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## SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS

By C. W. WOOLLEY

**A**S proposer of the amendment at Bristol by which single-handed handbell peals are now recognised, I think I should endeavour to answer the points raised by Mr. Harry Poyner (July 1st).

This matter had been considered by the Council a few years ago when a more restrictive rule was proposed. This was rejected, the argument being that after two world wars there might well be some disabled ringers for whom this might be the only means of peal ringing. Since this view was accepted then, it seemed only logical to rescind a decision that such performances should be 'discountenanced.' The Council cannot therefore have been altogether so surprised when this matter came up again at Bristol; and the decision in question had been published previously in 'The Ringing World,' together with others for ratification or amendment.

Double-handed ringing has never been widely practised, and now, to judge by the peal reports, is very much on the decline. It has even been stated that it may die out altogether. I am the last person to wish to see this happen. I believe that the former decision to discountenance single-handed performances was taken with the best of motives, that is, to encourage handbell ringers to ring double-handed, but I very much doubt if it has had the effect intended.

Many ringers, I think, feel that if they take to handbell ringing it is absolutely necessary to master the double-handed technique, of which they have no knowledge and towards which they have no ambition; and they will not ring single-handed because they feel some stigma attaches to this sort of performance. Consequently there are many sets of handbells, which might be put to very good use, lying about in odd corners in our belfries and going to ruin for want of a little use and attention. I do think that if more of these were used considerable good might result; a band which put in extra practice by handbell ringing would be bound to feel the benefit in the tower; and many people might be led to try a pair and, ultimately, become double-handed ringers.

As to the feeling that single-handed handbell ringing is to be despised, is it, after all, so very much easier than

tower-bell ringing? Once the art of change ringing in the tower has been acquired, the amount of skill and attention a ringer has to put into the actual manipulation of his bell (unless very heavy, bad-going or odd-struck) is practically nil; all goes into the actual ringing and striking of the method. There could probably be no easier method devised of sounding a bell accurately in its place than the present one of ringing it up with rope and wheel; let anyone who doubts this try to ring changes by any other method, say by a band chiming, with one rope each, on a chiming apparatus. I really cannot agree that handbells would provide such a cheap and easy way of scoring peals; and if one looks at peal reports in years gone by, when such performances were recognised, there is no evidence that this ever was so.

If there are ringers whose sole object in ringing is to run up vast scores of peals, as if in competition with all others, would it not be better that they should be able to do this inoffensively in their own homes, rather than by caning their own and neighbouring towers—a procedure which can only arouse opposition from the general public? The real business of the Exercise is, after all, to get bells rung as much and as well as possible on Sundays, and we should adopt all means we can to this end. There are certainly those who go in for peal ringing in a big way and acquire great skill through much practice; if they also like to do it in their own homes, should they be called 'unscrupulous'?

Finally, it has never been suggested that single-handed performances should be accepted as 'on a par' with double-handed ones, if by 'on a par' we mean (as I think) strictly equal in merit and difficulty. Then what peals are 'on a par' in this sense? Ringers of a peal of Bob Major on a light eight, while claiming a peal, would hardly claim that their performance equalled a peal of Surprise Maximus. No one, I think, would ever confuse single and double-handed ringing on their merits.

It now remains to be seen whether the old prejudices remain, or whether any ringers will take advantage of the new C.C. ruling. At least, they are now free to do so if they so desire. I cannot see that any harm will come; and if through this any band betters itself for tower-bell ringing, or one ringer is induced to take up double-handed handbell ringing, then the few minutes taken up at the Council meeting in amending this decision will not have been wasted.



**TEN BELL PEAL**

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 35 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL**

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb. in E flat.

ALAN A. POTTS .. .. Treble	JOHN WORTH .. .. 6
JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER .. .. 2	LESLIE BOUMPHREY .. .. 7
BASIL JONES .. .. 3	ALAN J. BROWN .. .. 8
JAMES FERNLEY .. .. 4	PETER LAFLIN .. .. 9
ROBIN G. TURNER .. .. 5	EDWARD JENKINS .. .. Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS**

ECCLESFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Sheffield and District Society)

On Sat., June 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 15 cwt

SAM SCATTERGOOD .. .. Treble	*FRED FISHER .. .. 5
*JOHN S. SEAGER .. .. 2	GORDON K. CHADDOCK .. .. 6
*WILLIAM HOLLAND .. .. 3	HERBERT O. CHADDOCK .. .. 7
*IAN HOLLAND .. .. 4	NORMAN CHADDOCK .. .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by NORMAN CHADDOCK.

\* First peal of Treble Bob Major.

COLEMAN'S HATCH, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., June 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

**A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb. in G.

BERNARD V. COLLISON .. .. Treble	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE .. .. 5
STANLEY G. PONTING .. .. 2	ERNEST J. LADD .. .. 6
MARY FULLER .. .. 3	JOHN E. CANNELL .. .. 7
KEVIN S. HOHL .. .. 4	RALPH BIRD .. .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF (C.C.C. 172).

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.

First peal in the method as conductor.

A 21st birthday compliment to Michael Fuller.

CAYTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., June 29, 1955, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Vincent,

**A PEAL OF 5088 PLAIN BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ELAINE GREATHEAD .. .. Treble	HARRY SQUIRES .. .. 5
JACK L. MILLHOUSE .. .. 2	CHARLES E. BROWN .. .. 6
DEREK E. SMITH .. .. 3	JOHN FREEMAN .. .. 7
LESLIE SQUIRES .. .. 4	JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM .. .. Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., June 30, 1955, in 3 Hours and 17 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Paul.

**A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**

Parker's Twelve-part (7th observation).

Tenor 28 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb.

*MICHAEL DUKES .. .. Treble	ARTHUR R. WRIGHT .. .. 5
BARNABAS G. KEY .. .. 2	EDWARD J. WHITE .. .. 6
GEORGE L. ROOBOTTOM .. .. 3	ALAN G. FOSTER .. .. 7
DOROTHY T. GARDINER .. .. 4	PETER EVANSON .. .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN G. FOSTER.

\* First peal. First peal in the method as conductor.

Rung for the patronal festival.

BURES, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(Bures St. Mary's Society.)

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

**A PEAL OF 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR**

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

*STUART T. HUME .. .. Treble	DONALD L. MILLS .. .. 5
MRS. LESLIE MILLS .. .. 2	ALLEN W. CANSDALE .. .. 6
*EVELYN R. M. CANSDALE .. .. 3	LESLIE D. MILLS .. .. 7
*JANET M. SPURGIN .. .. 4	EDWIN C. HYNARD .. .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by DONALD L. MILLS.

\* First peal of Surprise.

Rung by an all-local band as a birthday compliment to Leslie D. Mills.

DISS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 11 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF 5184 KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR**

Ilkeston Variation.

Tenor 23 cwt. in D.

*FRANK C. J. ARNOLD .. .. Treble	†LEONARD S. SHARPE .. .. 5
*LEWIS J. BATLEY .. .. 2	CHARLES R. CATCHPOLE .. .. 6
*KENNETH G. BROWN .. .. 3	*C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO .. .. 7
*JAMES B. MORLEY .. .. 4	H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. .. Tenor

Composed by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Conducted by JAMES B. MORLEY.

\* First peal of Kent and Oxford. † First peal on eight bells.

GREAT HOLLAND, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

**A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR**

Pritchard's.

Tenor 15 cwt. 10 lb. in F sharp.

RONALD W. STEWARD .. .. Treble	ROBERT E. LESTER .. .. 5
*MARIAN H. MILLS (15) .. .. 2	GEORGE BUTTON .. .. 6
ALAN R. ANDREWS .. .. 3	URBAN W. WILDNEY .. .. 7
*MICHAEL A. MILLS (13) .. .. 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY .. .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD E. DAVEY.

\* First on eight bells.

LONDON, E.C.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Olave, Hart Street,

**A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR**

FRANCIS D. BISHOP .. .. Treble	JOHN R. LEEMING .. .. 5
*MRS. T. H. FRANCIS .. .. 2	†GRAHAM MCKAY .. .. 6
THOMAS H. FRANCIS .. .. 3	ALAN F. THIRST .. .. 7
JOHN L. MORRIS .. .. 4	ALFRED J. HOUSE .. .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by THOMAS H. FRANCIS.

\* First peal in the method. † First peal of Surprise. First peal of Major on the bells.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Elloe Deaneries Branch.)

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas,

**A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 16 cwt.

RONALD C. NOON .. .. Treble	AUBREY D. MILLS .. .. 5
FRANK TAYLOR .. .. 2	MAURICE BENNETT .. .. 6
GEORGE R. G. BUTLER .. .. 3	JOHN G. AMES .. .. 7
THOMAS H. CHARLTON .. .. 4	HORACE BENNETT .. .. Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

Rung for the patronal festival, and in honour of the installation of the Vicar (the Rev. M. H. R. Syngé) as a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral.

TADCASTER, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 8 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR**

Tenor 20½ cwt.

HOWARD SCOTT .. .. Treble	J. FREDERICK MILNER .. .. 5
MILTON C. FOWLER .. .. 2	*ALEXANDER E. MARSH .. .. 6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS .. .. 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. .. 7
W. ERIC CRITCHLEY .. .. 4	WILFRID F. MORETON .. .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

\* First peal in the method.

WHITWICK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., July 4, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

**A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR**

Tenor 12 cwt.

PETER R. JOHNSON .. .. Treble	JOHN M. JELLY .. .. 5
JOSEPH W. COTTON .. .. 2	WILLIAM THORLEY (JUN.) .. .. 6
ERNEST J. JELLY .. .. 3	DEREK P. JONES .. .. 7
ARTHUR E. ROWLEY .. .. 4	ROLAND BENISTON .. .. Tenor

Composed by W. THORLEY.

Conducted by ROLAND BENISTON.

First peal in method as conductor.

# SIX BELL PEALS

EAST PECKHAM, KENT.  
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., June 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,  
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, two extents of Cambridge Surprise and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM R. MANSEY .. .. Treble	REGINALD E. LAMBERT .. 4
GEORGE FRY .. .. 2	LUTHER J. HONESS .. 5
COLIN A. TESTER .. .. 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT .. .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT T. LAMBERT.

The ringer of the treble has now 'circled the tower' three times.

HARSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., June 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven extents Tenor 9½ cwt.

*HENRY C. FOSTER .. .. Treble	*MICHAEL W. CARTER .. 4
HAROLD J. F. MUNCEY .. 2	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 5
MARIE K. ROBERTS .. .. 3	CHRISTOPHER P. JOHNSON Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

\* First peal of Surprise.

HILPERTON, WILTSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., June 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 7½ cwt.

R. GEORGE MORRIS .. .. Treble	HARRY HEATH .. .. 4
JOHN H. GILBERT .. .. 2	KEITH E. LOVETT .. .. 5
ROBERT A. SOUTHWOOD .. 3	COLIN A. TESTER .. .. Tenor

Conducted by COLIN A. TESTER.

First peal of Minor on the bells since rehanging.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 26 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being two extents of Cambridge Surprise, three extents of Kent Treble Bob and two extents of Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON .. .. Treble	JOSEPH WM. COTTON .. 4
WILLIAM A. WOOD .. .. 2	WILLIAM F. WOODWARD .. 5
C. ROGER HAYWARD .. .. 3	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY .. .. Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR E. ROWLEY.

In memoriam Thomas Henry Wilson, an old member of this church, who was interred during the week.

DALWOOD, DEVONSHIRE.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Sat. June 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Consisting of 10 extents of Stedman and 32 extents of Grandsire (10 callings each). Tenor 9 cwt.

HERBERT W. PEARCE .. Treble	*ALBERT W. DYER .. .. 4
WALTER H. POOLE .. .. 2	*WILLIAM G. TURK .. .. 5
*RAYMOND P. SELWAY .. 3	*CYRIL F. JOYCE .. .. Tenor

Conducted by RAYMOND P. SELWAY.

\* First peal in two methods.

Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Evans.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND.

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being an extent each of Norwich, Ipswich, Durham, York, Surfleet, Beverley and Cambridge. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

*BARRY E. SAUNDERS .. .. Treble	GEORGE W. HOLLAND .. 4
RONALD J. SHARP .. .. 2	ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 5
C. HENRY HARDING .. .. 3	DENNIS KNOX .. .. Tenor

Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

\* First peal in seven Surprise Minor methods.

LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Preston Branch.)

On Sat., June 25, 1955, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different exten's. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*DEREK HEATON .. .. Treble	HARRY HARDACRE .. .. 4
JOHN CHARNOCK .. .. 2	LAURENCE WALMSLEY .. 5
THOMAS BARKER .. .. 3	FRANK STEAD .. .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK STEAD.

