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## PREPARING FOR EVENTUALITIES.

One of the troubles with which associations may be confronted in the present conditions is that of obtaining competent officers if any of the posts become vacant. There is always a dearth of men, particularly when it comes to filling secretarial jobs, and the present demands upon everyone are likely to make the task of filling vacancies even more difficult. At a meeting of the Surrey Association, on Saturday, when nominations for an important district secretaryship should have been received, not only were there no volunteers but no one could be pressed into office. After several years of valuable work, the present occupant of the post, after having given the members due notice at the last annual meeting of his intended retirement, definitely declined to continue, and the district is threatened with a position which will leave it without its chief executive officer. It is usually the idea that, when such a vacancy occurs by the resignation of a senior member, a younger man should step into the breach, but in the present uncertainty, of course, it is hardly safe to put young men into office, because of the risk that, in the emergency, they may be called away to other service. Indeed, that is a liability which all associations are now carrying, wherever men of likely military age are filling important offices, and it would be a wise plan if everywhere, where this probability exists, there should be some suitable, if older, member held in reserve to fill the gap should it occur.

Too often in the past a district and even an association has been badly let down by the hurried appointment of a secretary who has been unfitted for the post. It is not necessarily the most enthusiastic ringer who makes the most efficient secretary. Other qualifications are necessary if he is to make a success of his job, and it is a mistake to appoint anyone merely on the strength of his ringing capacity. There is no more important office in connection with ringing than that filled by a secretary, and, however well intentioned he may be, he can make or mar a district by his organising ability or the lack of it. If he has to have any standing with the people with whom he must come into contact, he must also have a certain amount of business ability, and we have seen more than one district badly let down by a secretary lacking tact and the necessary education to conduct correspondence. We emphasise this because members of associations are prone, when they are faced with a vacancy which is difficult to fill, to pitchfork into the job the first man who is willing to take it. The interests of the organisation demand that such appointments should be made only after the most careful consideration of the nominee's fitness for the ap-

(Continued on page 666.)

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pointment, and personal feeling ought not to be allowed to enter into the election. It may be contended that when choice is limited an association must take what it can get; but it should be the duty of the other responsible officials to make a survey of the possible material and, especially when they have lengthy notice of a coming vacancy, to take time by the forelock and be ready with a suitable nomination. It is all very well to put the onus on the general body of members, but they often fail to make the best selection when suddenly confronted with the task of filling a vacancy. They have probably given the matter little or no thought, and yet the question of who is going to shoulder the work may be of vital importance to the future of the association. We have been tempted to express these views in the light of present prospects. Sudden removals in national service may, at any moment, cause vacancies in association offices, and it behoves all the organisations to look ahead so that they may not be caught unawares if it should happen that the occupant of some key office is called away. Even if appointments are made only temporarily, until a man has proved himself, it is better than to make a permanent but unsatisfactory choice, for it is seldom that a man once in office is relieved of his duties except at his own request.

## SIX BELL PEALS.

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.  
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 21, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, HIGHER SUTTON,  
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of one 720 of Oxford Bob and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 12 1/2 cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK .. .. . Treble	MISS E. M. P. FETHERS ... 4
JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER ... 2	NORMAN MEAKIN ... .. 5
THOMAS TAYLOR ... .. 3	JOHN WORTH ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Arranged and rung for the wedding of Mr. S. Noble (a Sunday service ringer at the above church) to Miss V. Pickford.

OAKLEY, BEDS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight extents of Canterbury, six of April Day, 13 of Plain Bob and 15 of Grandsire. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

WILLIAM GRIGGS ... .. Treble	DONALD L. COCKINGS ... .. 3
THOMAS FLEMING ... .. 2	A. JAMES STUART ... .. 4
BRIAN F. SIMS ... .. Tenor	

Conducted by D. L. COCKINGS.

Rung in honour of the feast of SS. Simon and Jude.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, October 23, 1939, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;

HAROLD G. CASHMOR ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

First peal of Little Bob Major 'in hand' by all the band. H. G. Cashmore's 200th peal.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—At All Saints' Church for the harvest festival, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major: J. Conquest 1, Miss D. Lidbetter 2, D. Insley 3, H. B. Whitney 4, J. Nicholls 5, V. Conquest 6, E. Conquest 7, E. A. Belson 8. First quarter-peal of Major by the ringers of 1, 6 and 7.

## A BELL OPENING CENTENARY. CELEBRATION AT SOUTHOVER, LEWES.

### What Happened One Hundred Years Ago.

The centenary of the opening of a ring of eight bells at St. John the Baptist's Church, Southover, Lewes, was celebrated last Saturday. Throughout the intervening one hundred years the bells of Southover have held an honoured place in the appreciation of Sussex ringers, and there are few towers in the county where more peals have been rung. The church itself is of Norman origin, as its big, circular pillars and rounded arches testify. Its tower of later date is a massive pile built of rock chalk and faced with brick, supported by flint and stone buttresses. Of the early history of the bells little is known, but the tower held four bells, probably of considerable size, at the end of the seventeenth century. In 1738 it was agreed at a vestry meeting 'to send the four bells belonging to the said parish by Capt. William Headley to London in order to be new cast.' Thus they were taken, probably by water, to the foundry of Samuel Knight



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH, SOUTHOVER, LEWES.

and Robert Catlin, who recast them into six. Southover, we are told, gave £62 10s. 6d.; Lewes and the Cliffe, which were then separate parishes that are now combined to form the borough of Lewes, in which Southover is also now included, gave £97 19s. 3d.; Mr. Edward Trayton gave one bell, value £32 0s. 6d.; country gentlemen £57 14s. 6d. That is how the money was raised.

Probably these bells were not altogether satisfactory, for a hundred years later they were again recast and, with new metal added, made into eight. Their inscriptions show how the money was provided on that occasion:—

- Treble.—The gift of Henry Verrall, 1839.
- 2 and 3.—The gift of the good people, 1839.
- 4.—The gift of the Verrall family.
- 5.—John Verrall, Gabriel Eagles, Churchwardens, 1839.
- 6.—The Revd. John Scobell, Rector, 1839.
- 7.—The gift of Wm. Verrall, Esqre, 1839.
- Tenor.—The gift of William Verrall, Esqre, Lord of the Manor, 1839.

It was a great occasion for Southover when on Monday, October 28th, 1839, the bells were opened. Most of the day was devoted to the celebration, for the proceedings began with ringing in the morning, which was continued in the afternoon, and there was a public dinner in the evening, the jubiliations being kept up until a late hour.

#### THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

For some time past the ringers at Southover have been contemplating the fitting celebration of the one hundredth anniversary, but the war naturally caused a modification of the plans. However, the

bells were rung and a dinner was held, so the event did not go unmarked, although the peal which it was originally hoped to ring had to be abandoned.

