallon of beer at the Blackbirds,' evidently at a nearby inn. Sam used to tell me the story and laughingly say, 'I wonder if that gallon of beer is still waiting at the Blackbirds, for we never called for it.'

On another occasion the Squire and Sam had been somewhere together, meeting, amongst others, Mr. F. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, and Mr. George Breed, of York. These two gentlemen had on clothes exactly alike, and on leaving the tower had put on each other's coats. When the mistake was realised it caused much amusement to see on the station platform the changing of coats.

Yes, the Benington men were in their day a very fine company, and as a boy I used to listen to their bells, which when the wind blew from the west we could plainly hear across the fields scarcely one and a half miles as the crow flies.

I believe that for 50 years without a break they visited Braughing on May 10th, and there the Saffron Walden ringers, Messrs. Pitstow, James with H. Tucker, of Stortford, Mr. Tarling and Mr. W. Morris and others would meet, being sure of some good ringing in all standard methods.

One old custom on practice nights at Benington was after practice to adjourn to the Bell Inn, where was a standing order for half a gallon of beer and half an ounce of tobacco to be divided amongst them. This was paid for by the Squire.

These days have gone and with them the old faces. The bells are there still and fine feats are recorded in the tower, which for so small a village were wonderful.

Little Munden.

W. H. LAWRENCE.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

The Oxford University Society held a general meeting on October 12th at New College, the vice-president, Mr. H. Miles, being in the chair. It was especially a recruiting meeting, and wide advertisement resulted in about 20 newcomers.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, reported considerable activity during the summer term and long vacation. Great progress had been made on tower bells, and many excursions arranged to the towers in and around Oxford. During the vacation an informal ringing tour was held, various members visiting Birmingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Leeds and Keswick.

At the close of the meeting, the Master gave a short talk to the recruits on the subject of the nature, peculiarities and fascination of change ringing. Everyone then adjourned to the belfry, where several of the beginners were given a short practice on silent bells.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On October 5th in the belfry at All Saints' Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor: *G. G. Goodman 1-2. W. Sparrow 3-4. H. W. Barrett (first 720 as conductor) 5-6. *First 720 on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY SIMMONS.

The band at Holy Trinity, Dartford, have lost their oldest member by the death of Mr. Henry Simmons on October 14th at the age of 87 years.

Henry Simmons, who was a millwright by trade, learned to ring on the six bells at St. Werburgh, Hoo, near Rochester. He moved to Northfleet, where with the help of the local band he put the bells into a reasonable condition and attempts were made for a peal. One was lost by a miscall in the last 720.

In 1899 Mr. Simmons moved to Dartford. At that time the tower contained an old peal of bells, some of them almost unringable, and the belfry was bare and neglected. Through his efforts and Mr. John Wheadon's, the bells were kept in fairly good order and material was obtained and the ringing chamber provided with a new floor, the walls panelled and seats fitted.

In 1917 the bells were recast by Mears and Stainbank. Harry Simmons took part in the first peal and continued as steepkeeper until six years ago, when rheumatism prevented him from ascending the stairs and handling a rouse.

Harry Simmons was an excellent tenorman to Stedman Triples. He rang in all 55 peals, the first a peal of Grand sire Triples for the College Youths in the early years of this century. The remainder were rung for the Kent County Association and consisted of Stedman Triples 32 (24 on the tenor), Grand sire 10 (2 on tenor), Union Triples 2, Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 5 (on the treble). Fourteen were rung on the old bells, this being almost entirely due to his efforts in keeping them in reasonable repair.

His last peal, when he was 79 years of age, was for King George V. Silver Jubilee in 1935. He cherished the hope of ringing the tenor to the Coronation peal two years later, but he was persuaded not to do so and shortly after was compelled to retire from active ringing.

He maintained his interest to the end, accompanying the Dartford ringers on their outings and attending local association meetings.

During his long period of devoted service as a ringer he was an example to others by his punctuality and attendance, and he will long be remembered.

The interment, which was preceded by a service in the Parish Church, took place at Dartford Cemetery on October 18th. Messrs. John Wheadon and R. A. Jenkins represented the local band.