\* First peal away from cover bell.

Rung in appreciation of the services of the temporary curate (the Rev. A. S. McClure), who is returning to missionary work in Central Africa.

SHARDLOW, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

42 extents, four callings. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb. in G.

*RONALD GARNER (14) .. Treble	DAVID K. WALKLATE (18) 4
JOHN F. MURFIN (13) .. 2	†SAMPSON WALKLATE .. 5
†PETER J. SKINNER (16) .. 3	DEREK SHAKESPEARE (17) Tenor

Conducted by DAVID K. WALKLATE.

\* First peal. † First peal of Bob Doubles.

DEEPIST. NICHOLAS, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., June 27, 1955, in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 6½ cwt.

FRED BRIGHTMAN .. .. Treble	JOHN G. AMES .. .. 4
STANLEY E. BENNETT .. 2	MAURICE BENNETT .. .. 5
ERNEST BRITAIN .. .. 3	FRANK TAYLOR .. .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TAYLOR.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. John W. Clubley and Miss Bettina A. Duffy, which took place on June 16th.

NORTH MUSKHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., June 28, 1955, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 extent (10 different callings). Tenor 13½ cwt.

FREDERICK G. HOOPER .. Treble	†F. WILLIAM MIDWINTER.. 4
*MARK W. LEWIS .. .. 2	WILLIAM L. EXTON .. .. 5
DENNIS SIMPSON .. .. 3	†CHARLES J. COPP .. .. Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK G. HOOPER.

\* First peal 'inside.' † 25th peal together.

Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. T. Gascoigne, a local ringer, and Mrs. L. A. Smith, who were married at this church earlier in the day.



## CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS

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### KIRKHEATON, YORKSHIRE. THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., June 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

#### A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Treble	HAROLD B. SCHOFIELD .. 4
*WILLIAM SYKES .. 2	J. HENRY FIELDEN .. 5
*DAVID ATKINS .. 3	PHILIP H. SPECK .... Tenor

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.

\* First peal in three methods.

### DARLINGTON, DURHAM.

#### THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., July 1, 1955, in 2 Hours and 26 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

#### A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being an extent each of Alnwick, Bourne, Carlisle, Durham, Munden, Surfleet and Wearmouth. Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lb. in B flat.

BRIAN HARRIS .. .. Treble	THOMAS COOKE .. .. 4
DORIS M. KILLINGLEY .. 2	W. NORMAN PARK .. 5
RICHARD BUSBY .. .. 3	ROLAND PARK .. .. Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung for the visit of the Archdeacon of Durham on the 118th dedication festival of the church.

### BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

#### A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

MERIEL L. HAWKSLEY .. Treble	DAVID M. LEESE .. .. 4
GEOFFREY F. BRYANT .. 2	MARTYN W. HARBOTT .. 5
CARYL FORSTER JONES .. 3	WILLIAM T. COOK .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM T. COOK.

### BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL, BERKSHIRE. THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 2, 1955, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AGATHA.

#### A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 extents. Tenor 11 cwt.

*NEVILLE PAGE .. .. Treble	SIDNEY R. TURLEY .. .. 4
MRS. AUDREY B. WEBB .. 2	C. JOHN CASTELL .. .. 5
*ROGER WILLIS .. .. 3	FRANK C. CASTELL .. Tenor

Conducted by C. JOHN CASTELL.

\* First peal.

Rung for the 34th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Castell.

### BIBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

#### THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., July 4, 1955, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

#### A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 10 extents of Grandsire and four of Plain Bob (each called differently) twice repeated. Tenor 9 cwt.

*PETER W. BARTLETT .. Treble	GEOFFREY DOWN .. .. 4
†MERVYN DAY .. .. 2	*PATRICK A. BARTLETT .. 5
WILLIAM A. GODWIN .. 3	RALPH E. W. WENBAN .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. GODWIN.

\* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

Rung as a farewell to Geoffrey Down.

### DANBURY, ESSEX.

#### THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., July 5, 1955, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

#### A PEAL OF 5040 ROYDON BOB MINOR

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

THOMAS R. ROAST .. .. Treble	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. 4
MARY DOWSETT .. .. 2	IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS .. 5
PETER J. CAME .. .. 3	JOE E. G. ROAST .. .. Tenor

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

Believed to be the first peal in the method.

### HANDBELL PEALS

#### HITCHIN, HERTFORDSHIRE.

#### THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., June 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 3 Minutes,  
IN THE RUINS OF MINSDEN CHAPEL,

#### A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being two six-scores of Plain Bob and 40 of Grandsire (10 callings). Tenor size 11 in C.

*PHILIP MEHEW .. .. 1-2	†DEREK P. JONES .. .. 3-4
*MICHAEL ORME .. .. 5-6	

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

\* First handbell peal. † 100th peal.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Charles V. Hare (77) and to Philip Mehew and Michael Orme (18).

### SALFORD, LANCASHIRE.

#### THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., June 27, 1955, in 2 Hours and 17 Minutes,  
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED TRINITY,  
A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERIC NIXON .. .. 1-2	ROBIN G. TURNER .. .. 5-6
FREDERICK WM. GROCOTT 3-4	*LESIE BOUMPHREY .. 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by FREDERICK WM. GROCOTT.

\* First peal on handbells.

### SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.

#### THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., June 28, 1955, in 1 Hour and 43 Minutes,  
IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

#### A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 720 each of St. Simon's, St. Martin's, S. Nicholas', Winchendon Place, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Grandsire and Plain Bob.

D. MARGARET HAWLEY .. 1-2	EDWARD M. BRADLEY .. 3-4
ALAN SHEPPARD .. .. 5-6	

Conducted by ALAN SHEPPARD.

### QUARTER PEALS

**ARLESEY, BEDS.**—On July 3rd, 1,320 Grandsire Doubles: K. Barnes 1, Miss F. Smith 2, A. Simpson (first 'inside' and as cond.) 3, H. Davis 4, J. Livock 5, F. Shelton 6. First quarter 1, 2, 4 and 6. First quarter by local band. Rung for the Patronal Festival and as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the second.

**ASH, SURREY.**—On June 29th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Elaine Paton (first quarter) 1, Audrey Goodchild (first 'inside') 2, Sylvia Sherwood 3, S. Russell 4, P. Sherwood 5, E. Pepler (cond.) 6. Rung for Confirmation on St. Peter's Day and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of rehanging the bells.

**BETHERSDEN, KENT.**—On June 26th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: Miss S. Birch (first quarter) 1, I. Poile (first 'inside') 2, Miss E. Marshall (first of Doubles) 3, P. Jarvis 4, M. W. Marshall (cond.) 5, H. Jarvis 6.

**BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.**—On July 3rd, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: A. E. Daniells (first of Major) 1, A. B. Corden 2, H. Sear 3, F. Stonton 4, D. J. Meager 5, W. Daniells 6, J. Marks 7, R. Cadamy (cond.) 8. A compliment to Mr. H. Sear, captain of this tower for over 50 years, on the eve of his 77th birthday.

**BRENCHLEY, KENT.**—On June 17th, 1,334 Superlative Surprise Major: Betty Tester 1, C. Tester 2, J. R. Cooper 3, E. Lambert 4, G. Pearson 5, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 6, R. T. Lambert 7, A. W. Durham 8. Rung for the consecration of Paddock Wood's new church by the Bishop of Rochester.

**BUCKERELL, DEVON.**—On June 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Tozer 1, F. Parr 2, A. Hodge 3, O. Griffin 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, J. Real 6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. F. Parr on their 25th wedding anniversary.

**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.**—At St. Mary's, Woodstock, on June 28th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: V. Sheppard 1, J. Riley 2, C. Gardiner 3, W. Smith 4, R. Stickley (cond.) 5, B. Hargrove 6. Rung for the feast of SS. Peter and Paul. Birthday compliments to 4 and 6. A welcome to Brian Hargrove, R.N.

**COLCHESTER, ESSEX.**—On June 23rd, at St. Peter's Church, 1,280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: G. M. Rashbrook (81) 1, Pauline A. Nice 2, Evelyn R. Cansdale 3, Brenda M. Balls 4, A. W. Cansdale 5, B. Fairhead 6, U. W. Wildney 7, H. J. Millatt (cond.) 8. First in method for 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7. Rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. H. T. Pye, of the local company.



# QUARTER PEALS

**CORSHAM, WILTS.**—On June 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Prout 1, A. F. Lee 2, L. R. G. Taylor 3, H. L. Partrey 4, R. O. Fry 5, K. E. Hampton (first quarter) 6.

**CRADLEY, WORCS.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Overtun 1, H. J. Shuck 2, A. G. Hall 3, L. N. Hall 4, H. White 5, A. Wyre 6, H. Wyre (cond.) 7, W. Lloyd 8. Rung for the Patronal and Day School Festivals.

**GOLDINGTON, BEDS.**—On June 29th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: Roy Harding (first quarter) 1, Mrs. Marshall 2, Sheila Sands 3, Ann Fundrey 4, L. Duffield (cond.) 5, D. E. Houghton 6. Rung as birthday compliment to the conductor.

**GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTS.**—On June 19th, 1,320 Doubles (840 Plain Bob, 480 Grandsire): S. H. Ashton 1, P. W. Croft 2, G. Cherry 3, W. Croft 4, F. W. Croft 5. Rung on the back five for Evensong.

**GUILDFORD, SURREY.**—On July 2nd, in S. Nicolas' Belfry, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles, 'in hand': Ann M. Cox 1—2, E. J. Wells (cond.) 3—4, D. M. MacPherson 5—6. First quarter 'in hand' by all the band.

**HASLEMERE, SURREY.**—On June 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Bowler 1, F. Bowden (cond.) 2, Miss E. A. Bowler 3, Miss M. Goode 4, J. S. Clark 5, Mrs. F. Bowden 6, H. Gauntlett 7, J. B. Sidebotham 8. First quarter for 1 and 8. First 'inside' for 3 and 5.

**HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.**—On June 19th, 720 each of Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. J. Young 1, J. R. G. Spicer 2, F. L. Nicholls 3, G. Perkins 4, M. J. Dyer 5, H. S. Peacock (cond.) 6. Rung for morning service.

**HENFIELD, SUSSEX.**—On June 28th, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: A. L. Ryman 1, Mrs. C. A. Cruttenden 2, F. E. Cruttenden 3, D. J. Parsons 4, F. W. Parsons 5, R. Langridge 6, E. F. Packham 7, B. W. White (cond.) 8. Rung for the induction of the Rev. Richard Paul Peters as Vicar of the parish.

**HITCHIN, HERTS.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. V. Hare 1, L. Fidler 2, M. Orme 3, A. C. Harris (first of Stedman Triples) 4, F. W. Croft 5, J. Church 6, D. P. Jones (cond.) 7, K. Timbury 8. Rung for the Patronal Festival and special service of thanksgiving for the restoration of the south porch and church roofs.

**HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.**—On June 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss A. Lowings (first quarter) 1, S. Penfold 2, Miss J. Peacock 3, J. Carrott 4, R. Brown 5, D. M. Salisbury 6, T. East 7, F. V. Gant (cond.) 8.

**ILFRACOMBE, DEVON.**—On June 22nd, at Holy Trinity Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: L. Walters (first of Stedman) 1, A. Diserens 2, Mrs. A. Diserens 3, D. Gay 4, D. Beacham 5, N. Mallett 6, J. Worth (cond.) 7, P. Yeo 8. Rung for the 20th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. L. Walters, of Combe Martin.

**KELSTON, SOMERSET.**—On June 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: S. Carter 1, R. O. Fry (cond.) 2, L. R. G. Taylor 3, T. J. Hayward 4, S. S. Woodburn 5, T. V. Pitt 6. Rung for the opening, by Mr. Ted Leather, M.P., of the village electricity supply.

**LITTLE ASTON, STAFFS.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss V. Tomkins 1, M. W. Faircy 2, J. Dinenage 3, Miss M. Wallace 4, P. G. Golder 5, D. W. Barr (cond.) 6. Rung for morning service.

**LYME REGIS, DORSET.**—On June 26th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. L. Taylor 1, Mrs. C. W. Powell 2, C. W. Powell (cond.) 3, W. H. Poole 4, H. G. Keeley 5, G. Olliffe 6, G. S. Morris 7, J. Rattenbury 8. For Evensong.

**MEMBURY, DEVON.**—On June 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Tozer 1, C. Webb 2, O. Griffin 3, W. Sparks 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, J. Real 6. Rung as a compliment to Miss K. Webb and Mr. A. Broom on their wedding day.