The police gave their consent to three-quarters of an hour's ringing in the late afternoon, subject to arrangements for an immediate stoppage if necessary. As a suitable touch for the occasion one hundred leads (1,400 changes) of Grandsire Triples was rung by G. Wickins (Ringmer) 1, G. P. Elphick 2, W. J. Coppard 3, F. Bennett (Brighton) 4, J. S. Goldsmith (Woking) (conductor) 5, F. H. Dallaway (Eastbourne) 6, R. W. E. Dawe 7, A. A. Hughes (London) 8.

The dinner was served at Holloway's Restaurant and attended by about 45 ringers and friends. The Rector (the Rev. D. G. Matthews), who is president of the Southover Church Bellringers' Guild, was in the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Matthews, Mr. H. R. Butcher (Master of the Sussex County Association), Mr. E. H. Fuller and Mr. A. T. Corner (churchwardens and vice-presidents) and Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Dridge, Mr. H. S. White and Mr. G. W. Townsend (vice-presidents), Mr. A. A. Hughes, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Mr. G. P. Elphick (hon secretary) and Mr. R. W. E. Dawe (captain). In addition to other members of the Guild, ringers were present from Brighton (St. Nicholas), Eastbourne (Christ Church and St. Saviour's), Rotherfield, Seaford, Ringmer, Waldron and Twineham. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Frank Verrall (a grandson of William Verrall, one of the donors of the bells), Mr. J. Thornton Rickman (Brighton), who at the beginning of this century gave the present troubles which increased the bells to ten, and Mr. S. E. Armstrong, hon. secretary of the Sussex Association.

The Rector, having proposed the loyal toast, welcomed all the visitors and commented on the fact that they were able to hold that commemoration on the actual day of the centenary, for the bells were opened on October 28th, 1839. He gave a brief outline of the history of the bells and paid a tribute to the work of the present hon. secretary of the Guild (Mr. Elphick). It was, he said, largely due to him that they were able to keep the bells of Southover ringing, and they were also greatly indebted to him for arranging that evening's gathering (applause).

#### THE WORK OF THE SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.

Mr. C. J. Rugg, who proposed the toast of 'The Sussex County Association,' said he felt like the prodigal son, for, after having been associated with the Guild for several years, but having since been in the far country for two years, he had returned when the fatted calf appeared in the offing (laughter). Proceeding, he recalled the three principal objects of the association, the cultivation of change ringing, the due care and use of church bells and bellfries, and the recognition of true position of ringers as church officials. The association, he said, had carried out its objects most successfully, and last year, despite the enormous counter-attractions, its membership of nearly 700 ringers had declined by only thirteen. He was very pleased to see that Mr. Elphick was a member of the Association Committee and of the Committee of Advice. The association had done wisely in selecting him for that post, and probably one of the best things he (Mr. Rugg) ever did in connection with ringing was to persuade Mr. Elphick to join the Guild (applause). In these times it was difficult to talk of the future of the association, but he hoped sincerely that it would emerge from the present state of affairs stronger than ever and would continue to flourish along with the other arts and exercises which we in this country had taken a stand to preserve (applause).

Mr. H. R. Butcher, in responding, thanked the hon. secretary for the kind invitation to be present on that unique occasion in the history of the tower. It was a great pleasure to the association to know that the ringers of Southover were keeping in such close touch with the bells and tower. These were difficult days for ringing, with the restrictions that were imposed, but he thought, as time went on, it might be possible to resume practices in most places. The committee and officials of the association would do all they could to encourage bands to resume and to continue their work. In thinking of the centenary of Southover bells they could not help casting their minds back over the hundred years and recalling the memorable occasions for which the bells had been rung. For a hundred years they had called people to the services of the church, they had rung for state occasions, for the accession of kings and the death of sovereigns; they had rung for great national events and for parochial celebrations, and those present that night must feel they had met to celebrate a wonderful occasion. He extended to the Guild the congratulations and good wishes of the association (applause).

#### THE STORY OF 1839.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith proposed the toast of 'Success to Southover Church Bellringers' Guild.' They had met that day, he said, to celebrate an historic anniversary in the annals of Southover Church, and they were to be congratulated that, despite the prevailing war conditions, they had decided to carry on, even in a modified way, with the commemoration of the opening of the bells one hundred years ago that day. Continuing, he referred to the formation of the Guild, in which he took a part some 45 years ago, and said he regretted that one other of the foundation members, Mr. Alfred Turner, now the oldest ringer in Lewes, was absent from that gathering. Mr. Goldsmith recalled that the formation of the Guild, under the then Rector (the Rev. W. E. Richardson) was the first official recognition which the ringers at Southover had received from the church authorities, and he looked upon it as a very wise step in the right direction. Previous to that there had, of course, been ringers attached

(Continued on next page.)

## AN OLD TIME BELL OPENING.

(Continued from previous page.)

to the church, but they had had no authorised position in the church organisation.

Mr. Goldsmith went on to describe what happened in Southover one hundred years ago that day. He had, he said, obtained from the British Museum a copy of the reports of the proceedings which appeared in the local newspapers at the time. The proceedings began at 11 o'clock in the morning, when Southover ringers raised the new bells. Ringers from Brighton then led off with a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. Tester. Thereafter various bands from Waldron, Uckfield and Chailey rang and occupied themselves with the bells throughout the afternoon. Mr. Goldsmith pointed out that at that time there was no rail communication with Lewes, so all these men must have walked many miles to take part in the proceedings, which indicated their enthusiasm. He doubted if, to-day, there were many among them who would walk such distances to take part in a bell opening.

At five o'clock the ringers adjourned to the Swan Inn, where a company of seventy or eighty, including parishioners, partook of dinner. Mr. Churchwarden Eagles was in the chair and the vice-chair was taken by Mr. John Verrall, his co-churchwarden. Mr. William Verrall, Lord of the Manor, who gave some of the bells, was present, as was Mr. Thomas Mears, the founder. There was no indication that the Rector (the Rev. John Scobell) was present, and there was no religious service held in connection with the opening, as there would have been in similar circumstances to-day. Indeed, the proceedings were entirely secular, as was almost everything connected with ringing a hundred years ago.

The surprise of the evening was furnished when a large box was delivered from the London Coach Office, and, on being opened, was found to contain a set of handbells, presented by the Bell Founder. Change ringing on the handbells by the Brighton ringers took place, and the newspaper report concluded with the remark: 'Many loyal and convivial toasts were given and songs and good humour kept the company together till a late hour. A better feeling among all classes perhaps was never witnessed than on this occasion, and all parties retired pleased and delighted with the result of the day.'