On Sunday afternoon an unsuccessful attempt was made for a half-muffled quarter-peal by Mrs. J. E. Bailey, R. Summerhayes, J. Wheadon, H. Raynor, R. A. Jenkins, J. E. Bailey, of the local band, and Alan and Denis Hall, of Bexley.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR SHARRATT.

The death is announced of Mr. Edgar Sharratt, sen., of Leek, Staffs. which occurred rather suddenly on October 3rd at the age of 60 years. The funeral service was held on October 7th at St. Edward's Church, Leek, where his 45 years' ringing career was spent, and was conducted by the Rev. W. C. A. Povey and the Rev. E. Leah. The tower bells were rung fully muffled, and a bell-shaped floral emblem was sent by his fellow ringers. The interment in the local cemetery was conducted by the Rev. W. C. A. Povey and was followed by a touch of Grand sire Doubles on handbells at the graveside.

Mr. Sharratt was a conscientious service ringer and a lover of good striking. He rang peals in all the standard methods—Triples, Major, Caters and Royal—and usually rang at the heavy end.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER MARSHALL.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Marshall, of Lamberhurst, which occurred suddenly on October 7th. He had been in failing health for some time, but was able to get about, and on the day of his death had been out in his garden.

Mr. Marshall had been a ringer at Lamberhurst for 40 years and had rung about 40 peals. The last was one of London Surprise Minor rung half-muffled for King George V.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

About twenty members of the East Grinstead Guild were present at a meeting at Withyham on October 9th, the towers represented being Balcombe, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Cuckfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, Uckfield and Wadhurst. The Rector, the Rev. A. Miles, welcomed the ringers, and the ringing on the fine peal of bells ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise, and included a well-struck cease. Meetings were arranged at East Grinstead on November 13th and at Tunbridge Wells on December 4th.

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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.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Standon on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 26th. Train leaves St. Margaret's for Standon 2.15 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Mary, Balderstone, on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Bells at 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Martock, Saturday, Oct. 30th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, North Street, Martock.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION and CHESTER GUILD.—Meeting at Port Sunlight on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 2.30. No tea arrangements yet made. — H. S. Brocklebank and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Kingsthorpe, Saturday, October 30th. (Not at Moulton as originally arranged.) Service 4.15 p.m. Bring own food.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Open practice on twelve bells, Saturday, October 30th, 6.30 to 9 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Linton. — Combined practice, Saturday, Nov. 6th, 3 o'clock. Cup of tea provided.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loddon, Saturday, Nov. 6th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea (additions to food welcomed) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 1.20, Beccles 1.28; leave Loddon 7.3 and 6.54. Names for tea to A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Nov. 1st.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe, approximately 1s. 6d.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, November 6th. Bells (10) afternoon and evening. Names for tea by Wednesday.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The 306th anniversary lunch on Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., at 1.30 sharp. Tickets 6s. 6d. Seating limited to 100. No application can be received after Tuesday, Nov. 2nd. Business meeting afterwards. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m. Service ringing, St. Michael's, Cornhill, Nov. 7th, 10.15 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GAMSTON, NEAR RETFORD.—Meeting on Saturday, November 6th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food and sugar.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Birstall, Saturday, November 6th, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Business meeting after tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Swineshead, Saturday, November 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.45 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Thurlaston (6 bells), Saturday, November 6th, 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Handbells afterwards.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at Seend, Saturday, November 6th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—F. Green, 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, November 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.45 in Schoolroom. Names by Thursday, November 4th.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual committee meeting at Hanley, Saturday, November 6th, 3.30 p.m. Bells (10) 3 p.m. For tea, notify Mr. G. Jones, 46, Harley Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, by November 2nd.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Shildon on Saturday, Nov. 6th, 2 p.m.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Writtle, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by November 10th.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Harbour Lane, Chelmsford.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, November 13th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at numerous cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Long Eaton, Saturday, November 13th, 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names to Mr. C. Geary, 194, Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Notts, by Wednesday, November 10th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

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