**NORTH STONEHAM, HANTS.**—On July 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Mary Vallender (first quarter) 1, Isobel Inman (first 'inside') 2, R. E. Finch 3, Margaret E. L. Beamish 4, D. C. Jackson (cond.) 5, M. V. White 6. A farewell quarter to the ringer of the treble. Rung by the Southampton University Ringing Society.

**OAKLEY, BEDS.**—On June 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. A. Lucas 1, D. Houghton 2, Ann Fundrey 3, R. A. Lennard 4, B. Pattison (cond.) 5.—Also on June 30th, 1,259 Doubles (480 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 480 Plain Bob, 299 Grandsire): Sheila Sands 1, Ann Fundrey 2, D. E. A. Houghton 3, B. F. Pattison (cond.) 4, L. Duffield 5.

**OLD MARSTON, OXFORD.**—On July 2nd, 240 April Day, 240 Bob Doubles, 780 Grandsire Doubles: D. Woodward 1, M. Journeaux 2, Miss C. Woodward 3, V. Green 4, C. Holloway (cond.) 5. Rung for St. Nicholas' Church Fete.

**OXENDON, NORTHANTS.**—On July 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. C. Cropley 1, A. V. Flutter 2, A. E. Storey 3, D. E. Griffin 4, A. J. Millward (cond.) 5. First quarter for 1, 2 and 3.



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**ASSTEAD, SURREY**

The Asstead ringers with some friends from Christ Church, Epsom, and Leatherhead had a day's ringing along the Essex-Kent border on June 4th. The towers visited in the morning were Balcombe and Turner's Hill, both very easy going octaves. Lunch was taken at Aldington, Hove, but before this the visitors had an opportunity of ringing on this very pleasant six and had the honour of welcoming one of a number of brides who were married there that day. The towers visited after lunch were Coleman's Hatch, Edenbridge and Lingfield, all eights. Here again the ringing was much enjoyed. Methods rung during the day were Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman. Thanks are due to all incumbents and tower captains who made the outing so enjoyable.

**FARNHAM, SURREY**

Farnham ringers had a grand day on June 25th, the beautiful sunshine enabling the company to enjoy the longish journey to Northampton.

An old friend, Mr. Rowland Aldridge, who learnt to ring at Aldershot, awaited the party at St. Mary's, Roade, a five-bell tower which provided the first ringing of the day. He helped Mr. C. W. Denyer, the Farnham captain, to make the excellent arrangements.

The thrill of ringing on ten bells was provided at St. Giles', Northampton. After an excellent lunch at the Wedgewood Cafe a short coach journey brought the party to St. John's, Kingsthorpe, where 'wedding bells' were rung. Two other towers were visited during the afternoon—St. Edmund's (8) and St. Peter's, Weston Favell (5). After a good ring at each tower the party was ready for tea at Abington Park. Only one tower was visited during the evening—St. Peter's. Before leaving Northampton thanks were expressed to Mr. Aldridge for such a successful tour. Farnham was reached at 10.30.

**MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND**

For the third year in succession lovely weather favoured the Milton-next-Gravesend band for their outing on June 25th. To the regret of the party Mr. F. M. Mitchell, the leader, was unable to be with the party as he had entered Gravesend and North Kent Hospital a few days previous for treatment.

The first stop was at Hartfield, where Cambridge was the first touch of the day on these easy-going bells. Then on to Eastbourne for an enjoyable ring at All Saints', lunch and an hour on the beach.

The route to Hawkhurst was through lovely country. The inside of the church is still in a sorry state through war damage, but there is a fine ring of bells. Tea at Biddenden came before entering the 'drawing room' belfry of the Parish Church. Here with the assistance of Mr. Fred Macey and Mr. Geoffrey Waters a reasonably good course of Double Norwich was rung.

**BRAINTREE, ESSEX**

St. Michael's, Braintree, company and their wives had a very enjoyable outing on June 18th. In the morning ringing took place at St. Peter's (10), St. Albans, and at Tring. After lunch at the Forum Restaurant, Oxford, two of the city churches were visited—St. Giles' and All Saints'. An evening ride brought the party to Thame where, after ringing for half an hour, they had the pleasure of meeting Cheltenham ringers, who were on their annual outing. Home was reached at midnight. Thanks are accorded to all who helped to make the outing so successful.

**OUTINGS****NEWARK-ON-TRENT**

For their annual outing this year Newark Parish Church Society of Ringers chose Derbyshire, and a very collective day's ringing for June 25th had been arranged by the secretary, Mr. F. W. Midwinter.

Commencing with St. Mary's, Sutton-in-Ashfield (8, tenor 15½ cwt.), the bells were soon raised and rung to a variety of methods. This was followed by the musical eight (tenor 12½ cwt.) of St. Mary's, Crich. It was a great pleasure here to ring with the Vicar, who has just started to learn along with a new band.

Following lunch, St. Mary's, Wirksworth (8, tenor 14½ cwt.), was visited, and after some difficulty in finding the way to the ringing chamber, some good ringing was enjoyed. The last tower before tea was the eight (tenor 14 cwt.) of St. Oswald's, Ashbourne. Only simple methods were attempted here owing to the long draught and the difficulty experienced in handling the bells.

Crossing into Staffordshire, tea was taken at Ilam Park. Following tea with some time to spare, permission to ring on the five bells of the Church of the Holy Cross, Ilam, was sought of the Vicar. The Vicar said that he thought that there was a wheel missing but we could try them at our own risk. On entering the belfry it was found the wheel was missing from the fourth, the rope being tied to the clapper, and the tenor had been completely overturned, entwining the rope and breaking the stay. After rethreading the rope and clearing the broken stay it was decided that perhaps it would not be safe to ring the bells up, but by chiming 1, 2, 3 and 5 and clocking the fourth it was realised that here was a fine ring of good tone, which, due to negligence, was now lost to the Exercise.

The last tower of the day was the fine eight (tenor 16½ cwt.) of All Saints' Church, Ripley. So ended a good day's ringing with many thanks to the incumbents for the use of the bells, and to Mr. F. W. Midwinter for arranging a most enjoyable day.

**HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK**

Shortly after 6 a.m. on June 25th the Helmingham and district party were on their way to Surrey. Towers chosen were Chertsey, Bagshot, Yorktown, Farnham, Holy Trinity and S. Nicolas', Guildford.

Before leaving the hall for ringing, the party stood in silence as a last tribute to a faithful friend, Frank L. Fisher, and Alfred H. Watson, who died during that week; both had always accompanied the party. Mrs. Welton and helpers had provided a magnificent lunch in the Church Hall, Bagshot, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Another good meal was enjoyed at Farnham. All enjoyed the journey across the Hog's Back to Guildford. Here some of the party, after 30 years, renewed friendship with Mr. A. H. Pulling, who is still going strong and took part in a course of Bristol.

Home was reached at 2.30 a.m. after 250 miles had been covered. Good ringing was heard all day to various methods. Les Brett, the organiser, thanks everyone who helped him to make yet another outing such a success, also the party for their kindness in presenting him with a wallet, which came as a great surprise.

**ROTHERHAM**

With friends from Wath-on-Dearne and Handsworth (Sheffield), Rotherham Parish Church ringers had a long outing on June 18th, leaving home at 7 a.m., arriving home at 1 a.m.

At Lichfield the party were met by Mr. F. A. Sedgwick and were ready for the splendid breakfast. At St. Mary's Church they were welcomed by Miss Cawser and the brothers Peter and Dennis Beresford, who had everything ready. Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman were rung. An opportunity was made for a visit to the Cathedral.

A pleasant drive through beautiful countryside led to Kenilworth, where Mr. Royal ushered the party into the clean little belfry. The six bells were soon going to Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Little and Plain Bob.

Owing to the annual regatta, ringing had been cancelled at Stratford-on-Avon, but fortunately Mr. Chaddock was able to contact Mr. Hunt, the head ringer, and the visitors were allowed to try this beautiful ten at 7.30 p.m.

After a day well spent the party was entertained en route with tunes on handbells by Mr. Chaddock and his pupils.

**TEIGNMOUTH DISTRICT**

A small number of members of the Mid-Devon area, mainly drawn from Teignmouth, spent a very enjoyable afternoon on July 9th, when a visit was paid to Holne, a charming village on the edge of the moors, which is associated with the Rev. Charles Kingsley. An hour was spent here with these rather difficult-going bells. A few of the more energetic members later climbed up in the tower and inspected the bells and found that they were all dated 1743, and were cast by one A. Gooding.

A move was afterwards made down to Spitchwick, where a picnic was much enjoyed beside the River Dart, and incidentally there were quite a number of other visitors in the district.

A visit was afterwards paid to Buckland-in-the-Moor, another lovely Devon village, where we were joined by the local steeplekeeper. A very pleasant hour was spent with these excellent-going bells, after which 'tracks' were made for home.

**FARINGDON, BERKS**

Ringers of Faringdon, Buckland, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Shrivenham and Aldenham had a perfect day for their annual outing when visits were paid to Stratford-on-Avon, Birmingham, Tanworth-in-Arden and Stow-in-the-Wold.

Ringing at Stratford preceded lunch at Birmingham, followed by ringing at the Cathedral Church of St. Philip. Next came the light eight at Tanworth. After tea at Stratford-on-Avon, a pleasant run took the party to Stow-on-the-Wold, via Chipping Campden. The Vicar (the Rev. A. H. G. Davey) and his wife accompanied the ringers.

**Halifax and District Association**

Only three companies officially entered for the six-bell contest held at Cawthorne on June 25th, but a sufficient number of spare members attended to make up a mixed company. The judge was Mr. R. Brogan, of Cawthorne, and he gave his decision as follows:

	Faults
Mixed Company .. ..	223
Shelley .. ..	141
Friezland .. ..	62
Silkstone .. ..	104

Friezland were declared winners of the silver cup and each man received a brass letter rack.

During the annual business meeting the balance sheet was adopted and all the officers were re-elected. A proposal that members of winning teams should be penalised was rejected, after a lengthy debate. Further ringing by mixed bands brought a grand day to a close.

# QUARTER PEALS

**PIRTON, HERTS.**—On June 26th, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: B. W. Lake 1, L. R. Runnacles 2, A. C. Harris 3, R. Head 4, K. C. Timbury (cond.) 5. Rung for morning service.

**POWICK, WORCS.**—On June 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. Cook 1, M. Trumper 2, D. Trumper 3, G. Lewis (cond.) 4, H. Cole 5, F. Hyde 6. Rung to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the casting of the first five bells in this tower.

**PUCKLECHURCH, Nr. BRISTOL.**—On July 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss V. W. J. Pennal 1, T. Price 2, B. W. S. Angell (first as cond.) 3, K. Price 4, D. B. I. Pennal 5, N. J. Smart 6.

**ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS.**—On June 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Baxter 1, Miss G. Johnson 2, A. E. York (cond.) 3, G. Wright 4, Dr. R. Summerly 5, P. I. Chapman 6, B. Austin 7, G. Clipstone 8. First in the method for 2, 4 and 5. Rung as a compliment to Dr. R. Summerly on graduating as M.B., B.Ch., at Birmingham University.

**ST. IPPOLYTS, HERTS.**—On June 22nd, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: A. C. Harris 1, P. Jackson 2, Marion Jackson 3, L. R. Runnacles 4, R. Head (first as cond.) 5, S. H. Ashton 6. Rung for the dedication of the new church seating by the Bishop of St. Albans.

**SAWLEY, DERBYS.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: P. Parry 1, Shelagh Kilbourn 2, J. Harrison 3, C. Geary 4, D. Marshall (cond.) 5, M. Bailey 6, A. Hickton 7, R. Newsum 8. Rung for the Sunday School Festival.

**SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.**—On June 26th, 720 each of Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, E. J. Parish 2, M. J. Dyer 3, H. S. Peacock 4, A. Clements 5, W. Ransome (cond.) 6. Rung for the Patronal Festival.

**SWINDON, WILTS.**—At Christ Church, on May 17th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: C. J. Gardner 1, T. Collins 2, P. Wilton 3, W. W. Daniell 4, R. G. Townsend 5, F. G. Wilton (cond.) 6.—Also on June 26th, 1,299 Stedman Caters: C. J. Gardner 1, E. Sutton 2, J. S. Hawkins 3, G. W. Townsend 4, H. Bishop 5, P. Wilton 6, J. Berry 7, T. Townsend (cond.) 9, W. W. Daniell 10.