### RINGERS OF A CENTURY AGO.

Mr. Goldsmith added that he had no doubt his own grandfather was one of those who took part in the events of the day, for he was Parish Clerk, and almost certainly one of the ringers, and he (the speaker) therefore felt that he had a personal link with that great occasion, when the new bells came to Southover. As to what manner of men the ringers were in that day, Mr. Goldsmith quoted from the reminiscences of a contemporary writer, who described the ringers of another little Sussex town, Hailsham, and there was no reason to suppose that the ringers of Southover were any different in type. The writer in question wrote of the ringers:—

'The master tradesmen thought it no degradation but rather an honourable distinction to be one to minister to the rites of the belfry. To be a ringer was a privilege.

'Each bell had its regular hand. There was the hatter, glover, tailor, shoemaker and blacksmith in succession and a few others—odd men to take a turn as occasion required, and one, the street driver, who was always needed to fetch the beer from the tavern. They were all professionally earnest, devoted men, and to do them justice as a rule—and what rule is not more or less broken?—they were sober men.'

Mr. Goldsmith concluded by remarking that the members of the Guild had, in the bells, a goodly heritage. He hoped they would take new life and energy from this notable anniversary; that they would soon be ringing for victory and long continue to ring through years of unbroken peace in the future (applause).

Mr. R. W. E. Dawe responded to the toast and expressed great satisfaction that they had been successful that day in ringing one hundred leads of Grandsire Triples for the occasion. It had given him and the rest of the band great enjoyment to take part in it. At present the Guild was continuing the Sunday ringing and practices, and would go on doing so unless someone else stopped them.

### UGLINESS IN THE BELFRY.

Mr. G. P. Elphick gave the toast of 'The Founders.' He said he wondered what this country would have been like without the founders of bells. The founders were a small group of men whose work was of the highest order. In Sussex they had 25 examples of bells cast by London founders which had been calling men to higher things for over five hundred years. The founders of to-day had ideas which led along a different path to the founders of old. They turned their attention to better tuning, but he feared that, in so doing, they had lost something in beauty of form. Modern belfries were full of ugliness. The cold steel frame, covered with rust, was the product of the engineer and had replaced hearts of oak. They had steel cages, steel stocks, steel stays and steel sliders and he had even found steel wheels—he hoped they would never come to using steel ropes (laughter). Steel bells were, happily, now obsolete. He would plead for beauty of form in bells as well as beauty in tone, to help to counteract the ugliness in the world in which we live. They were, he added, pleased to welcome Mr. Hughes that evening. He represented the foundry from which Southover bells came a hundred years ago.

(Continued in next column.)

## DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR PAYNE.

EX-PRESIDENT, DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

An old and valued member of the Durham and Newcastle Association, Mr. Arthur Payne, passed away on October 6th at Harrogate, where he had gone to recuperate his health. He was a man of many parts. By profession he was a chemist and eventually occupied the position of managing director of Mawson and Swan, Ltd., which his father had filled before him. He was chairman of Atlas Woodworkers, Ltd., and a director of Mawson and Proctor, chemists, Newcastle. He was also well known in the photographic trade and originated the process of taking a half-tone photo direct upon the metal plate without the intervention of a negative. For his services during the Great War he was created a Member of the Order of British Empire and Honorary Serving Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He was made a J.P. for Gateshead in 1931, and represented the South Ward on the Town Council for six years.

Mr. Payne joined the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association in 1911 as a member of the St. Paul's, Whitley Bay, branch and learnt his ringing with the celebrated Gofton family. He rang his first peal, one of Stedman Triples, in that belfry on May 23rd, 1913, and took part in many peals with the Whitley Bay company before leaving the coast to live in Gateshead. He joined the Newcastle Cathedral Guild in 1921 and was a very active member, acting for some years as secretary.

For some time he was assistant and editorial secretary of the association and eventually occupied the presidency from 1933 to 1936. During his leadership the rules of the association were revised—a laborious task, but all to the good of the smoother and more efficient working of the association.

In all, Mr. Payne rang in 36 peals on tower and handbells, in which latter he was useful and reliable on 1-2 in Major and Royal. His peals were rung in all the standard methods, and included, in addition, many of Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Cinques.

The funeral service was held at Newcastle Cathedral, the Very Rev. the Provost, Canon G. E. Brigstocke, officiating. A large concourse of fellow-ringers, works representatives and Freemasons attended, while the Gateshead Town Council were there, headed by the Mayor (Councillor Pickring), and many of the councillors and Town Hall staff.

The members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association were represented by the president, Mr. Murray Oubridge, the Cathedral Ringing Master and several members of the Guild. Ringers were also present from Benwell, Fenham, Whitley Bay, Gateshead and Tanfield towers. The Worshipful Master of Hotspur Lodge, 1,626, was present with several other brethren. Mr. W. J. Davidson tolled the Major, as no ringing, muffled or otherwise, is allowed at the Cathedral at present.

Afterwards a short service was held at the Crematorium, attended only by the family and very old friends, of which the writer was privileged to be one of his oldest.

Mr. Payne was of a genial, happy and generous nature and was very popular in his many activities. He leaves a widow, a son and two daughters to mourn their loss.

C. L. R.

## THE SOUTHOVER CENTENARY.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. Hughes, who replied, expressed gratitude for the toast. He said it was a privilege to attend that gathering. It was a privilege, too, to be associated with the founder who supplied the bells of Southover Church a hundred years ago, and whose foundry, next year, would be 370 years old. There was a great tradition behind it and one could not help thinking of what had been put into it in the past, in which men had put their heart and soul into producing the best that was possible. Continuing, he said he could understand Mr. Elphick's plea for more beauty in the towers. A great deal of ugliness had been introduced. There was no need for it. Fine things had been done in past days, such as was shown in the beautiful old castings. Fortunately to-day there was a check upon the ugliness, a check which had come about by the formation of the diocesan committees to give advice on these points.

Proceeding, Mr. Hughes said that in the days when Thomas Mears cast the bells for Southover the firm did very little hanging, and all they supplied to Southover was the eight bells and eight clappers. He would have liked to find out something further about the contract by the correspondence that led up to the transaction, but unfortunately sixty or seventy years ago the firm lost many of their records by fire and all he could tell them was that they supplied the bells to the parish with the eight clappers.

Mr. Hughes added that it was very nice to be there that evening among some old friends, and he counted it a great privilege to have been able to take part in the commemorative touch rung that evening. In conclusion he expressed regret that Mrs. Hughes had been unable to accept the invitation which had been extended to her as well as to himself.

During the evening the speeches were interspersed with humorous songs by Mr. Taylor, courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples rung on handbells, and tunes on his handbell carillon cleverly tapped by Mr. G. P. Elphick.

After 'Auld Lang Syne' had been sung, 'all parties,' in the words of the writer of a hundred years ago, 'retired pleased and delighted with the result of the day.'

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LUTON BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday. Enough ringers were present soon after three o'clock to ring Stedman Caters, and up to tea time the bells were rung to various methods, including Cambridge and Superlative Major, Stedman and Grandsire Caters, and Plain and Little Bob Royal.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. Ernest Herbert. The secretary's report and balance sheet showed that the district is in a satisfactory position and that all the performing members have already paid their subscriptions for 1939.

The district chairman (Mr. A. King) and the vice-chairman (Mr. E. Herbert) were re-elected, and Mr. Belson was elected district secretary.

A discussion followed on the question of future meetings, and it was eventually decided to hold a full afternoon and evening meeting at Dunstable on Saturday, November 25th. Mr. W. Bottrill, late of Leicester, was elected a performing member of the association and he will be a great help to the district. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.****NORTHERN DISTRICT.**

On Saturday, October 28th, the Northern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild held a quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Branllys, Brecknockshire. Considering the transport difficulties, it was the most successful meeting which the district has held. Ringing began at half-past two and at half-past four the Guild service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. J. Davies, who gave a very inspiring address and a hearty welcome to all the visitors.

Following tea the business meeting was held, at which the Vicar presided, supported by the District Master (Mr. A. Hunt) and the district secretary (Mr. J. P. Hyett). A grant was made from the district funds towards a presentation to the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, late president of the Swansea and Brecon Guild, in recognition of his kindness in entertaining the members every year. Twelve new members were elected from the local tower and one from Talgarth.

After votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for conducting the service, to the organist, the lady helpers and the local band for the arrangements made, the ringers returned to the tower and the bells were lowered at 8 p.m. Twenty-five members were present from Brecon (St. Mary's), Cefn Coed, Talgarth, Glasbury-on-Wye and the local belfry.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY****FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS.**

The Barnsley District Society held their October meeting at Penistone on Saturday week, when 14 members were present from Cawthorne, Felkirk and Wath, besides the local company. Ringing began at 3 p.m., and the bells, a fine peal of eight, were made good use of until about 6.15 p.m. The ringing was mostly in Minor methods, ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise, with plenty of opportunities for the recruits. Touches of Treble Bob Major were also rung, giving some of the members their first chance of a touch on eight bells.

The business meeting was held in the tower before the tea, the Vicar, the Rev. E. D. C. Wright, presiding.

It was decided not to hold any further meetings this year, the next to be the annual general meeting in January at Barnsley. It was also decided to hold a committee meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, December 9th, to receive notice of motions and nominations for officials and any other items of business which would come up at the annual meeting.

The Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells and for presiding, and the local company for making the arrangements.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was sorry that ringing had to be curtailed, but hoped conditions would soon change and the bells be ringing peals in celebration of peace.

The party then adjourned to a nearby cafe for a good meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed, and, after being led by the locals through the black-out to the buses for home, a good meeting under war conditions came to an end.

**SATURDAY PRACTICES PLANNED FOR LINCOLN.**

The Lincoln District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild held a by-meeting at St. Giles' Church on Saturday, October 14th, when ringers were present from the Cathedral, St. Peter-at-Gowts, Blankney and the local band, together with visitors from Grantham, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe, Barnby-in-the-Willows, Felkirk, near Rotherham, and Mr. J. H. Shepherd, from Swindon. Between 40 and 50 ringers enjoyed the privilege of ringing on the peal of eight bells, which have a tenor of 18 cwt., during the afternoon. At 3.15 the company attended evensong, and during the evening those who did not have to get home before lighting up time assembled in the Parish Hall for handbell ringing until 9 p.m.

It is hoped to arrange practices on Saturday afternoons in the near future alternately with the Cathedral band, that is one week at St. Giles', the next week at the Cathedral.

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The war-time derangement of the postal services and the necessity of getting the copies of 'The Ringing World' into the hands of the publishers earlier on Thursday make it absolutely essential that all contributions to our columns, and particularly all notices, should be in our hands by Monday in each week. We cannot guarantee the insertion in the following issue of anything received later.

We hope that secretaries will send us prompt reports of their meetings, and we shall welcome any items of news relating to ringers and ringing, but they must reach us early.

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We much regret to record the death at Pudsey, Yorkshire, of Mr. Thomas Maude, who was 85 years of age. He passed away on October 23rd and was buried on Thursday of last week. An account of his unique connection with ringing will appear in our next issue.

To-morrow members of the Ancient Society of College Youths will celebrate its three hundred and second anniversary by a luncheon at the London Tavern, and, despite the difficulties incident to war-time conditions, a numerous company is expected.

The Rev. Ivor J. Richards, hon. treasurer of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, is serving with the Forces as Chaplain in France.

Wednesday was the anniversary of a peal of Bob Major rung in 1747 at St. Giles-in-the-Fields by the Union Scholars and conducted by John Holt.

On the same date, in 1746, what seems to have been the second peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major ever rung was accomplished at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, and in 1831 in the same tower a later generation of the Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of the same method.

November 1st is also the anniversary of the opening of the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral, which took place in 1878.

Five years ago to-day the band of ringers who were touring in Australia rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major ever accomplished outside the British Isles. It was rung at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, in Tasmania, Mr. George Martin conducting and Mr. Rupert Richardson at the tenor.

On November 5th, 1787, the Sheffield ringers rang at St. Peter's Church, now the Cathedral, 6,048 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major, and on the same date in 1821 the Huddersfield ringers rang 5,152 changes of Superlative Surprise Major. The former peal was false, but the latter, which was composed and conducted by Benjamin Thackrah, and was the first in the method, was true.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There was no question of fear or shame in the signature of my letter, the only mistake being I omitted the 's' from the end and I can assure Mr. Mitchell it would take up far too much space to print all the names. Anyway, no 'newspaper correspondence' is needed now. The Lewisham District have answered the query in a practical way (and most surprisingly that is the district where one would expect the most difficulty), so it does appear strange that the safer areas have not made any apparent effort, and the longer the delay the shorter are the hours available.

I promise the general secretary that if and when a meeting is held in this district I will be pleased to disclose my name, but at present I'm still 'ENQUIRER.'

## THE ANCIENT BELL OF TALLEY ABBEY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank Mr. T. Laver, Exeter, for his great kindness in replying to my query. Mr. George Eyre Evans, the secretary of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, who has broadcast on numerous occasions, and was for many years a member of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales, would never accept the view expressed by various authorities that the great bell of Talley Abbey went to Exeter.