**THORPE-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: E. Potter (first quarter) 1, Marian Mills 2, M. Mills 3, F. Harvey (first quarter) 4, P. W. Mills 5, E. E. Davey (cond.) 6.

**THORVERTON, DEVON.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. Ford (first quarter) 1, R. Ford 2, W. Baker 3, M. Butt 4, H. Butt (cond.) 5, F. Gilpin 6. Rung before Evensong as a farewell to the Rev. W. J. Eliot and Mrs. Eliot.

**TOTTERNHOE, BEDS.**—On July 3rd, 1,320 Spliced Minor, being 720 St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Thelwall, Childwall, Double Bob, Fulbeck, 600 Plain Bob and Little Bob: Mrs. J. Newman 1, J. Newman 2, R. J. Scott 3, D. Broyd 4, D. Knox (cond.) 5, J. Sinfield 6. First quarter in eight plain methods by all.

**WALKERN, HERTS.**—On June 18th, 1,260 Doubles (300 Stedman, 480 each of Plain Bob and St. Simon's): P. Mehew 1, P. Jackson (first in three methods, 14) 2, M. Collings 3, M. Orme 4, D. P. Jones (cond.) 5.

**WANDSWORTH, SURREY.**—At the Church of the Holy Trinity, on June 26th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. S. Langdon 1, Mrs. C. Watts 2, H. Belcher 3, J. Waters 4, B. K. Lunn 5, Hilda Snowden 6, John Phillips (cond.) 7, James Phillips 8. To commemorate 50 years' service at this church by Mr. L. H. Ford.

**WARKTON, NORTHANTS.**—On July 1st, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob and 780 Grandsire): R. Thompson 1, Pamela J. E. Lumbers 2, Mary Arkinstall 3, L. G. Toseland 4, B. P. Morris (cond.) 5. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of Mr. C. E. Lamb, churchwarden for the past 30 years, who was interred the previous day.

**WELSHPOOL, MONTGOMERYSHIRE.**—On July 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: John Davies (first quarter) 1, John Gordon (first 'inside') 2, Allan Davis 3, James Davies (first quarter) 4, G. Simister (cond.) 5, K. Davies 6. Rung for Children's Flower Service.

**WORFIELD, SHROPSHIRE.**—On June 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. Fincher 1, D. Fincher 2, E. Drew 3, H. Seedhouse 4, G. Turner (cond.) 5, A. Nurse 6. First quarter on bells and by all except E. Drew. A wedding compliment to M. Tucker, a local ringer.

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## The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS



# 'THE RINGING WORLD'

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Ringling friends in North-East Essex will wish to congratulate Mr. Herbert T. Pye, of Colchester, on attaining his 80th birthday on June 23rd, and will sympathise with him in the fact that he did not feel equal to taking part in any ringing on that special occasion. A congratulatory quarter of Yorkshire Surprise was rung at St. Peter's in the evening and the five 'firsts' included three lady ringers.

Mr. G. Pullinger has relinquished the Mastership of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, to the great regret of the members. His successor is the general secretary of the Guild, Mr. F. W. Rogers. Mr. J. C. A. King, of Winchester, is the new general secretary.

Mr. George Evenden, of Bournemouth, a popular member of the Roving Ringers, was injured in an explosion at Bournemouth Gas Works. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Ian Scott-Jackson, from the Isle of Wight, was a welcome visitor to St. Donard's, Belfast, on June 26th, when he took part in the ringing for morning and evening services. St. Donard's are not practising during the summer months.

At the last meeting of the College Youths it was interesting to note amongst those in attendance Mr. E. Alex Young, aged 90; Mr. W. T. Elson, aged 88; and Mr. I. Emery, aged 82, all taking a very keen part in the proceedings. Some Youths!

After 41 years' practice Mr Edgar C Shepherd has at last rung the tenor to a peal and also 'circled' a tower (Edgbaston). Certain Birmingham friends consider that the obvious targets for his declining years are St. Paul's, Exeter, and Liverpool Cathedral (in that order, of course).

## BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. Derek P. Jones made his 100th peal a family affair with Philip Mehew, of Stotfold, and Michael Orme, of Hitchin, with whom he had rung 31 peals. It was rung beneath a ruined flint arch at Minsden Chapel, near Hitchin, a start being made at 6.30 a.m. The peal was completed a few minutes before 9 a.m. so as to enable the party to keep previous engagements.

Letter received by Mr. F. Dukes, secretary of the Irish Association:—Choirboy to Vicar: The choir is getting up a cricket team, sir, and we are wondering if you would lend us the bats which the verger says you have in the belfry. Mr. Dukes writes in the 'Irish Bell News': There are nine of St. Peter's, Drogheda, bell ringers in the church choir.

Mr. W. R. Manser has 'circled' East Peckham tower to peals three times.

Corsham, Wilts, had a quarter rung on its bells on June 29th. Is this the first on the bells? inquire those who participated.

We hear that plans are in hand for a reunion of veterans at St. Olave's, Hart Street, E.C., on September 17th.

It was a big disappointment to Liverpool ringers to lose the half-muffled peal to the memory of their former Rector (the Rev. David Railton). The attempt was Stedman Triples on the light eight, and after nearly three and a half hours, when the bells were in the plain course at the end of the peal, a slight hesitation on the part of one ringer led to the bells getting all in a heap. Although they were finally sorted out and came into rounds there was a very ugly patch of 30 or so changes and it could not honestly be regarded as a peal. In the company were Miss G. Howlett and Miss F. Ellison, who were making their first peal attempt on the new bells.

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# LATEST RINGER TO SCORE 1,000 PEALS

## MR. JOHN THOMAS AND HIS EXPLOITS

ON Tuesday, December 26th, 1899, a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Stephen's Church, Bristol. It was the first peal by the ringer of the treble—John Thomas—and the conductor was G. T. Daltry. On Saturday, June 18th, 1955, John Thomas returned to St. Stephen's, Bristol, and called a peal of Stedman Caters—his 1,000th peal. Two members of the band were old Bristol ringers—Alfred E. Reeves (76) and Frederick G. Leaker (73), with whom Jack Thomas (also 73) has been associated for almost all of his ringing life. The band included Mrs. Thomas, two of Jack's brothers-in-law—Joseph D. Johnson (secretary of the Worcestershire and Districts Association) and Thomas W. Lewis, of Worcester, as well as Albert M. Tyler, of Bristol (Jack's nephew).

A remarkable point about the ringing career of John Thomas is that he rang his 500th peal as recently as March 14th, 1943, and he has, therefore, rung the second 500 in just over 12 years, whereas the first 500 took over 43 years.

### STARTED AT BRISTOL

John Thomas learned to ring with several of his brothers at St. Michael's, Bristol, a six-bell tower, and he undoubtedly took to the art as a duck to water. He was brought up in an age when learners had to show their merit with scant encouragement from their elders.

His first peal of Surprise—Superlative, again conducted by G. T. Daltry—was rung at All Saints', Bristol, on September 11th, 1901, and his first as conductor was at St. Luke's, Bristol—seven extents of Bob Minor—on February 7th, 1902. His first handbell peal (also the first handbell peal to be rung in Bristol) was Grandsire Caters, rung on May Day, 1902.

Any who know Jack Thomas will think of him as a great conductor of Holt's Original. Very few people have called this famous composition more times than he has. The first time was at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 23rd, 1902. Since then he has rung the peal on both tower- and handbells in many parts of the country, and a good many learners have thus been able to thank John Thomas for their first peal.

On September 14th, 1903, the late William Pye performed what has often been regarded as one of the greatest possible feats of heavy bell ringing when he rang the tenor at Exeter Cathedral single-handed to a peal of Stedman Caters. John Thomas was the ringer of the treble in that historic peal, and for his 1,000th peal he chose the same composition (5,041 Stedman Caters by G. Lindoff), which William Pye called at Exeter.

On December 29th, 1903, a peal of London Surprise Major—first by all the band—was rung at All Saints', Bristol, conducted by F. G. May. Mr. Thomas rang the fifth. On March 2nd, 1904, in St. Stephen's, Bristol, belfry he called Holt's Original on handbells—his first handbell peal as conductor, and on May 20th, 1905, he called Thurstans' One-Part at Long Ashton, and this was his 100th peal.

### IN LONDON

By the time Mr. Thomas left Bristol, in 1911, to live in London, he had rung just over 150 peals. Then began long associations with three famous companies of peal ringers—William Pye's band, Mr. James Parker's Edmonton band and the Ancient Society of College

Youths. Thus it was that he took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on October 31st, 1911.

He took part, on April 8th, 1912, at Knebworth, Herts, in a record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 12,160 changes, conducted by G. N. Price. This was only to stand as a record for a few weeks, being beaten by William Pye at Hornchurch, Essex, but was a fine performance all the same.

On November 23rd, 1912, Mr. Thomas took part in the first 'name' peal on 12 bells at St. Giles', Cripplegate. This was conducted by the late John H. Cheeseman, who was also in the select company of those who have rung a thousand peals. Another participant was the first editor of 'The Ringing World'—John S. Goldsmith.

A performance remarkable for those, or even for these, days was a handbell peal of Stedman Cinques rung in Shoreditch belfry on November 13th, 1914, conducted by William Pye. Bertram Prewett, said to have been one of the first ringers of his generation, rang 1-2 in this peal, and Alfred W. Grimes, the first man to ring 250 peals in two years, rang 11-12. Mr. Thomas rang 9-10, and the brothers William, George R. and Ernest Pye rang the remaining pairs.

Mr. Thomas rang his first of Cambridge Maximus at Chelmsford Cathedral on March 28th, 1921. He took part with the Pye band in three peals of Middlesex Surprise Royal at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, London Bridge, West Ham and St. Clement Danes'.

Another of the great performances of all time was a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Paul's Cathedral on February 7th, 1925. This was conducted from the tenor by the present secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the 11th was rung by Mr. Herbert Langdon. Mr. Thomas rang the third.

In the following years Mr. Thomas rang peals in many parts of the country. Wherever his work as a bellhanger for Messrs. Mears and Stainbank took him he participated in local ringing.

Mr. Thomas has been married twice and he has taken part in a married couples' peal with both of his wives, including with his present wife a peal of Stedman Cinques at Leicester. Mrs. Thomas was the first lady to ring 500 peals, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have probably rung more peals together than any other married couple.

### WAR-TIME RINGING

The outbreak of the last war brought a cessation to tower bell ringing, but Mr. Thomas was in the forefront of those who kept the art alive on handbells. He took part in Holt's Original rung 'silent' at Whitechapel Bell Foundry on November 8th, 1941. On March 14th, 1943, he rang Holt's Original 'in hand' at Enfield, and this was his 500th peal. About this time the floodgates really opened and 24, Suffolk Road, Enfield, became the best known address in the Exercise. In 1943, 1944 and 1945 hardly a week passed without several peals rung at that address. Several youngsters were taught and after the ban on ringing was removed All Saints', Edmonton, had a regular band trained by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas. The names of some of these young ringers may be recalled—Eric A. Dench, Victor R. Woodard, Albert J. Wallman, Dennis H. Langdon, Philip J. Coward and Lucile M. Hubbert (now Mrs. P. A. Corby). Another well-known ringer as-

sociated closely with the activities of this company at that time was Mr. Charles W. Roberts, whose name appears very frequently in Mr. Thomas' peal book. Many fine handbell performances resulted from their activities including Stedman Cinques, which they rang with great skill. The culminating performance was the first peal ever rung with 14 changing bells—Plain Bob 14-in on Sunday, August 24th, 1944. Many peals were rung on Sunday afternoons, but this particular peal was the only one which ever interfered with regular service ringing at All Saints', Edmonton.

### SOLID ACHIEVEMENT

In December, 1946, Mr. Thomas moved from London to his present home at Hinton-on-the-Green, Worcestershire. He continues to be very active both with tower- and handbells. Very few ringers are better known than Mr. Thomas, and his many friends will share his pleasure at ringing his 1,000th peal. This has been no mere peal-grabbing but represents solid achievement and a great deal of spade work for the benefit of less experienced ringers. Few instructors are gifted with such patience, and few are more qualified to give instruction than this man with a wonderful ear and a genius for striking an odd-struck bell. The Exercise hopes he will continue long to enjoy his present good health and live to ring many more peals. Congratulations, Jack!

### HIS 1,000 PEALS

(Number conducted in parentheses)

Minor.—One method 10 (5), two methods 2 (1), three methods 4 (4), four methods 8 (7), five methods 2 (2), six methods 2 (2), seven methods 28 (21).

Triples.—Grandsire 66 (51), Stedman 107 (53), Oxford Bob 1.