Strange to say, the inhabitants of Talley firmly believe that the bell is at Exeter. I showed the correspondence in 'The Ringing World' to one of the leading residents, a member of the legal profession, and although he admitted that Mr. Laver had supplied convincing proof, still thought it may be somewhere in that city.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

## RINGING IN WAR TIME.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

A good gathering was held at Kingston on Saturday last, when ringers from the counties of London, Middlesex and Surrey met for a combined meeting of the Surrey, Middlesex and Guildford Associations. The co-operation of the police had been sought and obtained, with the result that the bells were kept going from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. The stipulation was made that a listener should be on duty to inform the ringers to stop the bells in the event of an air raid warning being given.

About 60 ringers were present during the afternoon and evening, including Major J. H. B. Hesse (Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. D. K. C. Birt (Master of the Surrey Association) and Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president of the Middlesex Association). Visitors were also present from Twyford, Berks, and West Grinstead, Sussex.

The Vicar of Kingston (the Rev. T. B. Scrutton) called at the Parish Hall during tea time and welcomed the gathering to Kingston. He said he was sorry he could not remain for tea, as he had to get away to attend to various other parochial duties. He complimented the meeting on the quality of the ringing he had heard during the afternoon, which 'for novices' was very good indeed (laughter) (most of his listeners were experienced ringers). Before he left the hall a vote of thanks to him, for the use of the bells, was passed with acclamation.

After tea, Mr. Birt, on behalf of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association, welcomed their friends of the Middlesex Association and of the Guildford Guild. 'That misguided person, Mr. Adolf Hitler,' he said, 'would very much like to stop all our normal activities and prevent us from carrying out our ordinary duties. Therefore, I feel that it is up to us to do all we can to keep our ringing going. When the changes which are taking place in the world are so fast and frightening as they are to-day, and when we are fighting a dictatorship of the Right in the form of Nazism on the one hand and menaced by a dictatorship of the Left such as Bolshevism on the other, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep our minds clear and steady. Opposed to such doctrines we have the teaching of Christ and His method of carrying on; with love and service to mankind as a basis for the direction of our activities, and I feel that we should do all in our power to proclaim the Christian message by our ringing at the present time.'

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, on behalf of the Middlesex Association, thanked Mr. Birt for his words of welcome, and conveyed to the meeting apologies for absence from Mr. Lewis Cockey and Mr. Wilson.

A short business meeting of the North-West District of the Surrey Association followed, presided over by Mr. D. Cooper (District Master). Arising out of the minutes, Mr. E. G. Talbot asked whether anything had yet been done by the Guildford Guild in the matter of the appointment of a representative to serve on the committee of the Surrey Association. He was informed that this subject was to be placed on the agenda for the next annual general meeting.

With the exception of the secretary, all the district officers were nominated for re-election for the ensuing year. Appeals were made to Mr. Woodiss to induce him to carry on with the duties of secretary during the present national emergency. In reply, Mr. Woodiss pointed out that he informed the association as long ago as November, 1938, of his wish to retire (reported in 'The Ringing World' dated December 2nd, 1938). Although there was nothing in the rules requiring an officer to give twelve months' notice of retirement, he did so in order to give members ample time in which to find a suitable successor for election in 1940. He was disappointed to find that no nomination was forthcoming and hoped the position would be rectified by January. He further expressed the opinion that it was but another instance, common to most associations unfortunately, of leaving everything to the officers.

The company then returned to the tower, where the bells were kept going to various methods from Grandsire to Spliced Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal until 9 o'clock, no air raid warning having been sounded.

### RINGING ARRANGEMENTS IN BRIGHTON.

To the Editor.

Sir.—It may be of interest to your readers that the following arrangements for ringing are now in operation in Brighton, and that visitors will be cordially welcomed:—

Sundays.—St. Peter's and the Good Shepherd Churches, 10.30 to 11 a.m.; St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 3 p.m.

Combined practices on alternate Saturdays as under, first mentioned church 2 to 3 p.m., second 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.:—

November 4th: The Good Shepherd and St. Nicholas'.

November 18th: St. Nicholas' and St. Peter's.

December 2nd: St. Peter's and the Good Shepherd.

December 16th: The Good Shepherd and St. Nicholas'.

If any ringer wishes to be kept informed of any changes in the above time-table which may be necessitated by emergency regulations, will he please let me have a stamped and addressed postcard for reply as soon as possible? This will be kept filed and dispatched at once when and if the occasion arises.

S. E. ARMSTRONG,

Hon. General Secretary, Sussex County Association.

70, Hollingsbury Park Avenue,  
Brighton 6.

## TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

### SUGGESTED WAR-TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

A meeting of the officials of the Guild was held at Truro on Saturday, October 21st, 1939, to discuss the working of the Guild in war time.

It was decided that this meeting take the place of the one which would have been held in February, 1940.

All the officers were re-elected except Miss Angwin, now Mrs. Roberts, who has left the diocese.

The following resolutions were carried:—

(1) Report.—Not to issue a report till 1941, but this report to contain an account of the activities of the Guild during 1939 and 1940. In the place of the report the decisions of this meeting to be printed and three copies to be sent to each tower, one for the incumbent, one for the representative and one to be posted in the tower.

(2) Affiliation fees.—These to be paid as usual.

(3) Festivals.—The diocesan festival to be held in some place easy of access, Lostwithiel suggested. One minor festival at least to be held in each branch every year. That picnic teas be brought by those attending these festivals.

(4) Branch secretaries should find someone who would be ready to take their place in case they are called away on military or other national service.

(5) Ringing.—Every effort should be made to maintain Sunday ringing. To ensure this young ringers must be brought on continually to fill gaps, and in consequence practices must be held. If it should be impossible to obtain young ringers, and a tower finds itself short-handed, an appeal should be made to a neighbouring tower for help and ringing done in the two towers alternately. It is up to members of the Guild to see that none of its towers are silent for the duration of the war.

(6) Roll of honour.—Secretaries or captains of towers to keep a list of those serving their country with their service, ranks and honours, and this should eventually be sent to the diocesan secretary, who will forward it to the secretary of the Central Council to be preserved among its records.

## RINGING IN LEEDS AREA.

The following is a list of war-time ringing arrangements for most of the towers in the Leeds and District Society's area:—

Armley: 9.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. only.

Batley: 9.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. only.

Birstall: 10.15 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 2.15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Bradford Cathedral: No ringing until further notice.

Bramley: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. only.

Burley: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. only.

Drighlington: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Guiseley: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Headingley, St. Chad's: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Headingley, St. Michael's: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. only.

Idle: 9.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 2.15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Leeds Parish Church: No ringing until further notice.

Pudsey: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Shipley: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 2.30 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

The committee of the society have decided to continue with the monthly meetings, which will be advertised in 'The Ringing World.' The next meeting will be at Birstall on November 25th.

## DEATH OF A BEDWELLY RINGER.

### MR. T. POPNELL DIES IN JERSEY.

Mr. T. Popnell, father of Mr. George Popnell, this year's Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, passed away on Friday, October 20th. He was holidaying in Jersey with his daughter when, about three weeks ago, he had a seizure and lost consciousness. From this he never rallied.

With great difficulty (owing to passenger restrictions), his son, Mr. George Popnell, was able to cross to Jersey. For a fortnight he remained with his father and was there when the end came.

The funeral took place at the Old Parish Church, St. Helier, where he attended and where his daughter was married.

Mr. T. Popnell was an enthusiastic member of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association and rarely missed a meeting.

THORNE, YORKS.—At St. Nicholas' on Sunday, October 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Thorley 1, T. Leask 2, A. Woods 3, T. A. Hepworth 4, C. H. Thorley 5, W. Hoborn 6, C. Thorley (conductor) 7, J. Thorley 8.

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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. GILES'-IN-THE-FIELDS. ITS PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF LONDON RINGING.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Of the many London steeples, few have taken a part in the history of ringing equal to that of St. Giles', and among the eight-bell towers it almost stands supreme.

In the old tower, the first six-bell peal of which we have any notice was rung shortly before 1730. It consisted of fourteen 360's, but the particulars of what the methods were, who called the bobs, and what the society was are lost. All we know is that Laughton says that he was one of the band and that James Newcombe, the steeplekeeper, at Westminster Abbey was another.

The first peal in the present steeple was 5,040 changes of Bob Major in 1736 by the Union Scholars, conducted by John Denmead. In the following year Annable called 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob for the College Youths, and four months later the Union Scholars rang a peal of Triples, the name of which, owing to the ornamental writing of the peal book, cannot be read. Osborn thought the word was Hack Trebles, and Jasper Snowdon suggested Ham Trebles, but thought it might be Hick Triples, which was the title the Union Scholars gave to John Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples. The writing, however, can be anything you like to make it.

The Union Scholars also rang the first peals of Bob Triples and Grandsire Triples in the tower, this latter being their last peal before the society finally broke up. It was in 1757, and was one of the earliest performances of Holt's Ten-part peal.

In 1759 the College Youths rang 5,280 changes of Morning Exercise Major, and a month later 5,040 of Double Bob. Morning Exercise Major was an extension of a six-bell method, which was widely rung. The composition, however, was false. In 1778, John Reeves called 5,264 changes of Real Double Bob Major, with two bobs in a lead, for the London Youths, and in 1780, for the same society, 5,088 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major, the first peal of any Surprise Major method ever achieved.

Up to the year 1768 it had never occurred to anyone that a peal of Treble Bob Major might be true at the lead ends, and yet have repetitions in the interior of the leads. Then Christopher Wells discovered the falseness of Oxford when the treble is in 1-2, but still the matter was not fully investigated or understood. So it was that Reeves, though one of the cleverest composers that the Exercise has produced, called a false peal.

About that time William Jones was writing the 'Clavis,' and he enlisted the services of Reeves as chief composer. Reeves went thoroughly into the proof of Treble Bob and put the matter on a sound basis so far as peals with the tenors together were concerned. He now found out that the Cambridge he had called was false, and so the same band (save for one man) who had joined the ancient Society of College Youths rang another peal in the method. Reeves had satisfied himself by what, so far as it went, was sound reasoning, that only fifteen courses were to be obtained in Cambridge with the tenors together. To make up the length required, he parted the tenors, but as he does not seem to have ever considered the effect on the truth of the method by so doing, his peal was again false.

In the same year that the Cambridge was rung, Reeves called a peal of Bob Major for the ancient Society of College Youths, which was the only peal in which all three authors of the 'Clavis' took part together.

The next interesting peal in the steeple was one of London Union Trebles, in 1782, by the ancient Society of London Youths, 'being the first that ever was rung in that method.' It was composed and conducted by John Frazier, but the figures are lost, and we have no hint as to what the method was like.

On Sunday, October 23rd, 1791, the men from St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, who were members of the Society of College Youths, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. James Bartlett called Holt's Original from the seventh, and the claim was made, and for a century accepted as valid, that he was the first man to call that peal and ring at the same time. The feat, however, had been performed several years before at Norwich. Holt himself, it will be remembered, called from manuscript while seated in the belfry.

In 1884, on the ninety-third anniversary of Bartlett's peal, the Original was rung at St. Giles' non-conducted for the first time.

Bartlett called the peal several times, at Battersea, Kensington, Bishopsgate, Hackney, Cambridge and Horsham, and from several bells.

On Wednesday, May 22nd, 1799, the Society of Junior Cumberlanders rang at St. Giles' John Noonan's peal of Stedman Triples. It was the first seven-bell peal in the method since the two at Norwich in 1731, and is often considered as the first true peal in the method. That, however, is by no means certain, for the figures as given by Shipway are unintelligible, and some at least of the peals of Stedman composed by Noonan were false.

During the nineteenth century the peals rung at St. Giles' were of little interest, until we come to one of Cambridge Surprise by the Cumberlanders in 1892. This was the first true peal in the method in London.

Of late years a good many peals have been scored in the tower, the most notable being the first of Bristol Surprise Major in London (1904) and the first ever rung in eleven Spliced Surprise Major methods (1930). The same band almost succeeded in ringing in the tower a peal in twelve Spliced Surprise Major methods, but lost it a very little way from home. A few days later, however, they were successful at St. Mary's, Ealing.

These peals and the Bristol Surprise were rung by the Middlesex County Association and were conducted by William Pye.

The bells have lately been rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. at the expense of the Barron Bell Trust.

### DEATH OF MRS. WILLIAMS, OF NEWENT, GLOS.

The many friends of Sergt. Joseph Williams will regret to hear of the passing of his wife at the age of 86, after a married life of 67 years. The veterans, including the Sergeant, who rang a peal last June had looked forward to joyous ringing to commemorate the Sergeant's 87th birthday on Saturday last, but it had to be cancelled.

A beautiful choral service was held in the Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar and assistant clergy. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service and also while the cortege proceeded to Newent Cemetery. Despite the bad travelling facilities, the ringers came from a long distance. They were J. Austin, H. E. Austin and S. E. Romans, of Gloucester; J. Clark, Ross, J. Davis and W. H. Harris, of Lydney; and J. W. Jones, Newport.