Major.—Plain Bob 28 (14), Double Norwich 41 (20), Little Bob 2 (2), Forward 2 (1), Double Oxford Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 23 (16), Oxford Treble Bob 3 (1), Oxford and Kent Treble Bob 1.

Surprise Major.—London 25 (4), Bristol 19 (4), Cambridge 37 (14), Superlative 20 (6), New Cambridge 4 (1), Yorkshire 11 (1), Rutland 6, Hinton 2, Painswick 2, Old Gloucester 1, New Gloucester 1, Norfolk 1, Evenlode 1, Ashted 1, Pudsey 1, three spliced 1, four spliced 2.

Caters.—Grandsire 16 (5), Stedman 57 (20).

Royal.—Plain Bob 4 (3), Kent Treble Bob 4 (1), Oxford Treble Bob 1, Cambridge Surprise 13 (3), Yorkshire Surprise 4, Middlesex 4.

Cinques.—Grandsire 2 (1), Stedman 41 (9).

Maximus.—Kent Treble Bob 1, Cambridge Surprise 7, Spliced Little Bob and Plain Bob 1.

Total on tower bells.—621 (272).

### HANDBELLS

Minor.—One method 4 (4), four methods 2 (2), seven methods 1 (1).

Triples.—Grandsire 77 (65), Stedman 13 (5), Oxford Bob and Grandsire 1.

Major.—Plain Bob 69 (46), Double Norwich 7 (1), Double Bob 1 (1), Little Bob 2 (1), Kent Treble Bob 30 (20), Oxford Treble Bob 5 (3), Oxford and Kent Treble Bob 5, Spliced Plain and Kent Treble Bob 1.

Caters.—Grandsire 41 (25), Stedman 50 (15), Spliced Stedman and Grandsire 1 (1), Spliced Grandsire and Bob Royal 1 (1).

Royal.—Plain Bob 21 (11), Kent Treble Bob 11 (2), Oxford Treble Bob 2, Little Bob 2, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob 1.

Cinques.—Grandsire 7 (4), Stedman 17 (5), Maximus.—Plain Bob 5 (3), Kent Treble Bob 1.

Fourteen-in.—Plain Bob 1 (1).

Total 'in hand'.—379 (216).



# THE LADIES' GUILD PROGRESSES

## 25 PER CENT. MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

**W**HEN the Ladies' Guild came to Guildford on July 2nd it had its largest attendance at an annual meeting in the 43 years of its existence. For the occasion a good programme of ringing was arranged, seven towers in Guildford and the neighbouring villages being available. Members came from Leeds, South Wales, Bristol, Bedford and the Home Counties.

The service was held in St. Mary's Church, some 900 years old, and was conducted by the Rev. C. G. Pearson, who gave an address. Tea in the Congregational Hall had been provided by the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild. Appreciation of the fare provided was a collection of £7 for the Guildford New Cathedral Fund.

The meal had scarcely concluded before the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford (Councillor and Mrs. H. Kimber) arrived to give the Guild a civic welcome to Guildford. Such an honour, said the president, in introducing the visitors, was unique in the Guild's 43 years' history. 'We have never had the honour of being welcomed by a Mayor and Mayoress before.' That was the largest annual meeting of the Guild she had presided over. They were very fortunate in having so many friends in Guildford, who had entertained them as their guests. Guildford was a delightful old town but she found the hills rather trying.

The Mayor, in his defence of Guildford's hills, thought the winds of Caister far more dangerous. In extending a welcome to the Guild he expressed surprise that they had not been welcomed by a chief citizen before, and suggested that they had not approached the Mayor.

### 'COLLEGE MAIDENS'

He lived near a church and he frequently heard them making 'a joyful noise unto the Lord.' He was rather intrigued about the title of the Ancient Society of College Youths; he suggested that their Guild was the 'Ancient Society of College Maidens.'

'You have a glorious day for your visit. I suggest you get up early to-morrow and see Guildford from the hills. See the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and ring the bells with all your might but don't ring before 8 a.m.'

At the business meeting Mrs. Fletcher presided, supported by Miss D. Colegate (hon. secretary). Among the apologies received was one from Miss Dorothy Sayers, an honorary member, who could not attend through ill-health. She sent her best wishes to the meeting and the Exercise generally.

The meeting stood in remembrance of Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. East, Mrs. Reeves (one of the earliest members better known under her maiden name, Miss Chillingworth) and Miss Walker.

### STARTED WITH 30

Acknowledging her re-election as president, Mrs. Fletcher said she sometimes felt that she ought to give up the office, but the Ladies' Guild and the Central Council were her only two connections with ringing now. 'I don't feel, unless I am chucked out, that I can give up the office. When we started there were 30 members; now there are over 700.'

Miss Colegate was elected secretary and treasurer and was described by the president as a 'real tower of strength to the Guild.' Miss Audrey Bailey, the hon. auditor, was also re-elected and was especially thanked for the expeditious way she dealt with the accounts to have them ready for the meeting.

The secretary's report stated that 1954 had been a year of slow but steady progress. The

West Midland District, under its new secretary, was increasing its membership, and the newly-formed Kent District had made an excellent start. The total membership had increased during the year by 25 per cent., rising from 612 to 768. The recent death of Mrs. K. Matthews was a sad loss to the Guild. She was for a time secretary of the Central District, and had also acted as assistant secretary. She had represented the Central District on the General Committee and had also taken part in peals for the Guild.

Subscriptions showed an increase (£28 17s. 6d. compared with £26 2s. in 1953). There was an excess of income over expenditure of £18, but it must be remembered that no report was issued during the year.

### PEALS WANTED

'No peals were rung for the Guild during 1954. Whilst peal ringing is not one of our aims, there is a sense of achievement when one has been accomplished, and often a peal will create interest among non-members of the district in which it is rung. It is not an easy matter to get together a band, but it is doubtful if the difficulties are as great to-day as they were when the first peals for the Guild were being rung, and we should like to see a few peals each year as a proof that we are still going forward.'

The president said the committee considered the matter of a report and suggested that it would be advisable to have a full report with the names and addresses of members every three years, and in the interim a small report of the activities of the various Districts and any vital information as to changes of officers would be published. This was agreed to and the report was adopted.

The balance sheet showed cash balances of £51 17s. 11d., stock of badges £10 10s., and Post Office Saving Bank Account £55 8s. 11d. There was an excess of income over expenditure during the year of £18 2s. 10½d. The accounts were adopted on the proposition of Miss Colegate, seconded by Miss Steel.

### DISTRICT REPORTS

Miss Oliver, reporting on the Southern District, stated that it kept very staple and there was nothing very outstanding. There were quite a number of girls and women who were not members whom they would like to see in the Guild. The time had now arrived when she could not continue as District secretary.

Miss Evans, presenting the South Wales report, said the District was going from strength to strength and they had 88 members on the books. For their next meeting they were going to Eardisland, in Herefordshire, and they hoped to form a Hereford District.

Miss Haffenden gave an encouraging first report of the Kent District. At the annual meeting at Canterbury the ladies rang the 12 bells of the Cathedral. They had now 70 members, including five honorary.

Miss Lawrence, reporting on the Central District, stated that 13 new members were elected during the year. The District continued to meet on the fifth Saturday of the month.

A written report was received from Mrs. Richardson concerning the Lincolnshire District, which stated that 1954 was a good year for the District. They had lost one of their ablest ringers by the marriage of Miss Betty Brown, who now lived in Canada. The strength of the Branch had moved from the north to the south and 17 lived in the Spalding area. They had still six ladies who joined the Guild in 1927.

A report of the Midland District was sent by Miss Simpson which stated that five meetings had been held and 12 new members elected.

Mrs. Lee's report on the North-Eastern District stated meetings were well supported. They had 45 members, including six honorary.

The Western District's report sent by Mrs. De Jong recorded a fairly successful year with four meetings. Their first service touch of Grandsire Caters was rung at Minehead. Six new members had been elected.

Miss Stella Hughes' report of the West Midland District stated that meetings had been well attended. Two peals had been attempted but unfortunately came to grief. Two quarters had been rung. They hoped to ring at least one peal during the coming year.

The Yorkshire District report sent by Mrs. Kelly stated that four meetings, all successful, had been held. Fourteen new members had been elected against six in the previous year.

The president said they owed a debt of gratitude to the secretary and the District secretaries. Their hard work had brought the Guild up to its present strength.

### NEXT MEETING AT WORCESTER

On the proposition of Miss J. Evans, seconded by Mrs. E. A. Barnett, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Worcester on the first Saturday in July, 1956.

Upon the recommendation of the committee the meeting agreed to hold another dinner.

An omnibus vote of thanks was moved from the chair to the incumbents of Guildford and neighbouring churches for permission to ring, to the Rev. C. E. Pearson, the organist and choir for their services, and to the Guildford Diocesan Guild and Mrs. Grover for the tea, and to Miss Oliver for making the arrangements.

Acknowledging the compliment, Miss Oliver said, 'We have had great fun in arranging it.'

Mrs. Lock proposed a vote of thanks to the Guild's officers, which was carried with acclamation.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

### Joint Meeting at Drighlington

Leeds and District Society held an enjoyable joint meeting with the Yorkshire District of the Ladies' Guild at Drighlington on June 25th. During the afternoon and evening members and friends from Pudsey, Northowram, Leeds, Bradford, Liversedge, Thorne, Rothwell, Armley, Headingley St. Michael's, Otley, Handsworth and Batley kept the bells going in a variety of methods ranging from Plain Bob to Yorkshire.

In proposing the customary vote of thanks at the business meeting Mr. I. Slack particularly thanked Mr. S. Barron, who had made the local arrangements for tea, which had earlier been enjoyed by some 18 members. This was seconded by Miss M. Rhodes on behalf of the Ladies' Guild.

The next meeting will be held at Bramley. In a report from the Ladies' Guild we learn that Mrs. P. M. Thorley was elected vice-president in place of Miss M. Rhodes, who retired, and Mrs. E. D. Kelley re-elected hon. secretary.

The report for 1954 stated that 14 new members had been elected, against six in the previous year. Four quarterly meetings had been held.

On returning to the belfry, writes E. D. K., it was noted that a stay, broken while the meeting was taking place, had been replaced with alacrity, but the ladies were disappointed at not seeing the 'Jacob's Ladder' negotiated, 'J. L.' being nothing more than toe holes in the wall as far as the eye could see.

A course of Bob Minor was rung by the ladies and then votes of thanks were expressed to Mr. Barron for his excellent arrangements, to the clergy and to the Leeds Society for their kind invitation to join them.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE EMANCIPATION OF 1955

Dear Sir,—So Bob Triples is reprieved!—and with it all its aberrant relations. Considering the stir the Bob Triples controversy aroused, I have been most surprised at the quiet way its acceptance by the Central Council has passed off, only you, sir, making a comment.

Ringers generally must concede that their representatives voted in accordance with popular sentiment. The majority is not always right, but can usually be relied upon to give a rational judgment upon issues affecting the multitude. Pages of 'Decisions' reconsidered this year at Bristol, and agreed to, cannot but be accepted by any fair-minded ringer.

Many a pint of ale has been quaffed of late to the accompaniment of a discussion on what we think we should legitimately ring; much ink has been expended, and on occasions much heat generated in this journal over the issue. It appears that it has been well worth while. Despite the verdict of a small minority, the commonsense of the majority has triumphed, and the Council has at last shown clearly that it will not be controlled by small extremist groups.

It is most heartening to learn that democracy still prevails in our councils, and the Exercise owes a gracious 'Thank you' to all those loyal enthusiasts who gave their time and money to travel to Bristol amid the confusion of the rail strike to convey their members' decisions (often at variance with their own) to the Parliament of ringing.

Now that we have the liberty to ring peals of whatever we like, and have them recognised, let us not interpret this as licence to ring 'rubbish.' It is our obvious duty to follow the guidance of the Methods Committee, even if we do occasionally take the liberty of ringing an irregular method based on one of the standard methods, or one which has a practical value in the advancement of a pupil. Let commonsense rule our activities in the belfry, as it did the decisions made at Bristol, and let us not give the Council occasion to rue the emancipation conceded in 1955.—Yours faithfully,

W. BIRMINGHAM.

Slough.

## PEALS OF STEDMAN CINQUES AT CIRENCESTER

Dear Sir.—The Rev. K. W. H. Felstead has been misinformed re peals of Stedman Cinques at Cirencester.