Mrs. Williams was a most lovable lady who lived for others and a real good churchworker. She will be sadly missed, not only by her husband and family, but by the people of Newent. The ringers, too, have lost a good friend, as she always extended the utmost hospitality.



**WITH PENCIL AND PAPER.****HOW COURT BOB IS CONSTRUCTED.**

Last week we were discussing Plain Reverse and Double Bob, and we saw that in those methods all the bells keep the same Coursing Order throughout the plain course, except that when either second's or seventh's place is made the treble takes one step in its cyclical path through the Coursing Order of the other bells. We called such a step a Shunt, and those particular steps we called Extreme Shunts.

These Shunts are used not only in Plain Bob, but also in thousands of other methods, and always they have exactly the same effect.

We now come to the next important Shunt, and since it produces Double Court Bob Minor we will call it the Court Shunt.

Alongside is the first lead of the plain course of a method, and to understand its construction it will be well to pick out the full course, or, at any rate, two or three leads.

It is not a method that you will ever want to ring, because it is not what is called symmetrical, but that is a point which does not for the moment concern us.

When we examine this lead we find that it consists entirely of plain hunting, in which all the bells, including the treble, keep the same coursing order, except that there are two places—third's and fourth's—which are made by the same bell.

Now observe what has happened to this bell. It was the bell which was coursing immediately in front of the treble. It stops and makes fourth's, crosses the treble's path, makes third's, and then follows the treble up behind. Before the first place was made, the Coursing Order was 875312468. After the second place is made, the Coursing Order is 875132468. The treble has changed positions in Coursing Order with the bell next in front of it, and made one step in its cyclical path through the Coursing Order of the other bells.

Turn back and compare all this with what we found out about the Extremes, and you will see that, except for the position in which they are made, the Court Shunts are exactly similar to the Extremes, and have exactly the same effect. But the two places, one on either side of the treble, and the attending dodging, must be considered as all part of one operation.

Set down in general terms, a Court Shunt consists of two places made by the bell coursing immediately in front of the treble, and made next the treble's path. In the example we have given, the places are fourth's and third's; but directly you begin to experiment with figures you will find that they are not the only places that can be made.

Prick out a lead in which sixth's and fifth's are made, and compare it with the other lead. You will find that you get exactly the same result, the only difference being the position in which the shunt is made.

Not only so, but the shunts can be made round the treble as it is hunting down, just as well as when it is

hunting up, and again with the same result. Prick out the leads and test it for yourself, first with fifth's and sixth's, and then with third's and fourth's.

All the places which we have made up to now are back-stroke places, and Court Shunts so made we will call for convenience R. Court Shunts.

When we examine the length of the treble's path on the different numbers of bells, we find that in Minor there is room for one R. Court Shunt to be made as the treble passes from the front to the back. In Major there is room for two to be made, in Royal three, in Maximus four, and so, in a regularly increasing progression, on all even numbers.

As the treble passes from the back to the front the same number of positions are available.

We have now got the Extremes and the R. Court Shunts, each of which produces the same result, and consists of one step in the treble's path through the Coursing Order of the other bells. We can now experiment by using combinations of these. As soon as we have used seven of them, no matter in what order they come, the treble will have got back again between the third and the second, and the bells will run round by plain hunting; and no combination will produce rounds unless it consists of seven or a multiple of seven.

The number of round blocks we can produce by these combinations is very large. Not every one will be the plain course of a method, and not all the methods produced will be what are considered regular methods. But, since the Coursing Order of the working bells is not altered, we have got the material for making the most musical methods possible, and some of our round blocks, though not themselves the plain courses of regular methods, will turn out to be parts of two or more courses of regular methods spliced together.

**SWANSCOMBE RINGER'S DEATH.****PASSING OF AN OLD K.C.A. RINGER.**

At the latter end of last century there was a very enterprising six-bell band at Swanscombe, Kent, which, under the leadership of the late William Harper, scored several noteworthy peals for the Kent County Association. Mr. M. J. Digby, a member of this band, has recently passed away at his home at Stone, near Dartford, at the age of 71 years.

For many years Mr. Digby's employment prevented him from taking a very active part in peal ringing, but he was a very conscientious Sunday service ringer. Upon his retirement he looked forward to increased activity in ringing and for a short while he attended both Swanscombe and Dartford practices and Sunday ringing, in most cases making the journey of two miles to each of these towers on foot. He was, however, stricken with a cardiac weakness some three years ago and from then until the time of his death he was unable to take any part in ringing, although following the activities of others with great interest in 'The Ringing World.'

Before he was compelled to give up Mr. Digby added a few peals to his small collection, the most noteworthy being his first peal of Surprise Major at the age of 67 years.

In all he rang about 40 peals in a variety of methods, all of them being for the Kent County Association, of which he was a member for over fifty years.

**ACTON RINGER'S GIFT TO THE CHURCH.**

In the course of evensong last Sunday, at Acton Parish Church, the Bishop of Kensington dedicated a handsome processional cross which has been given to the church by Mr. J. W. Fruin to mark the completion of 40 years' service as vergers and also of his golden wedding.

Afterwards a pleasing little ceremony was held in the Parish Hall, when the Bishop presented Mr. Fruin with gifts from the choir and congregation, and various speakers, representing the choir, congregation and the ringers, offered him their congratulations and thanks. The Vicar had already, in his sermon, expressed his opinion of Mr. Fruin and his services.

Mr. Fruin was a member of the very active band of ringers which the late Robert Holloway formed some years since at Acton, and he took part in several peals of Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman.

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**THE B.B.C. INTERVAL SIGNAL.****REASONS FOR NOT USING CHANGE RINGING.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Having a particular interest in the attitude of the B.B.C. towards the Exercise, I have naturally followed the correspondence keenly during the last three weeks, and waited to see a comprehensive reply given to Mr. Trotman, and beg to congratulate Mr. C. H. Webb on being the nearest so far.

There are, however, two points which he has not touched on which I would like to bring to the notice of all.

Firstly, while the B.B.C. retains the present interval signal, we do still hear the sound of the Bow Bells which made the name so famous, and even if it is 'stoney' it is the old Bow tenor.

Secondly, a point which Mr. Webb started to make, but did not finish, is the matter of interrupted change ringing.

I would like to put this question to all those who are advocating the replacement of call-changes by scientific change ringing: 'In view of the agitation in the past against the one-time practice of the B.B.C. in fading out broadcast ringing for announcements, is there any consistency in now asking them to use recorded change ringing purely for a stop gap?' Personally, I have no hesitation in answering 'No,' and I venture to predict that were a record of change ringing substituted, those who should be interested would soon be fed up, while those outside the Exercise would fail to appreciate any improvement, and might even vote it as inferior, since half-pull ringing is undoubtedly more confusing to the ear of the uninitiated.

As an outcome of what might be expected with a record of change ringing, I would ask if any ringer has ever heard the present record allowed to run home, as I personally have never heard it come into rounds at the finish, even when there has been plenty of time, and who would wish to hear a well-struck touch mutilated in the last whole pull or so? Finally, I think many will agree with me that this correspondence has been greatly marred by the mud slinging epistle of the only nameless correspondent—in your issue of October 6th. One can only assume that he knows very little of ringing, either call-changes or half-pull, or that he has a grudge against the band who made the record, hence his shelter behind a nom-de-plume.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Crayford.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.****DEATH OF PRESTON BRANCH HON. SECRETARY.**

By the death on October 7th of Mr. Alfred Blogg at the early age of 44, the tower at Whittle-le-Woods has lost another of its accomplished ringers, and the Preston Branch its efficient and popular secretary.

Learning to ring in 1921, his quick intelligence and eager mind rapidly brought him into the front rank of ringing in the branch, and although of a small and slight physique, he could turn in a heavy bell as well as most ringers of more weighty stature; indeed, he was never so happy as when conducting a peal of Treble Bob Major from the 21 cwt. tenor of his home tower. He early showed an aptitude for teaching recruits, and many young ringers, both male and female, owe their ability to his skill as tutor. A member of the College Youths, of which he was proud, he had rung 78 peals and conducted 16 for the Lancashire Association.

The interment took place on October 11th at Whittle-le-Woods, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. H. Garner, who spoke of the splendid work done by the deceased for the church and Bible class. Ringers from Preston, Penwortham, Leyland; Chorley, Brindle and the home tower rang half-muffled touches of Kent Treble Bob as the cortege approached the church and after the committal.

'Alf' Blogg leaves the memory of an eager and impulsive spirit, who has burned himself out prematurely both in the service of ringing and church and wherever his interest was kindled. He was a past officer in the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and took part in both Oddfellow peals rung at Whittle-le-Woods. He attended the annual meeting at Blackpool from a strong sense of duty, though obviously suffering from the illness to which he succumbed. A half-muffled peal was rung to his memory on Saturday, October 14th, which has been already recorded.

**DEATH OF MR. ERNEST F. POPPY.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ernest F. Poppy, of Stoke Ash, who for many years has been one of the best known ringers in the Eye district of Suffolk. Mr. Poppy, who was 64 years of age, went to Eye some 40 years ago. For 17 years he farmed the Moor Hall Farm near that town, and afterwards the Lime Tree Farm at Stoke Ash.

He was a keen churchman, filling the office of sidesman at Eye and churchwarden at Stoke Ash, and at the latter place he was mainly instrumental in getting the bells rehung.

Mr. Poppy was for many years a keen ringer; his peals rung with the Norwich Diocesan Association numbering 257, and with the Suffolk Guild 89. His other activities included cycling and membership of the local Rural District Council. He was twice married, and leaves one son and two daughters in bereavement.

**NOTICES.**

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A commemoration luncheon to celebrate the 302nd anniversary of the society will be held at the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, on Saturday, Nov. 4th, at 1.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Shalford on Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting and handbell ringing.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Sec., 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A practice will be held at Sandhurst on Saturday, Nov. 4th (instead of Oct. 21st). Ringing from 3 till 6 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Special meeting at Malins Lee on Saturday, November 4th. Refreshments only for those notifying Mr. A. Woodvine, Meadow House, Dawley, Salop. Ringing afternoon and evening.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Forget the war and come and enjoy Withyham's nice octave, 2.30 p.m. till dusk, on Saturday, November 4th. All make own arrangements for tea. Handbells available.—C. A. Bassett, Asst. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, November 4th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. until dark. Please don't expect tea. All ringers will be welcome. Please come.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The next meeting of the Lincoln District due to take place at Caythorpe on Saturday, Nov. 4th, will be held instead at Lincoln Cathedral (12 bells, tenor 24 cwt.). Bells available from 1.30 to 4 p.m. Short service and meeting to follow. No tea arrangements.—K. W. Mayer, Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 4th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Annual committee meeting at 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Shore on Saturday, November 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Subscriptions due. Ringers and friends welcome.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Annes-on-Sea Parish Church on Saturday, November 4th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Business meeting 5 p.m. All ringers welcomed.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, November 4th. Bells available from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**HUNSLET, LEEDS.**—The bells will be dedicated on Sunday, November 5th, at 3.30 p.m. The ring of eight bells tuned and rehung and four new bells installed by John Taylor and Co.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ringing for service at St. Clement Danes, Strand, November 5th, at 10 a.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting of the society will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, November 7th. Election of officers.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—The annual meeting of the division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, November 11th. Bells available from 2 p.m. until dusk. Short service followed by tea and business meeting. Please note: Under the present circumstances tea can be provided only for those who notify Mr. R. Suckling, 334, Church Street, Bocking, Essex, by Wednesday, November 8th. Please make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Woolton, on Saturday, November 11th. There will be ringing from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. This will be followed by service and the meeting. There will be no ringing after the meeting. Tea will be provided for the nominal price of 6d. for those who send their names to Mr. T. Heskeith, 1, Mason Street, Woolton, near Liverpool, not later than Thursday, November 9th. It is of the utmost importance those requiring tea should send in their names or numbers.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Stoke Goldington on November 11th, from 2.5 p.m.—J. F. Amies, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Adlington St. Paul on Saturday, November 11th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. S. Bradley, Branch Chairman.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, November 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting after. Further details later. Will those requiring tea please let me know for certain by Wednesday, November 15th? Only those who let me know will be catered for. There will also be practices on Saturday, November 4th, at Danbury, and on Saturday, November 11th, at Boreham, commencing at 2.30. All ringers are welcomed to come and join in these meetings and make them enjoyable and successful.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—A meeting at Bagshot on Saturday, November 18th. Bells (8) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 in Church Hall. Nominations for officers for 1940 at this meeting. Those intending to be present at tea must let me know by Tuesday, 14th.—C. W. Denver, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Huglescote, Leicestershire, Combined practice on Saturday, November 18th. All ringers cordially invited. Bells available 3 p.m. till dark.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—The annual meeting due to be held this month at Rochester has been postponed, Cathedral bells not being rung. Members' views for or against holding of meetings in the Rochester district during the war period would be gladly received, and should be sent without delay to G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

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A SET of Six or Eight Large Handbells. Particulars, size or weight of tenor and price to S. Flint, Maghull, 39, Sefton Lane, near Liverpool, Lancs.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MRS. MAUDE and family desire to thank the Whitsuntide ringing party for their floral tribute and kind sympathy in their sad bereavement.—Height House, Pudsey.

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