The first was rung on September 18th, 1903 (conducted by G. Lindoff). Others were: Sept. 27th. 1924 (J. E. Groves); March 28th, 1932 (William Pye); Feb. 23rd, 1945 (Wilfred Williams); Oct. 16th, 1948 (Walter F. Judge); the last, May 30th, 1955 (Fred E. Collins).

I well remember what would have been the first peal of Stedman Cinques for the Gloucester and Bristol Association being lost in the turning course after the last Bob had been called, owing to a change course. This was previous to 1903.—Yours faithfully,

F. J. LEWIS.

Cirencester.

[Note.—We thank other correspondents who have written.]

Dear Sir,—Help! I am already receiving protesting letters re Stedman Cinques at Cirencester. I fear they are right and I have made a mistake. Can't read my own writing, it seems. Anyway, there have been peals of Stedman Cinques in the past 50 years—the last one in 1948, which was the peal previous to the recent one. My observations still stand about Maximus, fortunately. Apologies to all concerned.—Yours sincerely,

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Southampton.

## RINGING DURING A SERVICE

Dear Sir,—During the last month the times of our Sunday morning services have been altered at St. Thomas' Church, Exeter. It has been the custom to ring for matins from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Now that the morning services are altered, there is a said matins at 10.30 a.m., followed by sung Holy Communion at 11 a.m.

Before this alteration of the Sunday morning services started I asked our secretary to call a meeting with the Vicar, so as to arrange earlier ringing, viz. from 9.30 to 10.30. The verbal reply our secretary had from our Vicar was that the ringing could carry on as before, namely, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In my opinion, it is not right for ringing to take place whilst a service is on. Admittedly only about six people attend the said matins, but I ask, how can people worship Almighty God when ringing and talking is taking place in the belfry?

I may mention that our belfry ringing floor is open to the church.

I have given notice to our band that I will not attend Sunday morning ringing unless the time is altered. My wife is a member of our band and she shares the same views.

I would like to know of anywhere else where bells are rung from a belfry open to the church during a service and whether fellow-ringers agree with me in not ringing under these circumstances.

You may note my church-going comes first, ringing second. I am also a member of St. Thomas' Parochial Church Council and sidesman, and have always been a regular church-goer.—Yours faithfully,

W. A. WILLS.

Exeter.

## 'WITHIN OUR HEARTS'

Dear Sir,—Thanks for the article, 'Topic for the Month' (page 412).

By gad, it was far nicer and more encouraging than what was in column 1, page 381. I am glad to state that we at Friezland do appreciate it and I am sure those who heard us at St. Botolph's or anywhere else did fully realise our thoughts in respect to the bells and good striking, so I quote the following:—

Within the walls, without the walls or  
without the walls within the walls we  
ring the bells from within our hearts.

Sincerely yours,

J. BURGESS.

Friezland, Yorks.

## PEAL AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

Dear Sir,—My attention has been directed to the report of a peal of Plain Bob Major rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on May 7th, 1955. The performance actually took one hour longer than is stated, which is, perhaps, accounted for by the fact that 32 more changes were rung than appear in the report. The composition used was a regular four-part of 5,056 changes and was rung in 3 hours and 6 minutes.—Yours faithfully,

ROBIN G. TURNER.

Manchester.

## LAVENHAM TENOR

Dear Sir.—In the report of Walton-on-Thames ringers' outing is a statement that Lavenham has the finest toned tenor in the country.

I would like to say this is very untrue, and it is time the 300-year-old myth was exploded.—Yours, etc.,

CECIL W. PIPE.

Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

## BOB TRIPLES AT LEISTON

Dear Sir,—In a recent 'Ringing World' it states Bob Triples was rung at Leiston, Suffolk, for the first time. This is not correct. The original Leiston company rang their first peal, 5,040 Bob Triples, on November 6th, 1886, conducted by T. Shearing, and on November 20th a 5,040, conducted by G. Baxter, and on January 10th, 1887, 6,024 Oxford Treble Bob. This was conducted by G. Lindoff, as his original name was changed that day.

I have the honour to be the only living ringer in those three peals. The above three peals, with one of 10,304 Bob Major, conducted by J. Motts in 1888, are recorded on the centre tablet in the belfry. For this I collected the money. Mr. F. Tillet, of Ipswich, and myself are the only survivors of the peal of Bob Major.—Yours faithfully,

R. W. STANNARD.

## WATFORD SURPRISE MAJOR

Dear Sir.—I notice in last week's 'Ringing World' Mr. Speed points out that the composition of Watford by me is almost identical with one by Mr. Cashmore. I was not aware of it at the time I sent it, so may I be allowed to withdraw any claim to same and ask you to publish the enclosed composition, which I think will settle the point.—Yours respectfully,

GEORGE FREEBREY

Derby.

## 5,056 WATFORD SURPRISE MAJOR

23456	M	B	W	H
64352	—	—	3	—
64523	—	—	3	—
42635	—	—	3	—
45236	—	—	—	—
62534	—	—	3	—
42356	—	—	2	—
32546	—	—	2	—
25346	—	—	3	2
23456	—	—	—	2

## MR. DEREK P. JONES' 100 PEALS

Mr. Derek P. Jones has taken 12½ years to complete his first 100 peals. Of this total 80 have been rung in the last two years. Ninety-six are on tower bells and four 'in hand.' His peals have been rung in 76 different towers. He has conducted 34 peals and rung with 180 different ringers for 12 Associations. Details (those conducted being in parentheses):—

Doubles 16 (14) including handbells 2 (2)—Grandsire 1 (1), handbells 1 (1), Stedman 1 (1), St Martin's 1 (1), two methods 1 (1), handbells 1 (1), three methods 1, four methods 1 (1), five methods 2 (2), six methods 1 (1), seven methods 1 (1), eight methods 1 (1), nine methods 1 (1), ten methods 1, twelve methods 1 (1).

Minor 29 (17) including six 'first in method'.—Two methods 1 (1), three methods 3 (2), four methods 3 (1), seven methods 3, four Surprise 1 (1), seven Surprise 2, eight Surprise 1, nine Surprise 1, seven Plain 1, Plain Bob 4 (3), Trinity Sunday 1 (1), British Scholars' Pleasure 1 (1), Kirkstall 1 (1), Taxal 1 (1), Burnaby 1 (1), Dunedin 1 (1), Beverley 1 (1), Wearmouth 1 (1), Cambridge 1 (1).

Triples 4 (1).—Grandsire 1, Stedman 3 (1).

Major 40 (2) including handbells 2.—Plain Bob 3, Double Norwich 3, Double Oxford 1, handbells 1, Kent 2, handbells 1, Oxford Treble Bob 2 (1), Cambridge 4, Superlative 4, Yorkshire 6, Lincolnshire 3 (1), Ealing 1, Hitchin 1, Rutland 1, Bristol 2, London 1, Pudsey 2, New Cambridge 1, Southwell 1.

Caters 1.—Grandsire 1.

Royal 8.—Plain Bob 2, Kent 1, Cambridge 3, Yorkshire 1, Pudsey 1.

Cinques 2.—Stedman 2.



## SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD

### Annual Festival at Knighton

June 25th was an ideal day for the visit to Knighton, Radnorshire, where the annual festival of the Guild was held. It was one of those days when everything went perfectly, and all enjoyed themselves.

The town is situated at the northern tip of the diocese and this means a day's journey for the members of the Southern District. This year they travelled via Hay and Eardisland, where the party had lunch and were met by Mr. Leslie Evans, who arranged ringing on the lovely eight in St. Mary-the-Virgin's Church.

All parties arrived at Knighton between 2.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Evensong was attended by the Lord Bishop (Dr. Glyn Simon), who gave the Blessing. The Rev. T. E. Griffiths, Rector of New Radnor, gave the address. High tea followed the service.

In opening the business meeting the Lord Bishop, who presided, thanked the Vicar of Knighton for the arrangements made and also for the use of the bells. He also thanked the ringers for their part in the preparations. Apologies were received from Builth Wells and Cefn Coed.

Members stood in silence while the following members were remembered: Mr. J. Smith, Talgarth; Mr. Allsop, Ebbw Vale; and Mr. G. Morris, Llanstephan.

The general secretary's report included the sad news of Cefn Coed bells. Ringing has been stopped because the tower is cracked from top to bottom and is unsafe. The cost of repair will be over £4,000, an amount which is not easy to obtain.

The Rev. Sydney H. Morris, Vicar of Gorseinon, who was nominated as vice-president by Mr. Roderick, was elected. The hon. treasurer's report, which showed a great improvement in the balance in hand, was adopted.

Mr. G. I. Lewis was thanked by the chairman for his report on the Central Council meeting at Bristol.

Mr. E. Morris was elected Master of the Guild. All other officers were re-elected.

A welcome to the visitors from Shrewsbury and Chichester was proposed by the general secretary.

The 1956 festival will be held at Sketty, Swansea, and an invitation has been received from the Rector to visit New Radnor for 1957. Arrangements for the ringing competition were left to the committee.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the general secretary to the Lord Bishop for presiding.

After more ringing at St. Edward's tower, the Southern party left for home, and on the way stopped at Llanfihangel, Rhydeithen, to ring on the light six. Standing outside the tower we could not help thinking of the five peals in one day.

J. A. H.

## HORSMONDEN HAS NOW A RING OF EIGHT

The old six bells of St. Margaret's, Horsmonden, Kent, have been rehung and augmented to eight by the addition of two new trebles. The cost has been defrayed by Mrs. Bridges as a memorial to her husband, Mr. Bertram Bridges. An excellent splice has been effected by Messrs. John Taylor and Co, and in the opinion of local ringers the bells, with a tenor of 194 cwt., are second to none in the county of Kent.

The two new bells will be dedicated on Sunday, July 24th, at 6.30 p.m., by the Right Rev. H. N. V. Tonks, formerly Bishop of the Windward Islands. Ringing will start on the six at 5.30 p.m., and after the service on the eight. All ringers are welcome.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

### Presentation to Central Bucks Secretary

For the first time in its history the parish of Wingrave welcomed the Central Bucks Branch for its annual meeting. The six bells were rung up at 2.45 p.m. The Guild service at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Branch chairman (Canon G. Dixon) and the lesson was read by the Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. E. Wigg). The Vicar of Wingrave (the Rev. T. Barker) gave the address and members of the Branch formed the choir.

Over 60 ringers sat down to an excellent tea in the Church Room, provided by the wives of the local ringers.

The annual meeting which followed was somewhat of an occasion, as it was the 25th time that Mr. E. F. Gibbard had officiated in the capacity of hon. secretary and treasurer. The Branch chairman (Canon G. Dixon) presided, supported by the Master of the Guild and hon. librarian (Miss M. R. Cross). All the Branch officers were re-elected and the secretary reported that the Branch had a balance of £19.

To mark this auspicious occasion for Mr. Gibbard, the assistant secretary, Mr. D. Wheeler, and Branch Ringing Masters Mr. G. Edmans and Mr. F. Gregory had secretly organised a presentation to him which came as a great surprise. After the Master of the Guild had expressed the thanks and appreciation of the Guild for his long and valuable work for the Branch, Mr. Gibbard was presented with a handsome eight-day clock in walnut case and with Westminster chimes. The clock was suitably inscribed, and a book, 'The Towers and Bells of Britain,' was also presented.

The presentation, amidst loud applause, was made by the Branch chairman, who, like Mr. Gibbard, had done long and sterling service to the Branch. In fact, Canon Dixon has been chairman ever since the Branch was formed, 27 years ago.

Mr. Gibbard thanked the members for such delightful presents and said it had been a pleasure to work for so happy a branch. He only wished he had the time to get round to more towers in the branch.

After the meeting ringing continued until 8.30 p.m.

## SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD

The July meeting of the Newark District was held at the Church of St. Mary, Staunton-in-the-Vale (5, tenor 9 cwt.). The bells were raised at approximately 2.30 p.m. and rung in a variety of methods until 5 p.m., when tea was taken at the Staunton Arms. After tea the chairman, Mr. F. W. Midwinter, took the chair and welcomed visitors from Ancaster, Eagle, Heanor, Hough-on-the-Hill, Grantham and Rotherham. The next meeting was confirmed as a joint meeting with the Lincoln Guild at Newark, and the November meeting at South and North Collingham.

### Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—A. C. H. 2s. 6d., A. Harman 1s. 6d., J. Burgess 10s., D. P. J. 5s.

Peals.—North Muskham 3s., Sherburn-in-Elmet 1s. 6d., Brentford 2s.

Quarter Peals.—Lyme Regis 2s., Kelston 3s., Corsham 3s., Worfield 3s., Henfield 2s., Braine 2s. 6d., Swindon 6s., Welshpool 2s. 6d., Old Marston 2s. 6d., Haslemere 2s. 6d., Pucklechurch 3s., Marhamchurch 3s., Thorpe-le-Soken 1s.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

### New Ringing Master of Western District

Although the total attendance was rather disappointing, 21 towers were represented at the annual meeting of the Western District held on June 18th at SS. Peter and Leonard's, Horbury. The bells of Holy Trinity, Ossett, were also available during the afternoon and evening.

Tea was served at 5 p.m. in the Co-operative Cafe, Horbury, and was followed by the business meeting.

In the absence of the vice-president, the chair was taken by the Ringing Master, Mr. T. W. Strangeway. Votes of thanks were expressed to the church authorities and local companies of both towers for their hospitality.

The election of officers then took place and it was with regret that members accepted the resignation of Mr. T. W. Strangeway from the office of Ringing Master. His services were, however, not to be dispensed with, and he was subsequently elected to serve on the District committee and to represent the District on the general committee of the Association. Mr. V. Bottomley was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. Strangeway as Ringing Master. Retiring committee members were Messrs. E. H. Simpson and A. Bairstow, neither of whom sought re-election, and Mr. A. W. Bond. Mr. Bond was duly re-elected and the remaining two seats filled by Messrs. T. W. Strangeway and J. Pearson.

Following the meeting, members apportioned themselves between the two towers and ringing continued throughout the evening.

## BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

The summer festival of the Bedfordshire Association was held at All Saints', Leighton Buzzard, on June 25th. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m. with a well-struck touch of Grandsire Triples on the back eight, continuing with Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters, Cambridge Surprise Major, and rounds for those learning.

Those fortunate enough not to be roped in took full advantage of the June sunshine by going out on to the chancel roof enjoying the view towards Mentmore and the surrounding countryside in this beautiful corner of Bedfordshire.

After a bountiful tea members returned to the tower and continued ringing with Stedman Caters, Double Norwich, Yorkshire Surprise Major, etc., until 9 p.m.

J. W. S.

## HONOURING A VETERAN RINGER

A band composed of friends of Mr. T. W. Wyatt from Leamington, Warwick and Lillington met at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Lillington, on June 28th, to attempt with him a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples in honour of his 78th birthday and his long service to ringing.

Unfortunately Mr. Wyatt had been taken to hospital the previous day. After some very good ringing the quarter peal broke down when about 20 changes from the end.

Mr. Wyatt started his ringing career in London in 1896 and rang for many years at Lambeth Parish Church and other towers in London, and held office in one of the London Associations.

After coming to Leamington some years ago he joined the band at All Saints' and is one of the most regular members of that band, attending ringing twice every Sunday and on practice nights, and gives valuable help in training beginners. Considering he is 78 years of age, we think his record is very good and feel sure his London friends will join with Warwickshire ringers in wishing him a speedy recovery.

H. C. B.



## LAVENHAM RINGING DAY

The 144th ringing anniversary on Saturday, June 18th, was well attended by ringers of both sexes from many Districts. The opening touches were 'tapped off' by the St. Stephen's company, Hampstead, who were passing through Lavenham on their 'annual.'

During the afternoon and evening many touches in various methods were enjoyed by the other visiting ringers, amongst whom was the Suffolk Guild's Ringing Master, Mr. Charles Sedgley.

The rounds ringers were not forgotten and everyone present had a pull.

Although the anniversary is only a shadow of its former self everyone present enjoyed ringing on these grand bells. Time was when ringing commenced at 6 a.m. and continued till 9 p.m. with many noted ringers present, including the late Squire Proctor and his band, John Marven, Nathan Pitow and the noted London ringer, John Cox, etc. The last-named used to entertain the assembly by ringing a three-bobbed lead of Kent Major on handbells—two in each hand, one strapped to each of his elbows and one strapped to each boot-toe.

S. H. S.

## 5,056 Spliced Cambridge, New Cambridge & Southwell Surprise Major

By ROGER BALDWIN

23456 B M W H

65432	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
34256	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
25346	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
42356	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
54326	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
32546	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
43526	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
24536	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
53246	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
42356	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
63254	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
52436	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
63425	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
46325	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
53624	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
65324	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
32654	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
46253	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
24653	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
62453	—	—	—	XXXXNNN
62534	x	—	—	XX XX
35426	—	—	—	NNNXXXX
23456	—	—	—	NNNXXXX

6th extent in 6ths at CE's.

N=New Cambridge.

X=New Cambridge, Cambridge, or Southwell.

This composition is true to Superlative. ✓

## HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION

### St. Albans District

The curious iron cresset on the tower of Monken Hadley was an object of interest to the St. Albans District members who visited this tower on the afternoon of June 18th. Good use was made of the light eight.

The ringers then crossed the common to Barnet, that ancient Hertfordshire town that is now so much a northern outpost of London, where they were joined by many more ringers for the short business meeting, followed by ringing on the glorious octave housed in the flint chequered tower. The bells demanded and responded well to good handling and even the touches that failed were worth listening to.

At the business meeting it was proposed that Essenden (in a perfect 'summer setting') be visited on July 16th, and possibly St. Michael's, St. Albans, in September, with no August meeting.

G. D.

## ROSS-ON-WYE'S TOWER-GRABBING EXPEDITION

On Saturday, June 25th, eight ringers from the Ross-on-Wye District had an enjoyable outing in Gloucestershire. The first tower visited was Quedgeley (8, 9½ cwt.), followed by Elmore (6, 11 cwt.). At Longney (8, 14 cwt.) the sole disaster of the day occurred. Just as the bells were being lowered a snapping noise was heard. No, it wasn't a rope—but the thread of the necklace one of the young ladies had been wearing! The result can be imagined. Both here and at the next tower, Moreton Valence (6, 10 cwt.) the band amused themselves by following in her wake collecting stray beads!

After ringing at Moreton Valence (and being shown round the church by the Vicar), sandwiches were enjoyed in Whitminster Park. The meal was enlivened by the two girls' discovery that they had been sitting on an ants' nest. Proceeding to Whitminster, an attempt was made to raise the bells (6, 15 cwt.), but several jackdaws' nests had to be removed before this was possible. Slimbridge (6, 12½ cwt.) was a complete contrast, possessing what is surely one of the most attractive ringing chambers in the country. Next came Coaley (6, 12½ cwt.), where the long draught and the low sallies proved troublesome; and the final tower, the best of the day, was Dursley (8, 19½ cwt.).

The following methods were rung:—

Doubles.—Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob. Minor.—Plain Bob, Little Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, Thelwall, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise. Triples.—Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Triples and Oxford Bob. Major.—Plain Bob.

Thanks are due to all incumbents and local ringers who met the party, and to the two organisers, Reginald Jones and Eric Roberts.

M. T.

## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

The Elloe Deaneries Branch visited Gedney Hill for its summer meeting. A small village on the borders of Cambridgeshire, in spite of its name there is no hill for miles around. The church is most unusual with a nave of wooden arcades, the pillars being of stout oak.

The glorious summer weather attracted a gathering of about 30 ringers and friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. H. Hibbert, with Mrs. Hibbert at the organ. Tea was served in the Memorial Hall by the local ringers' wives and other helpers.

Mr. Hibbert was chairman at the business meeting. Four members of the local company were elected ringing members and Mr. Hibbert was elected an honorary member. Mr. Ames, in his vote of thanks, said that the last meeting here was in 1936, and he hoped it would not be another 19 years before the next visit. Handbell ringing followed the meeting, then members again returned to the church, where ringing continued till 9 p.m.

A large variety of methods was rung on the five bells, the only ring of five in the Branch, and it is understood that there is now a fund started for adding a treble at some future date.

R. C. N.

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

The quarterly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at Urchfont on July 2nd, some 32 members and friends attending, including visitors from Chippenham, Frome, Nailsea, Chilcompton and New Zealand.

The next three meetings were fixed for Great Cheverell, Rowde and Trowbridge. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to the ladies for providing tea. Ringing ranged from rounds to Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

S. C.

## SOUTH DEVON RINGERS' FESTIVAL

Everything contributed to make the ringing festival at Dean Prior on June 25th a noteworthy event—brilliant weather, good ringing and wholehearted co-operation from the Vicar.

The 15th century church was almost full for the service at 4 o'clock, at which the Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt. Rev. N. H. Clarke, gave the address. In his address the Bishop stressed the fact that, although time lent dignity to our churches, its hand lay heavily upon them in deterioration of fabric, and he at once brought home to the congregation the need for and the needs of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, to which fund the day's activities were directed.

As was to be expected, the occasion was marked by call change ringing of a high order, but it was disappointing that owing to last-minute shortage, the Mid-Devon Guild were unable to ring the service touch. However, the judges were able to make up six and so gratify their own wish to ring.

Dartmouth were unfortunate in having the treble rope break as they were nearing the end of their peal. A replacement was speedily forthcoming and a satisfactory arrangement was made as regards their marking. 'Sixty on thirds' constituted the prize peal.

Certificates were presented to the first six teams—Kingsbridge, West Alvington (1), Buckland-in-the-Moor, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Upton, Torquay and West Alvington (2) in that order.

It is expected that a sum of about £12 will be handed over to the Trust as a result of the Festival.

## STOKE D'ABERNON, SURREY. TO HAVE RING OF FIVE

Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey, is to have a light ring of five bells. The four old bells in the church have been silent for years owing to the frame being unsafe and have been removed to a bell-foundry.

Making the announcement, the Rector (the Rev. John H. L. Waterson) writes: 'It would be a very sweet ring of perhaps the lightest bells in the south country with a tenor weighing three and a half cwt. and the new treble bell not more than one cwt., all harmonically in accord.'

The cost is about £700.

Of the four bells in Stoke D'Abernon, one was pre-Reformation, circa 1450, which was ascribed to Joanna Sturdy. Another pre-Reformation bell was recast by Warners in 1886, and William Eldridge provided a bell here in 1687.

Hascombe, in the Guildford Diocese, has a ring of five with a tenor weighing 3 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb.

## SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY

By kind invitation of the Vicar the monthly meeting of the Society was held at High Bradfield on July 2nd. The ringers from the Cathedral had been asked to ring the bells for the annual church garden party and so it was decided that the meeting should be held there.

Altogether about 30 members, representing 10 towers, were present. The bells were rung for a few minutes until 3 o'clock, when there was a break during which the garden party was declared open. Ringing continued until 4 p.m., when tea was served in the Church Hall.

No business meeting was held but ringing continued in a variety of methods including London, Cambridge, Stedman and Plain Bob until 7 p.m. During the course of the evening a few rounds were rung by a team consisting entirely of girls attending the High School for Girls, Rotherham. The next meeting is to be held at Eckington on August 4th.

D. F. S.



## OBITUARY

### THE REV. DAVID RAILTON

A memorial service for the late Rev. David Railton, Rector of Liverpool from 1935-42, was held at the Parish Church of Our Lady and St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on July 4th. The service was conducted by the present Rector, Canon R. Nelson.

The Rev. D. Railton served as a chaplain in the first world war and won the M.C.; he picked up a large Union Jack in no-man's-land and it was in this flag that the body of the Unknown Warrior was wrapped and brought from the Western Front to London. The suggestion to bury an unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey as a memorial to all those who died in the first world war emanated from David Railton in a conversation with the late Bishop Ryle, then Dean of Westminster.

In the evening, after Evensong, members of the St. Nicholas' band attempted a peal of Stedman Triples on the light eight, which was lost in the last plain course.

### MR. ROBERT BRIGHAM SMITH

The passing of Mr. Robert Brigham Smith (aged 77), of Howden, East Yorks, on May 15th, is deeply regretted by ringers of the Yorkshire Association and Selby and District Society. He had been a member of the Yorkshire Association (Eastern District) since 1908 and was a member of the general committee of the Association.

His ringing career began at Howden Parish Church more than half a century ago and he was captain of the belfry for most of that period. He had rung in 23 peals and was keenly interested in change ringing throughout the county and attended meetings regularly up to the time of his passing. He gave every encouragement to young ringers and was of a very kindly and sociable disposition, and would sit outside various churches listening to any peal in progress.

Mr. Smith was Howden's only surviving veteran of the old Volunteer Corps which fought in the South African War.

The funeral took place on May 18th and in the evening his memory was honoured by a team of ringers ringing Howden Church bells half-muffled. A course of Grandsire was rung on handbells at the graveside.

At the quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association held at Howden on June 25th, members stood in silence for a moment in respect of the late Mr. Smith, the vice-president of the Association (Mr. A. E. Sellars) paying tribute to his memory. Mr. W. A. Hudson (Hemingbrough), who had been his pal for 50 years as a ringer and socially, wrote the following lines, which were read to the meeting:—

### OUR LAST FAREWELL TO R. B. SMITH (OLD BOB)

At rest he lies on the sunny south side of Howden Church,

Beneath the bells he rang so long and true.

His course is run, his bell is home and honour is his due.

The bells each week as they ring out their message, ever new,

Will also keep alive and warm

Our memories, Bob, of you.

L. M. W.

### MR. EDWIN YATES

One of the oldest members of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, Mr. Edwin Yates, died at his home on Sunday, June 26th. Born at Stony Stratford in 1868, he resided in the town all his life, where he carried on his craft as a master wheelwright.

As a lad he sang in the choir of St. Giles' Church and later became a member of the local bellringers, joining the Oxford Guild in 1885. He was tower captain for 60 years, a post he held until his death. He had rung between 50 and 60 peals, mostly for the Oxford and Peterborough Guilds.

In his younger days he was a member of the local fire brigade for 30 years, serving as captain for the last 13 years, when he was succeeded by his son, who is also a ringer.

The funeral took place on June 29th at St. Giles' Church, where he had been verger for the last 30 years. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar the Rev. C. L. G. Hutchings, and in addition to the family mourners was attended by fellow ringers from Newport Pagnell, Cosgrove, Wicken and St. Giles' tower.

The bearers were members of his own tower, Messrs. W. G. Clark, A. W. Dillow, A. Hurst and H. C. Edwards. Among the many floral tributes was one from the North Bucks Branch, Wicken ringers, and St. Giles', Cosgrove, ringers.

'Father,' as he was affectionately called, will be sadly missed by his fellow ringers and friends.  
H. C. E.

### BARNESLEY & DISTRICT VISIT NEW BRIGHTON

This is your story-teller, the man called Slack. To-day's story is of a trip through three counties by lads and lasses from 11 towers. Two coaches set off round the area collecting the people from various points. The coaches met at Penistone and proceeded over the wild moors to 'hide' (sorry, Hyde)—we were not yet fugitives.

Then began the mystery—who had two breakfasts? And what a breakfast it was! A good start to what proved to be a grand day.

At the church the children's choir were rehearsing, and the non-ringers, and the ringers, too, enjoyed listening to them. The bells were truly a delight and were soon rolling merrily along with the usual Barnsley neatness. Touch number two—Spliced Kent and Oxford—was going nicely when the tenor rope broke. Was this the result of two breakfasts? Repairs were soon in hand by the local ringers and the ringing continued. Reluctantly we had to leave—a short journey this time—to the city of reputed everlasting rain, but to-day something had gone wrong. A golden ball suspended in the heavens poured down heat and light on the party as we arrived at Miles Platting, where this light eight were soon away to 'Yorkshire Glory' followed by the usual neat six. Again the enemy was pressing and we had to leave; a straight run to Liverpool, the Mersey tunnel, Birkenhead and New Brighton. There the afternoon was deployed as each individual was wont.

After tea, the journey home.

They travelled along at a rattling good pace Over moorland and valley and plain,  
And poor little . . .

(Sorry, right verse wrong opera.)

Soon the George and Dragon was reached but George must have been out, according to who served us.

Then for home, one off here, two off there, and your scribe to catch a train to London for his holidays. You may hear from him shortly if he keeps off the cider.

The enemy, time, defeated, everyone safe home after another good day.

## OUTING

### SPALDING, Lincs

Leaving the Corn Exchange, Spalding, at 6 a.m. on July 9th was a great effort for some ringers of St. Mary's and St. Nicholas', Spalding, along with friends from some neighbouring towers, but away on time and off towards Yorkshire, arriving at the first tower of the day, Thorne, in good time. The bells were all up ready and soon changes were ringing out over the town.

Away in good time and to our next tower, Goole. After an enjoyable ring here and some good wishes from the Vicar we set off to Howden. The enormous tower could be seen long before arrival and we were not disappointed when we heard the bells, a truly grand octave.

On again to Beverley where, after a good lunch, we first enjoyed the ring of ten at St. Mary's, the weight men having a go. We then travelled along to that wonderful Minster Church just as a bride and her groom were leaving. We gave them a good and unexpected send-off to Royal and Caters, all agreeing that the bells of Beverley were indeed first class.

In the coach again and on to Selby, where we had to pay a toll before we could get into the town. Our first call was for tea, an excellent meal enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, we clashed with another party of ringers at the Abbey Church through some mistake, but we all got a ring on the fine ten.

Our last call of the day was Doncaster, its massive tower standing out over the town. We were not disappointed by the bells after a long climb to the ringing chamber and the day was completed with various methods on this glorious octave. A short stop was made at Retford for refreshments, and we arrived back in Spalding at 12.30 a.m. all exhausted, but agreeing it had been a wonderful day.

Thanks were expressed to our secretary, Mr. France, and to the Ringing Master; also to all the incumbents of the churches we had visited and the ringers who had met us and made us so welcome.  
R. C. N.

### 5,120 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

By ROGER BALDWIN

23456 B M W H

35264	x			
63254				—
52436		—	—	
23564	x			
62534				—
23645	x			
42635		—	—	
42356	x			—
65324		—	—	—
52643	x			
45623			—	
36524		—	—	
53624				—
46325		—	—	
62453	x			
54326		—	—	
63425		—	—	
24536		—	—	
54632		—		
43526	x			
25634		—	—	
53246	x			
34562	x			
34625	x			—
34256	x			—
24653		—		
45236	x			
23456		—	—	

If you are a quarterly or half-yearly subscriber your subscription is now due.



# NOTICES

## Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 3s. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s. 6d.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

## BIRTH

MUSSON.—On June 22nd, 1955, at The Sleaford Maternity Home, to Lucy Evelyn and James H. Musson the precious gift of a daughter (Beverley June). 6639

## ENGAGEMENT

MARSHALL—KILBOURN. — The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Marshall, of 41, Reedman Road, Sawley, Derbyshire, and Shelagh, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Kilbourn, of 11, Hawthorne Avenue, Sawley, Derbyshire. 6638

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of Mr. F. G. Kinchin is now 26, Granbrook Road, Mickleton, near Chipping Campden, Glos. 6636

## PUBLICATIONS

'CALLING GRANDSIRE TRIPLES INTO ROUNDS,' by C. Chambers. Price 9d. Obtainable from Miss E. Chambers, 2, Hall Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. 6564

## MISCELLANEOUS

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.—There will be no ringing practice at St. Michael's Church on Fridays the 15th and 22nd July, 1955. 6625

SILSOE, BEDFORDSHIRE.—Evening practices on Tuesdays, July 19th, 26th and August 2nd, cancelled. Regular practices will be resumed on Tuesdays, from August 9th onwards. Visitors always welcome, 7.30-9. 6658

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

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

## MEETINGS

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Glaston Branch.—Meeting, Croscombe, Saturday, July 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. 6627

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District) and SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD (North Notts District).—Joint meeting, Creswell (8), Saturday, July 16th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. L. Barlow, Mansfield Road, Creswell, Worksop. (Please note change of date.) 6628

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Hunts District.—Meeting at Warboys (6), Saturday, July 16th. Bells at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 6618

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — South-Western.—Quarterly meeting, Ingrave, July 16th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea to Mrs. D. Crouchman, Frieze Hall Cottages, South Weald, near Brentwood. Brentwood bells (8) will be available in the evening. 6565

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, Benenden (8), Saturday, July 16th, 2.30 p.m. 6605

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting, Essendon, Saturday, July 16th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 6634

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Canterbury District.—Quarterly meeting, Margate, Saturday, July 16th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15 followed by tea and meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec. 6563

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—Meeting will be held at Helmshore on Saturday, July 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3. Own tea at 5. Meeting in tower at 6. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—J. Porter, Branch Sec. 6650

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—S. and W. District.—Meeting at Twickenham on Saturday, July 16th. Ringing at St. Mary's (8) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. followed by tea. Ringing at All Hallows' (10) 6.30-8.30 p.m. Names for tea to Miss J. Watkins, 15, Bell Lane, Twickenham.—J. D. Rock, Hon. Sec. 6616

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kettering Branch. — Quarterly meeting, Weldon (6), Saturday, July 16th. Service 4.15. Special methods: Surfleet and Beverley Surprise. Ordinary methods equally, so do not stay away.—H. Baxter, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants. 6604

SALISBURY GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Meeting at Corscombe, July 16th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—Barrett, Proutbridge, Beaminstor. 6623

SUFFOLK GUILD. — General meeting at Grundisburgh, July 16th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Special half-hour for ladies only.—C. W. Pipe, Grundisburgh. 6619

SURREY ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—Joint meeting at Buckland and Betchworth, July 16th. Bells available: Buckland (6) 3-4.30; Betchworth (8) 6.30-9. Service at Buckland 4.30. Tea at Red Lion 5.30. 6571

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Aldrington, July 16th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. 6610

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Dunster Branch. — Practice at Wiveliscombe, July 23rd, 7 p.m.—9 p.m.—A. R. Tudball, Hon. Sec. 6647

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Bridgwater Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Enmore, July 23rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names, please, to R. Short, Chilton Trinity. 6645

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch.—Bunbury, July 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Please note change of date and place. Please make own tea arrangements.—W. Kerr, Hon. Sec. 6643

DEVON GUILD. — Mid-Devon Branch.—Kingskerswell, Saturday, July 23rd. Usual arrangements.—A. L. Bennett, Cornerways, Buckfastleigh. 6642

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Tickhill, July 23rd, 2.30 p.m.—F. J. Jackson, Sec. 6655

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ely District.—Meeting at March, Saturday, July 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. J. Housden. 6637

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. District.—Meeting at Matching (6) on Saturday, July 23rd, at 3 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Hatfield Broad Oak not available.—G. Blake, Dis. Sec., Hamlet House, Roydon Hamlet, Harlow, Essex. 6649

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Practice meeting, Alderton (6), Saturday, July 23rd, 6 p.m.—Mary Bliss, Branch Sec. 6659

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewis-ham District.—Quarterly meeting at Farningham, Saturday, July 23rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea, by Monday, 18th, to A. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere. 6621

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Higham-on-the-Hill, July 23rd. Bells (6) 3. Cups of tea in Church Schools 5 o'clock. Please bring own food.—F. K. Measures, Hon. Sec. 6651

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD. — Next meeting, Sweptstone, July 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names to J. W. Cotton. 6644

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Monthly practice, Hambleton (6), July 23rd, 3.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by 19th.—Butler, 2, Faraday Road, Slough. 6656

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Monthly meeting, Snaith, July 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea, White Elephant Hotel, 5 p.m. Names, on or before 22nd, to secretary, L. M. Woodhead, 12, Third Square, Stainforth, near Doncaster. 6640

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS. — A practice meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Nottingham, Saturday, July 23rd. Ringing 6-9 p.m. All ringers welcome. 6646

SOUTHEND AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Meeting at North Ockendon, Saturday, July 23rd, at 3 p.m. Please bring own food; cups of tea provided.—B. C. Sadler. 6641

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Halesworth District.—Quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 23rd. At Hemingham (5), ringing 3-5 p.m. At Huntingfield (5), tea 5; service 6; followed by ringing. Names for tea, by July 20th, to Mr. R. C. Payne, 2, Hotson Road, Southwold. 6576

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Practice meeting, Rotherfield, July 23rd. Bells 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, July 20th, please.—R. W. Pankhurst, 11, Salehurst Road, Eastbourne. 6657

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—Quarterly meeting at St. Giles', Camberwell, on July 30th. Bells (10) at 4 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Tea at local Lyons. All members and friends welcome. 6648

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover and Winchester Districts.—Combined meeting at Barton Stacey, July 30th. Bells (6) from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Longparish (6) after tea.—G. K. Dodd and J. A. C. King, Hon. Secs. 6652

GUILDFORD GUILD (Leatherhead District) and SURREY ASSOCIATION (Northern District). — Annual joint meeting, Leatherhead, Monday, Aug. 1st. Bells from 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 in S. Nicolas' Hall. Numbers for tea, by July 27th, please, to G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead. 6653

LADIES' GUILD.—South Wales District.—Preliminary Notice: Meeting, Sept. 3rd, Eardisland, Herefordshire (8). Coach leaving Swansea, picking up Cardiff, Newport, Abergavenny or as required. Gentlemen invited. Names for seats, by Aug. 5th, to Jacqueline Evans, 1, Hughes Crescent, Hardwick, Chepstow, Mon. 6654



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